

# **Surrey Civilian Military Partnership Board**

## **Armed Forces Covenant Annual Report**

### **1 April 2018 - 31 March 2019**

#### **FOREWORD**

As Chairman of the Surrey Civilian Military Partnership Board, it gives me great pleasure to present to you our annual report covering the period from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019. It has been another highly successful year for our work supporting Surrey's armed forces community, made possible through working in partnership with 11 Infantry Brigade South East, the Lord-Lieutenant, the borough and district councils, Police and Crime Commissioner, Surrey Fire and Rescue, Service Charities, business and with our partners in Health, Education and Employment.

Much has been achieved, but some personal highlights for me include the dedication of a new Canadian war memorial in Milford, attending Armistice 100 events, both for the county at Guildford Cathedral and in my own division as well as officially opening a new play area at Peter Pan Pre-School in Pirbright. These events remind me of the sacrifices our armed forces make for the Nation.

As well as our work in Surrey, you will read about the impact we are having across the south east region, and further afield through Forces Connect South East, to make it easier for members of the armed forces community to access advice and sources of support. This is made possible through a series of training events for frontline staff as well as the development of a new mobile app funded through the Armed Forces Covenant Fund. I am delighted our work continues to be recognised nationally. Last September, we briefed Lt-Gen Richard Nugee CVO CBE, Chief of Defence People on our regional work, and for the third year running we have a case study included in the National Armed Forces Covenant Annual Report.

When you have read this report, I hope you feel, as I do, justly proud of all that we have achieved working together as agencies and organisations across the county to help ensure that no one in Surrey is disadvantaged because of their service to the Nation.

Peter Martin

Chairman of Surrey Civilian Military Partnership Board

## **INTRODUCTION**

This report sets out a summary of the key achievements of the Surrey Civilian Military Partnership Board, and its partners, in implementing the Armed Forces Covenant. The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise by the Nation ensuring that those who serve or who have served in the armed forces, and their families, are treated fairly. Since 2012, all Surrey local authorities have signed the Armed Forces Covenant and appointed an elected councillor Armed Forces Champion and work hard to ensure the armed forces community does not face disadvantage compared to any other citizen when accessing public services.

## **ENGAGEMENT**

### **Surrey Civilian Military Partnership Board (SCMPB) Action Plan**

The Board has agreed an updated annual action plan which includes actions highlighted within the audit of the work of the SCMPB which was undertaken during 2017. This action plan will be updated and reviewed at each Board meeting.

### **2019 Surrey Armed Forces Covenant Conference**

Surrey's Annual Armed Forces Covenant Conference was held on 6 February 2019 at the Army Training Centre (Pirbright). The highly successful day included updates on the national and local picture in relation to the Covenant, a look back at achievements over the past year which included the Forces Connect South East Training programme and Remembrance events across the county, as well as a series of workshops on health, veterans and working with the military in an emergency. The afternoon session was purely focused on supporting Service children, with a video played of two Surrey Service children explaining what it is like being a Service child and the issues they face. This was followed by a series of thought provoking presentations from primary and secondary schools in Surrey as well as the Ministry of Defence (MoD) on support provided to Service children. The day was very well received from delegates and received lots of positive feedback including the following comment 'The level of enthusiasm and engagement in Surrey always acts like a tonic and people come away more determined than ever to do their bit to make sure the Covenant really means something locally. I thought the focussing of the afternoon session on a single issue was very powerful'.

### **Covenant Signings**

Over the past year there have been a number of Armed Forces Covenant signings in Surrey. These included, the signing of the Armed Forces Covenant between the Diocese of Guildford and 11 Infantry Brigade & HQ SE on Sunday 11 November 2018 (Remembrance Sunday) at Guildford Cathedral, the signing by Surrey Heartlands Clinical Commissioning Groups (Guildford and Waverley CCG, North West Surrey CCG and Surrey Downs CCG) on 30 November 2018 and the signing of the Covenant by Blackdown Pre-School on 10 December 2018.

