

Argyll and Bute Council

Welcoming our Armed Forces

information for serving personnel and veterans

**Strengthening ties
with the armed
forces and veterans
in our communities.**

**Offering a warm
welcome and
superb quality of
life for those yet to
arrive.**

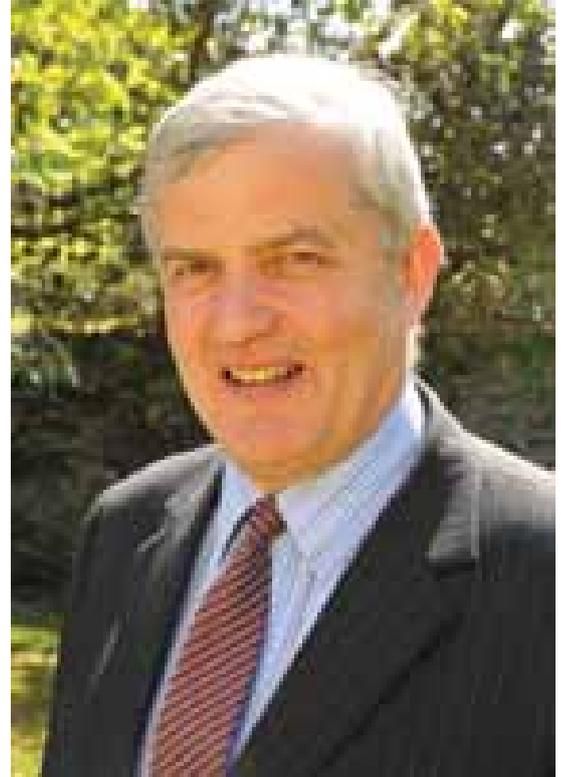


www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/armed-forces

Information for current and ex-service personnel

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Foreword

Moving from military to civilian life or relocating from one area to another can be challenging for veterans or serving troops and their families. The information provided here offers practical advice, guidance and support.

Argyll and Bute Council is committed to strengthening ties between those who serve or have served in the armed forces and the communities in which they work and live. I am honoured to have been appointed Armed Forces Champion by the council and will work hard to ensure that the needs of current and former service personnel in Argyll and Bute will be met, for example, in terms of future planning of council services like housing, education and care.

The council is also supporting the Ministry of Defence Firm Base initiative, which was set up to create stronger relationships between local authorities and the military services.



Councillor Maurice Corry,
Argyll and Bute Armed Forces Champion
Tel: 01436 658911
Mob: 07593987314
email: maurice.corry@argyll-bute.gov.uk



I. Introduction to Argyll and Bute

The Kyles of Bute

Relocating to Argyll and Bute could be one of the most rewarding moves you and your family will ever make. Living and working in Argyll and Bute offers the best of all worlds – a temperate Gulf-stream climate and a stimulating cultural community, set in beautiful landscape with easy access to central Scotland and beyond. An accessible and affordable range of transport options - ferry, rail, air and road – link island and mainland locations with both Scotland’s urban central belt and the remote and spectacular landscape of the Highlands.

Argyll and Bute Council covers a vast area on the west coast of Scotland, with 2,700 miles of coastline, 23 inhabited islands, and six towns. Physically, the area is stunning. Our wild and rugged countryside, mountains, lochs and coastline are home to a fascinating range of flora and fauna, providing inspiration for a lively artistic community and offering unparalleled leisure opportunities. Our population of 86,166 live mainly in the six bustling local towns but also in friendly rural communities and on some of the best known of Scotland’s islands, each with its own unique culture and characteristics.

Sport and leisure facilities in the area include Aqualibrium in Campbeltown and the Riverside Swim and Health Centre in Dunoon. Oban’s Corran Halls and Dunoon’s Queen’s Hall play host to a range of local and national performers, and the region attracts visitors from across the globe to high profile sporting events such as the Tiree Wave Classic – a world famous windsurfing event.

One of the most family-friendly environments in Scotland, Argyll and Bute strives to offer the best possible start in life to young people. Local schools are consistently highly rated against national benchmarks - our primary schools consistently exceed national targets in reading, writing and mathematics. In national tests, Argyll and Bute is at the top end of Scottish attainment.



Superb sport and leisure facilities

Over 90% of the region’s secondary pupils have regularly gained at least five standard grades, around 20% have been awarded three or more Highers, and a higher than average number of pupils go on to higher education.

