



FORCES HUB – Churchdown

Welcome to the FORCES HUB - Churchdown –(FHUB) Newsletter with information about the FHUB's events and wider information Networking with Needs and Resources for the Armed Forces Communities in Gloucestershire.

» **Armed Forces Communities are welcome to all Forces Hubs –**

Who they are? Serving military personnel (Regulars & Reservists) veterans (1 days' pay service, including National Service and all military service WW2 to Present Service) and their families (all nationalities welcome).

The FHUBs also welcome serving and ex Police, Fire, Paramedics and Accident & Emergency, Civil Service Staff!

SERVICE, NOT SELF!

Aims & Group Details:

» For 'Face to Face' monthly FORCES HUB – Churchdown, every last Thursday of each month:

» The FHUB is open to Serving Military Personnel (Regular & Reservists), Veterans and their families of all nationalities. (we also welcome serving or ex Blue Light and Civil Service and their families)

» 12:30-15:00hrs:

» Brews & Wets - Lunch and Learn with guest speakers- followed by another 'Brew / Wets' with old friends and make new ones

» Location: GL3 Community Hub, Cheltenham Rd East, Churchdown, Gloucester GL3 1HX

General Resources you can find at the FHUB :

Private Room:

14:00-15:00hrs For Interviews / Meeting with Support Organisations or just for a ReOrg /Quiet Space – Please just ask Chris Auker-Howlett

FHUB's leaflet resources Corner:

Information from Support Organisations for the armed forces communities.

If you have leaflets from other organisations, please bring them.

Raffle:

Arranged by Brenda ex RN Wren & Mike ex RAF, funds raised go to nominated military charity, Xmas Mess Lunch etc

Please feel free to donate Raffle Prizes.

Military Book Library:

Bring and take fiction & non-fiction books, Military Association journals etc

Future FORCES HUBs:

Churchdown's - FHUB- monthly sessions:

» 19th Dec 2024 – End of Year Lunch 13:00-14:30hrs

» **26th Dec – NO FHUB**

» 23rd Jan 2025 Post Christmas ReOrg Lunch Imjin Sgts Mess **(LIMITED SPACES- NEED TO BOOK – contact Chris Auker-Howlett)**

» 30th Jan 2025

» 27th Feb 2025

» **New – Matson - Forces Hub – Office:**

10:00-13:00hrs, Every Monday for advice and support (& a Brew or Wet) at the Phoenix Centre, Matson Ln, Matson, Gloucester, 6DX

1000-1100hrs NAAFI Break - Brews, Wets, Meet and Greet

1100-1300hrs For advice and support

Contact Chris Auker-Howlett

» **Longlevens Library - FHUB – Basic Computer Training:**

Every Friday from 10:45-12:45hrs at the Longlevens Library, on Church Road.

General basic advice on Computers. - **Contact Chris Auker-Howlett for more information.**

» **Private Rooms for Interviews and Meetings away from home with Op Courage, RBL, SSAFA, H4H etc:**

- **Churchdown- Forces Hub** 12:30-15:00hrs, Last Thurs each month, at the GL2 Community Hub, Cheltenham Road East, Churchdown, Gloucester GL3 1HX.
- **Matson-Forces Hub** – 11:00-13:00hrs, Every Monday at the Phoenix Centre, Matson Lane, Matson, Gloucester, GL4 6DX

Situation – Report:

'What's new for Armed Forces Communities in Gloucestershire & in the UK':

» **Check out our Facebook page: FORCES HUB for the following new Veterans' Groups:**

- For Longlevens & District Veterans Association -Brew & Wets group
- Veterans Coffee Morning St Philip & St James Church Leckhampton
- RBL Veterans Cinderford Breakfast Club first time



Forces Hub FHub Gloucestershire Military Personnel, Veterans & Families

211 likes • 253 followers



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» **Poppy Collecting** at Churchdown Tesco 1-12th Nov 2024 **THANK YOU**

» **Samaritans - Veterans & Service Leavers App.**

- **Samaritans have trained volunteers to talk to Armed Forces Communities including a VETERAN'S APP**
- Talk to us on the phone - Whatever you're going through, call us free any time, **from any phone, on 116 123** (24 hours a day, free from any phone).

