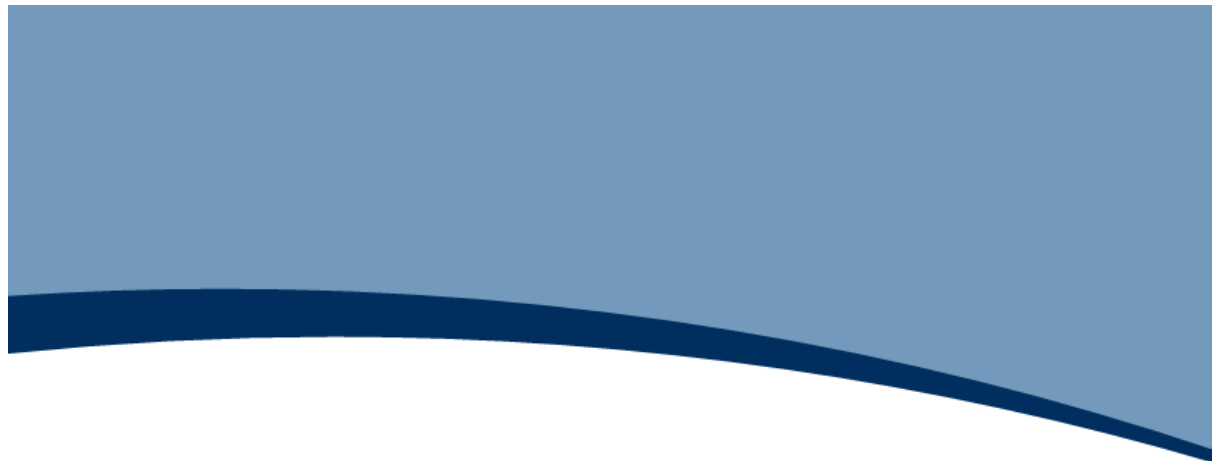


# RAF Benson Bulletin December 2025



## Contents



- News Updates
- Station and Local Events
- Accommodation Updates
- Families News Updates
- RAF HIVE Service

## News Updates



### Take our Offer survey

**The Armed Forces Offer survey has been extended to give Regular serving personnel more time to share their views.**

Regular Service personnel: [Take the Offer survey](#) before it closes at **11.59 pm on Monday 15 December 2025**. Whether you are new to the Armed Forces, have been here for a while, or are planning to leave – your views matter.

Your feedback will help Defence's policy makers to enhance parts of your reward package to better meet your needs. The more people we hear from, the more reliable our data is to inform meaningful improvements.

Whether it's about pay, accommodation or leave, we know that the Offer is a key factor in whether people join and leave.

How do I take part?

If you are a Regular, [take the survey](#) by 11.59 pm, **Monday 15 December 2025**. Whatever your rank or profession, it's important to hear from you.

Access the survey on Defence Gateway, using your personal or MODNET device. The technical issues that some users experienced have now been resolved.

The survey takes around 30 minutes to complete, which you can do in your own time. All feedback is **confidential** and will not be seen by your Chain of Command.

## Travelling Over Christmas - Discounts Available To Access

**H M Forces RAILCARD** SAVE 1/3 ON RAIL FARES

Home | Buy or renew card | Buy train tickets

What is the HM Forces Railcard? | Where can I buy one? | FAQs | Terms & conditions

**Save 1/3 on adult and 60% on... child fares with the HM Forces Railcard**

**Am I eligible?**  
If you are a member or a spouse/civil partner of a member of the Regular Armed Forces or Volunteer Reserves then you are eligible.  
[Click here for further details.](#)

**How much will I save?**  
For just £21 you'll **save 1/3 on adult fares and 60% on kids' fares** throughout Great Britain for **12 months**.  
[Click here for further details.](#)

National Rail | ROYAL NAVY | ARMY | ROYAL AIR FORCE

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### HM Forces Railcard

Discounted fares for HM Forces personnel, spouses and dependent children aged 16 or 17.

The HM Forces Railcard is issued direct to HM Forces Personnel by their corresponding Ministry of Defence service unit to whom all enquiries should be made. <https://www.nationalrail.co.uk/tickets-railcards-offers/promotions/hm-forces-railcard/>

### National Express

National Express are continuing with their offer of 30% off travel for serving personnel across the UK but in addition to this are offering 15% off travel to other members of Defence Discount Service including Armed Forces spouses/partners and Veterans.

