



**UNFORGOTTEN
FORCES**
Supporting Scotland's
Older Veterans

Love later life



Veterans' project

Veterans Groups Update

Welcome to the first edition of Veterans' Groups Update from [Age Scotland Veterans' Project](#). You can subscribe to this free monthly e-bulletin online [here](#). The update is designed to inform organisers of groups and services working with and for older veterans, either in whole or in part, about:

- Good practice and developments in groups and services working with and for older veterans
- Age Scotland services and resources relevant to older veterans and their families
- Wider services available for older veterans, primarily from our [Unforgotten Forces](#) partners
- Relevant funding and other opportunities

If you have good practice and news to share please get in touch. We also welcome feedback on what you've found useful, and on anything you feel we can improve on. Email veteransproject@agescotland.org.uk or call me on **0333 323 2400**.

Kind Regards

Doug Anthony, Age Scotland Veterans' Project Lead

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Project Semaphore

Project Semaphore is an initiative of the Royal Naval Association funded by the Aged Veterans Fund. It aims to reduce social isolation by providing veterans (subject to eligibility) with the opportunity to explore the Internet and use an iPad to keep in touch with family and friends. The project is about bringing veterans together to learn skills and ensure they are supported and encouraged. So far the RNA has issued over 670 iPads,

Initially for older Naval Service veterans of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines, eligibility has recently been extended to older veterans of the Army and RAF **who are part of a veterans group**. You can [read more about the project here](#) or contact sarah@royalnavalassoc.com.



Introducing Falkirk Veterans

We've just posted an article on Age Scotland's blog highlighting the work of the Falkirk Veterans group. [Read it here](#).



Unforgotten Forces Newsletter

The second edition of Unforgotten Forces partnership news is [available online here](#). The newsletter gives a flavour of the wide range of services and initiatives under the Unforgotten Forces banner, from creative arts and music, to support with sensory impairment.

Age Scotland training roadshow

We are offering free training days across Scotland for community groups and services, including a half day of early stage dementia awareness training and half day of older veterans' awareness. For information about dates and locations, and to book places, visit www.agescotland.org.uk/taster or call **0333 323 2400**. Specialist groups and services for veterans may find the 'veterans' awareness' part basic, however it offers opportunities to network with and promote your services.

“The training was very interactive. It also allowed us to meet people from other organisations and share ideas.”

“Excellent Both sessions. I am delighted I went.”



Age Scotland Helpline

The Age Scotland Helpline offers advice on later life topics including care rights, benefits checks, housing options, legal matters and veterans' rights. Veterans can also call just for a chat, and for information about suitable local groups and activities. We also welcome enquiries from professionals and volunteers working with and for veterans, and from veterans' carers and family members. The service is free and confidential. **0800 12 44 222**

The Helpline has referral arrangements in place with specialist services in the Unforgotten Forces partnership – if we can't help we'll find someone who will, without the veteran having to tell their story twice.



Veterans' Guide to Later Life

This summer Age Scotland published [The Veterans' Guide to Later Life](#); an advice guide for older veterans covering health, housing, money, travel, legal matters and more. We are happy to supply groups and services supporting older veterans with multiple print copies – call **0333 323 2400** or email publications@agescotland.org.uk. The Guide is also available in audio format on USB stick.



Best of the net for older veterans

To help older veterans make the most of opportunities available online Age Scotland has developed [Best of the Net for Older Veterans](#), a guide to content relevant to older veterans; from discount services for veterans to services that help you find former comrades. We welcome feedback on this service, including suggestions on how it can be improved.

Email veteransproject@agescotland.org.uk.



Funding and other opportunities

Armed Forces Covenant Trust

The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust makes grants to support members of the Armed Forces community. It has four broad on-going funding themes.

- removing barriers to family life;
- extra support after service for those that need help;
- measures to integrate military and civilian communities and allow the armed forces community to participate as citizens;
- non-core healthcare services for veterans

The Trust's Local Grants and Digital Development Programme is currently open for applications, offering grants of up to £20,000 for local projects that support community integration or local delivery of services. Deadlines are at the end of September and 17 December 2018.

<http://www.covenantfund.org.uk/>

Eat Well, Age Well autumn grants programme

Eat Well Age Well grants aim to reduce the number of older people who are at risk of becoming malnourished, or already are hungry and malnourished. This fund has been specifically designed so that individuals, community groups, social enterprises, charities and public-sector workers can test out their ideas around the theme of older people living well via food. Funding from £50 to £5000 is available.

Applications for the Small Ideas, Big Impact Grants Fund open on October 1st 2018 and will close on 7th December 2018. For additional help with applications or to talk over your idea email hello@eatwellagewell.org.uk or call **0131 447 8151**.

www.eatwellagewell.org.uk

Neighbourly - online

Neighbourly is an online platform connecting charities, businesses and communities. In their own words: "Through the Neighbourly platform, people from the largest corporations, to the smallest neighbourhoods are finding it easier to discover and support local community causes – meaning these organisations can get more of the essential funding, manpower and expertise they need to continue their incredible work."

<https://www.neighbourly.com/>