

The Friends of SSAFA Somerset commemorating 133 years of support to the service family

SSAFA SOMERSET JUST GOT BIGGER!

After all the years of being separated following the 1974 local government changes to boundaries, which created areas such as Avon, SSAFA Somerset Branch is now the "Old Somerset" shape.

Welcoming our northern colleagues to a larger Branch, Rear Admiral Andrew Gough, Branch Chairman of SSAFA Somerset commented, "It feels completely correct that we are now one Branch and can work together on a county wide basis".

SSAFA – The Armed Forces Charity - is 133 years old this year and is the oldest military charity in the United Kingdom. In this year of memories and commemoration, 100 years after the ending of the First World War, it is heartening to see that SSAFA is still working on behalf of those who have served this country and continues to do so in a modern, compliant and non-judgemental way as it has always done.

The stories you will read about in this newsletter – housing for veterans and care for those who have slipped between the cracks of society show that SSAFA is working just as hard now as ever it has done – and caring even more.

100
FIRST WORLD
WAR CENTENARY



NOT HAND OUTS BUT HAND UPS

A self build housing scheme involving SSAFA Somerset, the Knightstone Housing Association and the Forces in Mind Trust has been completed in Worle, near Weston super Mare. A purpose built complex of flats are now occupied by veterans who were either street homeless, sofa surfing, living in unsuitable or temporary accommodation or were referred to the scheme by the Local Authority.

Volunteers have been working alongside veterans on this scheme since the start of construction in approximately 2015. Over the time of the build several veterans have left the scheme and several have joined the scheme at different stages. All of them have gained skills, confidence and have formed a great team work ethic. The Forces in Mind Trust have established that these projects not only give our veterans a home for life but also enable them to re-establish long lost family connections and move on with their lives.

The pride the veterans have in this



project is plain to see. They have all now moved into their new homes and are all very happy. Moving forward they will go on to find employment in the area thanks to the skills learnt whilst on this amazing project.

The age range of the veterans range from 20+ years old to 68 years old, there are both men and women veterans and this scheme is tri-service. The majority of the veterans on the scheme have physical/mental health issues and some are registered disabled. These veterans often commented that they didn't want a hand out. The SSAFA volunteers working with these veterans always reminded them that SSAFA as an organisation does not give HAND OUTS but it does give HAND UPS, and there is a big difference!

A GARDEN TO REMEMBER

Award winning garden designer Sally Leaney is designing a garden for SSAFA Somerset at the 2018 Taunton Flower Show, the "Chelsea of the West". The garden will be a memory and a commemoration of the First World War and will pay respects to those who died for our country in that Great War and for the work of garden sponsors SSAFA,

the only military charity in existence in 1914 when war broke out.

Don't miss this remarkable interpretation by Sally and meet up with SSAFA volunteers on our stand on 3rd and 4th August in Vivary Park.



THE WELLINGTON CHORAL SOCIETY

"Remembrance 100 Years"

Through our music and prose we will remember them
A programme of atmospheric music to include
Durufle's - "Requiem"

St John the Baptist Church
Wellington
TA21 8QY

Saturday 24th November at 7.30pm
(Doors open at 6.45pm)

Tickets £12. Under 18's Free

www.wellingtonchoralsociety.org.uk



Wellington
CHORAL
Society

THE WELLINGTON
CHORAL SOCIETY

TAUNTON DEANE MALE VOICE CHOIR CONCERT

ARMISTICE



CONCERT TO COMMEMORATE THE END OF THE GREAT WAR

St Mary Magdalene Church, Taunton,
Saturday 27 October 2018 7.30pm

Tickets:

£15. Under 16's £8

Available from Taunton Visitor Centre 01823 340470
and from TDMVC 01823 432495

Taunton Deane Male Voice Choir
The Royal Air Force Association
Concert Band
The Taunton Military Wives Choir

ssafa
the
Armed Forces
charity

MALE
VOICE
CHOIR

ROYAL
AIR FORCES
ASSOCIATION

Military Wives
choirs

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SU WALKS FOR SSAFA



Su Paine has a reason for taking on the challenge of walking every single day throughout 2018 for SSAFA. Su's father was killed in Northern Ireland, but not when he was serving in the Queens Regiment in the British Army during the height of "The Troubles" in the early 1970's but afterwards, as a civilian, running a youth club for both Catholic and Protestant young people in Belfast.

Targeted by those who wanted him to stop, he lost his life in 1976.

But Su never knew her father; she had been adopted as a little child. She wanted to find out more about this brave man and that's where SSAFA came in. Caseworker Simon Yates traced Su's father's army details and subsequent work. She discovered a world she knew nothing about and she has since discovered a whole family she didn't know existed!

So, Su is walking for SSAFA - the Armed Forces Charity which made this new knowledge possible and gave her added meaning to her life.

Su is aiming to cover 2,500 miles and covering an average distance of 55 miles a week - every week. She walks to work, she walks when she comes home, she walks on the hills near Wiveliscombe

where she lives and she walks, well - everywhere! You can help Su Paine raise money for this great cause by donating directly to their fundraising page - www.justgiving.com/Su-Paine?utm_source=Sharethis&utm_medium=fundraisingpage&utm_content=Su-Paine&utm_campaign=pfp-email&utm_term=rMBKqyWaB

JustGiving sends your donation straight to SSAFA and automatically reclaims Gift Aid if you are a UK taxpayer, so your donation is worth even more. Thank you for your support!

Thank you Su for what you are doing for SSAFA - every day of this year! Come and meet Su - and walk a little way with her - at the SSAFA Open Garden on Bank Holiday Monday 28th May at Burges Meadow, Maundown, Wiveliscombe TA4 2HL

VICTORY HOUSE

Taunton Association for the Homeless (TAH), is thrilled to announce the launch of their new Taunton based service, 'Victory House', their old office building, converted into 8 bed accommodation for ex-service personnel who have sadly become homeless.

This has been an aim and a passion of TAH for some time, following the recognition that there is a rise in ex-service personnel using their services. It is also known that veterans who have become homeless spend much longer 'sleeping rough' compared to other homeless individuals, and quite often carry more complex needs such as PTSD, social isolation and institutionalisation.

'Victory House' will not only provide secure, safe and welcoming accommodation for veterans, but will also offer a specialised support service to assist with the rehabilitation and recovery of its residents.

TAH aims to house 12 individuals per year in Victory House, increasing the local service provision for ex-service personnel. Four of the rooms within Victory House will be DDA compliant, making them accessible for wheelchair use.

Justin Roxburgh, Chief Executive at TAH wishes to thank SSAFA Somerset who, among many other local organisations, has supported the completion of Victory House, SSAFA having paid for the furnishings of the 8 flats. SSAFA volunteers have been delighted to meet the first resident Keith, who joined the Royal Engineers at just 16 years old and has suffered for many years with PTSD. Keith feels that this is the start towards a much more positive life for him.



Daz Northover, House Operations Manager, Keith the first resident and Sam Smalldon, Royal Engineers Association

PLAY GOLF FOR SSAFA ACROSS SOMERSET



FRIDAY 24TH AUGUST

Bath Golf Club, Sham Castle, Golf Course Road, Bath BA2 6JG

Information and Booking:
brian.woodford@somerset.ssafa.org.uk

WEDNESDAY 10TH OCTOBER

The Isle of Wedmore Golf Club is once again hosting the ever popular SSAFA Golf Day.

Information and Booking:
simon.yates@somerset.ssafa.org.uk

OPEN GARDEN AT BURGESS MEADOW

Visit Burgess Meadow, Maundown, Wiveliscombe TA4 2HL on Bank Holiday Monday 28th May.

From 2 - 6pm. A two acre hillside garden with streams, ponds, borders, a sizeable glasshouse and interesting trees. Cream Teas. Plant Stall. Wiveliscombe Community Choir will entertain garden visitors.

Garden entry is £4 with school aged children free. There is ample parking and most areas have partial disabled access. (No dogs please).



FRIENDS OF SSAFA SOMERSET - EVENTS 2018

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 28TH MAY

Open Garden at Burges Meadow from 2pm.

SATURDAY 7TH JULY

RNAS Yeovilton International Air Day.

SATURDAY 21ST JULY

Taunton Thespians perform "The Two Gentlemen of Verona" in the garden at Hartwood House, Crowcombe Heathfield, Taunton. Open Garden and picnics from 5pm. Play at 7.30pm.



FRIDAY 3RD AND SATURDAY 4TH AUGUST

Taunton Flower Show - SSAFA stand as garden sponsors and charity to Sally Leaney.

FRIDAY 24TH AUGUST

Bath Golf Day. Sham Castle, Bath.

WEDNESDAY 10TH OCTOBER

Golf Day at Isle of Wedmore Golf Club.

SATURDAY 27TH OCTOBER

Taunton Deane Male Voice Choir, with the Royal Air Force Association Concert Band and the Taunton Military Wives Choir, St Mary's Church, Taunton.

SUNDAY 11TH NOVEMBER

"Oh What a Lovely War" at The Brewhouse at 4pm
Taunton Thespians production.

SATURDAY 24TH NOVEMBER AT 7.30PM

Wellington Choral Society.
In support of SSAFA
St John's Church, Wellington.

Tickets for Two Gentlemen of Verona:

£12 full, and concessions £5 for children, students, and those entirely dependent on state benefits (no concessionary ticket for "normal" pensioners). Available on the Taunton Thespians website www.tauntonthespians.org.uk or

SSAFA Honorary Secretary

7A Glenwood Gardens

Taunton

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01823 331941

Simon.yates@somerset.ssafa.org.uk

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

Our local SSAFA contacts across Somerset may be contacted on the email address below. If you have, or have ever had, a connection with the armed forces or are a dependent, and struggling in areas such as home improvements or family breakdown, we may be able to help you.

somerset@ssafa.org.uk

CAN YOU HELP SSAFA?

Could YOU help SSAFA in Somerset? Have you the skills and some spare time to make a real difference to those people, and their families, who have served their country? If you would enjoy working with local people and making a difference to their lives, please contact Adrian Stone on:

Adrian.Stone@somerset.ssafa.org.uk

SPEAKER FOR YOUR GROUP?

If you would like any information about SSAFA in general or would like a speaker for your club or community group, please email Pauline Homeshaw on **pauline.homeshaw@somerset.ssafa.org.uk** or

01984 624564

ARE YOU A UK TAXPAYER?

Your donation to SSAFA could be worth more if you are a tax payer and you "Gift Aid" it. Signing up to Gift Aid ensures SSAFA Somerset will be able to reclaim from HMRC the tax already taken from your donation, currently 25p for every pound donated. You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax in each year at least equal to the tax that we will claim from HM Revenue and Customs on your Gift Aid donation/s.