## **Forces Connect South East (FCSE)**

FCSE is a partnership led by Surrey County Council with Hampshire, Kent, East and West Sussex County Councils and Brighton & Hove and Medway Councils, which exists to support the aims of the Armed Forces Covenant and promote a greater understanding and awareness of the issues affecting the Armed Forces Community within public services across the South East region. In 2017 the partnership was successful in accessing £321,300 of MoD Covenant Funding to deliver a project enabling fair and consistent advice and access to public services for the Armed Forces Community across the South East and to ensure they face no disadvantage compared to any other citizen.

The programme, which is due to run until September 2019 will enable in excess of 4,000 people from public and voluntary organisations across the region to be trained on the covenant, the needs of the armed forces community as well as which organisations to signpost to for further sources of support. Training has been provided through face to face sessions, as well as e-learning. In addition, a number of referral pathways have been developed to assist with signposting, which are available to access through a newly launched Forces Connect 'App', as well as a new eLearning package to provide support and advice those employees mentoring service leavers.

A briefing on the programme was given to Lt-Gen Richard Nugee CVO, CBE – Chief of Defence People at the Ministry of Defence, which was very positively received, and a case study on the project was included within the National Armed Forces Covenant Report 2018, debated in Parliament.

Within the grant, the Ministry of Defence included an additional £40,000 funding to roll the training programme out across the country. This will be achieved through a series of regional training sessions are being planned in each of the Brigade areas, in addition to promotion through presentations at the National Armed Forces Covenant Conference and the Local Government Association Conference.

For more information please visit [www.surreycc.gov.uk/forcesconnectse](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/forcesconnectse)

## **SCMPB Webpages**

A review of the SCMPB webpages was undertaken during the year, to enable regular news stories to be added to the homepage to ensure it is reactive and up to date. These have been well received.

## **@SurreyMilitary**

The Surrey Military twitter accounts continues to grow with 714 followers, and has been widely used to promote training available through Forces Connect South East #forcesconnectse as well as veteran hubs and other work being done locally.

## **Pass Out Parade**

In June 2018, members of the SCMPB attended a Pass Out Parade for new recruits finishing their Phase One training at Army Training Centre (Pirbright). This celebration gave Board members the opportunity to speak to the recruits and their families to understand what joining the Army means to them and to thank them for all they will do for the Nation.

## **Natural Flood Management on Ash Ranges**

Surrey County Council in partnership with Guildford Borough Council, Thames Water, Network Rail and the Environment Agency have formed a Project Board to explore opportunities to reduce flood risk in Ash / Ash Vale Catchment.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) Ash Ranges are located to the east of the Blackwater Valley River forming the upper part of the drainage catchment. Surrey is working with the local MoD representatives to map and measure existing watercourses and land drainage in order to understand surface water flow in this upper part of the Ash catchment. This will allow the multi-agency Project Board to assess if there are opportunities for reducing flood risk including natural flood risk management. This part of the project has shown collaborative working with the MoD.

## **Probation and ATC (Pirbright)**

The Probation Service has developed good links with ATC (Pirbright) and their Unpaid Work Team have been working at the Barracks on various projects.

## **Exercise Atlantis**

Operation Atlantis was a multi-agency (Surrey Local Resilience Forum) exercise test of the Lower Thames Flood Emergency Management Plan carried out on the 17th-18th October 2018. The exercise focussed on the Strategic Command Group (SCG) parts of the flood plan and included scenario tests of each part of the plan prior and during a major flood incident.

The Military supported this exercise with a command team at the SCG and with members of the 4PWRR who assisted with the deployment of the Temporary Flood Barriers. One of the key feedback observations was on the effective use of interactive online mapping and other information that supported the SCG during the planning meetings and the Local Resilience Forum will be working with the Joint Regional Liaison Officer for 11 Infantry Brigade to further develop this support to the SCG.

## **Informing Councillors and MPs**

Surrey Heath Local Committee, which is made up of Surrey County Councillors representing Surrey Heath alongside six Surrey Heath Borough Councillors, received a presentation on the work being done to support the armed forces community within Surrey Heath in October 2018. Surrey Heath Borough Council has a close relationship with RLC Deepcut, the Royal

Military Academy Sandhurst and the Cadet Training Centre in Frimley. The committee heard about the recent Employer Recognition Bronze Award the council has received, along with the a new play area in Deepcut which has helped integrate military and civilian communities, as well as a tea party that was planned for Remembrance Day for all residents that have turned 100.

