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# Armed Forces Day

ALL CHANGE AS AFD TAKES SHAPE

## FROM VETERANS DAY 2008 TO ARMED FORCES DAY 2009

**2009 sees the first Armed Forces Day: a celebration of British Armed Forces – past, present and future.**

For the last three years, the nation has come together on 27 June to celebrate Veterans Day, with more and more communities holding events to honour the continuing contribution of those who have served in the UK Armed Forces. To build on this success, and in response to the recommendations of the 2008 report into the *National Recognition of the Armed Forces*, from 2009 the day will also celebrate the men and women still serving in our Armed Forces.

The title “Armed Forces Day” has been chosen to reflect the wider Armed Forces family of serving Personnel (both regular and reserve), veterans and cadet forces. This sense of inclusiveness is reflected in the strapline for the Day: “Honouring Britain’s Armed Forces, past, present and future.”

As with Veterans Day, the occasion will be marked with a wide range of community-led events taking place in towns and cities around the country, and with a national event. For more information, go to [www.armedforcesday.org.uk](http://www.armedforcesday.org.uk)



**ARMED FORCES DAY**

**27 JUNE**

Honouring Britain's Armed Forces  
Past, Present and Future



*"The Royal British Legion applauds the introduction of Armed Forces Day and we will lend our fullest support to events celebrating the achievements and contribution of the Armed Forces people past, present and future,"* Director General – Chris Simpkins

*Armed Forces in the community.*

**For more information and to advertise your event, go to**  
**[WWW.ARMEDFORCESDAY.ORG.UK](http://WWW.ARMEDFORCESDAY.ORG.UK)**

# BUILDING ON SUCCESS OF VETERANS DAY 2008

Veterans Day 2008 saw events take place across the country, from dozens of local celebrations organised by ex-Service organisations, councils, community groups and schools, to the national event in Blackpool.



*Children reading about veterans in Sedgefield*



*Marines storming Weymouth Beach – part of Weymouth's Veterans Day Celebrations.*



*The mayor of Carrickfergus talking to re-enactors*



*Britain's oldest veteran Henry Allingham enjoying the National Event 2008.  
Picture: Chris Foster*



*SAMA 82 members and students from Stanley School, unveil a tree to mark the Falklands War  
Picture: Chris Foster*



*Duchess of Cornwall, the Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire and the Mayor of Blackpool at National Veterans Day 2008.  
Picture by Chris Foster*



*Southend-on-Sea promotional poster.*



*Ex-Para Tony Barlow, who served in the Falklands and now works for Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, waves to the crowds after abseiling down Blackpool Tower.  
Picture: Chris Foster*



*Veterans on Parade in Portsmouth.*

**For more information and to advertise your event, go to**  
**[WWW.ARMEDFORCESDAY.ORG.UK](http://WWW.ARMEDFORCESDAY.ORG.UK)**

# CHATHAM – HONOURED TO HOST FIRST ARMED FORCES DAY

On 22 January the Veterans Minister, Kevan Jones MP announced the venue that would host the National AFD event

Plans for the first ever national Armed Forces Day to honour our Service personnel – past, present and future were launched today (22 January 2009) in Chatham by Veterans Minister, Kevan Jones. The Historic Dockyard Chatham has been selected to host the first national Armed Forces Day event on 27 June 2009, which will be complemented by hundreds of events in towns and cities across the UK.

Speaking at the launch of Armed Forces Day onboard the historic HMS Gannet, Mr Jones said:



*“The purpose of this day is to honour Britain’s Armed Forces, our past achievements, the dedication of those serving at present and the opportunities that the Armed Forces offer to our future generations. Our Armed Forces and veterans deserve your support and recognition because of their outstanding contribution to the country. They make huge personal sacrifices to defend the UK and our interests and contribute to international peace and security. I am very pleased to announce the selection of Chatham as the host town for the first ever Armed Forces Day. It is a place steeped in military history and still hosts many of our serving military personnel. I look forward to the first Armed Forces Day on the 27 of June.”*



Rodney Chambers, Leader of Medway Council said; *“I am delighted that The Historic Dockyard Chatham – the very heart of the area’s heritage - has been chosen as the venue for the first National Armed Forces Day.*

