

Royal Navy Royal Marines Welfare (RNRMW)

Newsletter

Central Area Christmas Special 2018



This community newsletter is produced for the RNRMW Central Area by your RNRMW Specialist Welfare, Information Support and Community Teams located at **RNAS Yeovilton, 40 CDO Taunton, RMB Chivenor and CTCRM Lympstone** to demonstrate the work achieved over the last few months in support of your communities.

We hope that you will enjoy reading this and if you have any comments or would like more information about your specific area, please let us know at NAVYNPS-PEOPLESPTNRNMWINFO@mod.gov.uk

RNAS Yeovilton

Wincanton Families Christmas Coffee Morning

On Wednesday 5th December RNRMW held a Christmas Coffee Morning for service families in Wincanton at the Sports Ground Pavilion. This was open to all service families and on offer were a selection of Christmas crafts, refreshments and obligatory glitter tattoos!!

Transport was kindly provided by 1AAC unit welfare although this was not needed in the end as the small number of families from both the Royal Navy and Army that attended made their own way. Everyone fully took part in the festivities with the children enjoying Christmas card making and decorating gingerbread men – choosing to save themselves from the job of carrying them home they wasted no time in enjoying the fruits of their labour!

Feedback from the families was very positive with praise for the venue and the space available for the children to play and the suggestion that this becomes a regular occurrence.

We are now looking ahead to the new year full of plans for further events like this – however if you have any other ideas or suggestions, please let us know.



British Forces Foundation Pantomime 2018

On Thursday 6th December, the Esmonde VC Theatre at RNAS Yeovilton was the venue for the 2018 British Forces Foundation Pantomime Tour. Returning for their 5th year the cast of The Panto Bus treated us to a performance of 'Sleeping Beauty'. As with previous years this was completely fully booked within a few weeks of the pantomime being advertised!

Commander Barrie O'Sullivan, Executive Officer of RNAS Yeovilton, was the first to take to the stage to welcome all the families that totalled 87 adults and 117 very excited children, made up of both Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Army and MOD civilian families. The lights then went down for the panto to start.



Everyone really enjoyed the performance with a mix of humour from the court jester Muddles, Nurse Nelly and Fairy Liquid, romance between Aurora and Prince Rupert and drama – que the ‘boos’ for Maleficent. The house song went down a storm as well with nearly every child getting out of their seat to join in with the cast rendition of ‘Baby Shark’!

Each year the British Forces Foundation, in its aim to boost and maintain the morale of the Armed Forces community, offer funded panto performances to a selected number of military establishments for service families to enjoy and RNAS Yeovilton was lucky enough to be chosen again as a venue. This year service families have been provided this fun event, free of charge, courtesy of not only the generous funding from the British Forces Foundation but also the Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity.



Children's Christmas Parties

Father Christmas was very busy this year around RNAS Yeovilton, finding the time to come along to both the Tall Trees Community Centre Christmas Party on Monday 17th December and the Little Acorns Baby & Toddler Group Christmas Party on Wednesday 19th December.

The party at the Community Centre was attended by over 30 children from a mix of Royal Navy and Army families who enjoyed an evening filled with entertainment, games, dance competitions which included a mini version of ‘Strictly Come Dancing’! The children managed to sit still long enough to have some fabulous party food before Father Christmas made his entrance, bringing gifts and joining in the dancing. The parents collected some very excited, tired and happy children at the end of the evening.



The children of the Little Acorns Baby & Toddler Group were treated to a fun filled morning which included a visit from the Song Bus with interactive songs, some soft play fun and an extra special story read by Father Christmas himself! Everyone was in complete agreement that the RNRMW volunteers that run this very successful group had worked extremely hard to provide such an excellent event with special thanks to the mum who made the cakes and biscuits. Little Acorns meet during term time on Wednesdays and Fridays at the Community centre.

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Subscribe to our National and Local Royal Navy web forums:

www.royalnavy.mod.uk/forums/f371.aspx (National)

www.royalnavy.mod.uk/forums/f370.aspx (Local RNAS Yeovilton)

And/or you can like our National Facebook Page – www.facebook.com/RNRMW

And/or join our official Yeovilton closed Facebook Group - www.facebook.com/groups/RNRMWYeovilton

Norton Manor Camp Christmas Party

On a bright crisp winter day (which was a welcome relief from the recent rain!) the air was expectant with Christmas cheer, the main galley at Norton Manor was decorated and all the Elves were eagerly awaiting the arrival of our guests.

Shortly after two o'clock on Sunday 9th December the children started arriving with expectation on their faces. Merry Mac the Elf entertained the children with games and challenges, face painting was also available for both adults and children, although no men were spotted leaving with their faces painted!

