



HARTLEPOOL ARMED FORCES COVENANT GUIDE 2025/26





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HARTLEPOOL ARMED FORCES COVENANT GUIDE 2025/26

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Email: sales@mybusinessclient.com

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University Hospital Tees Commitment to the Armed Forces

University Hospital Tees (UHT) comprises of North Tees and Hartlepool and South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trusts. We are proud that our group holds the accreditation 'Veteran Aware', demonstrating our commitment to our Armed Forces (AF) community.

- ✓ **Committed to the covenant** – UHT has signed the armed forces covenant and works with the standards outlined
- ✓ **Designated veteran champions** – UHT has an active working group, meeting monthly
- ✓ **Supporting veterans** – Our armed forces community are encouraged to declare their status when accessing care
- ✓ **Dedicated training** – Staff have access to training resources
- ✓ **Links to veteran services** – working with partners to work with our armed forces communities
- ✓ **Raising awareness** – holding events across the year
- ✓ **Supporting the forces as an employer** – employing current and retired members

If you would like to work with UHT as a veteran partner, as a serving or retired veteran or in any other capacity please email: armedforceservingandveterans@nhs.net




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Image courtesy of The Royal British Legion

WELCOME TO HARTLEPOOL!

Hartlepool is located on the north-east coast to the north of the River Tees, with population of around 95,366, of which 3,844 are Armed Forces veterans.

The town has a long and proud military history which continues through the presence of the Museum of the Royal Navy, active cadet forces and three co-located reservist units (8th Battalion, the Rifles, 71 Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers and 150 Transport Regiment, Royal Logistics Corps).

As a local authority, Hartlepool Borough Council is committed to developing support to meet the needs of the town's Armed Forces community and in doing so signed both the North East Armed Forces Community Charter, and our own Community Covenant in 2012. In addition, in 2025 the Council received its second Ministry of Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) Gold Award.

It has never been more important that the members of our Armed Forces community in Hartlepool are supported, and this is Hartlepool's first Covenant Guide. We hope that you will find it useful, whether you are looking for support or an understanding of what is out there as a member of the Armed Forces Community.



▲ Councillor Brenda Harrison
Leader of Hartlepool Borough Council



▲ Councillor Chris Wallace
Armed Forces Champion



HARTLEPOOL'S NEW ARMED FORCES CHAMPION AND VETERANS' CHAMPION

Councillor Chris Wallace is Hartlepool Borough Council's new Armed Forces Champion and Terry Phillips is the new Veterans' Champion.



▲ Armed Forces Champion Councillor Chris Wallace (left) and Veterans' Champion Terry Phillips.

Together, they will work to help achieve the objectives of the Council's Armed Forces Community Covenant.

This includes:

- supporting and helping current service personnel and veterans
- raising awareness and understanding of the issues affecting the Armed Forces community
- encouraging residents, businesses and organisations to actively and visibly show their support for our servicemen and women, past and present.

Armed Forces Champion

Councillor Chris Wallace, who was born in and lives in Hartlepool, left the Army in January 2024 after ten years' service in the Adjutant General's Corps, including operations in Iraq, Northern Ireland and Africa.

He said: "I am very honoured and privileged to be the new Armed Forces Champion. I will be building on the excellent work done by my predecessor Brian Cowie and will continue to strengthen the links with the town's three Army Reserve units.

"Together with Terry, I will be doing all I can to help our servicemen, women and veterans and encouraging everyone to take a pride in our town's military history and to support our Armed Forces community."

Veterans' Champion

Terry Phillips, the new Veterans' Champion, is also Hartlepool born-and-bred. He joined the 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry, at 16, serving with them for 11 years and ending his service in Berlin at the time of the fall of the Berlin Wall, after a career which took him around the world.

Terry is a member of numerous ex-service associations in Hartlepool and

for over 20 years has been Secretary of the Durham Light Infantry Association and Standard Bearer of the DLI, Light Infantry and Rifles Associations.

He said: "It's a privilege to be the new Veterans' Champion. With being in numerous veterans' groups in Hartlepool, I know that there are a lot of veterans in the town who don't know what help and support is out there for them. A lot of people associate veterans with the 70 and 80-year-olds you see with a chest full of medals, but they don't realise that the average age of a veteran is 23-24.

"For a town of its size, Hartlepool has a lot of support set up to help ex-servicemen and women and, together with Chris I'll be working to raise awareness of this."

