



# Armed Forces Day 30 June 2018

Newsletter No 2 - January 2018

## A word from Colonel Lance Patterson

Armed Forces Day 2018 promises to be an important and fine occasion, not just for Llandudno but for the whole of Wales and the rest of the UK. It is a great honour for us to support Conwy County Borough Council in bringing the UK national Armed Forces Day to Wales. Wales has a proud military history and strong military traditions, which may be why we blaze our own trail, and this UK Armed Forces Day promises some unique features.

Llandudno itself has always been a town with deep-running military connections including both the First and Second World War, providing troops for both 38<sup>th</sup> and 53<sup>rd</sup> Welsh Divisions on the Western Front and in Gallipoli and the Middle East. In particular the town was home to the 69<sup>th</sup> (Caernarvon and Denbigh Yeomanry) Regiment Royal Artillery who fought with the British Expeditionary Force in 1940 before being sent to North Africa in 1942.

Welsh formations and units continue to contribute a great deal to peace and security. While combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan are over that does not mean that our support to those countries is over. My own brigade, 160<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade and Headquarters Wales, based in Brecon, is a good example of the tempo of current operations. In August this year we finished a period of 2½ years of continual commitment to operations. It was that month that 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Royal Irish returned from an eight-months commitment to Kabul and in January 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Rifles returned from an 18-months commitment to Iraq where they were training Iraqi and Kurdish forces for

the ultimately successful assault against the Daesh stronghold of Mosul. Before that we had 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Royal Irish committed to training support to the Ukrainian armed forces. At the moment, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Royal Welsh Battlegroup is in



Estonia reinforcing NATO's eastern flank, while 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Welsh Guards and 1<sup>st</sup> The Queen's Dragoons Guards, The Welsh Cavalry, are held at high readiness. Add to that our responsibility for developing our Army-to-Army relationships with 16 countries across Eastern Europe, the Balkans, Caucasus and Central Asia, as well as support to the Firm Base and UK resilience, which is in support of police forces for major events, such as the UEFA Champions League Final in Cardiff last June, or the response to natural disasters or to terrorist attacks, then you get a picture of what life is like for our soldiers today.

To deliver this contribution to UK Defence we depend upon the support of our own families and the communities, local authorities and the multitude of private and third sector organisations across the UK. Armed Forces Day is therefore very important to our servicemen and women. We are proud to be recognised by the UK public and really appreciate the support we have. That bond is never more evident than during the Armed Forces Day celebrations and we look forward to June 30 when this historical town will host this special event.

Colonel Lance Patterson  
Tri-Service Lead



## Calling all veterans!

### Would you like to be part of the ceremonial parade?

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. But we're expecting demand to be high, so please get your registration forms to us no later than **28 February**.

The ceremonial parade will take place on National Armed Forces Day around midday on Saturday 30 June. Register now at [www.conwy.gov.uk/afdparade](http://www.conwy.gov.uk/afdparade)

## Conwy County has something for everyone!

Whether you're looking for a quaint seaside spot for a weekend get-away, want to traverse the rugged outdoors, or want to experience stunning historical ruins, Conwy County has something for everyone.

**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. For more information on tourism in Conwy visit [www.visitllandudno.org.uk](http://www.visitllandudno.org.uk) or call the Tourist Information Centre to book on **01492 577577**.



## 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 [marketing@conwy.gov.uk](mailto:marketing@conwy.gov.uk)

## We need extra help ...

Armed Forces Day 2018 is looking for sponsors in kind to help us host the event and thank the troops and veterans. Can you help us provide essential equipment for the build or packed lunches for the veterans? We've got a long list, so if you'd like to explore how your business can help get in touch!

To discuss possible opportunities please contact [marketing@conwy.gov.uk](mailto:marketing@conwy.gov.uk)

## 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](mailto:events@conwy.gov.uk), and we'll send you a registration form.