

SITREP

Edition 5

Welcome to SITREP Edition 5

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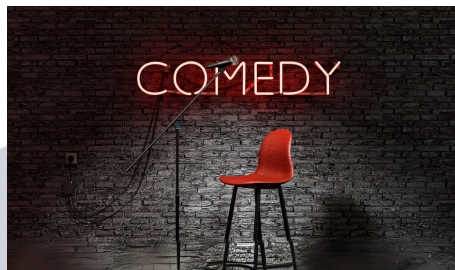
PROUDLY COLLABORATING WITH

Troopr

VCN are delighted to announce our new partnership with Troopr, a one-stop shop for the UK Armed Forces Community, providing easy access to a wide range of opportunities, support and Forces-friendly organisations. To find out more, please visit our website www.vcn.org.uk where you will find further information on Troopr plus a link to their website.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who has donated to us so far this year. We've raised a total of £3,074.57, £240 of which from our Just Giving Page. We are grateful for any donations of any amount and we would like to thank you for your continued support in order to keep up the good work we do for our Veterans Community. To donate to our Just Giving page please visit: <https://vcn.org.uk/donate> and click on the 'Donate' button to be redirected to our Just Giving page.



Banter On Parade

Coming up in early 2025

Led by Kev Hanbury in partnership with the Comedy Crate and the Veterans Community Network, we are planning to run a 10 week Comedy Course for our Veterans Community, teach improvisation and stand up techniques culminating in a Comedy Show for family and friends. Further information available soon.



www.thecomedycrate.com

Embedding Prevention of Veterans Suicide Online Consultation

The Veterans Community Network in partnership with local Mind services are working on a bid to look at ways to prevent Veterans suicide.

The online consultation event provided an opportunity for our Veterans Community to share their opinions about the draft proposal.

We would like to thank everyone who attended.



Help Us Reach 350

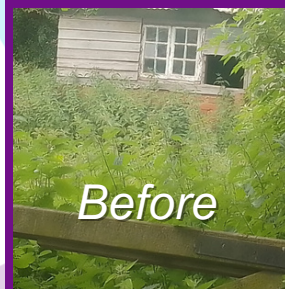
The Veterans Community Network Facebook Page is currently at 316 members, we would love to reach our goal by next quarter. So, if you know of anyone in the Veterans Community who would benefit from our services, please share our Facebook Page:



[Veteran Community Network \(VCN\).
Beds, MK, Northants](https://www.facebook.com/VeteranCommunityNetwork(VCN).Beds_MK_Northants)

Rendezvous Point Croughton

Thank you to all our Veterans Community who have been working incredibly hard up at the RVP Croughton. We have made incredible progress and we really couldn't have done it without you.



Before



After



First Harvest

There is currently limited parking on site, therefore, if you would like to attend, please contact gill@vcn.org.uk directly to make transportation arrangements.

Springhill Farm, High Street/Blenham Lane (opposite Mill Lane), Croughton, Near. NN13 5LT.

INDUSTRY & SUPPLY CO

The Depot Coffee Shop, Weedon Bec

By Sher George

One of our regular events is the VCN Coffee Mornings at The Depot, Weedon Bec, which are proving to be very popular, going from strength to strength and it really is enjoyed by all who attend. It has a relaxed atmosphere whilst surrounded by biker and vintage car memorabilia but homemade cake and bacon rolls are on offer too. No one is left on their own and all are made most welcome.

If you'd like to come along then please join us the last Friday of every month 10:00-12:00 HRS at Industry & Supply Coffee Shop, Building 14, The Depot, Weedon Bec, NN7 4PS.

(Please note that the event is not available between the colder months of January to March).



124 Years Of Wedded Bliss!

By Tina Griffiths

Congratulations were the order of the day at the VCN Veterans Brunch at the North End Club on Saturday 7th September!



RAF Veterans Dennis Smith and his wife Diana were married 67 years ago to the day.



Army Veteran Paul Sawford and his wife Wendy were married 57 years ago to the day.

Tina from VCN presented both couples with a card congratulating them on their wedding anniversary and Veterans who were present at that mornings' Brunch joined in with a round of applause to acknowledge the significant number of years they have both been married.

RIVETS SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

Veterans Get Together

Have you served in the British Armed Forces?
Do you miss the banter and camaraderie?
Pop into our Veterans Get Together every second Monday of the month at 11:00 - 13:00. Refreshments provided.



Virtual Tea & Banter

By Tina Griffiths



At my Virtual Tea & Banter meeting (via Zoom) on Tuesday 12th November 15:00 HRS, we have a guest speaker, Derek Plews, author of "A Brilliant Little Victory" giving a presentation about the 48th (South Midland) Division on the Western and Italian fronts during the First World War.