Terry Phillips can be contacted on 07963 464230 or email t.phillips937@gmail.com



GET IN TOUCH

Julian Heward
Senior Communications and
Marketing Officer

✉ julian.heward@hartlepool.gov.uk

☎ 01429 523044

📞 07890 947530

🌐 www.hartlepool.gov.uk

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LIVING IN HARTLEPOOL AND THE TEES VALLEY

Hartlepool is part of the Tees Valley region, located in the northeast of England, and offers a vibrant and diverse environment perfect for those returning to civilian life after serving in the Armed Forces.



▲ Hartlepool Marina

Known for its rich industrial heritage, stunning landscapes and beaches, and emerging economic opportunities, Hartlepool offers a blend of work, leisure, culture, and community.

Jobs, Skills, and Opportunities

The area is a thriving centre of economic growth, with a wide variety of industries and sectors offering job opportunities. Our region has a strong industrial base in the advanced manufacturing, engineering, digital technologies, chemicals, and offshore industries. The area is home to many significant employers, including PD Ports, SeAH Wind, Teesworks, Teesside University, Wilton International and key players in energy and health services. We've a strong NHS – and the local economy is diversifying and supports a growing tech sector, offering roles in software development, digital marketing, and data analytics.

The region also offers initiatives and programmes specifically designed to help those transitioning into civilian careers. Local businesses actively engage with the Armed Forces community, creating pathways for service leavers to use their transferable skills, such as leadership, problem-solving, and teamwork. The area – and the Combined

Authority – also offers a wide range of reskilling programs, Adult Skills funds, apprenticeships, and training courses to help you gain new qualifications.

Culture and Leisure

The region boasts a rich cultural scene, making it an ideal place for veterans looking to enjoy activities and engage in their community. Hartlepool has a huge sense of community and is home to the National Museum of the Royal Navy, HMS Trincomalee and the Heugh Battery Museum. In the wider region, whether it's exploring the vibrant

cultural scene in Middlesbrough, with its Institute of Modern Art (MIMA) and the Middlesbrough Theatre, or enjoying the unique experiences offered by the Stockton International Riverside Festival, there is something for everyone.

Sporting enthusiasts will appreciate the local sports culture, with football teams like Middlesbrough FC and other sporting clubs in rugby, cricket, netball and athletics. The region also offers ample opportunities for outdoor recreation, from walking and cycling along the Tees Barrage to engaging with water sports on the iconic River Tees. There are a huge number of social clubs and groups to join and enjoy, too.

Green Spaces and Nature

Our region also stands out for its abundance of green spaces and natural beauty, making it a great place for relaxation and exploring the great outdoors. We're home to many parks and nature reserves, with the North York Moors National Park and the stunning Cleveland Hills on our doorstep, which are ideal for hiking, biking, and enjoying nature. Additionally, the Teesdale Way and the River Tees offer scenic walks



▲ HMS Trincomalee at the National Museum of the Royal Navy



▲ Seaton Carew



and opportunities for wildlife spotting – perfect for those looking to unwind after a busy day. Similarly, we're home to stunning beaches from Seaton Carew to Redcar and Saltburn – and beautiful town centre parks, with South Park, in Darlington, Ropner Park, in Stockton, and Preston Park, in Eaglescliffe, to name but a few.

The region is committed to sustainability and has been making strides in creating more green spaces and eco-friendly communities. Whether it's parks, nature reserves, or waterfront areas, Tees Valley provides many spots to enjoy.

Shopping and Dining

Our region is a key spot for shopping with a range of options to cater to all tastes. Middlesbrough is home to Hillstreet Shopping Centre and Cleveland Centre, where you'll find high street brands and local shops. Additionally, the Cleveland Retail Park offers big-box stores, while Yarm, Norton and Saltburn have a thriving independent retail scene, perfect for unique finds.

For those who enjoy dining out, we offer diverse options, from traditional

pubs and cafés to international cuisine. More rural Yarm, Eaglescliffe and western Stockton boast a number of fine dining options and quirky eateries, while the more cosmopolitan feel of Middlesbrough offers an eclectic mix of restaurants, street food, and bars.

A Great Place to Live for the Armed Forces Community

Tees Valley offers an outstanding environment to reintegrate into civilian life. The strong sense of community combined with affordable housing, makes it an attractive destination. The area's low cost of living compared to other parts of the UK, combined with excellent connectivity to major cities like Newcastle and Leeds, makes Tees Valley ideal for service leavers looking to settle into a more relaxed, family-friendly environment.

Veterans will also benefit from the region's commitment to supporting the Armed Forces community, with

initiatives designed to make the transition smoother. Local councils, businesses, and veterans' groups collaborate to provide services such as housing support, mental health resources, and advice on employment opportunities.