2. Argyll and Bute then and now

Argyll is Scotland's birthplace. The present day Scottish nation grew from the Gaelic kingdom of Dal Riata or Dalriada which was founded by Irish settlers around the fourth century. Irish Christian missionary Columba arrived in Iona in 563, and established a religious centre of learning on Iona. By the time he died in 597, Columba's legacy had been indelibly stamped on Argyll and on the culture of Scotland.



Carved stones at Kilmartin

The early kings of Dalriada were crowned at their capital at Dunadd – a fortified dwelling set on a rocky promontory north west of the town of Lochgilphead. It was at this time that the area became known as Earra-Ghaidheal (now Argyll), meaning bounds, or coastline, of the Gaels. The ninth century Norse invasion brought a period of unrest which continued for three hundred years, and it was at this time many of Argyll and Bute's most imposing castles were built.

Today many archaeological artefacts and carved stones which date from Neolithic to Pictish times (from 3000 BC to 800 AD) can still be seen in the area and an excellent museum and interpretive centre at Kilmartin attracts thousands of visitors every year.



Excellent sailing territory

Argyll and Bute today

More recently, the Victorian passion for cruising on the Clyde estuary facilitated the growth of Clyde coastal towns such as Dunoon, Helensburgh and Rothesay. In the latter half of the 20th century, increased car ownership and improved road and ferry links ensured continued growth for tourism in Argyll and Bute.

Argyll's rich cultural heritage is a major attraction for visitors, and tourism has become a vital part of the Argyll and Bute economy, growing up alongside the more traditional industries of forestry, fishing and agriculture.

All of these remain key industries, but Argyll and Bute is looking to the future and is at the forefront of supporting and developing new industries in new technology, renewable energy such as wind and wave power and aquaculture or fish-farming. You will find it easy to source high quality local food and drink, from seafood to venison, herbs or cheeses.

Your council

Argyll and Bute Council's 36 elected members and over 4000 staff work to deliver quality services to everyone, whether you live in the heart of one of its thriving towns or on a remote island croft. The council uses new technology such as video conferencing, online service requests and Looking Local on digital TV to make its services accessible to all.

The council's administrative headquarters lie in the town of Lochgilphead, but the size and diversity of the area is recognised through its four area committees - Bute and Cowal, Helensburgh and Lomond, Mid Argyll Kintyre and Islay, and Oban Lorn and the Isles, each of which has the power to take decisions based on local conditions. Find out what Argyll and Bute Council does by going online at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk



Kilmory Castle

3. The military covenant

Argyll and Bute has a long and proud association with the military, through the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland (Balaklava Company) and also through the strategic naval importance of the area.

Mindful of these important links, Argyll and Bute Council and key local organisations have come together in the Community Covenant Partnership in order to share knowledge, experience and expertise and to give active and positive support to the armed forces community.

The partnership considers applications for funding under the Community Covenant Grant Scheme, which was launched by the Ministry of Defence in August 2012 and offers a national fund of £30 million over four years.

Charities, schools and voluntary groups can submit applications for awards between £100 and £250,000 for projects which meet the aims of the covenant – for example bringing together armed forces families with others in their communities, or exhibitions explaining what a local armed forces unit has been doing.

Schools in the Helensburgh and Lomond area are already benefiting from the education element of the Covenant Grant fund, with additional support for teaching staff, family liaison and training opportunities. Over four financial years, local schools have received over £367,820 in extra support.



The late Major Duncan McMillan TD, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders veteran of the Battle for Longstop Hill in WWII, with artist Stuart Brown, unveiling a painting of the battle



4. Facts and figures

Argyll and Bute is the second largest local authority area in Scotland, and includes Helensburgh, Dunoon and the Isle of Bute on the Clyde estuary, Loch Lomond to the east, the Mull of Kintyre and the Atlantic islands to the west and the Sound of Mull and Appin to the north.

The town of Helensburgh and surrounding area offers a wide range of property to suit all budgets, from compact modern flats to large traditional mansion houses. The prices at the moment are very competitive, making it a very good time to invest in property. It is an area of natural beauty on the fringe of Scotland's National Park, and within easy reach of the city of Glasgow.

- At 86,166 the population is one of the three lowest of the thirty-two Scottish local authorities, in terms of people per square mile with an average population density of 0.13 persons per hectare. This compares to a Scottish average of 0.65 persons per hectare (Census 2001)
- 17% of Argyll and Bute's population live on islands
- 55% of Argyll and Bute's population live in settlements smaller than 3,000 people
- 80% of Argyll and Bute's population live within one kilometre of the coast
- Argyll and Bute covers a land area of 690,899 hectares and is the second largest local authority by area in Scotland, after Highland (Census 2001) and almost 9% of the total Scottish land area
- The largest settlement in Argyll and Bute is Helensburgh, with a population of 13,660 (National Records of Scotland's Mid-2010 Population Estimates for Settlements in Scotland)

This brochure provides printed information for you to keep and refer to, but to find out more about the area and what council services are available as well as links to other websites which may be useful to you please go to www.argyll-bute.gov.uk



Argyll and Bute - a watersports paradise

5. Everyday living information

Royal Navy Royal Marines Welfare (RNRMW)

www.royalnavy.mod.uk/welfare

The Royal Navy's Personal, Family, Community Support organisation exists to provide accessible support services that strengthen and enhance the resilience and resourcefulness of Naval Service personnel, their families and communities in order to contribute to the moral component and optimise operational capability.

Welfare Team: Naval Service personnel and their families often have to cope with additional pressures on top of those encountered in civilian life.

Separation from a spouse or partner being one example, military action and danger another RNRMW Welfare provides advice and support for all service personnel and their families if needed. We have a single point of contact called the RNRMW Portal with one telephone number 02392728777 and email address NAVYPERSWELFARE@mod.uk for access to our trained welfare staff.



The Families Centre, Churchill Square

Community: There is a wide variety of community and social networking opportunities in the Argyll and Bute region these can be found at: The Families Centre, Churchill Square, Helensburgh - Colgrain Community House, Drumfork Road, Helensburgh - The Corner House Community House, Smugglers Way, Rhu.

Information: The RNRMW HIVE is recognised as the 'Information Gateway' across the Armed Forces providing national and local information unique to service life. The Faslane HIVE provides information to the local service community throughout Helensburgh and surrounding area.

Contact the HIVE on 01436 678029 or at <http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/welfare/resources/hive/faslane>

CHAPLAINCY CONTACT DETAILS

A Chaplain is available to assist at all times and a member of the chaplaincy team is available 24/7. The telephone contact details are: MIL: 932558266 BT: 01436674321 ext 8266.

You can also contact us outside normal office hours or on the weekend. If contacting from outside the base dial 01436674321 ext 4005.



Everyday living information

Health

Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership (CHP) is part of NHS Highland and manages acute, primary, community health and mental health services across Argyll and Bute. These services are provided to around 90,500 people across 6,909 sq km (during the summer months the number of people in the area significantly increases due to tourism). The CHP serves a diverse range of settlements including six towns, 46 villages, 156 small settlements and 23 inhabited islands.



Mid Argyll Community Hospital and Integrated Care Centre Lochgilphead

There are three localities within Argyll and Bute CHP:

- Oban, Lorn and the Isles
- Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay
- Cowal, Bute, Helensburgh and Lomond

For general enquiries call 01546 605659/605646, email: nhs.abchp@nhs.net

For health related contact details and information go to www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk/OurAreas/ArgyllandBute/Pages/ArgyllButeCHP.aspx

If you want to find a GP, dentist, optician or pharmacist in your local area: phone NHS 24, the telephone and online service which provides comprehensive up-to-date health information and self care advice for people in Scotland, on 08454 24 24 24 (Textphone 18001 08454 24 24 24) or go online at www.NHS24.com and www.nhsinform.co.uk.

If you need hospital services contact Mid Argyll Community Hospital and Integrated Care Centre, Blarbuie Road, Lochgilphead Argyll, PA31 8JZ telephone 01546 462000.

The council website also has links to local health and social care services at: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/social-care-and-health

Housing

All public housing in Argyll and Bute is managed by housing associations, who have formed a partnership called HOME Argyll. The organisations are Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA), Fyne Homes, Dunbritton Housing Association, West Highland Housing Association and Argyll and Bute Council.

You can use a single application form to apply for housing from any of the four locally based housing associations in the Argyll and Bute area or apply online at : www.homeargyll.co.uk. HOME Argyll provides information on the range of housing options available in the Argyll and Bute Area, and basic information about finding a home and living in Argyll, including information on the different communities.

For more information, go to www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/housing or contact a local office.