In order to access these fantastic offers you will need to sign up for free to Defence Discount Service and then follow the steps for the National Express offer once logged in.

<https://www.defencediscountservice.co.uk/en/national-express-defence-discount>

# Christmas Posting Dates

## Latest Posting Dates for Christmas 2025

Between UK and BFPOs Worldwide



To ensure your Christmas letters and parcels reach their destination in good time, it's always a good idea to post as early as possible.

### Outbound UK to BFPO's Worldwide

Static Firm Base/PJOBS	Operations	HM Ships
Latest Posting Date from UK <b>24 NOV</b>	<b>17 NOV</b>	<b>17 NOV</b>
Latest Arrival at BFPO <b>3 DEC</b>	<b>24 NOV</b>	<b>24 NOV</b>

### Inbound UK from BFPOs Worldwide

All locations, including HM Ships, are to note that the deadline for return of mail to meet delivery of items in UK should be targeted at Wednesday, 17 December 2025 for all class of items.

This will allow BFPO enough time to transfer private mail items into the UK civil mail system in time for Christmas or for items to be processed through Royal Mail's Heathrow Worldwide Distribution Centre.

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## Latest Posting Dates for Christmas 2025

Between UK and BFPOs Worldwide



### MOD Christmas Families Free Mail Service - 2025

Friends and family members of UK Service personnel based in The Falkland Islands, Ascension Islands and Diego Garcia will be able to access the MOD Christmas Families Free Mail Service at any UK Post Office/overseas Forces Post Office from **Monday, 27 October until Monday, 24 November 2025**, after which the entitlement to a free small parcel service will cease.

**The BFPO numbers/locations which are additionally included within this welfare entitlement are:**

- BFPO 485 – Diego Garcia
- BFPO 494 – Falkland Islands
- BFPO 655 – Falkland Islands
- BFPO 677 – Ascension Islands
- BFPO 678 – Ascension Islands

Customers can post MOD Christmas Families Free Mail Service items to the above BFPO numbers/locations, if:

- Free small parcels **do not exceed 2 kg** in weight.
- Free small parcels must have a **fully completed customs declaration (CN22)** and customers must tick the 'gift' declaration box on the CN22.
- Free small parcels **don't contain prohibited items** (e.g. aerosols, shaving foam or alcohol).
- Free small parcels must be **within size limits**: Minimum one surface at least 90 mm x 140 mm. Maximum length + depth + width = 900 mm with greatest single dimension not more than 600 mm (e.g. an average medium shoe box size).
- **Only relatives and friends** within the UK or at BFPO overseas addresses can send free small parcels to named Service personnel and entitled MOD civilians.
- All free small parcels must be handed in to a UK Post Office/overseas Forces Post Office and customers are advised to keep their certificate of posting.

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# RAF HIVE Service 2026 Calendar

Available to collect for your local RAF HIVE Service Information Centre - **INSERT YOUR HIVE DETAILS HERE - THEN DELETE THIS TEXT**



## January 2026



Health & Wellbeing – The RAF HIVE Service can support you with information and signposting.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

The RAF HIVE Service: Your Gateway to Information and Wellbeing Support for All Service Personnel and Their Families, Living On-Unit or Off-Unit.

You can find contact details for your local HIVE at: <https://www.raf.mod.uk/servicing-families/raef-hive/>  
Alternatively email the HIVE Service Management Team for support: [Air-People-PPS@RAF.mod.uk](mailto:Air-People-PPS@RAF.mod.uk)



June 2026



Summer season – Want to find out what's on? The RAF HIVE Service can provide local events and attractions.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

The RAF HIVE Service: Your Gateway to Information and Welfare Support for All Service Personnel and Their Families, Living On-Unit or Off-Unit.

You can find contact details for your local HIVE at <https://www.af.mod.uk/celebrating-families/home-front>  
Alternatively, email the HIVE Service Management Team for support: [AirPeoplePT@raf.mod.uk](mailto:AirPeoplePT@raf.mod.uk)

## Celebrating Forces Families - Nominations Closing 15 DEC!



### Celebrating the Heart Behind the Uniform

Through heartfelt events and shared stories, we recognise their sacrifices and celebrate their resilience

Join our mission to honour the families of our Armed Forces!

★ Nominate a deserving family member or organisation to recognise their dedication and Support to the Armed Forces Families.

★ Share their inspiring stories to spread gratitude and awareness, via our podcast and news.