In order to ensure all Surrey MPs and councillors at both county and borough/district council level are aware of how to advise and signpost members of the armed forces community to appropriate sources of support, an updated briefing document for Surrey's MPs and councillors was circulated containing a summary of issues pertinent to the armed forces community along with local contacts and links to the newly developed referral pathways developed under Forces Connect South East. This document was well received.

#### **4th Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (4 PWRR) comes to Redhill**

Following the formation of the new Fourth Battalion Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment (4PWRR) in September 2017, the new Headquarters in Denmark House, Redhill was officially opened by Brigadier General Lars Christian Hedemark – Defence Attache at the Danish Embassy on 2 November 2018.

Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) has developed excellent relationships with the Commanding Officer of 4PWRR and have been sharing resources and will also share some training as military and SFRS have complementary strengths. Both SFRS and 4PWRR recruited during the year so they also combined forces here as well.

#### **Surrey Military Appeals Committee (SMAC)**

The SMAC, chaired by the Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey continued to meet during the year. The committee is made up of the Vice Lord-Lieutenant, High Sheriff, High Sheriff in Nomination of Surrey, the lead Service Deputy Lieutenant for Surrey, Anne Milton MP, Chairman of Surrey Civilian-Military Partnership Board, Dame Penelope Keith and Deputy Commander 11 Infantry Brigade. As well as supporting the wider work of the military and service charities in the county, the committee has had a specific role during the year to promote the Ministry of Defence apprenticeship scheme and lobbying over increasing the speed at which Capita recruit to the military.

#### **Armed Forces Champions**

Surrey continues to lead the way in developing the role of elected councillor Armed Forces Champions within the County Council and all 11 district and borough councils in Surrey. At the national Armed Forces Covenant Conference, the County Council led workshops on the approach being taken by Surrey which included the job description that has been developed. Following the workshops, the County Council has been working closing with the Ministry of Defence on the best way of sharing what works in Surrey with the rest of the UK.

During November, the Surrey Armed Forces Champions and Covenant Leads had a workshop with 11 Brigade to discuss effective working with the military in Surrey at a local

level. This led to an increased understanding of how each organisation can support each other going forward, and the role that local units, not under the direct control of 11 Brigade currently play.

## **COMMUNITY INTEGRATION**

### **EDUCATION AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

#### **Outcomes for Service Children**

Work has been ongoing during the year to ensure that Service children achieve positive outcomes at the end of primary school (Key Stage 2), as data suggests that, in some cases, their attainment is lower than that of their civilian peers which is in contrast to national trends. Further investigation showed that service children catch up at the end of Key Stage 4 (GCSE). Officers, along with both primary and secondary head teachers at schools with significant numbers of service children have carried out further research and identified best practice that can be shared with others, especially those schools with lower numbers of Service children. This includes examples for the use of Service Pupil Premium which provides £300 per annum for each Service child in Reception to Year 11 to enable schools to provide extra support, mainly pastoral, to children with parents in the Armed Forces. This issue was also the focus of the afternoon session of the Surrey Armed Forces Covenant Conference, which had presentations from some of the schools with high numbers of service children, as well as some insights into what it is like being a service child at both primary and secondary school.

11 Infantry Brigade has a particular focus on young people, and has taken their schools Youth Engagement Programme to Ash Manor School, Guildford; Kings International School, Camberley; and Farnham Heath End School. This six week programme aims to raise awareness and understanding of the Armed Forces, explore possible careers opportunities as well as developing the individuals who take part. The programme is designed to be fun and engaging with some health and fitness and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) activity, as well as military ethos and skills, applicable to everyday life. Students worked hard during the six week course and their personal growth and development was evident at the end of the course.

#### **School Admissions Factsheet**

An admission case for a Service child raised during the 2018 school admissions process highlighted a misunderstanding of how the Covenant could be applied in the case of school admissions. An advisory note was written and circulated to help inform key players including Armed Forces Champions, Covenant Leads and service charities, so help could continue to effectively help and advise members of the armed forces community.

#### **Working together to Safeguard Children**

A successful meeting was held between the Army Welfare Service, Surrey's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub, Surrey County Council's Children's Services and a representative from

the Family Support Programme to increase understanding and develop links between agencies that work together to help ensure any safeguarding issues concerning Service children have the appropriate input and support.