*The people of Medway look forward to welcoming representatives from our current Armed Forces and Veterans’ communities with their friends and families at what will be a most prestigious event. Medway Council, together with other organisations are working with Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust to offer a varied programme of exciting events, activities and offers throughout the week in support of the big day on Saturday 27 June at The Historic Dockyard”*



**Admiral Sir Ian Garnett KCB  
Chairman  
Chatham Historic  
Dockyard Trust**



*“This town has proudly maintained its military connections over many years and today’s announcement will provide a focal point for the whole Chatham community this summer. I am thrilled that we have been selected and look forward to the many events that will mark this important day in our calendar.”*



**For more information and to advertise your event, go to  
[WWW.ARMEDFORCESDAY.ORG.UK](http://WWW.ARMEDFORCESDAY.ORG.UK)**

# GET INVOLVED IN ARMED FORCES DAY

This monthly newsletter will provide you with ideas and guidance to hold an event for Armed Forces Day. Over the coming months we'll be looking at different aspects of putting on an event: from applying for funds to marketing and advertising to getting different community groups involved.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is already working with the councils, civic officers, and voluntary bodies that have expressed an interest in holding events. It will be engaging further with the ex-Service organisations and others over the coming months. As in previous years, there is funding available to help event organisers celebrate the 27 June:



*Veterans Minister Kevan Jones, presenting Veterans Badges at the National Arboretum*

## APPLYING FOR FUNDING

Applications for funding to support community events will be accepted until 31 March 2009. To successfully receive limited funding, applicants must demonstrate how their planned event will deliver the key Armed Forces Day messages. The key messages are:

- Our Armed Forces and veterans deserve your support and recognition because of their outstanding contribution to the country.
- Our Armed Forces make personal sacrifices to defend the UK and its interests and contribute to international peace and security.
- A wide range of support and advice is available to Service personnel and

veterans from government, ex-Service organisations, charities and the voluntary sector.

- The Armed Forces and veterans form a highly diverse community; the serving Armed Forces comprise over 15% Volunteer Reservists who also lead civilian lives in wider society; all ex-Service personnel are veterans whatever their age.
- Adult Volunteers provide unstinting commitment to Cadet Organisations, enabling whole generations of youngsters to achieve success in their lives and to become better citizens.



*Veterans and the public enjoying a concert in Kelso's Veterans Day event*

You can download the full criteria on [www.armedforcesday.org.uk](http://www.armedforcesday.org.uk). Please discuss your bid with a representative of the MOD's CECT - 0207 218 3029 WO1 Paul Wicks or 0207 807 0966 Gareth Legg, prior to completing an application form which will be sent to you. They will be able to help you develop and present your ideas in a way which will maximise your chances of securing the finances you are seeking. You are encouraged to place your bids for funding as soon as possible to ensure the notification of any grant is made well before the event date.

## WHO TO CONTACT

### Armed Forces Day Project Manager

**Gareth Legg**

Ceremonial, Events and  
Commemoration Team.

Floor 8 Zone J,

Main Building, Whitehall,

London. SW1A 2HB

Tel: 0207 807 0966

[gareth.legg679@mod.uk](mailto:gareth.legg679@mod.uk)

### Funding Applications

**WO1 Paul Wicks**

Ceremonial, Events and  
Commemoration Team.

Floor 8 Zone J,

Main Building, Whitehall,

London. SW1A 2HB

Tel: 0207 218 3029

[paul.wicks985@mod.uk](mailto:paul.wicks985@mod.uk)

### General Inquiries and Event Information

**Julian Mineur**

Regional Coordinator  
Room 6312, Norcross,

Thornton-Cleveleys,

Lancs. FY5 3WP

Tel: 01253 333882

Mob: 079000 86761

[julian.mineur@spva.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:julian.mineur@spva.gsi.gov.uk)

### Communications and Press

**Katherine Savage**

1/A/25

Main Building, Whitehall,  
London. SW1A 2 HB

Tel: 020 7218 0978

[katherine.savage278@mod.uk](mailto:katherine.savage278@mod.uk)

### Veterans Badges and Veterans Issues

**Service Personnel and  
Veterans Agency.**

Norcross,

Thornton-Cleveleys,

Lancs. FY5 3WP

Tel: 0800 169 2277

[www.veterans-uk.info](http://www.veterans-uk.info)

**For more information and to advertise your event, go to  
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