

eNewsletter



Issue 11
Summer 2009

Welcome

Welcome to the summer edition of the SSAFA Forces Help eNewsletter.

This has been sent to everyone we have an email address for, but please feel free to forward it to others. It has also been designed to be printed, if required (using the blue print button). If you require a version of the eNewsletter with a larger typeface click [here](#).

Any comments and suggestions for future issues are appreciated and these can be sent to: newsletter@ssafa.org.uk

Michael Ivatt
Editor

BIG BREW UP 2009

It is already time to start making plans for this year's Big Brew Up. Last year saw a record-breaking 400 events taking place around the world, raising more than £100,000. This year SSAFA Forces Help wants to make the event even bigger to raise more cash for local branches and committees.



In 2008, Brew Ups were held by British Forces in the Middle East, Brunei, Germany and at Committees and Branches in the UK. "Each year we strive to make the event bigger and better," says Director of Fundraising Claire Hoather. "All the money raised by in-Service

committees and branches is spent at a local level and allows SSAFA

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nell Joins Jump

Fitness model Nell McAndrew will be joining the volunteers raising money for SSAFA at the Big Jump over the weekend of 20 and 21 June at Netheravon Airfield Camp, Wiltshire. Volunteers will be jumping in tandem with The Royal Artillery Display Parachute Team – The Black Knights. Places are still available. Contact Karen Woodgate on 020 7463 9222, or by email: karen.w@ssafa.org.uk

Row the Thames

Steve Swan from Somerset has raised £7,000 by rowing the River Thames from

volunteers to continue their important role supporting our Service and ex-Service personnel and their families."

To register for your Big Brew Up event email Karen.w@ssafa.org.uk or call 020 7463 9222.

RAF MOTORSPORTS SUPPORT SSAFA

The RAF Motorsport Association (RAFMSA) has chosen to support SSAFA Forces Help during 2009.

The RAFMSA is one of the RAF's biggest sports associations. Each year it attends more than 200 competitive events and displays around the country. In addition to the racing, the team also attends many static events where the cars are on display. This year its vehicles will be complete with SSAFA logos.



Members take part in all forms of competition, including 4 x 4 events, karting, rallying, circuit racing, speed events, rallycross and motocross. This year will see the team defend its win against 55 other teams in a six-hour endurance race at Silverstone.

"We are really looking forward to working with SSAFA," says Fg Off Phil Bruce. "My predecessor, Sqn Ldr Brian Watson, has had a lot of dealings with SSAFA and they have helped many of his staff over the years, so the Association is very close to our hearts."

SSAFA HELPS GURKHA WIVES LEARN ENGLISH

News that Gurkhas will be able to remain in the UK could mean more clients for a SSAFA service helping Gurkha families to integrate in their local communities.

Most serving Gurkhas and their children have a good standard of English, but Gurkha wives can have difficulty making themselves understood, a problem that escalates once their husbands leave the Brigade. The women can have difficulty finding employment and with simple tasks like visiting the doctor or helping their children with homework.

Greenwich has a large Gurkha population and the SSAFA division is respected within the area's Nepali community. When the need for

Lechlade in Gloucestershire to Greenwich during three days in May. Steve undertook the 150-mile journey in a catamaran sculling boat he had built himself.

A Marathon Effort

Congratulations to those who ran the London Marathon on behalf of SSAFA, raising a total of £10,000. The blisters are not healed from this year's run and already 4,800 people have expressed an interest in running for SSAFA in 2010 to help celebrate the Association's 125th anniversary.

Radio 4 Appeal

SSAFA Forces Help has been selected to feature on the Radio 4 Appeal. Broadcast on Sunday 26 July, the appeal will be voiced by journalist and former MP, Martin Bell. It will be broadcast at 7.55am, 9.25pm, and on the following Thursday at 3.25pm.

language classes was identified, SSAFA was quick to help and the ESOL course (English for speakers of other languages) was established with the help of the Army Benevolent Fund. Since the courses started in 2007, more than 100 women have taken part at the Greenwich Education Community College and there is currently a waiting list of a further 50.

"There is a real desire to integrate and learn," says Divisional Secretary, Gerry Armstrong. "Instead of just smiling at me, they now smile and greet me in English which is very encouraging. Some have gone on to find jobs but all have gained so much confidence."

SETTING UP SHOP IN CLEVELAND

A new SSAFA Forces Help shop has opened its doors to customers in Redcar.

Julia Clark, Awareness and Fundraising Manager North, has been working with the Cleveland Branch to get the shop up and running. "It's a three-storey building so the local division can be based above the shop," says Julia. "We hope it will be a window for the Association, where people can come in and find out about the help that is available."

Branch volunteers have been busy collecting donated goods including clothes, books, DVDs and household items. All the money raised by the shop will help fund the work of the Cleveland Branch.

Shop Manager Faye Lillie has previous experience running a charity shop in Redcar and is looking forward to opening up. "We're in a good position in town so hope to be quite busy," she says. "We will definitely be needing more donations and I'm also keen to hear from anyone who is interested in volunteering at the shop."

The venture will be the second SSAFA retail outlet – the first shop, in Poole, opened in the Second World War as a clothing depot for bomb victims and families in need.

PARCEL FORCES HELP

Innocent Sekajja has had a busy first year with SSAFA Forces Help and with a packed summer of fundraising events he isn't expecting to slow down any time soon.

As Public Awareness Departmental Assistant he ensures Branches and Service Committees have all the publicity and fundraising materials they

Athletic Success

The SSAFA Service Committee at Wattisham Airfield held a Triathlon on 25 April 2009. There were 220 entrants made up of individuals, relay teams, novices and seasoned triathletes. The event raised £5,000 to help and support military personnel and their families currently serving at Wattisham.

Online Memorial

The SSAFA website now includes an online memorial book to commemorate those in whose name the Association has received donations since the start of 2009. To add a name, or find out about the page, contact Stacey Edgar on stacey.e@ssafa.org.uk or call 020 7463 9257. The SSAFA memorial book is available through the 'Donate' section of the website, or by clicking [here](#)

need, from t-shirts and collecting-tins to leaflets and posters. Innocent, 29, came to the UK from Uganda in 2000 and has a background in retail and facilities.

"I enjoy working with the volunteers." says Innocent, "It's not easy being a volunteer and I used to wonder why people did it, but working for SSAFA I realised that our volunteers have a real passion for what they do and will go out of their way to do what they can for people."



Innocent, who lives with wife Stella, produces music in his spare time and is planning to make an album, though "more for personal satisfaction than to make money".

"It helps me if people place their orders as early as possible so I have enough time to get them together and send them out," he says. "This is my busiest time of year and sometimes I can send out 76 boxes in a week!"

Innocent can be contacted on 020 7463 9260 or via email Innocent.s@ssafa.org.uk.

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