★ Volunteer, donate, or spread the word

[WWW.CELEBRATINGFORCESFAMILIES.CO.UK](http://WWW.CELEBRATINGFORCESFAMILIES.CO.UK)



Serve And Protect Credit Union - Tools to Raise Awareness - Upcoming Webinars



Serve and Protect Credi Union - Tools to Raise Awareness - Upcoming Webinars

**Eco-Friendly Ways to Save Money** Dates: Mon 1st December, Mon 15th December Time: 12:00 PM – 12:45 PM What to Expect: How you can live a greener life, helping you to save money and care for the planet. [Register Here](#)

**Budgeting 101: Take Control of Your Money** Dates: Tue 2nd December, Tue 16th December Time: 12:00 PM – 12:45 PM What to Expect: How to create a budget that meets your goals, with tips to cut spending. [Register Here](#)

**Saving Made Simple: Practical Tips to Boost your Savings** Dates: Wed 3rd December, Wed 17th December Time: 12:00 PM – 12:45 PM What to Expect: Explore 10 practical savings methods to build a healthy savings cushion. [Register Here](#)

**Credit Score 101: Tips to Boost Your Score** Dates: Tue 9th December, Thu 18th December Time: 12:00 PM – 12:45 PM What to Expect: Understand the importance of looking after your credit score, with tips to improve it. [Register Here](#)

**The Road to Financial Resilience: Preparing for the Unexpected** Date: Wed 10th December Time: 12:00 PM – 01:00 PM What to Expect: Explore why financial resilience matters and simple, practical tips to improve it. [Register Here](#)

**Before You Borrow: Key Things to Know** Date: Thu 11th December Time: 12:00 PM – 12:45 PM What to Expect: Understand the key factors lenders may evaluate, with tips to consider before applying. [Register Here](#)

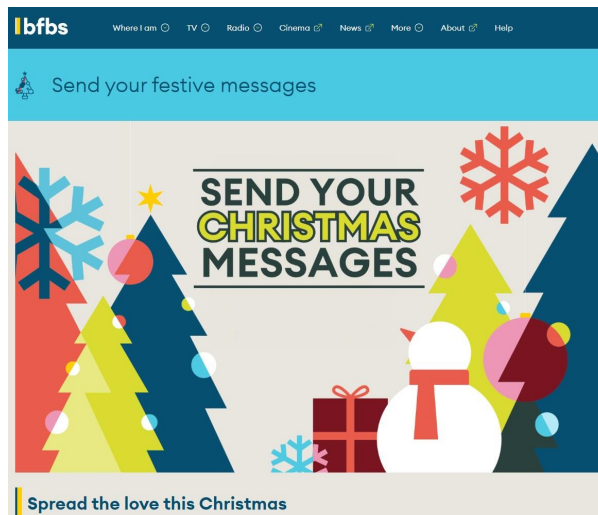
## BFBS Send Your Festive Messages

### Spread the love this Christmas

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, everywhere you go... that's right, it's time a time for decorations, polishing your sprouts and, above all, a time for showing love to one another (awwww!).

Whilst for many Christmas is a joyous time of the year, for many it's just another 'day at the office' so to speak. So, to help with this, we want to share your festive messages across the Forces World.

Find out how visit - <https://www.bfbs.com/send-your-festive-messages>



## Station Events

### Station Christmas Jumper Day - Thursday 11th December 2025



## RAF Benson 2025 Santa Run

This year's Santa Run will be taking place on the 11 Dec 25. There will be a warm up starting at 0825 with the main effort kicking off at 0830. Please encourage anyone you know to attend and join in (fancy dress is optional).....dogs are welcome as long as they are kept on leads. If there are any questions please feel free to contact [simon.brister958@mod.gov.uk](mailto:simon.brister958@mod.gov.uk)



*Where : Stn Gym and  
Domestic Site*

*When : Thursday 11 Dec 25*

*Time : 0830*

*Distance : 5km*



*All invited to take part and please feel free  
to bring your dogs (must remain on leads)*

## Santa's Post Box

Santa's Elves stopped by the Community Centre on the 1st December to collect all of Santa's post and now they are on the way back to the North Pole to deliver all the children's letters. Keep your eyes peeled out for Santa's replies soon which will be going through your letters boxes!



## Santa Drop - 3rd December 2025

The holiday season is all about kindness, connection, and making someone's day a little brighter. This year, we have an amazing opportunity to come together and make a real difference, to those in the Children's Ward at Oxford University Hospital.

### **New gifts only.**

Gift suggestions recommended by the play specialists at OUH can be found on the poster.

