



THE WARRIOR

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SUMMER 2026

East Sussex Veterans' Hub Bulletin for the Armed Forces Community in East Sussex

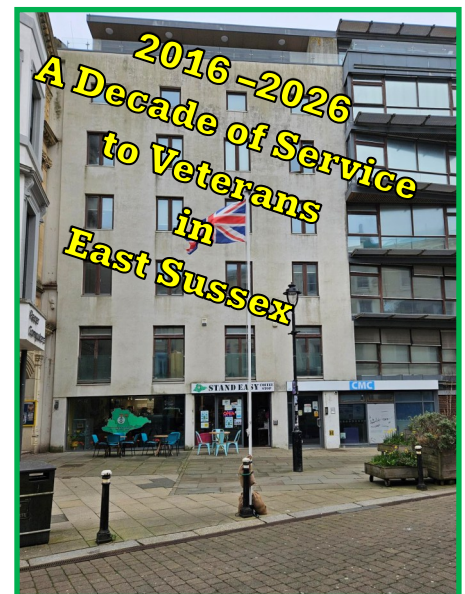
GOVERNMENT GRANT SUPPORTS HOMELESS VETERANS'

An award from the Office of Veterans Affairs, via the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust's Capital Grant programme, is set to help the East Sussex Veterans Hub realise a major strategic goal by 2027, to provide supported accommodation for homeless veterans in East Sussex.

The 'Taking Cover Initiative' will establish 14 self-contained flats within a dedicated veterans' centre in Hastings and mark a significant milestone for the charity, homeless veterans and those in need of medium-term support from across the county. It will also ease the burden on the local authority's temporary accommodation.

The Armed Forces Covenant Fund, representing the Office of Veterans' Affairs, is part-funding a joint venture between East Sussex Veterans Hub and Daisy's Property Management Limited and has approved a grant of £500,000 towards this initiative.

Continued P2



East Sussex Veterans Hub 99/100 Group, CMC, 45 Robertson Street . Hastings TN34 1HL
01424 446292 07884263824 Email: esvh99100@esvh99100.onmicrosoft.com



This government funding will enable the conversion of existing offices at 45 Robertson Street in Hastings town centre into supported accommodation, above the existing charity offices and their community coffee stop, all within a single building.

This will be a long-term feature of the townscape, not only because it is of a relatively modern design (2005) compared to surrounding properties, but more so because ESVH will be signing a 20-year leasehold for the property, demonstrating both the government's and ESVH's commitment to and recognition of those who have served.

ESVH will work with local authorities, other charities and agencies to target homeless veterans and move them from rough sleeping or sofa surfing to independent living with a purposeful quality of life. This will involve participation in a comprehensive support package offering living, wellbeing and coping skills, a personal recovery pathway involving professional agencies such as Operation Courage for mental ill health support and CGL for those challenged by substance or alcohol, all underpinned by support worker monitoring and mentoring for any period up to two years.

The partnership between Daisy's Property Management and ESVH will now be strengthened further, and the potential to develop similar projects elsewhere, locally and further across the SE, is possible once this initiative is fully operational in 2027.

Bernard Stonestreet, CEO of ESVH, said, 'We are most grateful to the Office of Veterans Affairs and the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust for their consideration and for awarding this grant, and for their financial support in achieving the appropriate design and technical input, leading to planning permission from Hastings Borough Council.

We also acknowledge the close co-operation of Daisy's Property Management Ltd for their generosity in assisting us with the acquisition of a suitable building and site for what will be the Veterans' Centre for the county.

This is a turning point for the charity and will add a much-needed dimension to the holistic support

ESVH can provide our veterans in need. It also conveniently coincides with ESVH's 10th-year anniversary of start-up in June 2016.'

Who's Who?

The Armed Forces Covenant Fund

The Trust delivers high-impact programmes that support the armed forces community and is both a charity and a non-departmental public body. It administers the £10 million Covenant Fund annually, along with other government funds that support the armed forces community. The Trust awards grants through robust funding programmes that meet and exceed government grant-making standards.

East Sussex Veterans Hub

Reg Charity No 1183583

ESVH aims to relieve need, suffering and distress amongst members of the armed forces community, in particular, but not exclusively through the provision of non-clinical human resource support; information, advice, and guidance on issues that impact service users such as well-being and coping strategies, mental health issues, pre and post-therapy support, and social and economic disadvantage.

ESVH is determined to work with and in collaboration with individuals and other organisations to further these objectives.

Daisy's Property Management Ltd

Daisy's Property Management Ltd is a private limited liability company incorporated on 9 December 2009 with its registered office in South London.

The company buys and sells its own properties and also rents out both commercial and residential properties.