» **Wellbeing MATTERS** monthly group every 2nd Thurs, 12:30-14:30hrs at St John's Church Hall, Churchdown.

» **The winter fuel payment is normally paid automatically for those who are in receipt of pension credit**

If you get Pension Credit you can also get other help, such as:

- Housing Benefit if you rent the property you live in
- Winter Fuel Payment
- Support for Mortgage Interest if you own the property you live in
- a Council Tax discount

Get help and advice

Call the Winter Fuel Payment Centre if you're not sure if you're eligible. You cannot make a claim by phone.

Winter Fuel Payment Centre

Email enquiry form www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment/how-to-claim

Telephone: 0800 731 0160

» **Veteran's bus pass:**

Who is eligible? :

- A registered veteran, and
- Registered as seeking employment, and
- Claiming Universal Credit or a DWP benefit, and
- Aged 16+



You may be entitled to a free Veteran's bus travel card, supporting you to work and seeking employment in the county/locality. Your bus travel card allows you to travel free of charge for up to 50 journeys on local bus services in Gloucestershire. Bus travel is not possible across county boundaries.

How do I apply?

You need to attend a Jobcentre Plus to register as seeking employment. At the centre, you will need to present a veteran's ID card to a work coach to prove your eligibility.

The work coach will then provide the bus travel card, along with further details.

For DWP Armed Forces Advice contact:

Lee Cassidy | Armed Forces Champion | Department for Work and Pensions Mobile: 07557585028

VETERANS ID CARD:

Apply for an HM Armed Forces Veteran Card at:

<https://www.gov.uk/veteran-card>

Contact the Veterans UK Helpline if you cannot apply online.

They'll send you a form that you can return by post. The form is available in English or Welsh. Veterans UK Helpline: veterans-uk@mod.gov.uk

Telephone: 0808 1914 218 Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm

Gloucestershire Integrated Forces Strategy (GIFS):

Pop Up Gloucester Forces Hub

2 weeks and weekends April 2025 (around 21st April Anniversary of the battle of Imjin River – Gloucestershire Regiment 1951)

The Pop-Up Glos-FHUB in April 2025 would include 3 sections:

1) Brews/Wets (Drinks), Information Library, Computer Hot Desking and linked to GCC Website. **(Volunteers needed for Meet & Greet)**

2) Training and Networking Conferences (Training for Civilian Organisations. (Understanding the Military Mindset). Also Armed Forces Communities learning about support resources, DWP employment groups, mental health, addiction, family support, etc.

3) One to one interviews with Welfare and Mental Health, etc.

We also aim to include Networking Meetings (with statutory and voluntary support organisations) for:

*Homelife - Homelessness, Budgeting, Food

* Volunteering Education, Training, and Employment (Transferring out of the military).

*Health (General & Mental Health).

Objective is to provide evidence for a permanent Gloucestershire Integrated Forces Strategy (GIFS) with Central Glos-FHUB and FHUBs in all Council Districts

De-Brief :

» If you have taken part in a Armed Forces Community training courses please feel free to give a brief overview of the course eg RBL, H4H, Battle Back, Arboretum Trip etc

Volunteers Wanted!!

If you can spare time to help support the FORCES HUB - Churchdown

Roles include:


» **Welcomer**, Brews & Wets. Raffle., Setting up and clearing away, Offering help with transport.

» **Admin support** (Social media & 'TheNetworker'-FHUB)

» **If you would like to share Armed Forces Community Information** e.g., Veterans' Breakfast Clubs etc for this 'TheNetworker ' FHUB Newsletter contact Chris see below


For more information on the FORCES HUBs CONTACT:

Gloucester Community Networking (GCN)

 : 07535335804 (Text)

 : FHUB@gloscomnet.org

 : <http://www.gloscomnet.org/forceshub>

 : FORCES HUB - Churchdown