The presentation will include its successful defence of a critical position on the Asiago Plateau in June 1918; charting the history of the division from 1908 when it was established and its initial deployment in 1915 on the Western Front; participation in the Battle of the Somme; and its role in the Third Ypres offensive in 1917.

It was 48th Divisions' successful defence of the tactically important Asiago Plateau high above the Lombardy Plain on 15 June 1918 that contributed to the defeat of Austro-Piave with potentially disastrous results. Despite fighting an effective defensive action, subsequently described by one officer as 'a brilliant little victory', the Divisional Commander, Major General Sir Robert Fanshawe, was sacked and sent home much to the dismay of officers and men.

In seeking to understand what lay behind the shocking removal of an apparently successful commander, A Brilliant Little Victory provides a detailed analysis of the battle and factor that may have contributed to this sacking before offering a conclusion about whether or not it was justified, given the standards of the era.

Join me via Zoom on the 12th November 2024 at 15:00 by using the link below (Password vcn (lowercase) if required):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81761082058?fbclid=IwAR04fSICVdBKosm5hRBFOIZT5oqWojhSNbjZtXLdy0FsvsZHdED827n3bQ>





VETERANS INTO LOGISTICS HGV Funding For Ex-Military

We are a Veteran Charity set up to fund and train ex-military as HGV Drivers. We will also assist with finding you work. Please fill out our referral form on our website if you would like to be considered.

<https://veteransintologistics.org.uk/referral/>

Alternatively, if you have any questions, please contact us on 0330 111 9320.

FIGHTING WITH PRIDE Opening Of The LGBTQ+ & Armed Forces Community Memorial Survey



As you all well know, one of the key recommendations in the Etherton Report was the Government to fund a community led and inspired memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum. This is your opportunity to have your voice heard and to tell us what you would like to see in the memorial.

Survey link here:

<https://form.jotform.com/242543956114356>

Whilst we can't guarantee all your personal ideas will be fully incorporated, rest assured that every response will be considered when the design brief is drawn up, so make sure you get your voice heard.

More info regarding the upcoming memorial can be found on the Reparations tab on the FWP website:

<https://www.fightingwithpride.org.uk/reparations/>

You can send it anonymously or provide your details if you'd prefer to! Remember to share far and wide once you have had your say. Thank you.



WOMAN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

If you are an affected Veteran who would like to apply for restorative measures, please visit the link below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/lgbt-veterans-apply-for-restorative-measures?fbclid=IwY2xjawFapeBleHRuA2F1bQlXMAABHU_SzAcMQnjK_luJDMBzAqRedORY0Bv-1AY5G6BPqVreR7afnTsfJ06mlw_aem_smWBsxEy6mMNEue-5eg3wQ

Volunteers needed for VETERAN RESEARCH



Are you a male veteran of the British Armed Forces?
Are you aged 18 or over?

Have you ever engaged in, or are you currently engaging in any of the following problematic eating and/or exercise behaviours?

LAXATIVE USE

RESTRICTING FOOD
INTAKE

BINGE-EATING OR OVER-
EATING

SELF-INDUCED VOMITING

EXCESSIVE AMOUNTS OF
EXERCISE

FREQUENT DIETING

WHAT IS THE RESEARCH?

We are interested in learning more about problematic eating and exercise patterns in male veterans after military service.

If you wish to participate, you will be invited to an interview with the lead researcher, lasting approximately 60-90 minutes. This can be conducted online or face-to-face.

Please contact the main researcher, Katie Edwards (Trainee Clinical Psychologist), if you are interested:

edwardsk5@coventry.ac.uk

This research has been approved by the Coventry University Ethics Committee. *Project ID number P168824*



V1.0 04/24



**Veterans
Community
Network**

Registered Charity in England: 1191970

Christmas Events

Bedfordshire

60 Roff Avenue, Bedford, Bedfordshire, MK41 7TW

Tuesday 19th November 2024

14:00 - 15:30 HRS

Tuesday 17th December 2024

13:00 - 15:30 HRS

Northamptonshire

14-16 Farm Road, Wellingborough, NN8 4UF

Saturday 16th November 2024

09:30 - 11:30 HRS

Saturday 21st December 2024

09:30 - 11:30 HRS

Buckinghamshire

Whitehead Way, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire,
HP21 8AD

Monday 9th December 2024

11:00 - 13:00 HRS

For further information, please visit our website
and click the 'Our Services' tab.



www.vcn.org.uk



admin@vcn.org.uk

Veterans Supporting Veterans