



VETERANS NEWSLETTER

In Partnership With You

Hello and welcome to the Veteran Autumn/Winter Newsletter 2021. As many of you know Abbey Medical Practice is an accredited GP surgery which is given to those surgeries that are veteran friendly, who understand the needs of ex-military personnel and their families, delivering the best possible care and treatment for those patients who have served in the armed forces.

We also fully adhere to the Armed Forces Covenant and I am delighted to say that in Spring 2022 this will become law; it will no longer be just a promise. The covenant means that no Veteran should be at a disadvantage in accessing health services and should receive priority care for military attributable conditions, subject to clinical need. As all of our Veterans know we have undertaken this promise to you for many years.

I attended the Armed Forces Covenant Northamptonshire Health Action Group in October. I am delighted to be asked to be a part of this forum which reviews the services available.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate in contacting Sher George our Veteran Liaison Officer for further information via 01933 233200 or our website "ask a receptionist a question" and I will respond as soon as possible.

Remembrance Day/Sunday

On Thursday 11th November at 11.00am the Royal British Legion will be holding a short service at Wellingborough War Memorial on Broad Green, honouring the fallen. Anyone can attend. On Sunday 14th November there will be a march-by beginning in the High Street, Wellingborough, at 10.40am leading to the War Memorial where a full service will take place at 11.00am. If you would like to march in the procession please congregate near the High Street (RBL will be officiating) before 10.30am.

Requiem for the Living

Join the Wellingborough Singers for an hour-long performance of Dan Forrest's soothing, yet uplifting music to help honour those that have been lost on Remembrance Sunday 14th November at 17.00 at Wellingborough United Reformed Church (NN8 4HW).

Tickets available £10 in advance www.ticketsource.co.uk

Operation Courage (formerly TILS)

Op Courage is for serving personnel approaching discharge from the military and for veterans with mental health difficulties. However, the service also provides help with housing, employment, drug & alcohol misuse and social support. They can be contacted on: **0300 323 0137** or email mevs.mhm@nhs.net

Johnny Mercer MP

Our Practice Manager and I had the pleasure to have an informal chat with Johnny Mercer, MP for Plymouth, and former Captain with the Royal Artillery who served three tours of Afghanistan.

He is also known for his dedication to Veterans and in his unfailing support to those who have had allegations of war crimes in Northern Ireland during the troubles.

We discussed how Abbey Medical Practice supports our Veterans. I provided information relating to my role as Veteran Liaison Officer and we discussed some of the wonderful feedback we have received which is available on our website. As you know I am passionate about my role and Johnny knew this just isn't a job for me - it is a privilege to support my patients. We had a general discussion relating to the importance of every GP practice having a Veteran Liaison Officer so that Vet's across the country can be properly supported. Johnny agreed that GP practices are the 'glue' that recognise the early signs of mental health issues and who can provide crucial contact to early support. Johnny was quite taken with the work achieved and agrees there needs to be more focus to progress.

Deputy Veteran Liaison Officers

I am delighted to introduce two of my colleagues Cheryl and Michelle who will deputise for me when I am absent from the Practice. Both have many years' experience within the GP Practice and connections to the military.

Hello, my name is Cheryl, I have worked at Abbey for 21 years. I have a son who is a Flight Lieutenant in the RAF and I am very much looking forward to my new role as I want to help our veterans so that they are able to get the right help, at the right time.

Hi, I'm Michelle, originally I was with the Royal Air Force Air Cadets where, aged 22, I reached the rank of Warrant Officer. I have since re-joined as a uniform member of staff with 378 Mannock Squadron (Wellingborough District) and have now completed 30 years' service with them. I also work closely with local Reservists and know I will relish my new role as a Deputy Veteran Liaison Officer.

Final note.....

I hope you find the above of interest and please get in touch if you have any suggestion on information that should be included within the newsletter. In addition to this, I am keen to hear from anyone who has suggestions on how we can identify our Veterans.

Contact details for Veterans

<p>Veterans UK One stop shop to find out about help available to military veterans</p>	<p>www.veterans-uk.info</p>	<p>Service Personnel & Veterans Agency's free helpline 0800 169 2277</p>
<p>The Royal British Legion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • War pensions & compensation claims • Inquest advice • Benevolent / welfare help • Benefits & money advice • Independent living • Care homes • Poppy breaks, family holiday breaks, adventure breaks • Remembrance travel (pilgrimages, school & group tours) • Legion membership • Poppy appeal • Fundraising events • Tracing advice 	<p>www.britishlegion.org.uk</p>	<p>0808 802 8080 (8am to 8pm, 7 days a week)</p>
<p>SSAFA Forces help Northamptonshire</p>	<p>www.ssafa.org.uk</p>	<p>01604 603899</p>
<p>Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society (COMBAT STRESS)</p>	<p>www.combatstress.org.uk Website contains guidance for GP's</p>	<p>General: 01372 587000 Midlands: 01952 822700 24hr Helpline: 0800 138 1619</p>
<p>BLESMA The Limbless Veterans Association</p>	<p>www.blesma.org</p>	<p>020 8590 1124</p>
<p>Blind Veterans UK</p>	<p>www.blindveterans.org.uk</p>	<p>0800 389 7979</p>
<p>The Not Forgotten Association A unique national tri-service charity which provides entertainment, leisure and recreation for the serving wounded, injured or sick and for ex-service men and women with disabilities</p>	<p>www.nfassociation.org</p>	<p>020 7730 2400</p>

Forces Pensions Society Provides advice on all aspects of Armed Forces pension schemes	www.forcespensionsociety.org	020 7820 9988
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