### **Drop off Locations:**

SHQ, Medical Centre, Community Centre & Common Room.



This holiday season, RAF Benson are collecting new, donated gifts for Oxford Children's Hospital.

Please wrap your gifts and label:

- Boy / Girl / Unisex
- Age range
- Brief description

Gift ideas:

- Small LEGO sets • card games • fidget toys • mini dolls • playdough/slime • bubbles • stickers • small Metal building kits • Books • soft toys (sealed) • glow sticks • surprise plush • Paw Patrol toy balls • Plastic tea sets • Plastic medical kits • Plastic dinosaurs • Plastic knights • Play food • Brio trains • Ready mixed paint

Please donate by 1st Dec.

## Airplay Christmas Draw/Movie Night



### Christmas Mini Draw

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December

Sports Bar

Ben Club 4-6pm

Juniors/Inters/Seniors - 6:30-9pm

Tickets £5

closing date for tickets Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December

For tickets email [kayleigh.crawley@oneymca.org](mailto:kayleigh.crawley@oneymca.org)



Silent Disco

Food

Horse Racing

Karaoke

Photo Booth

Much much more ...

### Christmas Movie Night

Come along in Christmas pajamas

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December

5:30 - 8:00pm

8 years +

Popcorn and drink provided

£2

Closing date for Booking 10<sup>th</sup> December

Please email [Kayleigh.crawley@oneymca.org](mailto:Kayleigh.crawley@oneymca.org) to book



# RAF Benson Primary School Christmas Fair

**The Christmas Fair**  
RAF Benson Community Primary School  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December  
4.00pm – 5.30pm

Raffle  
Father Christmas  
Chocolate tombola  
Class stalls  
Gifts  
Christmas shop  
And lots more!

Everyone welcome!

Hot Chocolate  
Mulled Wine  
Mince Pies  
Prosecco

Brought to you by the RAF Benson Community Primary School

# You're Not Alone This Christmas

If you're feeling lonely or struggling,  
please reach out for support.



**Samaritans**  
**116 123**  
(Free, 24/7)

**Oxfordshire Mind**  
**01865 247788**

**Papyrus**  
(Suicide Prevention for Young People)  
**HOPELINE247 – 0800 068 4141**

## Station Medical Centre Christmas/New Year Opening Hours

BENSON GROUP MEDICAL PRACTICE  
**CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR  
OPENING TIMES**  
CLINICS AT RAF BENSON

SAT 20 DEC	CLOSED
SUN 21 DEC	CLOSED
MON 22 DEC	URGENT ONLY
TUES 23 DEC	URGENT ONLY
WED 24 DEC	URGENT ONLY
THURS 25 DEC	CLOSED
FRI 26 DEC	CLOSED
SAT 27 DEC	CLOSED
SUN 28 DEC	CLOSED
MON 29 DEC	URGENT ONLY
TUES 30 DEC	URGENT ONLY
WED 31 DEC	URGENT ONLY
THURS 01 JAN	CLOSED
FRI 02 JAN	URGENT ONLY
SAT 03 JAN	CLOSED
SUN 04 JAN	CLOSED

**OUT OF HOURS:  
DIAL NHS 111  
OR  
999 IN AN  
EMERGENCY**

DURING THE FESTIVE PERIOD, WE WILL BE PROVIDING A REDUCED SERVICE. URGENT CLINICS ONLY VIA TOTAL TRIAGE AT RAF BENSON.  
TEL: 07800041005  
TOTAL TRIAGE WILL BE MONITORED BETWEEN 0800 - 1200 ON DAYS WE ARE OPEN.

## RAF Benson Work Experience 2026 Applications Now Open!

Applications for RAF Benson 2026 work experience are now open!!!

GCSE placement: 27 Apr – 1 May

A-Level placement: 29 June – 3 July

Due to popularity, placements are not guaranteed. Successful applicants will be contacted to confirm a placement by 31 Jan 26.

The application form is publicly available on the RAF Benson website - contact-us tab.