### **Brookwood Youth Cafe**

Brookwood Youth café received £10,888 from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund to improve facilities at St Saviours Church in Brookwood to enable them to provide a safe and welcoming space for all young people at a pivotal time of their development as they enter adolescence and moving into secondary school. The café will help encourage community integration between service and military children, and provide young people with the opportunity to make new friends, learn new skills and have fun in a safe environment.

### **Pre-School Play Area**

Peter Pan Pre-School, which is based in Alexander Barracks Pirbright, received a grant from the Ministry of Defence Armed Forces Covenant Fund towards a new outdoor play area. This was constructed during the summer of 2019, and officially opened in October by the Chairman of SCMPB. This was a lovely occasion and enabled Board members to see the children enjoy themselves on the new equipment.

### **Army Taster Days**

The Community Skills Relationship Manager has developed good relationships with the Unit Welfare Officer at Army Training Centre (Pirbright), and taster sessions have been offered to young people who would be interested in joining the forces, by inviting them to appropriate events at the Barracks.

Another area of work being explored is around the reparation programme, and if any young people on the programme were interested in joining the forces, then they could be allocated to a gardening project, or similar, to enable them to get a feel for life at the Barracks.

### **Duke of Cornwall Community Safety Award**

The Duke of Cornwall Community Safety Award was developed to give young people in the UK the first opportunity to learn what to do in an emergency situation such as severe weather, a pandemic or long-term power cut. As well as teaching them to protect themselves, the process makes them think about how to prepare their families and consider vulnerable people in their local communities. Twenty five Army Cadets from Reigate were the first to complete this award in Surrey.

## **EMPLOYMENT**

### **Armed Forces Employment Policy**

Surrey County Council has developed a new 'Supporting the Armed Forces in Employment Policy' and associated guidance. As well as Reservists, it also covers ex-service personnel, spouses, cadet force adult volunteers and Reservists from other nations. In addition, it makes provision for ex-service personnel and reservists to support the Emergency Management Team if there is a serious emergency in the county.

During the recruitment process, Surrey County Council records the military status of the employee (including family members), where they are happy to provide this information. This helps ensure that they are supported appropriately.

### **Military Leadership Opportunities**

As a result of Surrey County Council being a gold Employer Recognition Scheme Award holder and Woking Borough Council being a silver Award holder, a number of colleagues have had the opportunity to attend leadership programmes run by the military. During the course of the year, the councils have had access to two leadership courses run at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, as well as ones at RAF Halton and at RAF Cranwell. These courses enabled staff to explore and enhance their leadership and team building skills through physical and mental military exercises.

An additional opportunity for Surrey County Council was the opportunity for its Director of Community Protection and Emergencies to see the Royal Marine Reserves receiving their training out in the field, which demonstrated the high levels of commitment these servicemen and women show, alongside their team and leadership qualities.

### **Surrey Outdoor Learning and Development**

Surrey Outdoor Learning and Development (SOLD) takes young people and adults out of their usual surroundings and into the outdoors to develop vital life skills. As a result of attending the Forces Connect South East training, SOLD made links with 11 Brigade Transition and during the year attended an event at RMA Sandhurst as an exhibitor and another in Aldershot as an employer to promote the work they do.

### **Gold Alumni**

As a gold Employer Recognition Scheme holder, Surrey County Council is co-chairman of the South East Group, which gives advice, mentoring and support to other organisations developing their relationship with Defence in the area. One specific role Surrey County Council undertook during the year was to act as a 'critical friend' to Kent County Council during their successful application to gold status.

In addition, Defence Relationship Management has developed a new online 'chat' group for Gold Award holders to share best practice and ideas which Surrey County Council is a member of. There are also plans to develop a specific local authority sub-group.

## **Promoting the Employment of Ex-Service Personnel**

Surrey County Council has worked closely with the Career Transition Partnership (CTP) to promote the council as an employer of choice to those leaving the military. The County Council has developed a focus page on the CTP website, and appropriate vacancies of interest to ex-service personnel will be promoted through this route.

