VETERANS AND FAMILY HUB NEWSLETTER

Things to do this December in Plymouth

Christmas Reindeer Trail



Children will love this free trail around the Barbican and Sutton Harbour, which runs from 18 November to 21 December. Pick up a free trail map at the Tourist Information Centre and find all Santa's reindeer, then collect a special festive treat.

Go to the Visit Plymouth website for more information.

Mutley Christmas Evening

Get into the festive spirit on Mutley Plain on Thursday 30 November from 5pm. Enjoy live music, see the Christmas tree lights being turned on and enjoy lots of family friendly activities.

Go to the Visit Plymouth website for more information.

Look out for the Santa bus



Santa and his helpers will be spreading festive cheer around Plymouth this December on board the special Santa bus, thanks to volunteers from Plymouth Citybus and Go Cornwall Bus. The bus will be visiting lots of different areas of Plymouth between Friday 15 and Friday 22 December.

See the full schedule on the Plymouth Citybus website.

Family fun at The Box

<u>The Box</u> is free to visit with lots of amazing artwork and fascinating objects to explore, so there's something for the whole family. It's open 10am to 5pm, Tuesday to Sunday and there's no need to book.

Every Friday morning at 10.30am, The Box also runs <u>free</u> <u>storytelling sessions</u> for under 5s.

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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

<u>Livewell Plymouth</u> mental health support (24 hours) 01752434922

Veterans Gateway 0808 802 1212

> Samaritans 116 123

Information sourced from https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/free-things-do-plymouth



📞 01752 241057

VFHub@improvinglivesplymouth.org.uk



Thank you to all those who supported our collection so far , we have received some amazing gifts to support those in our community that may not have a gift otherwise.



1st Prize - A stay for 2 in a luxury pod with wood fire hot tub Donated by <u>Wild Luxury Devon.</u>

Family Roast for 5 donated by <u>Hyde Park Social</u> <u>Club</u>

Marks and Spencer Luxury Hamper donated by PME Group.

£20 Voucher for Timbervault

Bottle of Port donated by The Farnaby Family

Plus over 20 other prizes !

Grab your tickets over the phone by calling 01752 241057



WE ARE COLLECTING GIFTS TO SUPPORT THE VULNERABLE AT CHRISTMAS



These gifts will be given to those who won't receive a gift this Christmas.

If you would like to donate a small gift, please bring it to

Plymouth Veterans and Family Hub Ernest English House Buckwell Street

PLI 2DA





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Office for Veteran Affairs

Supporting Our Veterans: A Consultation - Veteran Response

We have a simple mission, to make the UK the best place in the world to be a veteran. This is a grand undertaking and not one I or the government has committed to lightly. We are fully aware of the challenges ahead in



achieving this goal. I and all my fellow ministers, along with parliamentarians, my colleagues in the devolved administrations and throughout all levels of government recognise the tremendous duty we owe to veterans and equally the tremendous potential veterans still have to contribute to our society.

I am proud to be the minister leading this ambitious piece of work. This consultation scope will look across the entire landscape of the government policy, including health, housing, employment, veterans communities and their economic and social contributions. It will move us from a fragmented evidence base to one that the Office for Veterans' Affairs can use to set strategy and support other departments and competent authorities as they design and deliver more joined up policy for veterans.

We have had many successes in improving services for veterans since establishing the OVA, such as the dedicated referral pathways for mental and physical health and homelessness established by Op Courage, Op Restore and Op Fortitude. However, I know we can do more. Our efforts are often held back by a lack of evidence and we need to fill those gaps so that we can plan better, work better together and deliver better for veterans.

I want to prevent veterans or their families facing disadvantages compared to their civilian peers. Where such disadvantage does occur we need to level the playing field through targeted and tailored support for veterans. I understand that different veterans face different challenges. Therefore, the support provided must be tailored to the individual, recognising the unique challenges that women, disabled or LGBT veterans face for example, amongst others. To achieve this, it is vital that we understand more about veterans themselves, their aspirations and their capabilities, as well as the complex economic and social landscape that they face upon leaving service. Gathering detailed data on the needs of veterans and their families, how current policy interacts with those needs, and how we can best support them, is fundamental. Only then, can we evaluate if the policies and structures in place cause no disadvantages for veterans and their families in succeeding in society, the workplace and their personal lives post-Service.

Central to the Office for Veterans' Affairs ambitions, as set out in the Strategy for our Veterans, Data and Research Framework, is the pursuit of evidence-informed policy making. This consultation represents our most ambitious evidence gathering work to date and will inform the UK Government on veterans policies for years to come. This will ultimately ensure we better serve those who have spent their lives in service to us.

Rt Hon. Johnny Mercer MP Minister of State for Veterans' Affairs

Respond to the survey here if you're a veteran or have served in the Armed Forces

Respond to the survey here if you are an individual responding as an individual citizen

Reply to the survey here if you are responding as part of an organisation



L 01752 241057 VFHub@improvinglivesplymouth.org.uk

Did you know?