[Contact us | RAF Benson | Royal Air Force](#) Direct any questions to Ben-YouthEngagement@mod.gov.uk



## RAF Benson Airplay - January 2026 Updated Session Timings.



**Airplay Benson**  
**OUR WEEKLY SESSIONS**

Location: Upstairs in the Station Community Centre Price: £1 Session

<b>Ben Club</b> Tuesdays <b>4-5:30</b> Reception - Year 3 (Starting age 5)	<b>Inters</b> Tuesdays <b>6-8pm</b> Year 6 & Year 7
<b>Juniors</b> Wednesday <b>5:00-7</b> Year 4 & Year 5	<b>Seniors</b> Wednesday <b>7-9</b> Year 8 onwards

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!  
For more information, email Kayleigh Crawley on  
kayleigh.crawley@oneymca.org or visit [airplayconnect.org](http://airplayconnect.org)



The Fund's flagship programme supporting young people in the RAF Community

## Local Events

### Christmas at Blenheim

#### Discover the magic of one of the best UK Light Trails this Christmas

Listed as one of the top UK Light Trails by The Telegraph, the Illuminated Trail is bigger, better and brighter than ever before. Begin in the atmospheric, twinkling Water Terraces and head through the stunning Cathedral of Light for the perfect picture moment. Dance your way along the rainbow LED tunnel and onto the candlelit Fire Garden. Marvel at the stunning Sea of Light whilst enjoying a delicious hot chocolate or toasted marshmallows, then take in the spectacular Water Fountain Show complete with brand new, festive projections across the lake. Journey on past the Alpine Village, multi-coloured trees and Candy Cane Lane before reaching Father Christmas himself in a festive flurry of snow. For more information and ticket bookings, click here: <https://www.blenheimpalace.com/whats-on/events/christmas/>



## Steam Into Christmas at Didcot Railway

Steam into Christmas and Help Santa Find His Missing Reindeer!

Oh no! There's been a Christmas disaster — Santa's reindeer have escaped, and he needs your help to find them before Christmas Eve! Join us for a magical festive adventure at Didcot Railway Centre. As you explore our unique 21-acre living museum — home to Great Western Railway steam locomotives, carriages, wagons, buildings, and fascinating artefacts — you'll help Santa track down his missing reindeer at special reindeer stations hidden around the site. Every child will receive a special passport and a Christmas stocking on arrival. At each reindeer station you find, you'll collect a small gift as a reward for your detective work. Your journey ends with a visit to Santa's giant toy workshop, where you can tell him what's on your Christmas list and choose your own present from his festive selection! Your ticket also includes unlimited train rides on our main demonstration line throughout the day. For more information, click here: <https://didcotrailwaycentre.org.uk/product.php/865/steam-into-christmas>



## Millets Farm Illuminate Christmas Trail

This family friendly experience will involve a 60 minute trail through a dazzling display of light installations, transforming Millets into a wonderland of colour and sparkle.

Perfect for all ages, this is a light trail not to be missed so bring the whole family for an unforgettable evening of winter magic.

Enjoy delicious treats from the food court, sip on festive drinks from the fully stocked bar, and toast marshmallows under the twinkling lights, Illuminate awaits you!



## The Oxfordshire Big Panto Guide 2025

Christmas is a great time to go to the theatre to see a [panto](#) or a family Christmas show. Here's my guide to the best 2025 pantomimes in Oxfordshire, as well as the best 'non panto' family Christmas theatre shows.



## Waddesdon Manor Christmas Market - Until 23rd December

The Waddesdon Manor Christmas fair will be set against the backdrop of the floodlit North Front of the Manor with its 20ft Christmas trees. Soak up the sights, smells and sounds of Christmas with hand-selected stalls all housed in charming wooden chalets, surrounded by twinkling trees.



## Support

PERSONAL SUPPORT AND SOCIAL WORK SERVICE RAF

**FIGHTING YOUR OWN BATTLES? WE'VE GOT YOU.**

If you serve in the RAF, we're here to support you with all of **life's challenges**, from money worries to mental health struggles.

WE'RE CONFIDENTIAL. WE'RE INDEPENDENT OF THE CHAIN OF COMMAND.

Whatever your rank.  
Whatever you're facing.  
**We've got your back.**

- Live Chat [ssafa.org.uk/raf](https://ssafa.org.uk/raf)
- WhatsApp + 4420 3769 0808
- Facebook [facebook.com/ssafarafpssws](https://facebook.com/ssafarafpssws)
- Email [psswsraf@ssafa-fhs.org.uk](mailto:psswsraf@ssafa-fhs.org.uk)
- Phone 0800 058 4690 (UK callers)  
020 4570 3939 (Overseas callers)

**ssafa**  
the  
Armed Forces  
charity

**ROYAL AIR FORCE**

Registered as a charity in England and Wales Number 210760 in Scotland Number SC032058 and in Republic of Ireland Number 20200000. Established 1865.