## **Employer Engagement**

Surrey County Council and Woking Borough Council continue to be active members of the Regional Employer Engagement Group hosted by SERFCA (South East Reserve Forces and Cadets Association). The aim of this group is to look at ways of promoting the benefits of the relationship between defence and business. Surrey County Council promoted Forces Connect South East at a recent group meeting.

SERFCA hosted an annual briefing on the Armed Forces for key representatives from the county, including all Surrey's Mayors and Armed Forces Champions. The event in June 2018 also had a presentation from the Chairman of the SCMPB on the achievements of the Board to date.

The County Council is represented on the SERFCA County Committee.

## **Job Centre Staff Training**

Following attendance at the Forces Connect South East Service Champions training, the leader of the Epsom Armed Forces Veterans Breakfast Club met with the local Job Centre to explain the needs of the armed forces community and the Armed Forces Covenant. As a result of this meeting, the Job Centre Manager offered the leader of the Breakfast Club a room for up to three days a week where he can meet and support local veterans. Whilst he is there, he will also give some training to the staff on the Covenant.

## **HEALTH, WELLBEING AND WELFARE**

### **Veteran's Hubs**

Surrey County Council led a successful application on behalf of the Forces Connect South East partnership for a £148k Ministry of Defence Covenant Fund grant to enhance existing veteran drop-in centres and set up new ones in areas where they are found to be needed. As well as offering practical advice on things like jobs and housing, the drop-in centres foster friendships and help ensure that veterans with mental health difficulties or social care needs get the right support. During the first six months of this two year project, a comprehensive needs assessment has been undertaken with proposals for additional provision and a best practice guide to setting up a Veterans Hub developed.

## **Unit Welfare Officers Meeting**

During 2018, Surrey's Unit Welfare Officers (UWOs) continued to meet regularly with 11 Brigade, covenant lead officers at Surrey County Council as well as other lead officers on education, housing and health. The aim of the meetings are to better understand the issues facing serving personnel and their families and to see how the SCMPB might mobilise further help to support the armed forces community. These meetings held under 'Chatham House' rules also provide an opportunity in confidence for the military welfare officers to share experiences and successes with their colleagues.

## **Surrey Armed Forces Health Champions Network**

The new NHS Long Term Plan and the Government Carers Action Plan 2018-2020 both provide national policy directives around Armed Forces Covenant. The Health and Social Care Act (2012) contains provisions to enable the NHS, local government and other sectors in England to work together collaboratively to help improve local population outcomes. For the armed forces community, an important part of this has been the partnership between the NHS and the Ministry of Defence (MoD), which is backed by the Armed Forces Covenant, embedded in the NHS Constitution, to support fair access to treatment. The Surrey Armed Forces Health Champions Network born out of the Community Integration Task Group has been established to ensure the health and care needs of the Surrey armed forces community are met.

The armed forces community are part of the local resident population, and responsibility for commissioning their health care falls to the newly formed Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs). This is in addition to bespoke and other services commissioned at a national level by NHS England. The group will develop and oversee the delivery of a detailed action plan across the Surrey local authority geographical footprint including monitoring and managing the implementation of plan and ensure outcomes and milestones are met. This will be achieved through cross-border cooperation between the three Surrey based Integrated Care Partnerships and will note the findings of the Surrey Armed Forces Health Needs Assessment 2013.

Current areas of work are around GP Veteran registration, promotion of Step into Health, which connects employers in the NHS to people from the armed forces community, by offering an access route into employment and career development opportunities, support for military carers and mental health support. A number of Surrey Clinical Commissioning Groups have also signed the Armed Forces Covenant.

## **Armed Forces Carers**

Action for Carers provides specialist information and support to anyone in Surrey who is caring for someone who is currently serving, a reservist or veteran, or an armed forces family member. Specific support is also available for armed forces young carers.

['Codename Carers'](#) is an animated film which aims to help young carers self-identify and recognise that there is specialised support available for them – as well as make armed

forces personnel, schools, professionals and voluntary bodies aware of the existence of young carers in the armed forces environment.