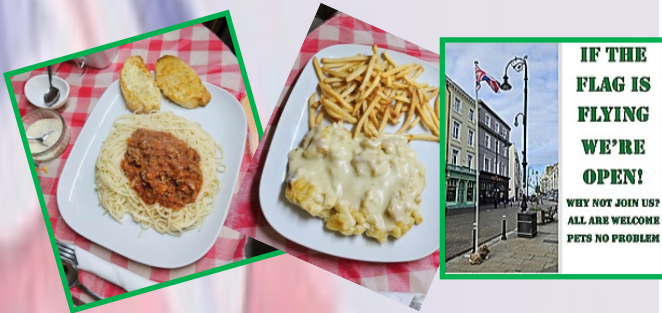
Properties bought are refurbished to high standards and now include over 100 properties, both commercial and residential, concentrated in South London, Kent and East Sussex. Significant investment in Hastings has taken place over the past two years, including support for charitable ventures.



**THE ARMED FORCES
COVENANT FUND TRUST**
Funded by HM Government



Take Away Meal Service from 'Stand Easy'



Michael, manager of the Stand Easy Coffee Stop has introduced a new take away service for customers, specifically targeting those that prefer home-made cooked meals to the off the shelf ready made option from supermarkets.

He has devised a menu to meet nutritional and financial needs of those living alone or unable to find the time or energy to cook meals from fresh ingredients.

Meals may be purchased individually or sold as a weekly package to suit individual tastes.

Menu offers the following now!

Spaghetti bolognese (Spag Bol)
Lasagna, garlic bread and chips
Macaroni cheese and chips
Cauliflower cheese and veg
Shepherds pie and veg
Beef stew dumplings and veg
Curry rice with nan-bread

Cost: Individual cooked meals will cost £7
A selection of 3-7 meals, as a package, is reduced to £6 per serving.

Other specials maybe available to include:

Cauliflower Cheese
Bubble & squeak
Soups

This service will allow many to have a hot meal

every day, no planning or shopping, with savings on gas or electricity (only heating by microwave required) and healthier food, as it is made from local produce, cooked and frozen at the Stand Easy.

A Great Service for the Whole Community

(10% discount for Veterans and Blue Light Card Holders)

GIVE IT A TRY....

MICHAEL IS TAKING ORDERS NOW!

Ring 07823 587022 during working hours



**The Veterans Foundation
Support ESVH**

The Stand Easy Coffee Stop is being supported by the Veterans Foundation until 2027. This is made possible through their successful Veterans' Lottery.

VF's income is directed towards charities making change and saving the lives of British veterans in need.

For just £10 a month, you can now win a whopping tax-free £75,000!

Over 600 guaranteed prizes are up for grabs in every draw - including a £7,000 first prize.

What's more, if you scoop the rollover jackpot, you can now win up to a total of £75,000.

Each player will also receive a FREE membership to the Gourmet Society, where you can claim big discounts on meals out, day trips and even online shopping! Plus, you'll also receive your own unique Veterans' Lottery card.

To join, go to the Veterans Foundation website:
www.veteransfoundation.org.uk

**YOUR SUPPORT
SAVES LIVES
THANK YOU**



**Elysium
Memorial Foundation**

*"a memorial for veterans
that have sadly taken their own lives,
after their service"*

designated meeting points along the motorway network, overcoming heavy traffic and torrential rain.

FOR VETERANS WHO
HAVE TAKEN THEIR
OWN LIVES AFTER
HONOURABLY LEAVING
SERVICE

ELYSIUM
MEMORIAL

DEDICATED TO OUR BELOVED
VETERANS

Thank you for your selflessness
and devoted duty to our country!

If you have concerns about a friend or relative or your own feelings, contact the agencies listed on p.8



New Colours for UK Commando Force

His Majesty The King presented the Royal Marines with new Colours In a historic ceremony at Windsor Castle, on 5th June. Colours, bearing the King's Royal Cypher and touched by his hand – were entrusted to four front-line Royal Marines units: 40, 42, 43 and 45 Commando.

A 56-strong Royal Marines Guard of Honour, led by Parade Commander Brigadier Jaimie Norman (commander of the UK Commando Force), unit Commanding Officers, Regimental Sergeant Majors and commandos from each unit, conducted the ceremony, accompanied by the Massed Bands of the Royal Marines.



The King's Colours and Regimental Colours replace those presented 25 years ago by His Majesty's late mother Queen Elizabeth II and father Prince Phillip, during his 64-year spell as Captain General, a role His Majesty now holds.

First Sea Lord and Commandant General Royal Marines, General Sir Gwyn Jenkins, said: "This is a moment of real historical significance for the Royal Marines. For the first time, four Commando units — 40, 42, 43 and 45 Commando — received new Colours together, presented by His Majesty The King in his role as Captain General Royal Marines.