Veterans Services

Veterans can access a wide range of specialised support services tailored to the unique needs of those who have served in different military operations. For instance, **Op COURAGE** is an NHS mental health service dedicated to veterans and their families, offering support to manage the psychological effects of military service.

For veterans facing homelessness or at risk of it, **Op FORTITUDE** provides a central referral pathway to secure housing support. Those who find themselves involved with the justice system can turn to **Op NOVA**, which offers the necessary services to help them navigate legal issues.

Additionally, **Op PROSPER** focuses on employment opportunities, ensuring veterans have equal access to career paths and training. Alongside these national initiatives, local charities and services in the Tees Valley region – including Hartlepool, Middlesbrough and Stockton – collaborate with the government to provide seamless support for transitioning veterans.

The region also benefits from resources such as the Career Transition Partnership for resettlement and career guidance, and veterans can access a variety of housing and financial assistance schemes specifically designed for them.



THE ARMY RESERVE IN HARTLEPOOL

In keeping with Hartlepool's tradition of supporting our Armed Forces, Hartlepool Borough Council were delighted to support the re-occupation of the Army Reserve Centre on Easington Road by not one but three Army Reserve units in 2023.

Headed up by the 8th Battalion The Rifles, the Reserve Centre offers part-time employment across a huge swathe of army trade groups. 8 Rifles provides opportunities for exciting Infantry training and deployments while 71 Royal Engineers and 150 Regiment Royal Logistics offer combat engineering, driving and military logistics.

The Army Reserve is the largest of the UK's Reserve Armed Forces and is a vital component of the British Army, providing essential mass, unique capabilities, and a diversity of skills critical to meeting the Army's commitments. It offers the opportunity to be paid to broaden your horizons, develop personal skills and acquire qualifications which help in everyday life or in the civilian workplace.

"We arm people for life," says Lieutenant Colonel Pete Bull, Commanding Officer of 8 Rifles. "Our training gently builds confidence, team-working, leadership, planning skills and qualifications which our people take back into the civilian workplace."

The Army Reserve is also an opportunity to see the world; there are frequent opportunities for reservists to deploy overseas with recent examples involving training with our NATO partners in Croatia and peacekeeping in Cyprus.

Outside of military training there is also the opportunity to take part in adventure training and sport including scuba diving, climbing and skiing.

The benefits of being a member of the Army Reserve are huge and offer the opportunity to;

- Earn while you train.
- Receive an annual tax-free bonus of up to and in excess of £2,000.
- Enrol onto the Armed Forces Pension Scheme.
- Receive up to 34% discount on rail travel.
- Complete qualifications which are transferable to the civilian workplace.

Army Reservists volunteer to serve alongside regular soldiers with an annual training ask of just 27 days, mostly made up through weekends and evenings - some employers also offer paid leave to take part in Army Reserve training. Applying to join is easy and is open to new entrants, both men and women aged 18 to 43, and those with previous military service up to the age of 52.

The Army has traditionally recruited heavily from the North-East with Hartlepool being at the heart. You only need to walk through the town to see the rich tapestry of military heritage.

For more information and to get in touch with one of the units in Hartlepool just scan the QR code below to send us a message and one of the recruiting team will be in touch to assist.



“Our training gently builds confidence, team-working, leadership, planning skills and qualifications which our people take back into the civilian workplace.”



ARMED FORCES JOB SUPPORT

The 'Defence Relationship Management' (DRM) service has been set up as a single point of contact linking employers with the MOD. It offers advice and support on employing members of the Armed Forces community.

Support for Reservists and their families

As a reservist, there's a great deal of support available to you. At every stage of a reservist's career, there are rights and responsibilities for both reservists and employers. As some are governed by law (e.g. the legal right to reinstatement in civilian jobs after a period of mobilised service), it's important to be aware of them.

If you have any questions that are not answered in the rights and responsibilities for reservists and employers, or you are experiencing difficulties with your employer, you can contact your Unit Employer Support Officer. Each unit has an Employer Support Officer who is the main authority on employer issues. Your detachment commander or Permanent Staff Administrative Officer (PSAO) will be able to put you in touch. Employer Support Officers can give you legal advice or tips on how best to talk to your employer to encourage them to support your reserve service.



Working for Hartlepool Borough Council

Hartlepool Borough Council recognises the valuable contribution that members of the Reserve Forces (Reservists) can make to the UK Armed Forces, their communities and the civilian workplace. There is a reservist policy in place that includes up to two-weeks' paid leave to attend annual training (subject to training meeting the specified criteria). Applicants are also guaranteed an interview if they meet the required criteria. Job vacancies can be accessed via https://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/info/20061/work_for_us/547/apply_for_a_job.



