# VETERANS AND FAMILY HUB NEWSLETTER VFHub@improvinglivesplymouth.org.uk

JUL 2023 ISSUE 88

# Armed Forces Day 2023



We had such a great day at Armed Forces day! Thanks to our amazing team of volunteers, Pauline, Pam, Pete Joan, Kay, Dave, Jo, Ellie, Mark, Joanne plus everyone who stopped by.

If you would like to support the hub at future events please email Ann-Marie to be added to our event volunteer list -

ann-marie.woollacott@improvinglivesplymouth.org.uk

We made a very impressive £535.35 - this will go towards our upcoming Families day in August!

The hub also took 40 new referrals for support and information so the team is busy working through these.

I think you will all agree what an amazing success this year was and we would like to thank Ellen at Plymouth City Council along with her events team for all of the hard work arranging such a big event. BZ

### **USEFUL CONTACTS**

NHS Non-Emergency 111

Police Non-Emergency 101

South West Water 0344 346 2020

British Gas (Emergency Number) 0800 111 999

Western Power Distribution (Contact in the event of a power cut) 0800 678 3105

> Adult Social Care 01752 306900

Livewell Plymouth mental health support (24 hours) 01752434922

Veterans Gateway 0808 802 1212

> Samaritans 116 123



# Disability Cost of Living Payment schedule

More than six million disabled people in the UK will receive their one-off £150 Disability Cost of Living Payment from 20 June. Those being paid a disability benefit that qualifies them for the payment will receive it automatically during a two-week window starting on 20th June and finishing on 4th July.

Benefit recipients that qualify for the Disability Cost of Living payment are those who receive: Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment, Attendance Allowance Scottish Disability Benefits (Adult Disability Payment and Child Disability Payment) Armed Forces Independence Payment, Constant Attendance Allowance and War Pension Mobility Supplement

Recipients must have received a payment (or later receive a payment) of one of these qualifying benefits for 1st April 2023 to get the Disability Cost of Living payment.

For those who were awaiting confirmation of their entitlement to disability benefits on 1st April, or who are waiting to be assessed for eligibility to receive disability benefits, the process may take longer, but payments will still be automatic.

More information on <u>GOV.UK.</u>



### Childcare Support.

A Massive boost to childcare payments marks first step in largest ever expansion of childcare

As part of the Government's biggest ever expansion to childcare provision, low-income families will be able to access increased childcare support from 28 June.

Last month, DWP raised the amount that parents in Great Britain can claim back monthly for their childcare costs on Universal Credit to £951 for one child and £1,630 for two or more children. This is a rise of 47% from the previous limits of £646 for one child or £1,108 for two or more children.

At the same time, the Government will help eligible parents cover the costs for the first month's childcare when they enter work or significantly increase their hours, removing one of the most significant barriers to parents working and helping to grow the economy. <u>More Info</u>



# Family Fun Day

We are pleased to be holding our annual fun day on the 19th August at our building in Mannamead. If you are a community crafter or would like a small stand please contact the hub ASAP as space is limited.

Booking is essential to attend the event - we look forward to seeing you all on the 19th August!





# **Plymouth Heritage Pass**

Local residents and visitors to Plymouth can enjoy cheaper entry to three top visitor attractions this summer, thanks to a recently launched 'Heritage Pass'.

Smeaton's Tower lighthouse, the historic Elizabethan House on the Barbican and the Mayflower Museum above the Tourist Information Centre are all covered by the pass which, once purchased, is valid for up to a week.

All three venues offer a different insight into Plymouth's past and its connections with some important moments in history. Anyone aged 16+ can enjoy a visit to all three sites for just £12, while children aged 5-15 can secure a pass for just £6. A 'Family & Friends' rate for up to two adults and three children is only £30 (with any additional children costing £2each).

Members of The Box and children under 5 are free. "The cost of living crisis has affected many of us, so we're delighted to offer this 'Heritage Pass' which will enable people to save some money when they visit these popular venues," said Abigail Netcott, Marketing and Development Manager at The Box. "You can buy the pass in person at Smeaton's Tower, Elizabethan House or the Mayflower Museum. It can also be purchased in advance from The Box's online store. For more information about Smeaton's Tower, Elizabethan House, the Mayflower Museum and the 'Heritage Pass' for more information please <u>click here</u>.

Smeaton's Tower The Hoe, Plymouth PL1 2NZ Open 10am-5pm Tuesday-Sunday and selected bank holidays. <u>Click here</u>

Elizabethan House 32 New Street, The Barbican, Plymouth PL1 2NA Open 10am-5pm Tuesday-Sunday. <u>Click here</u>

Mayflower Museum 3-5 The Barbican, Plymouth PL1 1LR Open 9am-5pm Monday-Saturday and 10am-4pm Sundays and bank holidays. <u>Click here</u>





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# Nuclear Test Medal

The Nuclear Test Medal is a commemorative medal to recognise the United Kingdom's Nuclear Test Programme during the period 1952 and 1967.