A glorious buffet was served with visits to Father Christmas happening concurrently and not too many children screamed at the sight of the Big Man! After telling Father Christmas what they would like for Christmas and a photo opportunity for Mum and Dad with the main man, the children got back to having more fun.

All too soon the party was over, each child was given a selection box and an age appropriate gift kindly donated by Walking with the Wounded, and every child left with a big smile on their face and a balloon model in their hands. Then as is the way with all parties the big clear up began. A big thank you to all who attended and made it a very special day, and to all those involved in making the event a superb success.



CLR – RMB Chivenor

British Forces Foundation Pantomime 2018

We were very lucky again this year to be nominated to host the Panto Bus courtesy of the British Forces Foundation, which started off our Christmas festivities on Wednesday 5th December here at Chivenor.

The Panto Bus cast enjoyed a cooked meal prior to getting into character compliments of RMB Chivenor which they all thoroughly enjoyed, their first cooked meal for a few days

All the children were given a bag of sweets and a Christmas cracker before the performance commenced to get them in the festive spirit.

When the performance started the children, who were all sitting at the front got involved when prompted or not (!) by the cast and during the intermission all the children had squash and biscuits, while the adults had teas and coffees with mince pies.

Everyone had a wonderful evening, enjoying the performance of Sleeping Beauty with quite a few little treats thrown in too.

They all said thank you on the way out and said what a great evening they had had.

Community Carols

Braunton Rotary Club were going around with Santa on his sleigh on Friday 14th December, so we thought it would be a good opportunity to encourage people to come down to the Community Centre for a mini service and a few carols out in the garden. The trees were lit up with fairy lights, it looked magical, albeit a very cold evening!

There were sausage rolls, mince pies and Gluhwein which was enjoyed by most to warm them through. There was squash for the younger attendees.

We sang 'O Come All Ye Faithful', 'Silent Night', '12 Days of Christmas' and 'Away in a Manger' and Father Phil Waites gave a lovely service to go along with the carols we sang.

It was a lovely evening to get us in the mood for Christmas, and everyone there said what a wonderful time they had. Thank you, Ian Cheesman, for organising this lovely festive event.

Children's Christmas Party

This year the venue was changed for the Christmas party, taking it to the Chivenor Chaplaincy Building, which enabled those without passes to be able to come along.

The party ran from 1200-1500 on Saturday 8th December, and when the clock struck 12, the families came pouring in; all the children were given a goodie bag of sweets and music was being played by Captain Coconut and the children started queuing to get their faces painted. The entertainer then had the children enthralled with songs, dance moves, spinning plates and story time.

The party lunch was then served for the children, the tables were full of food, so much so the adults came up after all the children had been fed and did their best to clear the dishes! The adults also had facilities to be able to make themselves hot drinks, and there were mince pies and biscuits out for them.

The disco started after lunch and Santa made his entrance to the joy and excitement of the children. The children couldn't wait to go and see him in his grotto to see if they had been good this year, which we are happy to say, they had all been good!

When they got their gifts and parents had taken their photos, they went outside and got an ice cream to come back in with, courtesy of Op ICE CREAM from BFBS (British Forces Broadcasting Service) - a very big thank you to them for agreeing to be there for us.

When it was time for the party to end everyone said thank you, what a wonderful time they had, not just the kids, the grown-ups too!

This event was a great success, with a change of venue and ways of doing things which went down really well with all those who came along providing a safe and fun environment for the children and families of RMB Chivenor.



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Christmas Community Activities



On Saturday 8th December there was a Festive Saturday Cinema where families joined in the festive fun with 'The Snowman' shown for the little ones and older siblings watched 'The Grinch' and scoffed popcorn. Lunch was had together - hot dogs, cakes, fruit with hot chocolate and squirty cream! The children then made some festive crafts and had a present from Father Christmas.

A Christmas Drop In Session was held on Thursday 13th December which was the last one of the term. We had some Christmas crafts, making reindeer food and icing Christmas biscuits. Padre Paul showed a film of the Nativity story and everyone joined in some carols and used improvised methods to add some musical compliments to our superb singing (especially as some of the Military Wives Choir were in attendance.)

A visit from Father Christmas brought the mums and children a little gift (most expertly wrapped by the Welfare team) and a picnic lunch was had together.

On Saturday 15th December families were treated to a trip to Pennywell Farm Nativity. It was a lovely day at the farm despite the typical Dartmoor weather... torrential rain and sleet. The Pastoral workers joined in with the interactive Nativity, everyone visited Father Christmas in his log cabin and warmed up in the café with mulled wine and mince pies for grown-ups and squash and homemade Christmas biscuits for the children. The indoor play area was a big hit and we all got to visit the Pennywell animals too.



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