# ROYAL AIR FORCE Advocacy Service

Worldwide Specialist Support for those experiencing Domestic Abuse,  
Sexual Violence and/or Stalking.

## Who do we support?

- ✓ THE VICTIM IS A SERVING MEMBER OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE
- ✓ THE VICTIM'S ALLEGED PERPETRATOR(S) IS A SERVING MEMBER OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

**Contact Us** ▶

  
**02392479254**  
Monday-Friday 9am-5pm

  
armedforces@aurorand.org.uk  
armedforces.advocate@aurorand.cjism.net  
(secure email for referrals)

## What do we offer?

- ✓ SPECIALIST, INDEPENDENT AND PRO-ACTIVE SUPPORT.
- ✓ CONSIDERS THE SPECIFIC ISSUES & BARRIERS ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES MAY FACE.
- ✓ A FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SPECIALIST SERVICE.
- ✓ EFFECTIVE RISK/NEEDS ASSESSMENT INCLUDING SAFEGUARDING, SAFETY PLANNING AND WELLBEING
- ✓ ADVICE, GUIDANCE, INFORMATION AND TRAINING.
- ✓ LEGAL ADVICE AND SUPPORT AT COURT MARTIAL/CROWN COURT.
- ✓ DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL ABUSE RECOVERY GROUPS BY TRAINED PROFESSIONALS.

*The team delivers independent support from chain of command but maintains a focus on working closely and collaboratively with relevant personnel to support victims and keep them, their families and their children safe.*





## Worried About Gambling?

You're not alone. We provide the Armed Forces, ex-service members, and their community with the knowledge and tools to access support for themselves and others, whether at home or overseas.

### Benefits of our training:

- **Raises awareness** – Our sessions are designed to raise awareness about the impact of gambling harm on all affected individuals.
- **Combats stigma** – Gain insight into the impact of stigma on individuals affected by gambling-related harm and learn how to address it effectively.
- **Increases knowledge** – We enhance knowledge to enable the identification and recognition of gambling-related harm.

We deliver training across the Armed Forces, both face-to-face and online, to the following:

- Training Establishments
- Personnel Recovery Centres
- Welfare Staff and Teams
- Medical and other support teams
- Regular Armed Forces Personnel



## Support for Gambling Harms in the Armed Forces

### Would you be able to spot the signs of gambling harms?

Specialised training is available for members of the Armed Forces, provided by GamCare; the leading provider of information, advice and support for anyone affected by gambling harms.

Our training will support you to address stigma, recognise and respond to signs of gambling-related harms, and empower you with the confidence to talk about gambling. The training also helps establish referral pathways, highlighting the route to accessing support.

### Need support now?

**National Gambling Helpline: 0808 8020 133**

If you are serving, a veteran or a family member and are seeking support please call the National Gambling Helpline number above

For those Armed Forces personnel and families overseas please contact the via online chat:  
[www.gamcare.org.uk/get-support/talk-to-us-now/](http://www.gamcare.org.uk/get-support/talk-to-us-now/)



## Accommodation

### SCSO TITLE/NAME CHANGE

The role of SCSO at RAF Benson has changed to Station Families Housing Officer (SFHO) in line with recent guidance from Air Families & Pers Spt guidance.

Previous FAMCAS results have identified some of our people and families experienced challenges in accessing support as it was not clear who they should approach for assistance in relation to housing matters. This change aims to mitigate this issue, in conjunction with other ongoing work strands, such as the RAF HIVE Communications Review.

WO Phil Withey (BEN-AB-SSS-SFHO) remains your station poc for housing related matters once conventional avenues have been exhausted. All repair and allocation issues should be directed to Pinnacle (0800 031 8628, [homeservices@pinnacleservicefamilies.co.uk](mailto:homeservices@pinnacleservicefamilies.co.uk)) in the first instance.