The Medal is awarded to UK Service and civilian personnel, and individuals from other nations, who served at the locations where the UK atmospheric nuclear tests were conducted, including the preparatory and clear-up phases, between 1952 and 1967 inclusive.

The Medal is also awarded to UK personnel who served at locations where American atmospheric nuclear tests took place in 1962 under Operation DOMINIC.

Qualifying service for the medal is defined as service of any length. Eligible personnel are defined as follows:

(1) UK Service and civilian personnel, and individuals from other nations, who served at the locations where the UK atmospheric nuclear tests were conducted, including the preparatory and clear-up phases, between 1952 and 1967.

(2) UK Service and civilian personnel who served at the locations where American atmospheric nuclear tests took place in 1962 under Operation DOMINIC.

(3) Foreign nationals who served at the locations where the UK atmospheric nuclear tests were conducted, including the preparatory and clear-up phases, between 1952 and 1967.

(4) The medal can be awarded posthumously to the legal next of kin of eligible individuals who have since died.

Applications for the medal can be submitted by completing the <u>Ministry of Defence medal</u> <u>form</u>



# Veteran ID Cards



An ID card for armed forces veterans, which will help them access specialist support and services, will launch a digital verification process later this year.

The cards allow veterans to easily verify their service to the NHS, their local authority, and charities, helping them to access support and services where needed.

All other veterans will be able to apply for a new ID card by the end of this year, to mark their time in the armed forces.

Veterans UK - which manages pensions and compensation payments for the armed forces local authorities, service charities, NHS and GPs will also benefit from the change, as they will not have to conduct time-consuming checks to identify individual veterans.

The new ID card is one of three that are available to service leavers. Personnel leaving the armed forces are also able to keep their military IDs, known as the MOD Form 90, allowing them to maintain their emotional connection with their service. Additionally, veterans can access a range of discounts through the Defence Discount Service, the official MOD-endorsed service for the armed forces.

We will bring you further updates as we get them. For more info click here.



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# Federation of Plymouth and District Ex-Services Association



Our good friends at the Federation of Plymouth and District Ex-Services Association have been awarded Plymouth's highest honour, the Freedom of the City.

Plymouth City Council held a special meeting to award the honour to the Federation of Plymouth and District Ex-Services Associations its "hard work and achievements in service of the country".

The council said the award for the organisation marked its "commitment to supporting veterans and the armed forces community" and to hosting memorial events.

Mark Shayer, Lord Mayor of Plymouth, said it was "an absolute honour" to recognise the federation.

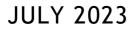
"I am really pleased to hear that we are awarding an association dedicated to supporting veterans and our strong armed forces community throughout the city," he said.

"Their great work with engaging in the important events that is held in our city is admirable."

The association's president, councillor Pauline Murphy, said the authority had "recognised the brilliant work" the service "continue to do every day".

She said: "This is a great honour, especially for the committee who work incredibly hard. "Words cannot express how proud we are to be receiving the award of Freedom of the City." To read the full article from the BBC <u>click here</u>

We would like to send out congratulations to all of those involved, and thank them for their continued dedication to support Veterans across our city. BZ





## Regi-mental Wellbeing for Veterans





Location:The William and Patricia Venton Centre Price:Free Call 07300 334033 for more info Email: Georgina.Edwards@ageukplymouth.org.uk

Telephone: 07300 334033

Counselling and wellbeing support for Veterans over the age of 50 living and working in the city of Plymouth.

### How can we help?

We're here to support over 50s in our community to love later life with dignity and independence. Our free and friendly counselling service is here to help Veterans access the support they need to build and maintain good mental health.

This flexible eight week programme supports people living with a range of challenges to their mental wellbeing including PTSD, low level depression and social isolation.

Our fully qualified, independent counsellor will guide and reassure you through your journey to better mental health, at your own pace and with full confidentiality.

### Want to talk? We're here to listen

Face to face counselling for individuals through a series of regular free sessions in a comfortable and confidential environment.

Explore new possibilities, and enable the opportunity for change at your own pace.



# Our Veteran Community.

# **Cara Chell Podiatry**

Plymouth Veterans and Family Hub had our first visit from Cara in May, this turned out to be a great success with all her clients saying how fabulous their feet felt after their treatment.

Our next podiatry session will be held on Tuesday 18th July at Ernest English House. The first available appointment is at 09:30 and at 30 minute intervals throughout the day until the last appointment at 13:30. These appointments are already booking up, so if you would like to see Cara, please call the hub on 01752 241057 - booking is essential.

