

Trafford Veterans @The Mess

*We hope you have had a nice Christmas
and have a happy New Year*



2017 has flown by, but it has been an eventful year! We thought it would be fitting to do a quick review of the past year, so here goes....

January 2017

During this month, we were still finding our feet after opening the first breakfast event which was held on the 15th December 2016. Our main aims are to provide peer support activities which will help reduce social isolation. One of our volunteers, Jeff Hawker BEM put forward the idea to run a golf society. This was greatly received and a few of our veterans started to play golf. Duerr's Jams gave us a sweet boost by supplying us products for our breakfast events.



February

We were fortunate to gain sponsorship this month from The Mug Business, Bury Black Pudding Co. and Lancashire Harvest bakery. Kirklees Local

TV from Huddersfield and filmed our breakfast event. The film clip was released on You Tube.



March

Protec became one of our main event sponsors, much to our delight! We made some good links with Stretford Foodbank and are now able to issue foodbank vouchers. We held our fourth breakfast event, where Lancashire County Cricket Club Community Foundation paid us a visit with a table cricket set.

April

This month we were sad to lose Fred, one of our World War 2 Veterans. We held a tribute to him at our breakfast. We received a few donations of catering equipment from a café which was closing down and we also secured some funding from the Auto Trader Community fund. This funding was put to good use providing training for our volunteers. Level 2 Catering Cleaning and Level 2 Food Hygiene certificates were successfully completed. Altrincham Football Club invited us to be their guests for the day and we were able to have our information boards on display too.



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May



One of our local Veterans joined the Navy Army Air Force Motorcycle Club (NAAF MCC). Two of our co-founders had the pleasure of being invited to the Mayor of Trafford's Civic reception, they were also live on Salford City FM radio station's Armed Forces show on the following Saturday morning. This was a great opportunity to talk about the work of Trafford Veterans. We were fortunate to be drawn in the ballot for some free tickets to go and see Lancashire Cricket Club in action at their ground, Emirates Old Trafford.



The Mayor and Mayoress of Trafford welcome you to their Civic Reception and wish you a most enjoyable evening

June

This was a busy month for events. We attended a local football tournament and provided traffic marshalling and also a stall selling hot dogs. We sold out of all 300 hotdogs! Sale festival on Father's day and it was a little warm, so much so, the chocolate on our tombola stall began to melt. We also attended



our local Armed Forces Day event at Trafford Town Hall. At our breakfast we welcomed the Veterans Woodcraft team who travelled all the way from Catterick to join us. We were awarded £200 to host a great get together event from the Jo Cox Foundation. Guests included The Deputy Mayor for Crime and Policing for Greater Manchester Bev Hughes, Kate Green MP. Salford City FM did a live broadcast from the event. Finally,



some great news and Warburton's bakery became a new sponsor for our breakfast events. After recent events at the Manchester Arena, we felt that it would be a fitting tribute to donate the proceeds of our raffle to The Royal Manchester Children's Hospital Charity.



July



Two of our local RAF Cadet units, one from Altrincham and the other in Flixton, joined us to do some volunteering which counted towards their Duke of Edinburgh award. Sale Golf Club announced that they would help us by holding a 6 week golf coaching course for our veterans. Our breakfast event was a busy one and we had two very special visitors, a Chelsea Pensioner called Dennis and also our youngest visitor to date, George Redford a few months old! Greater Manchester RAF Cadets Wing warrant officer also brought us the Jet Provost cockpit.



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August



Greater Manchester Sports Partnership

Greater Sport and Active Living North part of Trafford Leisure services secured a small pot of funding to run a series of free sporting events for veterans and their families. These courses ran for 9 weeks and took place on a Saturday morning at Urmston Leisure Centre. Three of our volunteers attended a social media course which was funded by United Utilities and delivered by Groundwork for community groups. Trafford Council Partnerships team secured some tickets for an International Cricket match between England and South Africa at Emirates Old Trafford. We were fortunate to be allocated 6 tickets for our veterans to attend.



