

Armed Forces Day



Saturday 28th June 2025
Barrack Field, Woolwich SE18



Introductions from the 2 organisers

Lt Col Mark Powell representing the military

'The Armed Forces Day held in Woolwich at the end of June 2025 was a wonderful opportunity for the Armed Forces to display and show-case the benefits that a career in the Armed Forces can offer.

The three services provided in excess of twenty-five public information stands representing all 3 elements of the Armed Forces and cadets. On display was an array of military vehicles, weapons and equipment which proved particularly attractive to the public and was enjoyed by all.

This year it was particularly pleasing to have a large veterans contingent on parade with their branch standards. It is always right and proper to celebrate the contribution that veterans have made in service to their country.

The event was attended by thousands of people and was considered a tremendous success. It is hoped that the Armed Forces can support the local community next year by hosting a similar event on Barrack Fields'.



Tim Barnes representing the community

This year over 11,000 people visited AFD on Barrack Field. I am delighted that the event remains free to all and am determined that it should remain as such in future.

We were blessed by a lovely summer day with events continuing from 10am until 8pm. The opening of the proceedings involved speeches from our MP Matthew Pennycook and the Mayor of Greenwich, Cllr Linda Bird as well as from the Master Gunner, Lt General Sir Andrew Gregory. The speeches emphasised the historical and continuing links between the Army and the local community of Woolwich, to the mutual benefit of both sides.



We were fortunate this year to have had the assistance of CC Events who managed the whole event with considerable expertise. Last year's problems with the RBG Licensing Authorities and Road Closure Orders were things of the past. The whole day passed off without any anti-social activites, although we had a security presence in place if trouble did break out. The audience was largely made up of families. The military equipment was a great attraction, but so too were the fairground rides and the football competition, again organised by Charlton Athletic .



Among adults the expanded Classic Car Parade involving over 80 vehicles was very popular, as was the Gymnastic Display in the Arena, and the large offering of specialist food and drink stalls.



This year we organised a special space for Veterans in the Garrison Church opposite Barrack Field. They had their own entertainment including **Company 3** (a well loved local trio) singing songs that the veterans knew from the thirties and the time of World War 2.



Everyone enjoyed the performances on the Main Stage and in the Arena.
I include a copy of our Programme

Programme Of Events Armed Forces Day 28th June 2025

10.15- 11.00 Opening of event, speeches and Parade

On main stage

11.30-12.30 Jolly Old Timers Traditional jazz band



12.45- 13.15 Tilly Pantlin Popular vocalist and war time songs

13.30-14.00 RAF Cadets Band

14.15-15.15 Company 3 Tribute female group for the Andrews sisters



15.30-16.15 Reach Theatre Group for those with learning disabilities

16.30-17.15 Rock Choir

17.30-18.00 7 sisters Nepali dance group.

18.15-18.45 Local pop group

19.00-20.00 Ronnie Ripple and the Rip Chords Rockabilly Band

20.00-21.00 Disco



In arena

11.30-12.15 Classic Car Parade

12.30-13.15 Police horses demonstration

13.30- 14.15 Utopia Cheer. Cheerleading demonstration

14.30- 15.15 Greenwich Royal Gymnastics. Gym Display

15.30 -16.15 Wicked Singalong with performers from Wicked



Throughout the day

Marquee showcasing local and national charities and particularly those with a military connection .

Fairground rides

Football competition

Food and drink outlets

Deck chairs and relaxation facilities for families



Notes of support

Cllr Linda Bird

Mayor of the Royal Borough of Greenwich

On Saturday 28 June 2025, we gathered to celebrate and mark Armed Forces Day in the Royal Borough of Greenwich, on Barrack Field.

I was honoured to represent residents and Council colleagues as Mayor and first citizen of the Royal Borough.

I began the day early standing outside the Woolwich Centre , alongside Lt Col Veronica Sefton RA, and my consort daughter Amy Bird- Matthews.

Together we took the salute as the Band of the Welch Guards, Veterans and Cadets marched through Woolwich towards the Barracks. As the parade passed by, and the bands and pipes played, it was impossible not to be moved and very proud of our heritage.

Royal Greenwich has a long and proud military history. We celebrate the fact that the Barracks , the Royal Artillery and the Kings Own Horse Artillery are part of our history, community, and culture here in Greenwich.

Armed Forces Day gives us the chance to thank them, and to reflect and pay tribute to our heroes past and present. This day also provides an opportunity for the huge number of organisations within the Armed Forces to demonstrate the opportunities available for a Military Career. Also for families and residents to meet Service personnel and have a hands on experience of their equipment and vehicles.

I will never forget the day. It was filled with emotion, great performances, and some once in a lifetime opportunities to engage with men and women who are serving in the Armed Forces. Listening to their stories is a humbling experience for us civilians.

A great family day, with tanks and other Army equipment attracting huge interest, and the stage performances giving us all a variety of theatre, dance and music to enjoy.

I was also privileged to walk over to St George's Church, the restored Garrison church, where I met with veterans, some in their 90's, who were enjoying a more peaceful time.

This year 2025, was the largest and most successful Armed Forces Day ever. I will never forget the event and the many people I met.

Thank you for inviting me, and thank you to Tim Barnes and his team of organisers.

Notes of support

"Thank you for having us, the group really enjoyed the performance, and it was a great event with a really big and supportive crowd! " Joe Cocklin Director of Reach Theatre Group for those with learning difficulties.

"Another great event ! Well done all.' Karl Fone Mountain Events and Maintenance

"First of all I would just like to thank you for hosting my wife and I at Woolwich Barracks for Armed forces day. My wife Halyna had such a wonderful day as she was made feel so special, not only by you, but also the General and all of the officers on the day."

"I had such a great day representing Berkeley Homes and meeting such fantastic people, I do hope I can attend next year!" Eamon Melia Project Director Berkeley Homes East Thames

'It was a real pleasure working with you, and we're delighted that Armed Forces Day was such a success. We would be honoured to work with you again in the future." Pius Ejionamhen Life Force Security



AFD Overview in numbers:

10,650 visitors (up from 8,000 in 2024)

51 local businesses

18 local charities

15 local acts

75 classic cars

120 blood pressure checks completed

80 troops (in the Army Village)

20 volunteer police cadets

12 first aid incidents (down from 15 in 2024)

1 tank

1 'Stickosaurus' created by Creative Nature

Approx £100,000 generated for small businesses, not large conglomerates





Sponsors

Armed Forces Day 2025 would not have taken place without the generous support of our sponsors. We thank them for their generous contributions

Royal Borough of Greenwich



Peter and Teresa Harris Charitable Trust

Greenwich Hospital

University of Greenwich

The Commonwealth Quarter

McDonalds



Berkeley Homes



Conclusion

AFD 2025 was a very successful and much enjoyed event. It was the largest Armed Forces Day event in London and we were fortunate in receiving the maximum grant from the organisers nation-wide of AFD. We are planning to bring the event back in 2026, and looking forward to once again collaborating with local businesses, charities, and community organisations.





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woolwichcommunityproject@gmail.com