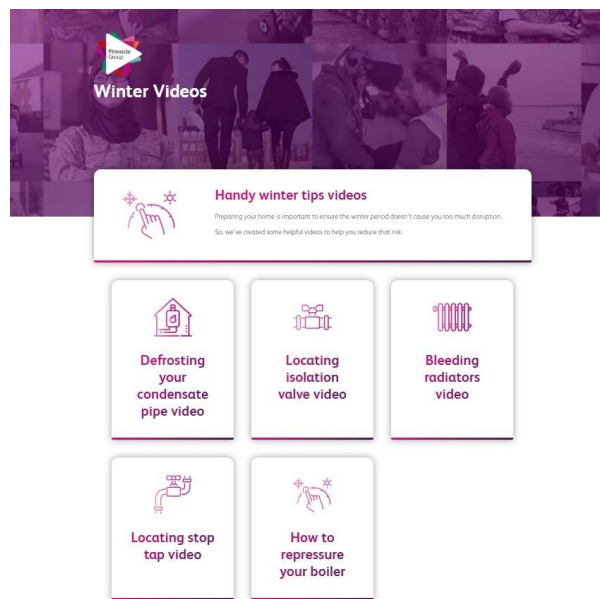
The SFHO is able to support families and SP navigate the pathway to repairs and allocation etc and is your Stn poc should other avenues fail to provide the support necessary.

### Housing Drop In Clinic - 10th December 2025

There will be a Housing Drop in Clinic on Weds 10Dec 25 from 1000-1200hrs in the TDF. Please come along and speak to the SME's in respect of you housing needs. If you are unable to make this time, please contact WO Withey, SFHO (BEN-AB-SSS-SFHO) who will be able to advise on housing matters.



## Pinnacle Services Families



### Handy Winter Tips Videos

Preparing your home is important to ensure the winter period doesn't cause you too much disruption.

Pinnacle Services Families have created some helpful videos to help you reduce that risk.

<https://www.pinnacleservicefamilies.co.uk/winter-videos/>

# 12 Tips for Fire Safety this Christmas



Ministry  
of Defence

## 12 tips for FIRE SAFETY over the Festive Period

<p>1 Water fresh trees daily.</p> 	<p>2 Check all lights before decorating.</p> 	<p>3 Make sure you have a working smoke alarm.</p> 
<p>4 Where fitted check your carbon monoxide detector.</p> 	<p>5 Develop and practice a fire escape plan.</p> 	<p>6 Use extension leads safely.</p> 
<p>7 Give space heaters at least one metre of space.</p> 	<p>8 Avoid using real candles – go flameless instead.</p> 	<p>9 Keep matches and lighters out of kids reach.</p> 
<p>10 Watch what you heat – pay attention to your cooking.</p> 	<p>11 Encourage smokers to smoke outside.</p> 	<p>12 If under the influence of alcohol, avoid cooking or smoking.</p> 



Produced by Capita Fire & Rescue for Defence Fire & Rescue HQ



## Families News



**Primary School Aged Childcare Overseas (PSACO) Allowance**  
**Launching January 2026**

- Final phase of the Wraparound Childcare (WAC) Scheme.
- Reimbursement for before and after school childcare costs in overseas locations.
- Available in locations where WAC eligibility criteria can't be met due to in country rules and regulations, and locations where Tax-Free Childcare accounts are not available.
- Eligibility criteria will apply.

  
Ministry  
of Defence

Service personnel can find further information on the Defence Childcare Information Page on [defnet](#) and [Defence Connect](#)

Great news for families overseas: Primary School Aged Childcare Overseas Allowance launches in January!

We are delighted to share this news with you - The launch of the PSACO Allowance means eligible Service families will have access to before and after school childcare funding in all overseas locations.

For further information, go here <https://bit.ly/4qYrNla>

## Queen Victoria School

Now accepting application forms for entry into Queen Victoria School, Dunblane in August 2026. Closing date for applications is 15th January 2026.

POSITIVITY | PRIDE | NURTURE | INTEGRITY | EXCELLENCE



## Queen Victoria School Dunblane, Scotland

Aiming to provide a unique, thriving boarding and educational community in which all pupils and staff work to support and respect one another in realising their full potential



Set in 45 acres of countryside, our co-educational boarding school supports the children of UK Armed Forces personnel who are either Scottish, have served in Scotland or who have been members of a Scottish regiment. The main entry point is Primary 7, which is broadly equivalent to Year 6 in England. Places are fully funded by the MOD, with a parental charge for some aspects of boarding life.

**Applications for admission to QVS are now open and close on the 15th January 2026.**

Families are welcome to find out more by contacting

Admissions on +44 (0) 131 310 2927 or email [qvs.admissions@modschools.org](mailto:qvs.admissions@modschools.org)  
[www.qvs.school](http://www.qvs.school)



Ministry of Defence

TRUST | INDEPENDENCE | RESPONSIBILITY | RESPECT | EQUALITY

Royal Mail - Writing a letter to Santa this Christmas?