### **HorseHeard**

Following a successful pilot programme in January 2019, HorseHeard ran a free pilot programme in Surrey during March 2019 at Merrist Wood College in Guildford. HorseHeard is a charity which uses horses to help veterans 'find their place' in civilian society. Veterans who were struggling to adapt to civilian life with issues such as low self-esteem, low self-confidence and those who had difficulty forming relationships self-nominated themselves to take part in the programme. This involved them working in small groups with other like-minded veterans to work through their issues together. Horses are powerful creatures that are adept at picking up and responding to the way people behave, so can help address issues in a non-judgmental way. Comments from previous course attendees include "I've learned to be calmer in everyday situations", "I'm gradually becoming more confident and this helped with my work interview and got me the job", "I've learnt to cope at home due to HorseHeard". The aim is that following the pilot, the programme will be run in Surrey on an annual basis, subject to demand.

## **RECOGNITION AND REMEMBRANCE**

### **Remembrance Commemorations – Armistice 100**

All across Surrey, local authorities marked the centenary of the end of the First World War. Leading very much from the front was Guildford Cathedral, working with Surrey County Council, the Surrey Lieutenancy, the Royal British Legion and Guildford Borough Council, they hosted a number of their events to remember those who lost their lives in the First World War and in all conflicts since then.

On Saturday 10 November, in addition to First World War re-enactors, there was abseiling from the Cathedral Tower raising funds for The Royal British Legion. This was followed by An Evensong for Remembrance, which concluded with the exterior of the Cathedral being illuminated by a Falling Poppy Display, which went on until 10.30pm.

The Cathedral also hosted a Poppy Dinner in aid of The Royal British Legion where the High Sheriff and other VIPs enjoyed a meal of (not quite) WW1 rationing!

On Sunday 11 November at 6.00am, Guildford Cathedral had one of the 1000 individual Pipers across the United Kingdom and countries around the world commencing the day's commemorations with the traditional Scottish lament played at the end of battle - Battle's O'er. The Dean of Guildford and the Bishop of Guildford accompanied the Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey, the Mayor of Guildford, the Chairman of Surrey County Council and the High Sheriff of Surrey, at the top of the tower of Guildford Cathedral, to witness this act of commemoration. Commander Matt O'Grady read the WW1 Tribute to the Millions.

At 10.00am, The Cathedral held the County Service of Remembrance which was attended by the Lord-Lieutenant, the Chairman of the County Council, other Surrey and Military dignitaries including Brigadier Tom Bateman CBE – 11 Infantry Brigade and HQ SE and also representatives from the Surrey Yeomanry, commemorating 100 years since the end of the First World War and all conflicts since then. The Bishop of Guildford preached, This service culminated with a gun salute and two minutes silence, which was then immediately followed by the signing of the Armed Forces Covenant between the Diocese of Guildford and 11 Infantry Brigade with the Bishop of Guildford and Brigadier Bateman being signatories to it.

At 6.55pm, 1000 individual Buglers, including a number in Surrey sounded The Last Post as WW1 Beacons of Light were lit across Surrey and the Nation and UK Overseas Territories. This was immediately followed at 7.00pm by WW1 Beacons of Light symbolizing an end to the darkness of war and a return to the light of peace. Then at 7.05pm the Ringing out for Peace by 1000 Cathedral and Church Bells rang out across the Nation, and beyond, in celebration of Peace with A Cry for Peace around the world.

As well as events at the Cathedral, there was massive support from the general public at all Remembrance Events across Surrey. Guildford Borough Council hosted a very well-attended Remembrance Sunday Service at Holy Trinity and then in the Castle Grounds at the newly dedicated War Memorial. Cadets, scouts and veterans were very well represented.

Spelthorne Borough Council, set up 'Spelthorne Remembers' involving up to 500 school children. Its aim was to heighten their awareness of the sacrifices made by so many Spelthorne residents in the years gone by. Wreaths were laid by the children, who all received a silhouette of a 'Tommy' for their school, 135 Geo Royal Engineers were in attendance representing the Military with the local Padre leading a special Service of Remembrance. More than 1,000 people attended for what was a very memorable occasion.

Caterham also took part in a special Remembrance Day mark of respect. The day commenced at 6am with a piper playing the War is Over when the original armistice was signed. A Beacon was lit on Westway Commons as part of the Beacons of Light event, which saw over 2,000 beacons lit across the world at 7pm on 11 November 2018. The event started with a reading of World War One poems followed by the Oxted Band performing to over 500 people. Caterham on the Hill Parish Council attached poppies to railings, 'river of blood' at St Lawrence's Church on the Hill.