"It is a powerful reminder of the enduring bond between the Corps, the Sovereign, and the country we serve.

"These Colours represent more than tradition; they carry the operational history, sacrifice and spirit of the Royal Marines, from our origins in 1664 through to the modern Commando Force".



Grenadiers Trooped New Colours

New Colours have been presented to 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards – the most senior infantry regiment in the Army – in a ceremony attended by King Charles and Queen Camilla.

One of the new Colours was carried by The King's Company at the King's Birthday Parade on Saturday, 13th June, better known as Trooping the Colour. The parade formed up at Wellington Barracks in Westminster, where the guardsmen carried the regiment's old Colours for the last time before they marched to the gardens at Buckingham Palace.

The Queen, who is Colonel of the regiment, received a Royal Salute from the dais as the Band of the Grenadier Guards played the National Anthem. She then looked on as the old Colours were marched off the parade for the last time.

One of the new Colours made a public appearance on Saturday 13th June, when it was trooped before the monarch, the duty this year falling on the 1st Battalion.



The Grenadier Guards have fought in every conflict in British military history, including the Battle of Tangier in 1664, the Battle of Waterloo both World Wars and the war in Afghanistan.

Today, along with the other regiments in the Household Division, it fulfils two roles – operational and ceremonial. The Grenadier Guards carry out light infantry operations, most recently being deployed to Cyprus and Kenya. In addition, the regiment is probably better known to the public for its ceremonial duties, in which it guards the Royal Palaces in London and Windsor.



"Mente et Manu" Climbing for Charity

Josh Bruton and Jacob Cottrell, two veterans who served with the Queen's Royal Hussars until last year, are now planning and training to climb Lobuche East and Island Peak in Nepal in a single expedition later this year.

They are doing this to raise funds for the East Sussex Veterans Hub in Hastings, which is developing its centre to include accommodation for homeless ex-service persons and blue card holders.

Combining these two iconic 6,000-metre giants offers the challenge of distinct terrains, from the technical rock and steep ridge scrambles of Lobuche East (6,119m) to the classic glacier travel, crevasses, and intense headwall of Island Peak (6,189m).



Climbers who embark on tackling these trekking peaks require real mountaineering focus. They must be comfortable with fixed-line rope work (using a jumars/ascender and descender), walking in crampons, and alpine self-arrest techniques with an ice axe.

Requiring rigorous cardiovascular endurance, an ability to withstand brutally cold mornings and carry heavy backpacks, are essential prerequisites. A climbing day of up to 14 hours is not considered excessive!

Fortunately, Josh is no stranger to training and achieving remarkable goals; last year, he completed a solo cycle trip across the USA. On his return, both Josh and Jacob then ran a half-marathon carrying a full-length log.

There will be an expedition funding site on social media in the near future, and all donations will go towards ESVH development and meeting the needs of veterans in East Sussex, thanks to Josh and Jacob self-funding their project.



'Everest' Rope Climb

ESVH's rural activities adviser, and ex Physical Training Instructor in the Royal Marines, Marc Gutsell is embarking on a gruelling training regime in preparation for a rope climb over 24 hours, that equates to the height of Mount Everest.

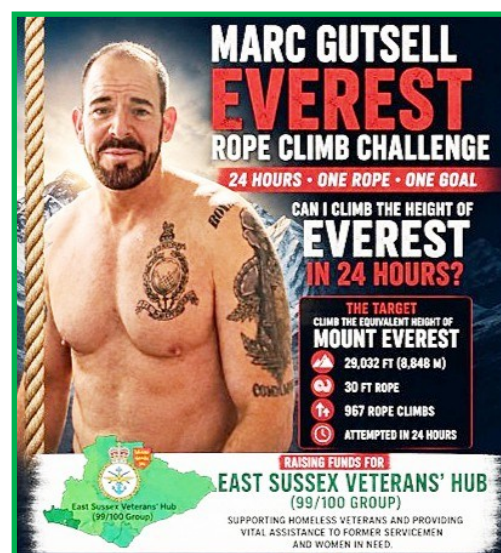
This challenge which will require ascending a 30 foot rope almost 1000 times, will take place later in the year following months of training, which is about to begin.

While "Everesting" is a popular challenge among cyclists and runners, completing the feat on a vertical rope introduces an extreme level of physical suffering and pushing absolute limits. The challenge demands relentless grip strength, upper body power, and core endurance. Every single repetition requires a full ascent, with descending footage excluded from the grand total.



Marc is undertaking this monumental feat to raise funds for the ESVH centre and initiatives. He also hopes to inspire others in the community to tackle their own personal 'mountains'.

if you wish to contribute, kindly go to ESVH web site at www.eastsussexveteranshub.co.uk and state 'ropeclimb' in the process.





