



Highlights of  
10 years  
supporting the  
Armed Forces  
community  
in Hertfordshire

# Hertfordshire Heroes' aims are:

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- to ensure that veterans and those in the armed forces are not disadvantaged in accessing services;
- that the sacrifices made by members of the armed forces community are recognised and remembered; and
- to encourage the integration of service life into civilian life.



HERTFORDSHIRE  
HEROES

# Throughout the years Hertfordshire Heroes has...

- Hosted 9 Christmas Art competitions for Key Stage 2 children in Hertfordshire bringing Christmas cheer to military personnel working away from their families at Christmas and joining the civilian and military communities. In 2020, two thousand children submitted artwork from 37 schools.
- Celebrated Armed Forces Day every year throughout the county with events, flag raisings and information sharing about the Covenant with residents of Hertfordshire. Similarly, Hertfordshire marks Remembrance with events across the county.



Judging the entries at Northwood HQ in 2018



Flag raising ceremony at County Hall, Hertford 2017



# 2011

The Hertfordshire Armed Forces Covenant was signed in December 2011.

Over twenty-five organisations committed to the development of a countywide Community Covenant with the Armed Forces at a pledge signing ceremony at County Hall.

The signing of the Covenant provided the basis for the Hertfordshire Armed Forces Covenant Board to be established.



# 2012

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- The Hertfordshire Armed Forces Covenant Board was established and the Hertfordshire Community Covenant (as it was then known) was launched alongside a parade where the Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Yeomanry exercised their freedom of St Albans.
- The brand, Hertfordshire Heroes, was developed to bring the many organisations representing the Board together under one name. A dedicated website was established to promote the Community Covenant, provide information for and about the Armed Forces in Hertfordshire.





# 2013

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- The "Proud to Support" Hertfordshire Heroes scheme was launched in conjunction with the Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership encouraging Hertfordshire businesses to support the Armed Forces community.
- District and Borough Council housing representatives met with voluntary organisations and the military to clarify the status of ex-armed services personnel within their housing policies.



# 2014

From 2014-2019, special commemorative paving stones were laid in the home towns of all those in the United Kingdom awarded the Victoria Cross for valour 'in the face of the enemy' during WWI. In Hertfordshire, 7 men were honoured in this way.





# 2015

In partnership with the three Clinical Commissioning Groups covering the county and the Royal British Legion, a countywide poster campaign was launched November 2015 to encourage veterans to register their status with their local GP surgery. This aimed to ensure that veterans receive appropriate signposting to priority NHS care services for conditions related to their military service.

The Hertfordshire Armed Forces Covenant Board continues this work today by encouraging GP surgeries to become accredited as “Veteran Friendly” and Hospital Trusts to become “Veteran Aware.”



# 2016

- The Covenant Board exhibited the achievements of Hertfordshire Heroes at the Hertfordshire County Show. The show welcomed over 30,000 people and the exhibition was hosted at a stand within the Military tent.
- A business breakfast in May 2016 brought together over 15 businesses across Hertfordshire to learn about the Armed Forces Covenant and how they could offer employment opportunities and support to ex-service personnel and reservists.



# 2017

- The Hertfordshire Armed Forces Covenant Board supported two successful applications to the Covenant Fund Trust in 2017.
  - Hartsbourne School in Bushey was awarded £20,000 to complete the project to build a community space for military families and other local families.
  - £50,000 was awarded to the [St Albans Sea Cadets](#) (image) to hard surface their outside space to create a parade ground and memorial to HMS St Albans and other ships associated with the City and District of St Albans.
- Housing and customer service advisors of county and district councils in Hertfordshire received training to heighten awareness of the Covenant and the type of support available to the Armed Forces community in Hertfordshire.
- The Royal Anglian Regiment exercised their freedom of Broxbourne by marching through Hoddesdon in July 2017.





# 2018

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- As part of the WWI centenary, Hertfordshire took part in the “There but not there” campaign, with silhouettes of “Tommies” put up throughout the county.
- A Nation’s Tribute beacon lighting event was held on 11 November at Hertford Castle, marking the end of the First World War. This community event was organised jointly with East Herts Council and Hertford Town Council.
- The Board endorsed the programme developed by Northwood HQ and the Bury Lake Young Mariners, “Sailing Together” awarded nearly £20,000 from the Covenant Fund Trust in 2018. The project aimed to kickstart a new shared community base at BLYM for armed forces staff, their families and the civilian population to learn to sail together and in so doing forge new and lasting friendships.



# 2019

- Hertfordshire County Council was awarded the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme – Gold Award which is the highest badge of honour available to those who employ and support the Armed Forces Community.
- Dacorum Borough Council hosted an event to celebrate Armed Forces Day which brought the community together to pay tribute to those in the Armed Forces both past and present. There was an exciting programme of free entertainment including the Imps Motorcycle Team, the Eastbourne Youth Field Gun Team and the Revelations Majorettes.



# 2020

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- The Hertfordshire Armed Forces Covenant Board partnered with Healthwatch Hertfordshire to launch the Veteran Healthcare Access survey in June 2020. The survey, funded by Hertfordshire Public Health, sought the views of veterans to establish what, if any, barriers may exist for veterans in Hertfordshire who are accessing NHS services.
- In 2020 the nation marked the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day and VJ Day. We encouraged residents to celebrate at home with social distanced street parties, decorating homes with flags and bunting. Hertfordshire Archive and Local Studies and Herts Memories encouraged residents to share their families stories and photos of VE Day in Hertfordshire and hosted an online exhibition of VE Day archives.
- St Alban's District Council approved changes to their housing allocation policy to ensure that former spouses or civil partners of serving personnel will be exempt from rules requiring them to be a local resident to ensure they are not disadvantaged if applying for social housing.





## 2021 and 2022

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- Dacorum Borough Council celebrated Armed Forces Day by running two webinars with Our Bookshop Tring and book authors John Nichol and Michael Morpurgo. One event was just for schools and attracted over 30 schools, 14 of which were from Dacorum, with over 3000 children in attendance.
- In June 2022 there are plans to reaffirm Hertfordshire's commitment by re-signing the Hertfordshire Armed Forces Covenant with current representatives at a ceremony at County Hall, Hertford.