GET IN TOUCH



DRM Helpline (0800) 389 5459
Monday to Friday
between 9am and 5pm



www.gov.uk/government/groups/defence-relationship-management#support-for-reservists

You can report disadvantage at work online.

HEALTH CARE IN HARTLEPOOL

The Veteran-friendly GP Accreditation Programme

The Veteran-friendly GP Accreditation Programme was launched on the 5 June 2019. As members of the programme, practices are better able to identify and treat veterans and refer them where appropriate to dedicated NHS services.

These include the:

- Veterans' Mental Health Transition, Intervention and Liaison service (TILS)
- Veterans' Mental Health Complex Treatment Service (CTS)
- Veterans Trauma Network

The programme also capture better epidemiological data to improve future health provision.

Accredited practices will:

- Ask patients registering with the surgery if they have ever served in the British Armed Forces;
- Have a clinical lead on veterans in the surgery - either be a registered health care professional, nurse or paramedic; and
- Have a CQC 'good' rating or higher

All Hartlepool GP Practices are Veteran-friendly accredited practices.

The Veteran-friendly Framework (Care Homes)

This is a collaborative project led by the Royal British Legion (RBL), Royal Star & Garter (RSG), and the Veterans Covenant Healthcare Alliance (VCHA). The initiative aims to improve social connection and deliver improved health and wellbeing outcomes for over 25,000 veterans living in care homes across England. Work is ongoing with Care Homes in Hartlepool to promote sign up to the framework.

Op COURAGE

Op COURAGE is an NHS mental health specialist service designed to help serving personnel due to leave the military, as well as reservists, Armed Forces veterans and their families. Op COURAGE can help you and your family with a range of support and treatment.

You can contact the service by:

- directly getting in touch yourself, or through a family member or friend
- asking a GP to refer you
- asking a charity to refer you

The service will arrange for you to have an assessment, to make sure you get the right care and support. Further information on the service can be



accessed via the following link - <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/armed-forces-community/mental-health/veterans-reservists/>

NHS Choices

This explains how the NHS can help if you're in the British Armed Forces or are a veteran, a reservist or a family member of someone who is serving or who has served. Further information on the service can be accessed via the following link - <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/armed-forces-community/>



HOUSING POLICY FOR THE ARMED FORCES

As part of its commitment to improve access to housing for the Armed Forces community, Hartlepool Borough Council has fully adopted the government's recommendations to give additional preferences to the Armed Forces Community.

Additional Preference

Local authorities are required to frame their allocation scheme to give additional preference to certain members of the Armed Forces community, where they fall within one or more of the reasonable preference categories and have urgent housing needs. These are:

- a. Former members of the Regular Armed Forces.
- b. Serving members of the Regular Armed Forces who are suffering from a serious injury, illness or disability which is wholly or partly attributable to their service.
- c. Serving or former members of the Reserve Armed Forces who are suffering from a serious injury, illness or disability which is wholly or partly attributable to their service.
- d. Bereaved spouses or civil partners of those serving in the Regular Forces where (i) the bereaved spouse or civil partner has recently ceased, or will cease, to be entitled to reside in Ministry of Defence accommodation following the death of their Service spouse or civil partner, and (ii) the death was wholly or partly attributable to their service.

We will award additional preference as a six-month backdate to the applicant's effective date if they fall within this category.

Band 1 Priority - People Leaving the Armed Forces Community

We also award Band 1 priority for people leaving the Armed Forces community who have an urgent need for housing and who are assessed as homeless. Their applications will be backed dated by six months so that they are above all other applicants in Band 1 when applying for properties on Hartlepool Home Search.



People leaving the HM Armed Forces community are identified as having an urgent need for housing, including members of the Armed Forces (serving, or formerly served in the regular forces; serving, or formerly served in the reserved forces; a bereaved spouse/civil partner; divorced spouse/civil partner).

Band 2 Priority - HM Armed Forces Personnel

In addition, we have a category in Band 2 for applicants who are not homeless but who might have an urgent housing need within five years of being discharged. This is for Members of the HM Armed Forces community (serving, or who have formerly served in the regular or reserve forces; a bereaved spouse/civil partner or a divorced spouse/civil partner) who are identified as having an urgent need for housing within 5 years of discharge.

CHILDREN OF ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL

We warmly welcome “Service Children” into our schools. The educational path and outcome for Service Children is crucial in making the children and their families part of their new community.



All school admissions in England are governed by the Schools Admissions Code (September 2021).