Each appointment will last 30 minutes, during this time, Cara will assess you, discuss your concerns and treat you.

Cara can treat injuries to the feet and lower legs, as well as complications from ongoing health issues like diabetes.



These appointments are on a trial basis, so if you feel the service will benefit you, please use it so that we can gauge the requirement of this service. We're hoping these appointments will make taking care of yourself and your feet easy and hassle free, due to being in the same place each month.

We do expect demand to be high for the service, please book early to avoid disappointment.

After this visit, Cara will be joining us again on Tuesday 22nd August.

Plymouth Veterans and Family Hub / Improving Lives Plymouth do not endorse this service this is advertisement article.



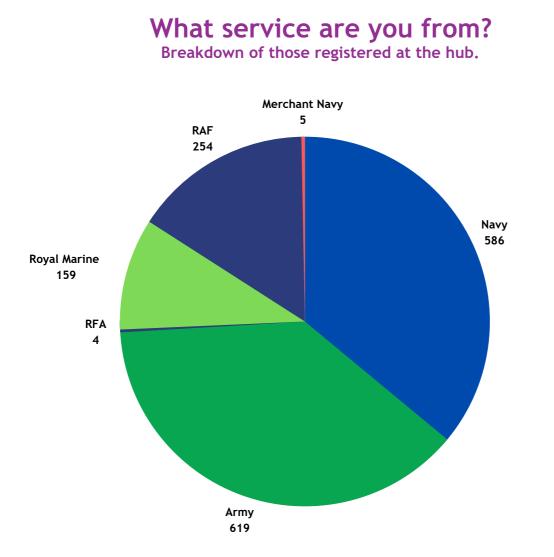
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# **Monthly Statistics**

In June we supported 230 Veterans and Veteran Families. We helped 24 people with their welfare benefits. 131 people receive information and advice support. We helped to provide 16 welfare checks for those in need of telephone support. We also delivered group support activities that where <u>attended 160 times</u> by Veterans/Families.



# The financial impact of benefit applications for June is £30,954



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2023 Workshops Afternoons for 4 weeks 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm ILP, 156 Mannamead Road, Plymouth, PL3 5QL 6th to 27th June 4th to 25th July 7th to 31st August

5th to 26th September 10th to 31st October

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

Call us on: 07305 006522 or emai self-management@improvinglives plymouth.org.uk www.improvinglivesplymouth.org.uk

# Invitation to a Free **Plym Valley Railway Trip with BSL Interpreter** Wednesday 12th July 11.00am-2.00pm

Meet at Coypool for a trip on the Plym Valley Railway including a Cream Tea. Bring your own lunch to have on the train or alight at Plymbridge for short walk and picnic. Toilets ONLY available at Coypool

To find out more or book your place please contact

# Sensory Solutions

Text 07496 950013 or email

sensorysolutions@improvinglivesplymouth.org.uk





improvinglivesplymouth.org.uk



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# MILITARY KIDS CLUB CHOIR

Thursday 15th June 1700 Plymouth Council House For Ages 7-17

> Join us for our first re-launched rehearsal All service & Veteran Families welcome Register an interest at: letty.jones@aggies.org.uk



# Introducing



Hear Better HEARING SUPPORT

A FREE information, advice and support group for adults, including members of the shipbuilding and veteran communities in Plymouth.

Third Thursdays 1030-1230 Ernest English House, Buckwell St or via Zoom Chat

Contact Sensory Solutions on 01752 201899 Text 07496 950013 or email sensorysolutions@improvinglivesplymouth.org.ul





Working in city-wide partnership to connect military service leavers, veterans, those serving and their families with opportunities for skills, training, education, careers and jobs





- tailored support for updating your CV and preparing for interview
- sectoral insights and introductions with local employers across all industries
- opportunities to gain new skills and undertake training
   access to ongoing development once you get started to continue up-skilling and developing your new career
- continue up-skilling and developing your new care

### Launch your skills journey:

- Drop in for Military Tuesday at Barclays Bank, Armada Way, Plymouth, open 10am to 4pm every Tuesday
- For great resources and to sign up for 1:1 support visit www.skillslaunchpadplym.co.uk

### Delivered in partnership





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# 'It's the most wonderful place, it's like family.'

We've provided Win and thousands of other blind veterans like her with rehabilitation, training, practical advice and emotional support.

To find out how you can support us, visit blindveterans.org.uk



We believe every blind veteran should be able to lead the life they choose. Together we can help rebuild lives.