September



On Friday 8th September four of our veterans and volunteers attended the National Diversity Awards which were held in Liverpool. Trafford Veterans Breakfast Club was shortlisted as a finalist in the community group for age category. It was truly an honour to be nominated for a national award. We also attended two local community events, Flixton, Urmston and Davyhulme Carnival and Timperley Fair. At both events we had a fundraising stall and information stand. We also had two huge



donations this month from Sale Golf Club and a local business called Let's Cook Cookware to help us continue with our peer support. One of our Army Veterans started to knit some woolly hats for the homeless.



October

This month we launched new social media sites on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and also a new website. We created a new logo which we felt represented all the armed forces and emergency services. On the 4th October we launched a new community model making and craft group at Stretford Public Hall with the help of Models for Heroes.



On Saturday 9th October, three of our volunteers met with Mad Dogs Street Project and went out with them to help deliver hot food, drinks and some Woolly hats. At our breakfast event we sang Happy Birthday to Tommy, 95 years young and he was presented with a handmade clock with his regimental logo on by the Crafty Chap!



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November



Our Veterans and volunteers attended many Remembrance services throughout Trafford. We were asked to lead out the football teams at Trafford FC and hold a minutes silence and also attend Manchester Storm Ice Hockey Remembrance match at Altrincham Ice Rink. We attended Manchester Airport Festival of Remembrance in the Concorde Hall and Jeff Hawker BEM laid a wreath on behalf of our organisation. What an honour. Three of our Veterans also helped with the Poppy stall in the Trafford Centre alongside Trafford Royal Naval Association. This month had some donations of porridge pots from Costa for our breakfast events. Our organisation was awarded £2000 funding from the Tesco bags of Help scheme, where we were placed second in the voting for community groups. We also sponsored two players football kits at Trafford FC. One community organisation helping another. We started a tinned food appeal to help our local foodbanks.



December

This month we held a special celebration as our breakfast event turned a year old! We marked the occasion by signing the Armed Forces Covenant. This was done with the help of Trafford Council Partnerships Team who also joined us at the event. We also had a big cake with our logo on, thanks to a local cake shop in Irlam called Cakes by P. A Huge THANK YOU to both organisations and everyone who joined us on the day. We were honoured to have a visit from The Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, Mr Warren Smith who met four of our World War 2 Veterans. Entertainment on the day was provided by Sarah Dennis The Veterans Sweetheart and also The Living History Museum with their impressive display of military kit.



This month we secured some funding from Trafford Council for the Winter Resilience Fund. This is so that as an organisation we can help the older members of our community to stay safe and warm and also encourage them to attend social events during the winter months. We are planning to do this by buying some hats, scarves and gloves, handwarmers and personal steel flasks to distribute. At our events we will be explaining about the benefits of LEAP, Local Energy Advice Programme. An initiative to help people keep their homes warm whilst saving money.



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Looking Forward to 2018

We have a couple of new and exciting projects to look forward to in 2018. We will be signing for an allotment which is in Sale, so if any of you out there have green fingers, please get in touch! We will also be starting a new drop in / outreach service at Altrincham Tesco community room. To go alongside this, we are also looking at opening an account for Forces War records to help people trace their relative's military history. More details will be released on our social media sites in the New Year.

WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT SO FAR, AND WE HOPE THAT YOU HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR AND LOOK FORWARD TO 2018.

Useful Contacts

SSAFA Helpline 0800 731 4880

Royal British Legion Helpline 0808 802 8080 7 days a week 8am - 8pm

Trafford Housing Trust Helpline 0300 777 7777

Veterans UK Free Helpline 0808 1914 218

NHS Military Veterans Service Psychological Therapy 0300 323 0707 Email mviapt.enquiries.nw@nhs.net

Citizens Advice Trafford 0300 330 1153 Mon – Fri 10am – 4pm

Samaritans Manchester / Salford 0161 236 8000

Self Help Improving Mental Health 0300 003 7029 24 hours

Veterans Gateway 0808 802 1212 www.veteransgateway.org.uk

Royal Naval Association – Meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 2000 at Urmston Conservative Club, Croftsbank Road, Urmston, M41 0TZ

RAF Association, Sale Branch – Meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month at Sale Conservative Club, 161 Dane Road, Sale, M33 2NL. Contact: John Cromey, Hon. Secretary. Telephone 0161 928 7286

Next Breakfast Sat 20th January – John Alker Club - Flixton

We are able to Issue vouchers for the Trafford and Stretford Foodbanks.

Trafford Veterans @The Mess supported by:

