The RNRMW Community Team helped our service families celebrate the Easter break at Tall Trees Community Centre in Ilchester with an Easter Family Disco on Good Friday followed by all Service families living in the RNAS Yeovilton area being invited to come along to the Community Centre for an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday … which also included a children’s entertainer.

The Families Disco was attended by 37 people, who had a great evening throwing various shapes on the dance floor. ‘Dad’ dancing was almost compulsory.

After having the Saturday to recover, the fun started all over again on Easter Sunday afternoon for the 118 people that attended, where the children were entertained by ‘Anna Banana’. Gill, our RNRMW Support Worker, had spent time hiding Easter eggs around the community centre, which the children then had a fantastic time hunting out. The weather luckily stayed dry but overcast.

Everyone enjoyed both events over the Easter weekend, with feedback comments including:-

‘excellent, met people I’ve not met before’

‘it’s a prime opportunity for my 2 year old to interact with other children of all ages’

‘it’s a great way for our forces family to fit in with the MOD ‘family’’

‘the military community thrives from these events’

‘excellent venue for the community’

‘good opportunity to meet neighbours and for children to get involved in activities with new people of different ages’

‘love being able to take part in the family events’

‘our children get to meet other children and make new friends’

‘it’s great to have the community together to enjoy special occasions’

‘events like this are great, especially as their Dad is currently deployed, it makes their day special’
RNAS Yeovilton Families Day

RNAS Yeovilton Station Families Day was held on Wednesday 30th May and offered the RNRMW team a fabulous opportunity to meet and speak to the service personnel and families based at RNAS Yeovilton. The weather did not offer a promising start as the heavens opened in the morning, leaving many families questioning whether their chances of taking a flight in one of the helicopters would be scuppered but even if the clouds didn’t lift as much as we would have hoped at least the rain cleared.

The Central Hub RNRMW team set up an Information Stand holding ‘information goody bags’ utilising the free gizzets we had available (pens, magnets, People Support Handbook) and various other pieces of information, leaflets along with having Deployment Information Packs and Deployment Memory Boxes available to take away on the day, all with the aim of raising awareness of RNRMW and the support offered to service personnel and families.

Three members of the RNRMW team also provided children with glitter tattoos which gave the adults a longer opportunity to engage with the rest of the team, so that we were able to go into more detail on various subjects, answer questions, recruit volunteers and sign families up to our social media.

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to stop by and say ‘hi’.

RNRMW Deployment Support

RNRMW is continuing to support the deploying flights of the squadrons at RNAS Yeovilton, however if you are a service person due to deploy and have not received a Pre-Deployment Brief or are a family with a loved one deployed and you have not received any Deployment Information Pack – please get in touch on 01935 455107 or email NAVYNPS-PEOPLESPTRNRMWIO08@mod.gov.uk

Information Packs, Memory Boxes and Children’s Books to help with support and coping strategies during these times are all available on request.
Children’s Books Available from RNRMW

Thanks to generous funding from the Naval Families Federation (NFF), RNRMW at RNAS Yeovilton now have a selection of books to help support young children in coping with periods of deployment and separation or bereavement which aim to promote resilience and enhance coping strategies.

These books are available to borrow FREE of charge from the RNRMW Information Office in Somerset Court on the base. The picture included here gives you an idea of the books we have but more information about the individual books is available on the Yeovilton Forum on the Royal Navy website at https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/forums/m25909.aspx

We also have 3 copies of the book ‘Zoe and the Time Rabbit’ also designed to help children with a parent who is away for an extended period, kindly provided by the Royal Navy & Royal Marines Children’s Fund.

If you would like to borrow any one (or two!) of these books, please get in touch on 01935 455107 or email NAVYNPS-PEOPLESPTRNRMWIO08@mod.uk

Armed Forces Day Celebrations at Tall Trees Community Centre

We really could not have asked for better weather as the sun shone through a pretty much cloudless sky and the temperatures soared on Saturday 30th June, the day RNRMW put on a Families Day at Tall Trees Community Centre, Ilchester to celebrate Armed Forces Day along with the rest of the country.

60 military families living in the local area, along with civilian members of the community were treated to a performance by the Yeovilton Military Wives Choir who sang a number of songs that were new to their repertoire and had not been performed publicly before, a Hog Roast, children’s games, a magician and an old fashioned Punch & Judy show – which the children absolutely loved and had been strategically positioned in the shade of a large tree to give them a chance to cool down.

Inside the community centre we had the ‘Friends of Ilchester School’ providing cream teas – as a dessert to the delicious hog roast!

Feedback from the families included:-
‘Family and community events are essential to bring us all together’
‘Lovely day out for the families’
‘Well done and thank you very much’
‘Lovely afternoon, the boys had a great time’
‘Food was brilliant, entertainment amazing and the choir – very well done!’
Tall Trees
Junior Youth Club

Over 340 people attended this event on the 30th June, which was organised in partnership with RNRMW, the Residents Association and South Somerset District Council to celebrate Armed Forces Day. Both military and civilian families enjoyed everything that was on offer and people could be seen walking around holding their potted lettuce in one hand and candy floss or hog roast in the other. There was a steady stream of children (and their parents) queuing for glitter tattoos and face painting and the candy floss production didn't stop for the whole event. To counteract the unhealthiness of the candy floss, people were then able to make their own fresh fruit smoothies using the bicycle blender before attempting to guess the herbs (with only about half the entrants getting all the answers right!).

There was lots of feedback on the day including the following comments:
“What a fantastic event”... “We've got such a good community here”
“It was an amazing day...lovely weather...lots of families...lots of free activities and refreshments”

RNRMW Volunteer Update

“Satisfying “Enjoyable” “Rewarding”

These three words were quoted by Alwyn Lumsden-Barker an RNRMW Volunteer about her volunteering experience.

Alwyn supports the Tall Trees Community Centre Youth Club that runs on a Monday evening. The Youth Club runs sessions from 1730 until 1900 which is attended by 30 service family children and Alwyn supports this group twice a month. Alwyn is one of 4 volunteers, without whom the club could not run.

RNRMW volunteers support coffee mornings, parent and toddler groups, family support activities as well as one off events and are vital to reaching out to service families and building communities together.

Alwyn believes that “you can't take out what you don't put in” and that volunteering for RNRMW has helped her increase her confidence and she feels more involved in her community.

Interested?? If you have some spare time and want to get more involved in your community, why not contact Heather Burton, RNRMW Volunteer Coordinator to find out more - there is a volunteer experience for everyone.

Email: rnrwcvc@gmail.com or Phone: 07976511592.

Tall Trees Junior Youth Club

Youth club have had a busy time, this term...

We have had some new children join us bringing our group up to capacity.

In the cooler weather, after we returned from the Easter break, we enjoyed a more constructive program and group activities such as Card Bingo, Quiz's, music, games and craft sessions.

We have now started to make the most of the sunshine by taking youth club outside. Football, cricket and water play are the way ahead.

We are also hoping to possibly take a trip to the climbing centre for our annual outing this summer.

Keep up to date with Royal Navy Royal Marines Welfare

Subscribe to our National and Local Royal Navy web forums: 
www.royalnavy.mod.uk/forums/f196.aspx (National)
www.royalnavy.mod.uk/forums/f244.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
On the 30th May, RNRMW organised a families trip to Wookey Hole, a spectacular cave network in the Mendip Hills in Somerset.

The coach arrived well before our departure time, some people had already arrived and were waiting in the welfare office, (this is when you notice how many hazards there are for small people in the modern working environment!). Once we were all present the 34 families were off to Wookey Hole!

The bus set off out of Norton Manor Camp and we hadn’t got very far from camp when we heard the first “are we there yet” comment. We were accompanied on this outing by one of our volunteers Pauline Marlow, who proved to be invaluable on the day helping parents with children etc.

Once we had arrived at Wookey Hole (and the inevitable toilet stop had taken place) we had a personalised tour around the caves. They really are spectacular and the children were clearly entranced hearing about all the various connotations to witches and ghouls. We were informed about the difference between stalactites and stalagmites and how long the caves have been there and how they were discovered. No buggies had been allowed into the caves so all the small children had to be carried, no mean feat as some of the obstacles involved quite a bit of ducking and diving.

Once our tour was over it was free time for everybody and there was so much to do! The children seemed to really enjoy the moving dinosaurs and the 4D cinema; once these two attractions had been visited most people opted for lunch.

Post lunch it was a short stop at the soft play area and then on to the circus which is manned by school age children from Wookey’s own circus school. The show was absolutely terrific; the children were on the edge of their seats with mouths wide open whilst the performers entertained them. We then headed for the magical mirror maze, where small people seemed to navigate far better than adults. We then went to an amazing ball pit where the small children filled up the guns for the adults to shoot at each other! It was a brilliant stress reliever!

By this time the day was coming to a close and we hadn’t managed to see everything that was on offer, but there is always a return visit! There was still ice cream to be enjoyed in the sunshine.

Everyone was counted back on the bus (we hadn’t managed to lose anybody, always a relief!) and we made good time back to Norton Manor Camp.

Some of the comments received from those attending were “best day out ever”, “amazing” and “magical”. Empty packed lunch boxes, tired children and mums and dads all home after a very enjoyable day out. Everyone was very positive about the trip and all thoroughly enjoyed a wonderful day out.
The 30th June was a gloriously hot summer day, which is exactly what was ordered for 40 CDO RM's Families Day.

The RNRMW department was detailed to provide the families entertainment and an information tent. As most of the country was celebrating Armed Forces Day on the same day it wasn't such a simple task as first envisioned! However, we managed to secure two face painters, one provided glitter tattoos which was appreciated by the girls as well as the boys and the other a more traditional face painter, also Go Karts, a mega slide, a huge bouncy castle, laser quest and bug fest all of which was very popular with the children (and adults) who all got to touch tarantulas, stick insects and huge snails to name but a few.

The RNRMW tent proved to be a huge draw, not least because it provided respite from the sun and we had free sweets which were given out not only to children!

The RNRMW Information Officer was kept busy giving out information packs for the upcoming deployments all day. Briefings were also given to those who were deploying by WO2 Joyce and PO Sanders.

The face painters were put in a shady tent which also had ride on toys and soft play for the little ones; this was very popular for families with small children.

There were military stands to keep the children further entertained and military demonstrations throughout the afternoon, coupled with a beer tent, a gin hut, two ice cream vans and scrumptious food - the day was a huge success.

1750 personnel and families descended upon Norton Manor Camp for the day and a jolly good time was had by all. There was not one negative comment heard throughout the day, everybody was amazed at what was put on for the families and the quality of entertainment.
Coffee mornings ceased at Chivenor due to personalities being posted away, there was a gap and to stop interest being lost in the group RNRMW saw an opportunity to reinvigorate coffee mornings with an Outreach Clinic Coffee Morning. Alongside this a new member to the Chivenor Families Committee started doing a Stay and Play with the Coffee Mornings/Outreach Clinic.

This works perfectly, albeit still encouraging those who don’t have children to come along for a coffee and a chat. Numbers are slowly increasing due to working jointly with the Families Committee. Through an Income Generation bid we were able to provide the young ones with arts and crafts and also a few outdoor activities which all the toddlers really enjoy.

With good joint working practices, this has built links between RNRMW and Chivenor Families Committee groups.

Chivenor Families Day
This was a Garrison led event on the 19th May, open to all serving personnel and their families and was a very successful event, with limited input from RNRMW.

The families were invited to watch the Royal Wedding in the Officers Mess with sandwiches, nibbles and Prosecco from 11am until 2pm when the Families Day officially started outside with bouncy castles, slides, inflatable obstacles for the younger children and Nerf Gun activity for the older children. The Nerf Gun activity was put on by the Chivenor Youth Club with help from SPACE (Barnstaple Youth Club organisation), this was a very popular activity and there was a constant queue of children all day to have a go, quite often joining the queue again as soon as they came out of their sessions!

There were free ice-creams up until 3pm which, given the sunshine on the day, went down well. We also had a visit from the local Fire Brigade, showing off their fire truck, the children were allowed to climb up into the fire cab and were shown what all the buttons were for and how the equipment worked, they were in awe of this, as were some of the parents! There was music playing all afternoon too and lovely to see the little ones having a jig 😊

The Families Day activities ended at 5pm outside, and the families were invited back into the Officers Mess to watch the FA Cup Final if they so wished.

The whole day ended at 8pm, with a lot of tired children who had had an absolute ball playing outside for most of the day.

Youth Club
With the RNRMW team and UWO (24 Cdo Engr Regt) here at Chivenor and one other civilian volunteer, Youth Club is proving very popular for the population here. Numbers have increased by at least ten this term which is excellent for the group.

Before the Easter break they went roller skating and had a great time. They have been planting seeds, which are now established plants; tomatoes, sunflowers, lilies to name but a few, and the majority of these have now been planted in the garden so they can watch them develop, see how tall they grow and admire the beautiful flowers. They have been productive in with crafting too, painting terracotta pots, making characters out of shells and mounting them on pieces of driftwood, making bracelets and bird feeders. They amaze us with their imagination, making something out of anything and everything they can find in the craft cupboard. We painted pebbles and the different designs they have come up with are brilliant, we had a ladybird, a youth club pebble, tuck pebble, flowers, seaside scenes to name but a few.

All the children who attend always have a good time, whether they want to play ball in the garden, play on the X-Box, get involved in arts and crafts, shoot a game of pool or play table football.

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And/or you can like our National Facebook Page – www.facebook.com/RNRMW
And/or join our official RMB Chivenor Facebook Group – www.facebook.com/groups/RNRMWChivenor