# Veterans & Armed Forces Family Sailing

Every Monday 17.30

- All ability welcome Open to Veterans, Serving Personnel and there families. .
- Meet at Mount Batten Centre
- **Contact us for**

more info

For More Info contact: plymouthyouthsailing@hotmail.co.uk glenn.jordan@fgct.co.uk or Find us on Facebook Plymouth Veterans Sailing with PYS

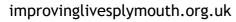




### THURSDAYS, 10:30-11:30 6 weeks starting Thursday 6th July, £29 ALL ABILITIES WELCOME Age UK Plymouth, Astor Drive, Mount Gould

Join our circuits class to improve your health and fitness. Each exercise can be modified to support individual goals, improving overall fitness, strength, balance and flexibility with the help and support of a qualified instructor. Move around the circuit and complete a full body workout all while having fun!

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Events July & August 2023

Saturday 1st **July** 9-11am **Breakfast** at Drakes Kitchen, Plymouth University

Saturday **15th July** 9-11am Breakfast at Drakes Kitchen, Plymouth University

> Sunday 23rd **July** 12-2pm **Picnic** at Devonport Park - BYO Picnic Meet by the bandstand

Saturday 5th August 9-11am Breakfast at Drakes Kitchen, Plymouth University

Saturday 12th August 11:30-14:30 Picnic at Buckfast Abbey - Bring picnic or buy at cafe

Saturday 19th August 9-11am Breakfast at Drakes Kitchen, Plymouth University

Any questions, please contact us: 07568 148685 PlymouthVeteransBreakfastClub@outlook.com



### CHARITY TABLE TOP SALE

# ALL PROCEEDS TO PROVIDE DEVON

craft items - bric -a- brac - tea & coffee

SATURDAY JULY 22 2023 | 10AM TO 1PM







If you would like an article to be included in the monthly newsletter please email vfhub@improvinglivesplymouth.org.uk before the 15th of each month.

# FEELING READY FOR A NEW START?

### Skills Launchpad Plymouth can help



We offer FREE I:I support to connect you with opportunities for:

- developing skills
- accessing training
- returning to education
- building careers
- getting a job.

Drop in for a chat – we're open Tuesday to Thursday, 10am to 4pm on the first floor of Barclays Bank.

# Sign up at: www.skillslaunchpadplym.co.uk





# What's On July

\*Saturday 1st - Armed Forces Breakfast Club- Drakes Kitchen- 09:00 -11:00 \*Monday 3rd - Age Uk Walking Football - Harpers Football Centre - 14:00 - 15:00 £2 \*Tuesday 4th - Veterans Sticky Bun Morning - Age UK Mount Gould 10:00 - 12:00- £2 Wednesday 5th - Bingo - Honicknowle Green Youth Centre - 17:30 for 18:00 start - £1 Thursday 6th - Unpaid Carers Support Group - Ernest English House - 13:30 - 15:00 \*\*Friday 7th - Brew and Banter - Union Rooms Wetherspoons 10:30 -12:30 prices start at £2.50 \*Saturday 8th - Veterans Brunch - Age UK Mount Gould- 10:00 - 12:00- £5 \*Monday 10th - Walking Football - Harpers Football Centre - 14:00 - 15:00 - £2 \*Tuesday 11th - Age UK Veterans Sticky Bun Morning - Age UK Mount Gould 10:00 - 12:00- £2 \*\*Friday 14th - Brew and Banter -Union Rooms Wetherspoons 10:30 -12:30 prices start at £2.50 Saturday 15th - Armed Forces Breakfast Club- Drakes Kitchen- 09:00 -11:00 \*Monday 17th - Age UK Walking Football - Harpers Football Centre - 14:00 - 15:00 £2 \*\*Tuesday 18th - Visiting Podiatrist - Booking Essential - Ernest English House - 09:30 -13:30 \*Tuesday 18th - Veterans Sticky Bun Morning - Age UK Mount Gould 10:00 - 12:00- £2 \*\*Wednesday 19th - Fish and Chips evening - 17:00 - 19:30 - PVFH, Ernest English House - £5 \*\*Friday 21st - Brew and Banter - Union Rooms Wetherspoons 10:30-12:00 prices start at £2.50 \*Sunday 23rd - Veterans Brunch - Age UK Mount Gould - 10:00 - 12:00 - £5 Sunday 23rd - AF Breakfast Club- Devonport Park Bandstand, BYO Picnic - 12:00 -14:00 \*Monday 24th - Age UK Walking Football - Harpers Football Centre - 14:00 - 15:00 - £2 \*Tuesday 25th - Veterans Sticky Bun Morning - Age UK Mount Gould 10:00 - 12:00- £2 \*\*Friday 28th - Brew and Banter - Union Rooms Wetherspoons 10:30-12:00 prices start at £2.50 \*Monday 31st - Age UK Walking Football - Harpers Football Centre - 14:00 - 15:00 £2



\* Cost payable \*\* Booking Required





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