Portnahaven, Islay

Everyday living information

Argyll Community Housing Association Area Offices

Mid Argyll: Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, PA31 8ST Tel. 01546 604 800

Kintyre: Old Quay Head, Campbeltown PA28 6ED Tel. 01546 605 880

Cowal: Dolphin Hall, Manse Avenue, Dunoon PA23 8DQ Tel. 01546 605 950

Bute: Union Street, Rothesay PA20 0HD Tel. 01546 605 870

Oban, Lorn and Isles: Menzies House, Glenshellach Business Park Oban PA34 4RY Tel. 01546 605 930

Islay: Jamieson Street, Bowmore PA43 7HP Tel. 01546 605 890

Helensburgh and Lomond: 31 James Street, Helensburgh G84 8BW
Tel. 01546 605920

Fyne Homes Area Offices

Rothesay: 81 Victoria Street, Rothesay, Isle of Bute PA20 0AP tel: 0845 607 7117

Dunoon: Unit 16, Sandbank Industrial Estate, Dunoon, Argyll PA23 8PB
tel: 0845 607 7117

Lochgilphead: The Attic, Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RA
tel: 0845 607 7117

Campbeltown: 42 Ralston Road, Campeltown, Argyll PA28 6LE tel: 0845 607 7117

Dunbritton Housing Association

Dumbarton

1st Floor, 32 High Street Dumbarton G82 1LL Tel. 01389 761 486

West Highland Housing Association

Crannog Lane, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB Tel. 01631 566 451/0845 340 2058



Adventure sports opportunities abound

SCOTTISH VETERANS RESIDENCES

www.svronline.org

Provides supported independent living for ex-service men and women of all ages who find themselves in times of need.

SCOTTISH VETERANS GARDEN CITY ASSOCIATION

www.housesforheroes.org.uk

SVGCA is a housing charity for disabled ex-service personnel in Scotland. The houses are located on 74 sites covering Scotland from the English Border north to the line of the Great Glen.

Education

Recent national inspections and local evaluations have found that education in Argyll and Bute has high levels of professionalism, knowledge and skill among staff and continuous improvement in results for learners.

The number of school leavers going into further education, training employment is increasing, and at the other end of the age range, the council is proud of its achievement in early years services, in nursery and pre-five education.

There are seventy-eight primary schools, ten secondary schools in Argyll and Bute, including three shared campuses for 3-18 year olds and two joint campuses where primary and secondary education share a location. Six Gaelic medium units and one learning centre complete the picture.

For more information go to www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/education-and-learning

Community life and leisure

Argyll and Bute has an enormous range of special events taking place each year and has a lively cultural scene stretching from the smallest island communities to mainland villages and urban centres. Drama festivals, Highland games, agricultural shows, shinty, surfing, food festivals, hill races, sailing regattas and golf tournaments - there's something for everyone.

Most events are generated by local communities, with support from the council and other public bodies.

Many towns hold musical events, and Argyll and Bute regularly hosts the Royal National Mod - the national celebration of Gaelic culture. Popular festivals held locally each year include the Mull of Kintyre Music Festival, the Seafood Festival in Tarbert, the Islay and Bute Jazz festivals and the Tiree Wave Classic. The Mull Theatre in the village of Tobermory and the Tainuilt based company, Ballet West have programmes of performances throughout the season. Visiting companies bring opera, theatre, music of all kinds, ballet and other cultural art forms to various venues throughout Argyll and the islands.

There are cinemas in Campbeltown, Rothesay, Oban and Dunoon. The Picture House in Campbeltown is a charming community-owned heritage jewel and is the oldest purpose-built cinema in Scotland still showing films. The Phoenix cinema in Oban is also run by the community. The Screen Machine – Britain's only, mobile cinema, operated by Regional Screen Scotland also regularly visits some of the more remote communities.

Argyll and Bute has four leisure centres, one sports centre, and five 3G all weather pitches. Four mobile libraries take services out to more remote areas, and seven local libraries serve the bigger communities. Cycle ways and walking routes have been created to encourage everyone to exercise more, and the towpaths and waterways of the Crinan Canal being developed as an 'outdoor gym'.