Step  
1



THINK  
ABOUT  
YOUR  
LETTER



Step  
2

WRITE YOUR  
LETTER

*Don't forget to include your  
name and address on the  
back of the envelope*



Dear Santa,  
I have been a very good boy this  
year and I am very much looking  
forward to Christmas. I have a  
question for you. Why is Rudolf's  
nose red? For Christmas I would  
love a toy train. I wish you and the  
elves a very Merry Christmas,  
e





Make sure you send your letters to Santa by 10 December. Don't forget to include a full name and address on the back of the envelope so Santa can reply. Send your letters to:  
Santa/Father Christmas Santa's Grotto Reindeerland XM4 5HQ

## A Woman Into Employment Event



As a military spouse, veteran or reservist, join the Forces Employment Charity at this unique event from 3-5 February 2026! Empowering You is more than a workshop. It is a career accelerator and confidence catalyst, providing a clear pathway to meaningful employment and professional growth.

This is the first of six events that will run between February and April next year: working in partnership with Barclays.

Register today: <https://rfea.my.site.com/forcesemployment/s/community-event?id=a48N100000J8ebIAC>

## Childcare Training Opportunity



Are you a partner of serving military personnel or a reservist? [NDNA - National Day Nurseries Association](#) has [Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust](#) Supporting Partners funding to deliver a paid childcare training programme designed just for you

16-week programme (paid at National Living Wage)

Remote training for 4 weeks, then 12-week placement in a childcare setting

Full mentor support throughout

Starts week commencing 30 March 2026

6 places available to applicants anywhere in England

Apply now and secure your spot (see poster for details)

Starts week commencing 30 March 2026

6 places available to applicants anywhere in England

Apply now and secure your spot (see poster for details)

## Airplay Connect NEW Digital Programme – with Loud Speaker!

The new digital programme has sessions for **everyone who is registered with Airplay**: Loud Speaker Airplay Connect Digital Programme Promo – Airplay Connect All the details and session links are here: [National Airplay – Airplay Connect](#)

## RAF HIVE Service



**HIVE Information Officer (HIO):** Janine Ansty-Bridges

**Location:** Community Centre

**Opening hours:** Mon - Thurs 0800 - 1600, Fri 0800 - 1500

**Tel:** 01491 827213 Teams Work No: +44 303 371 8545

**Connect Online** - [RAF Benson HIVE Facebook](#) – RAF Benson HIVE X.com - [RAF HIVE Instagram](#)

### Station Welfare Contacts

**SSAFA** – Leanne Wheeler

**Office Location:** 4 Viking Terrace

**Tel:** 07384 237987 (office hours only)

**Email:** [Leanne.Wheeler@ssafa-fhs.org.uk](mailto:Leanne.Wheeler@ssafa-fhs.org.uk)

**Chaplaincy:** The Revd (Sqn Ldr) Michael McCormick & The Revd (Sqn Ldr) Rachel Cook

**Office Location:** Station Church

**Tel:** 01491 837766 Ext 6234

**Email:** [michael.mccormick103@mod.gov.uk](mailto:michael.mccormick103@mod.gov.uk) [rachel.cook117@mod.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.cook117@mod.gov.uk)



**HIVE SERVICE NOTICE**

The HIVE Information Centre will be closed for the festive period, from Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December and will reopen on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

Below welfare support point of contacts during this time, if required.

SSAFA: 0800 058 4690, Whats App +442037690808, Live Chat [ssafa.org.uk/raf](https://ssafa.org.uk/raf)  
[www.ssafa.org.uk](https://www.ssafa.org.uk)  
Chaplaincy – *Remove if not applicable*  
RAF Association Welfare Support & Advice - 0800 018 2361  
[www.rafa.org.uk](https://www.rafa.org.uk)  
RAF Benevolent Fund Emotional Support Helpline - 0800 222 5703  
[www.rafbf.org.uk](https://www.rafbf.org.uk)



## Station RAF People and Families Support Contacts

**Station Families Housing Officer (SFHO):** WO Philip Withey

**Office Location:** Community Centre

**Tel:** Duty Mobile - 07815 697370 (No Texts)

**Email:** [philip.withey301@mod.gov.uk](mailto:philip.withey301@mod.gov.uk)

**Community Development Officer (CDO):** Meg Wickett

**Office Location:** Community Centre

**Tel:** 01491 827213

**Email:** [meg.wickett407@mod.gov.uk](mailto:meg.wickett407@mod.gov.uk)

### Disclaimer

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