An ecumenical service was held in Victory Park in Addlestone on Saturday 10th November – 200 people of all ages and faiths turned out in a truly community event. Coordinated and spearheaded by Chertsey Museum, all the primary schools across the borough were involved in producing memorial candles (fashioned from tea lights in glass jars decorated with poppies) with one for every fatality recorded in the borough of Runnymede. These were laid out forming a pathway from the memorial gates at the entrance of the park to the area the service was led from. The service kicked off with the unveiling of a new memorial bench marking the centenary and the planting of a commemorative tree by Runnymede Borough Council's Mayor, Cllr Dolsie Clarke.

Other events were held in almost every town and village in the County. In Dorking the High Sheriff attended its special Remembrance Sunday Service and Vigil at Dorking's War Memorial supported by Churches Together in Dorking. Newdigate held its Remembrance Sunday service with an RBL standard and a packed church. Brookwood held a Centenary of the Armistice. A new Armistice Memorial Ground was dedicated in Nightingale Road Godalming, and will be used for Remembrance for many years to come.

St Paul's Church Howell Hill in Epsom staged Journey's End and was a complete sell out as was their exhibition on WW1. Epsom Shopping Centre displayed the names of all 300 people from Epsom who had lost their lives.

Many Silent Soldiers and Soldier Silhouettes had been deployed across the County in local churches and many villages, as well. Clearly Surrey came to peace and to stop and remember at 11am on Remembrance Sunday 2018.

### **Guildford Fire Station Open its Doors to Veterans**

On the afternoon of Remembrance Sunday, Guildford Fire Station opened its doors to local veterans as their way on saying thank you to their military brothers and sisters. This event was very well received and appreciated locally, and will be developed into annual event.

### **Vivace Concert**

Guildford Borough Council sponsored the Vivace Chorus *Concert for Peace*, a moving and uplifting tribute to all those from Guildford and the surrounding area who gave their life in the Great War and conflicts since. This took place on 10 November 2018 at G-Live in Guildford.

### **WWI Film, Guildford Remembers**

Members of the Guildford community reflected on life in Guildford in 1918. This film, which was put together by Guildford Borough Council can be viewed via the following link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q1FHn3WhhS8&feature=youtu.be>

### **Woking Party in the Park**

Woking came together in Woking Park on Saturday 7 July 2018, to help commemorate 100 years since the end of World War One as well as the momentous victory won by women to achieve the vote for the first time. The event which was supported by the Army Training Centre (Pirbright) was reminiscent of a Peace Celebration party that took place in the same park in the summer following the end of World War One, almost 100 years ago. The event opened with a parade, introduced by the Military Wives Choir, Windsor and as the procession ended, Joey the War Horse emerged. Woking Borough Council and SCMPB had a stand promoting the Peace Garden in Horsell, as well as some of the wider work of the Board.

## **New War Memorial in Guildford**

Guildford Borough Council has dedicated a new war memorial, commemorating all those with a local Guildford connection who have been killed in conflict and whilst on active service, since the end of World War Two. The new memorial is in the Castle Grounds in Guildford and is located alongside the War Memorial commemorating those who were killed in the two world wars.

Following the Council's decision to commission the memorial, much research was done to find the names of those who had given the ultimate sacrifice. Adverts were placed in local papers, research was conducted at the Surrey History Centre and organisations/services/societies/regiments/associations were contacted. The names of 18 servicemen were identified who came from all three Services and from conflicts as recent as Afghanistan.

The Artist worked closely with the families involved, and they were invited along with the Lord-Lieutenant, the Mayor of Guildford, the High Sheriff of Surrey and representatives of their regiments and the schools they attended, to the dedication.

## **Canadian War Memorial in Milford**

In September 2018, a new war memorial and cairn to commemorate the Canadian soldiers based at Milford Common during World War 1 was unveiled by the Mayor of Waverley, Cllr Denise Le Gal with Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP.