Visit the Argyll and Bute Council website for details about leisure activities

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/community-life-leisure-and-libraries



Tarbert Castle

Everyday living information

Finance

Local and national organisations: for information and advice:

Argyll and Bute Council

- Customer Contact Centres Tel 01546 605522
- Text 07624808798
- Benefits Tel 01546 605512
- Council Tax Tel 01546 605511

Welfare rights advice

- Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB) Tel 08456 123808 (low rate)

Other resources

ARMED SERVICES ADVICE PROJECT (ASAP)
Tel. 0845 231 0300

www.cas.org.uk/Projects/asap

A free, professional and confidential advice service for serving personnel, veterans and their families delivered by Citizens Advice Scotland and co-ordinated by Poppyscotland.

BUSINESS GATEWAY

Contact 0845 609 6611

www.bgateway.com email

business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Provide practical information and help to you and your business, whether you are starting out or looking to grow your business.

TURN2US

www.turn2us.org.uk

A website directing individuals to appropriate sources of financial support based on their particular needs and circumstances.

Careers

Argyll and Bute's economy is predominantly service-based. Over 85% of employee jobs in the area are provided within the service sector. 14.9% of employee jobs in Argyll and Bute are in tourism-related activities (Office for National Statistics (ONS) Annual Business Inquiry employee analysis, 2008 data (NOMIS, May 2012)).

Argyll and Bute has relatively high levels of employment in agriculture and fishing, and low levels of employment in manufacturing and finance. Unemployment rates in Argyll and Bute are below the national average although, because of the high levels of seasonal employment in the area, rates vary according to time of year.

Argyll and Bute Council works with local partners to ensure that the best possible opportunities are available, and operates Business Gateway and the Employability Team.

See also information on Jobcentre Plus and Regular Forces Employment Association (RFEA) Glasgow. Officers Association Scotland - working with former officers to build better futures. 0131 550 1575/1581



Tarbert Harbour

6. General wellbeing

JOBCENTRE PLUS

Tel. 0345 6043719 Textphone 0345 608855 | www.direct.gov.uk

Jobcentre Plus is committed to supporting veterans, service leavers, serving personnel, their partners and families. It provides a number of programmes and services to help jobseekers, unemployed people, those with disabilities and others who may need extra help in finding work. Jobcentre Plus links with the Armed Forces community. Jobcentre Plus works closely with the Ministry of Defence and other partners to provide support to service leavers, including resettlement advice, job searches or training.

They work closely with a range of partners, including Veterans First Point, Glasgow Help for Heroes, Poppy Scotland, and Right Management. Jobcentre Plus is part of the European Employment Service, helping the families of those serving abroad find local employment. The organisation has Armed Forces champions based in each Jobcentre Plus district. Job search support and advice for those who have left the service is available in all Jobcentres, and specialist advisers can assist service leavers and their families in overcoming more complex barriers to employment.

RFEA (REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION) GLASGOW

Cameronians House, 9 Holyrood Crescent, Glasgow G20 6HJ

Tel. 0141 339 0700 or 0785 2287834.

The RFEA's simple aim is to help those leaving the Armed Forces to find and to remain in employment throughout their working lives. This is done as part of the Career Transition Partnership (CTP) for up to two years after discharge and thereafter is done on behalf of the Service Benevolence Funds.

Camp Bastion, Helmand Province, Afghanistan



General wellbeing

General wellbeing

Contact information for organisations who will be able to help you with advice and counselling on different situations.

ADDICTIONS

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Tel. 0845 769 7555

AL-ANON

Tel. 020 7403 0888

COCAINE ANONYMOUS

Tel. 0800 612 0225 or 0141 959 6363

www.cauk.org.uk

GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS

Tel. 0370 050 8881

www.gascotland.org

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

Tel. 0300 9991212

RE-SOLV

Tel. 01785 810762 e-mail: information@re-solv.org

www.re-solv.org

SCOTTISH DRUGS FORUM

www.sdf.org.uk Tel. 0141 2211175

TALK TO FRANK

Tel. 0300 123 66000 www.talktofrank.com

MENTAL HEALTH

B-EAT Helpline 0845 634 1414

Youth line 0845 634 7650 www.b-eat.co.uk email: help@b-eat.co.uk

BIPOLAR FELLOWSHIP SCOTLAND

Tel. 0141 560 2050

www.bipolarscotland.org.uk email: info@bipolar.org.uk

BREATHING SPACE

Tel. 0800 83 85 87 weekdays Mon to Thurs 6pm to 2am, weekends Fri to Mon 6pm to 6am

CHOOSE LIFE

www.chooselife.net



General wellbeing

HEALTH

NHS INFORM www.nhsinform.co.uk

CREW 2000

www.crew200.org.uk

Drugs information support and advice, sexual health information, volunteering, safer nightlife initiatives and capacity building training.