Plymouth Veterans and Family Hub is the only ASDIC registered Veteran Service in Plymouth



Association of Service

The Association of Service Drop-In Centers (ASDIC) represents and links veterans' Drop-Ins across the country. Sometimes called Hubs or Centers, Drop-Ins offer a variety of welfare and mental health support, together with comradeship and a sense of well-being, to the ex-military community and their families, and ASDIC helps them to enhance the service they can provide and make them more accessible. It's a hugely successful concept that's been evolving at least since the Falklands conflict and has gained enormous momentum since the UK's involvement in the Middle East interventions in the decades since. Quite simply, it's a movement led largely by veterans for veterans - all Services, all ranks - in a huge number of locations across the country, where those who have served can just, literally, drop in and find everything from friendship and free coffee to some serious professional and focused advice and guidance.

Our mission is to maximise the sustainability, resilience, effectiveness and delivery of Drop-In Centers, and improve liaison with Breakfast Clubs, across the United Kingdom to ensure that all vulnerable veterans receive swift and empathetic support and that their needs are appreciated at higher levels. There is now a large number of centres of all shapes and sizes, in big cities and small towns, where the overriding wish to help our fellow veterans can take any shape. ASDIC just exists to help all these centers keep in touch with one another, promote mutual understanding, share problems and try to ensure that the grass-roots picture of veterans on the ground is appreciated by the larger charities and government. The first and most important message on this site is that ASDIC is completely independent; it's there both to help all those fantastic volunteers who are doing such good work on the ground, and to make higher authorities appreciate what's happening with our veteran community on the streets of this nation.

This website explains where the many Drop-In Centers are, how to get in touch with them, and their details such as exact location and opening hours. There's no need to book or contact in advance - just turn up! The interactive map below should help you find your nearest location, or you can access the Veterans Gateway.

ASDIC Centre leaders are all passionate about the services they offer and, if they can't help with your problem, they'll know where to look. Welcome to this unique community, which provides the very best of comradeship and support that veterans know and value!

Information and images sourced from https://www.asdic.org.uk/



Hit UK Government

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Winter Pensioner Support Package

Pension Credit

A Pensioner Cost of Living Payment of £300 per household will be paid as a top up to those eligible for the Winter Fuel Payment during November and December. If you were born before 25 September 1957 and receive the Winter Fuel Payment, you will automatically receive the Pensioner Cost of Living Payment at the same time.

You do not need to apply or contact anyone to receive this Cost of Living Payment alongside your Winter Fuel Payment. If you're eligible, you will be sent a letter telling you how much your payment will be.

However, while most eligible pensioners will receive the Winter Fuel Payment automatically, a small number of people may need to make a claim for it. To check if you need to do this, <u>visit</u> <u>gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment</u>. If your claim is successful, you'll then be eligible for the Pensioner Cost of Living Payment.

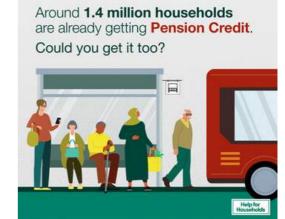
Pension Credit is also available to support the most vulnerable pensioners. You can check the eligibility of yourself or a loved one at <u>gov.uk/pensioncredit</u>. You can still qualify for the £300 Cost of Living Payment if you make a successful backdated Pension Credit application by 10 December 2023.

Find out more about the range of government support with the cost of living, including Pension Credit and Cold Weather Payments, at <u>gov.uk/helpforhouseholds</u>.



Department for Work & Pensions

Information and images sourced from https://www.gov.uk









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Getting Back Into Work



The Guildhall, Lower Fore Street, Saltash PL12 6JX

This winter discover a world of recruitment opportunities at the Saltash Jobs Fair organised by Jobcentre Plus.







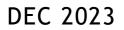
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ROYAL NAVY & CHARITY Help vmouth Wolferstans Friday 8th December 18:30 - 20:30 LCON **PLYMOUTH VETERANS &** FAMILY HUB Christmas CAROL SERVICE Donation of 5pp Third Wednesday of every month 17:00 - 19:30 Payment and food choice must be made at the time of booking Emmanuel Church, 1 Compton Avenue, Plymouth, PL3 5BZ Bookings must be made before 7th of the month To book FREE tickets please call the hub on Please call the Hub to book - 01752 241057 01752 241057 hristmas **BREW AND BANTER** Ж. MAIN Sliced Turkey breast and Winter Vegetables hristmas Chicken and Stuffing Burger Brie and Bacon Burger Ham Egg and Chips Brew and Banter All Day Brunch Vegan Sausage Chips and Beans DRINK Tea/Coffee FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER Orange Juice Apple Juice £12.50 | 11:30- 13:30 Coke THE UNION ROOMS Lemonade WETHERSPOONS 19 UNION STREET DESSERT PL1 2SU Mince Tart or Cookie Crunch (chocolate cookie) with Ice Cream You can upgrade your Drink to an alcoholic beverage if you prefer not to have dessert.



