



This year's Armed Forces Day national event will be hosted by Rushmoor Borough Council at Aldershot and Farnborough on **Saturday, 27th June 2026**, with other events taking place across the UK on or around the same date.

When [Armed Forces Day](#) was started by the then Labour government one view was that armed forces personnel were hardly honoured by giving them extra work at the weekend.

In practice, events have tended to involve a wide community effort, with considerable local authority input, and - without downplaying the preparation and time involved - forces personnel themselves being as much as possible the 'stars' rather than the 'general dogsbodies'.

We certainly wouldn't argue with the need to improve and reinforce engagement between the armed forces and the community.

Armed Forces Day in the UK started 20 years ago as 'Veterans' Day'. It was rebranded as Armed Forces Day in 2009 to better recognise all branches of the military, including serving regular and reserve personnel, veterans, and cadets. The main national event is held annually on the last Saturday in June; last year's was hosted by Ards and North Down Borough Council at Newtownards Airfield.

Armed Forces Day isn't the same one-size-fits-all event across the United Kingdom. The lead organiser can be the Council, the Legion, or a community organisation. For Armed Forces Day 2026 events in your area, visit this link:

- [Armed Forces Day - Find Events](#)

Events will continue to be added to that page until much nearer the date. We would encourage every organisation holding a bona fide Armed Forces Day event to make sure it gets added to the list, as sometimes that gets overlooked.