DEPRESSION ALLIANCE SCOTLAND

Tel. 0845 123 23 20 www.daslltffi.co.uk

HEARING VOICES CAMPAIGN

Tel. 0114 271 8210 www.hearing-voices.org

HEADWAY – THE BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION

<https://www.headway.org.uk/Helpine.aspx>

email: helpline@headway.org.uk Tel. 0808 800 2244

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING RESOURCES

Action on Depression

www.actionondepression.org

NHS 24

A national telephone based guided self help service for mild depression and anxiety provided by NHS 24. Tel. 0800 328 9655



Helensburgh, on the Firth of Clyde

General wellbeing

STEPS FOR STRESS

www.stepsforstress.org.

SUPPORT IN MIND SCOTLAND

www.supportmindscotland.org.uk

SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH (SAMH)

Tel. 0141 5301000

email: enquire@samh.org.uk

THE SCOTTISH RECOVERY NETWORK

email: info@scottishrecovery.net Tel. 0141 2407790

www.scottishrecovery.net.

MONEY MATTERS

NATIONAL DEBT LINE

Tel. 0808 808 4000

www.nationaldebtline.co.uk/scotland

THE CITIZENS ADVICE SERVICE

www.citizensadvice.org.uk

OTHER INFORMATION

ARGYLL AND BUTE RAPE CRISIS

Women Support Tel: 0800 121 4685

Opening Times: Mon – Fri: 10am – 12 noon

Mon, Tues, Thurs – Sun: 7pm – 9pm

Office Tel: 01369 700 800

Men Support Tel: 0800 032 0399

Opening Times: Thu: 2pm – 4pm

Fri/Sat: 7pm – 9pm

CRUSE BEREAVEMENT CARE

Telephone helpline 0844 477 9400 (daytime)

www.crusebereavementcare.org.uk

email: info@actionondepression.org

SAMARITANS

Tel. 08457 90 90 90

SCOTTISH WOMEN'S AID

Tel. 0131 226 6606

TOUCHED BY SUICIDE

Tel. 01294 274273/01294 216895

e-mail: touchedbysuicidescotland@hotmail.co.uk

www.touchedbysuicidescotland.org

VOLUNTARY ACTION ARGYLL

www.argyllvoluntaryaction.org.uk/contact-us

Local offices:

Oban, Lorn and the Isles, 21 High Street, Oban PA34 4BG Tel: 01631 564839



The Trident nuclear submarine HMS Victorious near Faslane.



Crinan Canal

7. Serving Personnel and Veterans support

Veterans support

Dedicated armed forces and veterans' organisations

AIRCREW ASSOCIATION

20 Priestley Way,
Burnham-on-Sea TA8 1QX
Tel. 01278 773954

ARMED FORCES AND VETERANS ASSOCIATION

www.afvg.co.uk Tel.01546 870375

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH EX-SERVICEMEN

Shield House,
Harmony Way, off Victoria Road, London NW4 2BZ
Tel. 020 8202 2323

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH EX-SERVICES LEAGUE

Haig House,
199 Borough High Street, London, SE1 1AA
Tel. 020 3207 2412

BRITISH LIMBLESS EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION (BLESMA)

185/7 High Road, Chadwell Heath,
Essex RM6 6NA
Tel. 020 8590 1124

COMBAT STRESS

email: contactus@combatstress.ork.uk
Tel. 0800 138 1619
Hollybush House, Ayrshire KA6 7EA
01292 561300

VETERANS AID

40 Buckingham Palace Road,
London SW1 0RE
Tel. 020 7828 2468

OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION SCOTLAND

New Haig House,
Logie Green Road, Edinburgh EH7 4HR
Tel. 0131 550 1578/1581

HELP FOR HEROES – SUPPORTOUR WOUNDED

Contact Laurie McCrorie
Tel. 01980 844280
e-mail: bandofbrothers@helpforheroes.org.uk/
bandofsisters@helpforheroes.org.uk



Hermitage Park, Helensburgh

Serving Personnel and Veterans support

POPPYSCOTLAND

New Haig House,
www.poppyscotland.org.uk Tel. 0131 5572782
email: enquiries@poppyscotland.org.uk

ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION (RAFA)