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Events November 2023 -April 2024

Saturday 04 November 9-11am Breakfast at Drakes Kitchen, Plymouth University (Added Extras)

> Saturday 18 November 9-11am Breakfast Venue to be confirmed

Saturday 02 December 9-11am Breakfast at Drakes Kitchen, Plymouth University

Saturday 16 December 9-12am Festive Breakfast at Drakes Kitchen Plymouth University (Added Extras) Festive hats and jumpers very welcome!

Saturday 06 January 2024, 9-11am Breakfast at Drakes Kitchen, Plymouth University

Saturday 20 January 9-11am Breakfast at Drakes Kitchen, Plymouth University

> Saturday 03 February 9-11am Breakfast Venue to be confirmed

Saturday 17 February 9-11am Breakfast at Drakes Kitchen, Plymouth University

Saturday 02 & 16 March 9-11am Breakfast at Drakes Kitchen, Plymouth University

Saturday 06 & 20 April 9-11am Breakfast at Drakes Kitchen, Plymouth University

**A Sunday roast and Curry & Bingo Night planned for early 2024

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



BEAT THE JANUARY BLUES Emotional Resilience for Veterans



What annoys or frustrates us? And what can we do about it?

We're back for '24 with another of our popular veterans' Emotional Resilience Courses. Ahead of 'Black Monday' (regarded by some as 'the worst day of the year') renowned military life-coach and behavioural expert Liz Abram will be here to help with the skills and life-hacks we need to help us through everyday life.

These unique Veterans Outdoors Courses have already been described as life-changing by those who've attended:

- "It's given me skills I use every day." derstand myself better it's changed my relationships with those close to me."

he course will be held at Plymouth Veterans Hub, Ernest English House, Buckwell Street, L1 2DA on FRIDAY 19TH JAN 1000-1500. Admission is free. Places are limited but if you'd ke to register to take part, contact Jodi – Jodi@veteransoutdoors.org.uk







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

INDEPENDENT. CONFIDENTIAL. **GET IN TOUCH...**

ooking after someone?

BOYAL NAVY &

Caring for a loved one who is ill, disabled or older can be valuable and rewarding, but without the right support caring can have an impact on your health, your job, your finances and your social life.

Visit corersdigital.org

R carersuk

Create an account using your free access code:

DGTC4836

Use this code to get free access to all the digital products and online resources, including:







FREE



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What's On December

**Friday 1st - Cardiff Coach Trip - No Brew and Banter today - Milehouse P&R - 08:45 Saturday 2nd - Armed Forces Breakfast Club- Drakes Kitchen- 09:00 -11:00 **Monday 4th - Wreath Making Workshop - EEH - 13:00 - 15:00 - £35 **Monday 4th - Wreath Making Workshop - EEH - 18:00 - 20:00 - £35 *Monday 4th - Age UK Walking Football - Harpers Football Centre - 14:00 - 15:00 £2 *Tuesday 5th - Veterans Sticky Bun Morning - Age UK Mount Gould 10:00 - 12:00- £2.50 *Wednesday 6th - Christmas Bingo - Honicknowle Youth Centre - 17:30 - 19:00 Thursday 7th - Unpaid Carers Support group - Veterans Hub 13:30- 15:00 *Friday 8th - Brew and Banter -Union Rooms Wetherspoons 10:30 -12:30 prices start at £2.50 Friday 8th December - Veterans Christmas Carol Service - Emmanuel Church - 18:30 - 20:30 *Saturday 9th - Veterans Brunch - Age UK Mount Gould- 10:00 - 12:00- £6 *Monday 11th - Age UK Walking Football - Harpers Football Centre - 14:00 - 15:00 - £2 *Tuesday 12th - Veterans Sticky Bun Morning - Age UK Mount Gould 10:00 - 12:00- £2.50 **Tuesday 12th - Podiatrist - EEH - By appointment **Friday 15th - Christmas Brew and Banter - Union Rooms Wetherspoons - Must be booked- £12.50 Saturday 16th - Armed Forces Breakfast Club Festive Party - Drakes Kitchen- 09:00 -12:00 *Monday 18th - Age UK Walking Football - Harpers Football Centre - 14:00 - 15:00 - £2 *Tuesday 19th - Veterans Sticky Bun Morning - Age UK Mount Gould 10:00 - 12:00- £2.50 **Wednesday 20th Fish and Chips evening - 17:00 - 19:30 - Vets Hub, must book by 7/12 - £5 **Friday 22nd - Goldilocks and The Three Bears Panto - VFHUB TRP - Pre Booked Only Monday 25th December - Kings Speech 15:00



* Cost payable ** Booking Required





THE ARMED FORCES