Veteran Elected Deputy Mayor

Paul Peters was elected as Deputy Mayor of Bexhill on Sea for a term of office 2026/2027, in May. This was a tremendous milestone for Paul making all his friends at the Hub extremely proud of his achievement.

Paul is a veteran of the first Gulf War, having served with 22 Regiment Royal Engineers and 33 EOD Regiment, Royal Engineers. His service left him with physical and other challenges, especially his CPTSD. These he has addressed and achieved so much since first coming to ESVH in 2016.



His technical ability manifested itself when, during Covid, Paul built a state of the art flight simulator in his flat. It now talks pride of place at the Hub and is used, under his instruction, by visitors and veterans alike.

Paul has always supported the Hub and spent a lot of time applying his engineer skills to overcome many maintenance issues that have arisen over time, saving the charity real pounds shillings and pence!

Everyone at the Hub wish Paul every success for his year in office and we know he will champion his constituents, the town, and veterans in everything he does.



Paul visiting with staff at the Hub and the 'Stand Easy Coffee Stop'



ESVH Programme of Activities Summer/Autumn

Workshop.

Model Club. in the Activity Room, Robertson Street.

99/100 Group. Thrive Inside meditation sessions be reintroduced during the Autumn

Cycle Club. As mentioned above, the rehousing to, and maintenance of 20 bicycles at the new workshop is now underway. Rupert is in charge.

Drop In. That will continue every Monday from 10 am. Karen will attend on the second Monday of each month to deal with pensions and MOD claims. DWP, H4H, and other agencies will attend monthly, but not necessarily on a scheduled basis.

Rural Activities. A site in Hole Park has been offered to ESVH, and it is planned to use it in August/September for a families day.

One to Ones. Any veteran requiring help may come to or contact the Hub at any time to arrange a chat to see how we might assist them. There is no need to book an appointment, **just pop in the 'Stand Easy Coffee Stop' or call our contact number 07884263824.** If you are homeless or about to be evicted, then come in as soon as possible. We will help!

Working Parties. There is always a requirement for working parties, and a call for support will be published periodically. If you can lift and shift, so much the better.

Outreach. ESVH has a programme to attend events during especially the AF Days in Eastbourne and Hastings. There will be others to enhance ESVH profile and encourage veterans to engage when they are facing ongoing personal challenges.

Volunteers.

With the potential of a number of initiatives the call for volunteers with particular skills remains. Areas include general administration, office work, book-keeping, social media management and project planning and assistance in the Stand Easy.

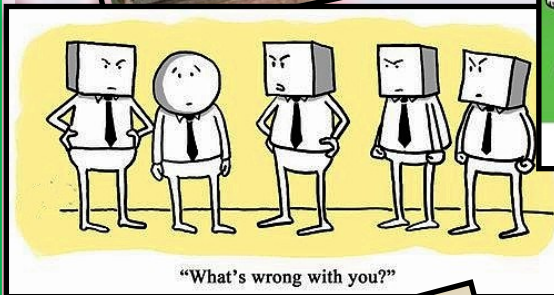
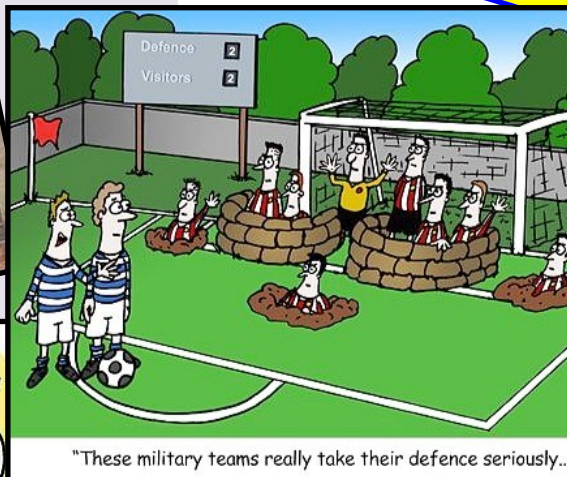
**SUPPORT US
SUPPORTING
VETERANS**

**WHY NOT
COME
AND
JOIN US**





LOL



Support Services Telephone Contact Numbers

NHS 111 Any medical or health issue, ring 111 **IMMEDIATELY**, for advice. Some GPs have a telephone triage service as well. **Also ring 111 for veterans' mental health service (Op Courage) or local crisis team**

ESVH 07884263824/01424 446292 Monday Drop In 10am

STAR Freephone 0300 303 81600 Seaview 01424 717981

Job Centre Plus Hastings 0800 169 190

Samaritans Hastings Freephone 0330 094 5717 National 116 123

