

Poles Apart SPVA provides home comforts for WWII allies

Iford Park Polish Home provides the subject for the latest Service Personnel and Veterans Agency podcast.

Situated just a few miles from Newton Abbot in Devon, the home provides residential and nursing care for those who qualify for admission under the 1947 Polish Resettlement Act.

This unique establishment, administered by SPVA, has been home to a thriving Polish community for over 60 years.

The ambience of the home is distinctively Polish and this is reflected in the food, music and language shared by the residents.

In the podcast, Clare Thomas who manages the home on behalf of SPVA, explains how the customs and traditions of the residents continue to be nurtured and how the community has, over the years, become firmly established as an integral and cherished part of Poland, set deep in the Devon countryside.

Response to the first SPVA podcast, launched on 4th February has been very encouraging and the Agency will continue to use the medium to update service personnel and veterans on news and events impacting on the community.

The podcasts are available on the Veterans-UK website - <http://www.veterans-uk.info> - and are syndicated via iTunes and YouTube and other social media sites.

Ends

Notes to Editors:

1. *Veterans-UK* was launched by the Ministry of Defence in April 2007 to provide a focal point for veterans to access services from the many different sources of help available. The *Veterans-UK* helpline, 0800 169 2277 and website www.veterans-uk.info are the main contact points.
2. The *Armed Forces Memorial* is the first national memorial dedicated to the men and women of the United Kingdom Armed Forces (Regular and

Reserve) killed on duty or as a result of terrorist action since the Second World War. The Memorial cost £7million to construct and is located at the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas in Staffordshire. The new memorial web pages will replace the current website at 'forcesmemorial.org.uk'.

3. The *Service Personnel and Veterans Agency* is an Agency of the Ministry of Defence and provides essential support functions to the Armed Forces and veterans communities. These include Forces pay and HR, issue of all medals, casualty repatriation and compassionate services, pensions, injury/bereavement compensation and veterans welfare support.
4. A *veteran* is anyone who has served in HM Armed Forces, regular or reserve including National Servicemen, former Polish forces under British command and Merchant Mariners who have seen duty in military operations (e.g. the Falklands Conflict). Veterans, who can be aged from 18 to well over 80, along with their families and dependents make up the veterans community and all are entitled to our services.

For Further Information

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