Ayr and Prestwick Branch
Contact: Bob Chandler, Secretary
Tel. 0116 266 5224
e-mail member@chandlerra.freeseve.co.uk
Sean Whitelaw, Welfare Officer Tel. 07545 474320 e-mail whitelawsycm@aol.com



War Memorial, Hermitage Park, Helensburgh

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION SCOTLAND (RBLs) Branches in Campbeltown, Easdale, Helensburgh, Inveraray and Oban.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION SCOTLAND – WOMEN’S SECTION

<http://rblscotland.com> Tel. 0131 5501583

ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION (RNA)

Room 09, Semaphore Tower, PP70, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth PO1 3LT
Tel. 02392 723747 email: admin@royalnavalassoc.com
www.royal-naval-association.co.uk
The Association offers friendship and personal support to its members.

ROYAL NAVAL BENEVOLENT TRUST (RNBT)

Castaway House, 311 Twyford Avenue, Portsmouth PO2 8RN
Tel. 02392 690112 email: rnb@rnbt.org.uk www.rnbt.org.uk

SCOTTISH WAR BLINDED, LINBURN

Wilkieston, Kirknewton, Midlothian EH27 8DU
Tel. 0131 333 1369 email: enquiries@scottishwarblinded.org.uk
www.scottishwarblinded.org.uk

SSAFA FORCES HELP

Open Monday to Friday 10.30am to 19.30
Tel. 0845 241 7141/ 0800 731 4880

VETERAN WELFARE SERVICE/SERVICE PERSONNEL AND VETERANS AGENCY (part of the Ministry of Defence)

Tel. 0141 224 2709
UK Helpline 0808 1941 218 Lines open Mon - Thurs 07:30 - 18:30, Friday 07:00 - 17:00
Bereavement and Minicom Line: 0800 169 2277 Overseas callers: +44 1253 866043
e-mail spva-vwglasgowmailbox@mod.uk www.veterans-uk.info/welfaresupportcontact.htm

WAR WIDOWS ASSOCIATION

199 Borough High Street, London SE1 1AA
email: info@warwidows.org.uk Tel. 0845 241 2189



8. Views of military families

The Helensburgh area and surrounding district has enjoyed a mutually beneficial relationship with Armed Forces personnel and their families since the 1960s.

In addition to those serving inside HM Naval Base Clyde, the local population is boosted by thousands of people with a military connection who are living, working and thriving in the community.

Here are a selection of comments explaining why:

Louise: Argyll and Bute has such beautiful scenery and so many places to visit, the area is so historic. The local people are friendly, welcoming and easy to talk to with a good sense of community spirit. People rally round. There is a good education system and the NHS facilities are available. It's also close to both Glasgow and the airport, but still has a nice rural feel, with Loch Lomond on the doorstep.



Helensburgh on the Firth of Clyde



Port Appin

Colin: It's a great place to live because it has no traffic jams, friendly people, clean air, clean streets and convenient shops with easy parking. There are excellent opportunities for hill walking, sailing and climbing with excellent health services including NHS dentists.

Meredith: Helensburgh has a great community feel and there is a lot to do with Loch Lomond nearby and Glasgow too, with its opportunities for employment and shopping.



Ronachan House in Kintyre

Views of military families

Mary: The local schools are aware of the issues that come from being part of a military family, with help available through specialist programmes. Because of the large military presence in the area, the kids share what they are going through while 'daddy is at work'.



Hermitage Academy

Sian: I really like the small class sizes compared to down south. We like to make use of the children's clubs locally and at the Sportsdrome at the Base. But buy some wellies and umbrellas because it rains.....a lot!!!



Lochgilphead Joint Campus



Churchill Square Helensburgh

Irene: There are a lot of community groups for military families with two large housing estates, a good chance to meet new people including non-military friends. There are plenty of upgraded parks in Helensburgh and plenty of clubs and groups for children.

The future of Argyll and Bute

The community planning partners in Argyll and Bute, including Argyll and Bute Council, Police Scotland and NHS Highland, are working together with many other organisations who play a part in the life of our communities to deliver the following priorities

- Our economy is diverse and thriving
- We have infrastructure that supports sustainable growth
- Education, skills and training maximise opportunities for all
- People live active, healthier and independent lives
- People live in safer, stronger communities.

These priorities are set out in our Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2023.

<http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/council-and-government/community-plan-and-single-outcome-agreement>

We hope that you will be part of the future of Argyll and Bute.

Iona village and abbey



for more information go to www.argyll-bute.gov.uk