



Armed Forces Day 30 June 2018

Newsletter No 1 - November 2017

WELCOME...

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter, which aims to keep you up to date with plans for the tenth National Armed Forces Day which will be held in Conwy County, North Wales in June 2018.



As Conwy County Borough Council's Armed Forces Champion, I'm really proud and excited that Llandudno has been chosen as the host town for Armed Forces Day on behalf of Wales. We are certainly going to make it a day to remember!

We only have eight months to wait until all eyes turn to Wales when a range of events will take place across Conwy County between 25th June and 1st July 2018 as a 'thank you' to serving personnel and veterans. Behind the scenes, we are all working hard to ensure we stage an event that expresses how much we appreciate our military for keeping our country safe, both at home and abroad.

The week is going to be a jam-packed celebration that pays tribute to all those men and women serving, or who have served, in The Army, Royal Air Force, and Royal Navy. There'll be hundreds of military and veterans marching in a parade through Llandudno on the big day, and an events village will entertain crowds with activities and opportunities to get up close to some amazing military vehicles, equipment and dynamic displays.

Apart from the big day itself, there will be a flag-raising ceremony, Reserves' Day, a special sporting event at Surf Snowdonia, a golfing event, a gala dinner at Venue Cymru, and lots more. So watch this space as we develop the programme of events further and please share the newsletter widely to get the message out.

We'll be issuing you with regular updates, so please keep a look out for this newsletter where we can keep you up to date on all the latest news. We also want to hear from you, so let us know how you'd like to get involved and get in touch.

Councillor Liz Roberts
Armed Forces Champion
Conwy County Borough Council

Calling all veterans!

Would you like to be part of the ceremonial parade?

The ceremonial parade will take place on National Armed Forces Day on Saturday 30th June 2018. This is a special day for many, and we're looking for veterans from across the country and tri-services to join the march.

If you would like to take part, we would love to hear from you. Details of how to register your interest can be found at www.conwy.gov.uk/afddparade. But we're expecting demand to be high, so please get your registration forms to us no later than 28/02/2018.



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Betsi Cadwaladr
University Health Board



Armed Forces Day needs you!

Do you want to help? It takes a cast of hundreds to run an event of this size, so we are looking for passionate volunteers to work as stewards and marshals.

Although the work can be tiring (especially for your feet!), most of our volunteers who work on our events programme say they find the work both rewarding and interesting.

If you would like to get involved and help with the event, please contact events@conwy.gov.uk, and the team will talk you through what opportunities we have.

Exhibitors and stall Holders

Are you a national charity or organisation who wants to attend on the big day? We will be looking to have a Military and Well Being Village and over the next few months we will be taking bookings from exhibitors who are relevant to the event.

In the first instance, to register your interest, please e-mail your contact details and what you can offer to the event to events@conwy.gov.uk

To keep up to date about events, follow us on our social media channels below.

Book early!

Don't delay booking your accommodation! If you're going to take the opportunity to make a week or weekend of it, we advise that you book early. North Wales has recently been voted the fourth most beautiful destination in the world, and our area is a real adventure playground. Why not make it a long weekend or even a week? For more information on tourism in Conwy visit www.visitlandudno.org.uk or call the Tourist Information Centre to book on **01492 577577**.



Meet the event Project Lead

As the project lead I am really looking forward to putting on an event that will be remembered for years to come. Since finding out that we have been given the honour of hosting the event in its special 10th year, I have already met and spoken to many amazing organisations and people that are making a real difference to the communities in which they live and serve.

Conwy County Borough Council is passionate about using this event as a catalyst for further embedding the work we do under the Armed Forces Covenant. During the week of events we really want to say a **BIG THANK YOU** to the Forces and veterans and we want to ensure the community across Wales and wider afield gets the opportunity to show their support and #SaluteOurForces for all they do.

With only 8 months to go there is lots to do and my amazing team, who you will get to know over the months, are on it and are working hard getting

everything in place. They are working closely with Colonel Lance Patterson of 160th Infantry Brigade and his team who are the Army lead on the event, colleagues from the Ministry of Defence Ceremonial Events & Commemoration Team as well as North Wales Police, key partners, stakeholders, sponsors, businesses, charities, contractors, community groups, veterans, well as you would imagine the list is very long and growing every day! Everyone has a role to play and lots of people are working really hard to make a difference and make it a great event.



If you are not already involved I really want to hear your views and ideas so please get in touch as we are very keen to strengthen and develop new partnerships. Why not drop me an e-mail rachael.gill@conwy.gov.uk and hopefully we will talk very soon.