Under Section 2.21 of the above Code (for children of UK service personnel and crown servants), all local authorities in England are responsible for finding a school place for all children of Armed Forces personnel who move into their area. They have to accept applications from and offer a place to Service Children as soon as the family's assignment is confirmed, before they have even moved to the area.

Parents don't need a fixed address, as the application can be based on the unit address or general quartering address. However, schools cannot usually reserve a place too far in advance, as it could result in holding a spot open for too long. Please note, the Armed Forces Covenant doesn't automatically guarantee a place at the school of choice.

Further information in relation to the School Admissions Policy in Hartlepool can be accessed via the attached link (https://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/info/20014/schools_and_learning/655/apply_to_transfer_school)



ARMED FORCES DISCOUNTS

People serving in the Armed Forces, veterans and their families can get discounts for many goods and services.



HARTLEPOOL DISCOUNTS

Hartlepool Borough Council - Get Hartlepool Active Card

Looking to Get Active in Hartlepool? Want to join the gym or go swimming? Then look no further than our leisure facilities!

If you find the cost of sport and recreation activities too expensive, our Get Hartlepool Active card lets you do more for less by offering you fantastic discounts, helping you save money on a range of classes and activities. You can purchase a **Get Hartlepool Active Card** from Mill House Leisure Centre, Headland Sports Centre and Brierton Sports Centre.

Concessions are available to Hartlepool residents who are currently serving in the regular Armed Forces (and their family living at the same address), ex-members of the Armed Forces with a discharge date within the last 5 years (and their family living at the same address), those in the Armed Forces reservists (and their family living at the same address) and residents aged 60+, meeting our eligibility criteria. Those serving in the Armed Forces, ex-Armed Forces and reservists will get 12 month concession cards for £7.20. Further details of the scheme are available at <https://www.activehartlepool.co.uk/memberships>.

Middleton Grange Shopping Centre

Details of discounts offered in the Middleton Grange Shopping Centre are as follows www.middleton-grange.co.uk/offers/military-offers/

Cost of Living Grant – Royal British Legion

Royal British Legion have launched the Cost of Living Grants Programme. This programme is designed to assist people who need help in a quick and easy way with everyday essentials such as kitchen appliances, clothes, and energy costs. For eligibility and more information please go to the following link: <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-support/financial-and-employment-support/finance/grants/cost-of-living-grants>

NATIONAL DISCOUNTS

Forces Railcard

People serving in the Armed Forces, husbands, wives and dependent children can buy the HM Forces Railcard. This gives you 1/3 off most rail fares throughout the UK for a year.

War widows or widowers and their dependants who are getting an Armed Forces pension are also eligible for a Railcard. You can find more information about the Forces Railcard, including how much it costs and the savings you

can make, on the HM Forces Railcard website at: www.hmforces-railcard.co.uk.

If you are a war widow or widower you can also apply for a Railcard through the Royal British Legion. **Contact:** Legionline: 08457 725 725 (open Monday to Friday, 10am – 4pm)

Email: info@britishlegion.org.uk
Website: www.britishlegion.org.uk

Veterans cannot apply for this railcard.

Defence Discount Service

Defence Discount Service provides discounts online and on the high street for members of the Armed Forces, Veterans and Armed Forces Community. We offer the Defence Privilege Card, the vetted discount card that can be used in stores, restaurants and venues to obtain Armed Forces discounts.

You can find out more about the Defence Discount Service and the Defence Privilege Card at www.defencediscountservice.co.uk.



HARTLEPOOL ARMED FORCES LIAISON GROUPS



Hartlepool Armed Forces Liaison Group

The AFLG consists of representatives from the Reserve and Cadet units and Veterans associations in the town. It meets monthly to coordinate activities and organise joint events.

Email: Hartlepoolaflg@gmail.com

Facebook: Hartlepool Armed Forces Liaison Group

Ex-Services Associations in Hartlepool

Are you ex-forces, new to the area, or just don't know what Associations meet in the town? Here are details of all the active veterans associations in the area.

Royal Naval Association

Meets: 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2000hrs

Where: Royal Navy Club, Murray Street TS26 8AF

How to join: Come along to a meeting

Royal Engineers Association

Meets: First Friday of the month at 1930hrs

Where: Royal Navy Club, Murray Street TS26 8AF

Email: stephenshearer59@aol.com

Facebook: Hartlepool Branch REA

Green Howards and Yorkshire Regt Association

Meets: 3rd Friday of the month at 1900hrs

Where: Belle Vue Social Club, Kendal Road TS25 1QU

Tel: 07548 427612

Email: hartlepoolbranch@gmail.com

Facebook: The Green Howards and Yorkshire Regt Association, Hartlepool Branch

Durham Light Infantry, Light Infantry and Rifles Association

Meets: 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 1100hrs.

Where: Ye Olde Durhams Club, St Aiden's Street TS25 1SN
(Meet in Back Lounge from 1000hrs)

Tel: Terry 01429 281532

Email: t.phillips937@gmail.com

RASC / RCT Association Teesside Branch

Meets: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 1930hrs

Where: Army Reserve Centre, Easington Road TS25 1SN

Email: xc90@hotmail.com

Tel: 07835 990395

Royal Air Force Association

Meets: Second Monday of the month at 1830hrs

Where: Ye Olde Durhams Club, St Aiden's Street TS25 1SN

Tel: 07907 874654

Email: welfare@hartlepoolrafa.com

Website: www.hartlepoolrafa.com

Facebook: Hartlepool RAFA

Royal British Legion

Meets: Third Tuesday of the month at 1900hrs

Where: South Durham Social Club (The Steelies), 28 Westbourne Road, Hartlepool TS25 5RE

Tel: 07787 570601

Email: Hartlepool.Chairman@RBL.community

Facebook: Hartlepool Royal British Legion

Armed Forces Veterans Breakfast Club

Meets: Every Saturday morning from 1000 - 1130hrs

Where: Jackson's Wharf Pub, The Highlight TS24 0XN

Tel: Rob 0781 8275773 or Spencer 0792 1811801

Email: Hartlepoolafvbc@outlook.com

Facebook: Hartlepool Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club

Hartlepool United Social Community Fund – Veterans Hub

Meets: Every Monday at 1330 - 1530hrs

Where: 1908 bar, (via car park entrance) HUFC, Clarence Road TS24 8BZ

Tel: 01429 862595

Email: keith.nobbs@hartlepoolunited.co.uk

Weekly activities include bowls and badminton, plus other activities, trips and social events.

Welfare Advice and Support

All associations can provide welfare advice and support to veterans, their families and widows through their respective regimental or service charities, and can signpost to other agencies providing support to veterans. In addition, you can contact the following:

Hartlepool Borough Council

The council website has comprehensive information in their Armed Forces Support section. This includes links to a wide variety of agencies and sources of information, for serving military personnel, reservists, veterans and their families.

www.hartlepool.gov.uk/info/20004/council_and_democracy/580/armed_forces_support

SSAFA – The Armed Forces Charity (see separate article on page 20)

Hartlepool Team: 07823 325747

National Helpline: Mon – Fri : 0900 to 1700hrs - 0800 260 6767

Royal British Legion (see separate article on page 18)

National Helpline: 7 days a week: 0800 to 2000hrs - 0808 802 8080

EDEN CAMP VISIT

The Hartlepool Armed Forces Liaison Group organised a visit to the Eden Camp museum in Malton, in Yorkshire, on the 8th September 2024. A 51-seater coach full of veterans and their families attended the 'All Services Parade'.

The day gave veterans and their families a chance to look around the amazing museum which has been converted from a WW1 POW camp.

Visitors wandered around many converted sheds looking at the various displays.

The day was also a great opportunity to bump into old comrades as the event attracts visitors from the Armed Forces and veteran community far and wide.

At lunchtime we gathered around some picnic tables and everyone shared their food with each other, while exchanging funny stories and banter. Afterwards, everyone gathered together 'on parade' and those who were able to march were encouraged to do so. A short while later once the other attendees had found their seats, the Military band was heard making their way to the parade square.

A fantastic display of military musicians marched onto the parade with great pride, while the onlookers soaked up the atmosphere and watched in wonder.



They were followed by many standards from all over the region marching with their respective club or association. They made way for all the veterans marching with such pride with every beat of the military band's drum. From the wonderful sound of the band and colourful display of standards, to the medals glinting in the sun from smartly-dressed veterans, the Eden Camp never fails to be a fantastic day out.

www.edencamp.co.uk

“The day was also a great opportunity to bump into old comrades as the event attracts visitors from the Armed Forces and veteran community far and wide.”



THE DURHAM LIGHT INFANTRY/LIGHT INFANTRY AND RIFLES ASSOCIATION

Welcome to the Hartlepool Branch of The Durham Light Infantry /Light Infantry and Rifles Association! My name is Terry Phillips. I have been Secretary of the Durham Light Infantry Association and Standard Bearer of the DLI, Light Infantry and Rifles Associations for over 20 years.



