

Armed Forces Champion Report 2022/23

The road to recovery from Covid, enabled us to once again show our respect in person to ex-service personnel, serving personnel and to the fallen. However, I must say even during the Covid days we still showed respect within the government guidelines.

We are very fortunate to have strong Royal British Legion Branches in Collier Row, Elm Park, Harold Wood, Hornchurch, Romford and Upminster. All these branches do excellent work for our veterans and their dependents and also take the lead in organising the Remembrance Sunday Parades across the borough. I must thank the Metropolitan Police who assisted and gave their services for road closures at the parades in 2022.



In December 2022 I was invited to the Romford Royal Navy Branch Christmas get together, which was an excellent evening ending in the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Stephanie Nunn conducting the Romford Royal British Legion Band, which she did very well as was confirmed by Councillor Osman Dervish.

I was very honoured this year to be asked to be a President of the Hornchurch and Upminster Sea Cadets, and attended the Awards Evening in December. I was also present when Area Officer Commander James Nisbet made an official visit and inspection and I must say he was very impressed.



Hornchurch and Upminster Sea Cadets Presentation Evening December 2022



On the 11th May 2023 I attended The Reserve Forces Cadets' Association for Greater London Lord-Lieutenant's Award Ceremony. I was pleased to see one of our own from Havering, SI Adam Thorne, 45 Cadet Detachment ACF (Romford). Adam was presented with the GL RFCA Award to the Most Outstanding Army Cadet Force Detachment in 2022, I am sure we will see more of Adam going forward.

SI Adam Thorne and Councillor Barry Mugglestone

On Monday 19th June 2023 we had the Armed Forces Day flag raising, and of course in true London Borough of Havering tradition we paid tribute to our serving forces personnel.



Cllr Barry Mugglestone, Mayor, Superintendent Simon Hutchinson, Nick Bracken, OBE, DL Armed Forces Day Parade was held on Saturday 24th June and it was so good to see all the cadets and youth organisations being part of the parade, with some large groups involved, the parade was led by the Romford Royal British Legion Band.

Help for Heroes is leading on reducing veteran suicides, and sadly we lost a Havering ex-service man who we had tried to support. On a brighter note we must thank Councillor Trevor Mckeever who was the mayor in 2022/23 and chose to raise money for a PTSD organisation which supports veterans and service personnel and thanks must also go to a Havering lad Gary Hayes who is a leading light in raising the profile of this organisation and funds to support veterans.



Special thanks to all the Standard Bearers who turn up at different events and most importantly when requested to attend funeral services for ex-service personnel.

In the photo the standards are at Saint Nicholas Church for the King's Coronation service.

Thanks also to all the faith groups who help on and around Remembrance Sunday.

One of my aims in 2022/23 was to look at our Armed Forces Covenant to make sure we are delivering for our armed forces. I would like to thank Michael Paul Murray, Armed Forces Champion East London who I have met virtually and spoken to on several occasions. He is working with us and the Director of Adult Services Barbara Nicholls, between us we hope to re-sign the covenant later this year.

Sadly, for the last few years we have not had a Mayor's cadet and I will be championing this going forward, asking the future mayors to look for a cadet representing any of the services including the Police, Fire and Ambulance services.



Councillor Barry Mugglestone with Royal Marine Cadets

Going forward I will be seeking to attend more cadet units, I strongly believe being involved in a youth service organisation gives an individual good discipline, team spirit and

confidence to achieve their potential. Being a member of an organisation gives young people an advantage as they progress into adulthood. Thanks goes to all the adult volunteers for their work with and in support of these youngsters.

Councillor Barry Mugglestone

Armed Forces Champion