In January 1915, orders were issued for the setting up of a camp on Witley Common for training British and Canadian soldiers before they were sent to France. The camp extended into Milford Common with the Surrey countryside providing an ideal landscape for artillery training, with rolling hills, sandy soil, as well as good roads and villages. The camp provided the soldiers with housing, medical attention, recreation facilities, and shops, also known as 'Tin-Towns,' found on the edge of the camp. Part of Milford Common was also used as a baseball pitch for the troops. During the Second World War the camp was purely for the training and housing of Canadian Troops. The camp was rebuilt on Rodborough Common for WWII and expanded to the size of a small village where it contained a chapel, hospital, parade ground, garrison theatre and brick buildings for living quarters.

Waverley Borough Council, Surrey County Council and the National Trust all supported the memorial. The engraving reads 'In gratitude to all Canadian soldiers based in the area during WWI and WWII. We will remember them,'

## **Multi-Faith Ceremony at Woking Peace Garden**

To mark one hundred years since the end of World War One, the Armed Forces Muslim Association played a key role in the first National Muslim Service of Commemoration at the

Woking Peace Garden in Horsell. Representatives from Muslim organisations and community leaders came together from across the country to show their respect to all those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service and defence of the nation, regardless of faith.

The service took place at the Woking Peace Garden, the original resting place for some Muslim soldiers killed during the First and Second World Wars.

In 1969, the bodies of the men buried in the Cemetery were exhumed and reinterred at the larger Brookwood Military Cemetery. The site was recently renovated to its former glory and turned into an Islamic-inspired Peace Garden as a lasting legacy to all the Muslim servicemen who made the ultimate sacrifice and to mark the centenary commemorations of the Great War.

### **The Armistice and Armed Forces Communities Programme**

This programme, funded through the Armed Forces Covenant Fund has made awards of up to 10 'There but not there' silhouettes to 39 Surrey based community groups, parish councils, schools, cadet units and churches. These were used across the county at events to commemorate the Armistice.

### **Armed Forces Week**

The annual Surrey Joint Services' Choral Matins at Guildford Cathedral took place at the start of Armed Forces Week on Sunday 24 June 2018 with the Lord-Lieutenant raising the Armed Forces Flag. There then followed a parade and full inspection of the tri-service cadets, watched by the High Sheriff and all Surrey's Mayors. On 25 June, all Surrey District and Borough Councils participated in Armed Forces Week by raising the Flag.

The Wednesday of Armed Forces week was Reserves Day. Surrey County Council held a thank you event for Reservists and members of wider armed forces community that are employees. As well as reviewing activity of the past year, the meeting reviewed the draft HR Armed Forces Policy for Surrey County Council, explored ways in which they may wish to assist the Council in an emergency and also discussed how they could keep in touch in between meetings. The group will come together a couple of times a year as the Surrey County Council Military Peer Support Group.

On Armed Forces Day, Guildford Borough Council invited 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment to exercise their freedom to march through the town centre. This was a spectacular parade, enjoyed by many thousands of Surrey residents. In addition, other towns in Surrey, including Woking, held a parade in the Town Centre to mark the occasion.

## **RAF 100**

2018 saw the centenary of the formation of the Royal Air Force. As part of the commemorations, Surrey County Council wrote a two page article for inclusion in the national RAF Commemoration Book on the links Surrey has to the RAF. This included the work that Sir Barnes Wallis, a resident of Effingham carried out on the development of the bouncing bomb, along with the role that Brooklands had as a major aircraft testing and production site.

Surrey County Council was represented at the national RAF100 event at Horseguards Parade in London, involving the Royal Family, culminating in the national RAF100 flypast.

## **Elizabeth Cross**

The Lord-Lieutenant presented the Elizabeth Cross to the grandson of a soldier shot in Cyprus. It was a very special day and the Army looked after the family extremely well.

## **Lord-Lieutenants Awards Ceremony**

October 2018 saw the Lord-Lieutenant present a number of awards to Cadets and Reservists in the County who have shown exceptional commitment and loyalty to the cause.

## **Headley Court Farewell**

June 2018 saw Surrey say a final farewell to Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (DMRC) Headley Court following its move in the autumn to the Midlands. The final Beating Retreat was held at DMRC Headley Court on 12 July 2018 and saw a Spitfire fly over accompanied by music from the Band of the Royal Marines.