The Regiment originally started as a 2nd Battalion for the Royal Welch Regiment in 1756. After two years it became the 68th Foot and was associated with the County of Durham and in 1881, it was amalgamated with the 106th of Foot to form the Durham Light Infantry. In 1933, the DLI Association was formed to look after the welfare of the veterans and to uphold the traditions and comradery of the Regiment.

Due to Defence reviews, in 1968 the Durham Light Infantry was amalgamated with The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, The King's Shropshire Light Infantry and The Somerset and Cornwall Light Infantry, to form a new Regiment called the Light Infantry.

In 1986 The Hartlepool and District Branch was founded.

In 2007, due to more Defence reviews, the Light Infantry was amalgamated with the Royal Green Jackets, The Devon and Dorset Light Infantry and The Gloucester, Berkshire and Wiltshire Light Infantry to form a new Regiment called the Rifles. This is the story behind our Branch name!

The Hartlepool Branch now has almost 50 members. We meet regularly in the rear room of the Ye Olde Durhams Social Club, St Aidan's Street in Hartlepool, TS25 1 SN at 11am on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month. The Club was originally formed after the First World War by Warrant Officers and Serjeants of the DLI who were based in Hartlepool, so we have a lot of memorabilia displayed on the walls.

The Branch has an even mix of both Durham Light Infantry and Light Infantry Veterans along with a mix of other Regiments/Corps, RAF and Royal Navy Veterans. Many members stay after the meetings to socialise and share the unique sense of humour and banter that Veterans have. We regularly attend Socials and events throughout the Northeast and Country, holding at least two Social events a year at the Club. Why not join us to meet old friends or make new ones in a safe and friendly environment?



GET IN TOUCH



01429 872301



t.phillips937@gmail.com



Durham Light Infantry
Association Hartlepool Branch

The Branch has an even mix of both Durham Light Infantry and Light Infantry Veterans along with a mix of other Regiments/ Corps, RAF and Royal Navy Veterans.



HARTLEPOOL ARMED FORCES AND VETERANS BREAKFAST CLUB

The Hartlepool Armed Forces and Veteran Breakfast Club was set up almost six years ago, with the simple aim to have some “banter over breakfast”.



Many veterans feel a bit lost as if something is missing after leaving service. After some searching for a breakfast club we found that Hartlepool didn't have one, so we decided to set one up.

What originally started as a simple social gathering for serving Armed

Forces and veterans to meet up and enjoy a bit of banter over breakfast, has now become an amazing place with over 350 members and growing, where the banter flows and a sense of camaraderie surrounds everyone. With new friendships being forged and old friendships being rekindled, the Breakfast Club offers a safe place for families to relax and be themselves.

We aim to tackle isolation, signposting members to access any help they need. We also organise social gatherings and events, from pub quizzes and race nights, to clay pigeon shooting and trips to Eden Camp.

It's FREE to join and there are no fees or subscriptions. You simply pay for your breakfast.



GET IN TOUCH



Rob Taylor 07818275773 -
Spencer Glasgow 07921811801



hartlepoolafvbc@outlook.com



www.afvbc.world



Hartlepool Armed Forces and
Veterans Breakfast Club



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Royal British Legion is at the heart of a national network that supports our Armed Forces community. We're here through thick and thin – ensuring the Armed Forces' unique contribution is never forgotten. We've been here since 1921, and we'll be here as long as they need us.



We provide lifelong support to serving and ex-serving personnel and their families. Our support starts after one day of service and continues through life, long after service is over.

From providing expert advice and guidance, to recovery and rehabilitation, through to transitioning to civilian life

– we can be by their side every step of the way. And it's not just members of the Armed Forces but their families too.



Hartlepool Branch

The Hartlepool Branch of the Royal British Legion has seen a remarkable revival in recent years.

Our membership has grown by over 50%, and we've welcomed a new President, a new Chairman, and an enthusiastic and proactive Branch Committee.

You don't need a military background to join the Royal British Legion.

If you share our values and want to support those who have served – along with their families – we'd love

to welcome you. We're a friendly bunch and new members are always made to feel at home. Still not sure? Why not come along to a meeting or join us for breakfast and see for yourself!

Hartlepool Poppy Appeal

The Hartlepool Poppy Appeal has proudly reached a major milestone – raising over £1 million in total donations for the Royal British Legion since 2003. This incredible achievement is the result of years of dedication by our volunteers, generous contributions from the local community, and strong support from local businesses, schools, and organisations.

This achievement belongs to every volunteer, every donor, every business that displayed a collection box, and every person who wears a poppy with pride. Your support makes a real difference.

You can join the Hartlepool Royal British Legion using the QR code below.



GET IN TOUCH

For more information about the Hartlepool Branch of the Royal British Legion

☎ 07787570601

✉ hartlepool.chairman@rbl.community

f Hartlepool Royal British Legion



HARTLEPOOL SEA CADETS

An active and engaging unit in the Sea Cadet Corps, we consist of three sections, who meet twice a week, with around 45 cadets.



The Sea Cadets' ethos is made up of three parts: its values, its mindset, and the customs & traditions of the Royal Navy. The ethos is underpinned by the Sea Cadet Values which are: Courage, Commitment, Discipline, Respect, Loyalty, Honesty, and Integrity.

There are several different sections:

Junior Sea Cadets are 9 to 12-year-olds, and have their own training programme and uniform.

Sea Cadets are 12 to 18-year-olds - young people can join as a Sea Cadet and work their way up through the training programme. The Sea Cadets has detachments of Royal Marines Cadets.

Royal Marines Cadets are 13 to 18-year-olds. They follow a more infantry-based syllabus including fieldcraft; section battle drills, fire and manoeuvre, and general patrolling including reconnaissance missions, ambush, and fighting patrols.

All Cadets are led by a Commanding Officer and Chairperson supported by Adult Volunteers who fulfil different roles. The Cadets are trained using a Cadet Training Programme which offers Specialisations and Proficiencies, both shore-based and waterborne. These include first aid training, BTEC and RYA qualifications which are externally recognised. The Hartlepool unit engages in the community and actively takes part in local events.



GET IN TOUCH

 www.sea-cadets.org/hartlepool

 www.facebook.com/hartlepoolsc

 Harbour Walk, Hartlepool
TS24 0YQ

SSAFA, THE ARMED FORCES CHARITY

On February 14, 1885, several national newspapers published a letter from Major James Gildea asking the public to support the wives, widows, and children of soldiers and sailors who were killed or wounded through service to Queen and Country.



NEVER BATTLE ALONE

This was the founding of The Soldiers', Sailors', and Families' Association, which in 1919 added Airmen to its title, and later became SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity.

Marking its 140th anniversary in 2025, SSAFA has come a long way since then. It has a volunteer and staff network covering much of the world, and a rich history of service helping many thousands of people annually.

SSAFA is proud of its history, but it is SSAFA's present and future – built from the vision 140 years ago of one man, nurtured and strengthened by countless people over 14 decades – that will matter, and that will help the Armed Forces family of today and tomorrow.

There are many ways for anyone in the Forces family – serving or retired, Regular or Reserve, Royal Navy, Army, RAF, and their families – to do something for SSAFA. The best thing anyone in the Armed Forces community can do for SSAFA is to reach out to it.

It has dedicated volunteers throughout the north-east and a team of staff manning Forcesline, SSAFA's free and confidential telephone helpline, webchat, and email service that provides emotional support and a listening ear to those who need it. SSAFA can also signpost you to other organisations who may be able to offer more practical assistance.

SSAFA is here for those during their toughest times, during their darkest hours, days, weeks, months... SSAFA is here because no one should ever battle alone.

Many of our services are delivered by volunteers, and SSAFA is always on the lookout to recruit, train, and deploy more.

Military service or coming from a military family is not mandatory, but an understanding nature and a non-judgemental approach to people is. Volunteers can be from anywhere, any background, and can be of any age.

If you would like to support SSAFA, or find out how SSAFA can support you, visit ssafa.org.uk.

Or, call our free and confidential helpline Forcesline on **0800 260 6780**.



HARTLEPOOL ARMED FORCES ONLINE DIRECTORY



Hartlepool Borough Council is proud to be supporting this directory of support organisations, charities and businesses. The aim is to have a central database to help forces veterans have easy access to key organisations across the Hartlepool Borough.

The directory works on all devices with a browser including mobile, tablets, PC, Laptop, Smart TV, Xbox and PlayStation. Simply visit the website www.hartlepoolarmedforcesdirectory.co.uk on any device to view the businesses and organisations listed for support. This will be continuously updated and added to.

There is **no download or app to install**. Simply visit the website and save this to your home screen for future use. Or you can **scan the QR code** to link to the website.

If you're a business selling products or services that will support veterans, a charitable organisation or health organisation in the Hartlepool Borough, you can add your details directly, free of cost, by clicking on the add business/organisation button in the top menu. It will take around 48 hours to go live.



 www.hartlepoolarmedforcesdirectory.co.uk

My Business Client Ltd is proud to be working with the Hartlepool Borough Council to help deliver the Forces Guide and Directory for Hartlepool.



