

Dear All,

Details for the Armed Forces Day Parade on Saturday have now been confirmed as of the meeting this afternoon.

Format will be very much the same as last year.

1. Assembly. All marchers to assemble at Albyn Place at 1000hrs. NOTE: Due to road closures for the parade it may be difficult for marchers to drive to Albyn Place after 1000hrs.

2. Form up/Order of March. The RSM Aberdeen UOTC will be in charge of the parade and will ensure marching contingents form up in the correct order. The parade will form up from 1030 hrs ready to step off at 1100hrs. The order of march will be:

The Massed Pipe Bands (including the Association Drums and Pipes).

The Gordon Highlanders Association

The Royal British Legion.

Other Associations

Regular Navy, Army, RAF contingents

Reserve Navy, Army, RAF contingents

Cadet contingents.

Vintage vehicles

Disabled Association bus.

3. The Parade. Marchers will step off at 1100hrs.

Less able veterans who would still like to take part in part of the parade will form up in Back Wynd (halfway down Union Street) and will join the parade under the direction of stewards.

Halfway down Union Street, the 7 SCOTS Military band will join the parade, to enable contingents in the second half of the parade to hear the band/bass drum.

The saluting dias will be positioned outside the Townhouse.

Lt Gen Sir Peter Graham KCB, CBE will take the salute along with The Lord Provost.

Individual contingent commanders will be required to give an 'Eyes Left/Eyes Front' as the contingent passes the saluting dias.

At the Castlegate end of Union Street, the Massed Bands will wheel right into Marischal Street, counter march and once halted facing Union Street will play for the remainder of the parade.

Marchers will wheel left into King Street, continue along King Street and halt before the traffic lights.

Contingents halt under their own arrangements and immediately disperse onto the waiting coaches for transport to Gordon Barracks. NOTE: Other marching contingents will still be following into King Street and so contingents that have been fallen out must clear off the road as quickly as possible.

4. Seating Area for Disabled/elderly Veterans. The City Council has confirmed that a seating area for disabled/elderly veterans who are unable to march, will be set up at the Castlegate, beside the Gordon Highlander statue. The seating area will be fenced off by barriers to the right of the statue as you face the Castlegate, so that veterans are able to view the parade as it marches down Union Street and into King Street. 50 seats will be positioned in the disabled/veterans area. Disabled/elderly veterans should make themselves known to the stewards who will allow them access to the seating area. Once the

parade is over, veterans in this seating area must make their way as quickly as possible to the buses positioned in King Street for transport to Gordon barracks.

5. Buses. The City Council has arranged for 8 x 70 seater coaches to be parked up in King Street to take marchers to Gordon Barracks. Marchers should fill up coaches from the front. The Fraserburgh & Macduff Branch coach will also be parked on King Street.

6. Gathering at Gordon Barracks.

Lunch. Lunch (Stovies) will be served in the main cookhouse from 1200 - 1330hrs. Lunch is being provided by Mains of Scotstown and will cost £1.00 (Note the reduction from the previously published £2). HOWEVER, Mr Martin Young, the Chairman of Mains of Scotstown, has very generously stipulated that all funds raised from the sale of lunch will go to charities within Gordon Barracks. So, whilst lunch is advertised as only costing £1, you are encouraged to contribute a bit more - all for a good cause!

Bars. 2 bars will operate - 205 Gen Hosp Sqn bar and the Signals Sqn bar. Normal bar prices apply. Bars will remain open for as long as the bar staff wish to keep them open.

Beating Retreat. This will take place on the square outside the main cookhouse at 1400hrs.

Vintage vehicles. The vintage vehicles will be positioned on the square at Gordon Barracks after the parade for veterans to view as they wish.

The Gathering will officially end at 1500hrs, but those attending may continue to enjoy a dram or 2 until the bars close.

Gordon barracks closure. It is likely the barracks will be closed from around 1630hrs.

7. Loos. Prior to the Parade, loos will be available in Harlaw Academy. Loos in Gordon Barracks will be available for the Gathering.

8. Transport. Other than the City Council buses to take personnel to Gordon Barracks after the parade, there is no official transport and personnel must make their own way to the start of the parade and from Gordon barracks at the end of the Gathering.

Let us hope for a fine day and I shall look forward to seeing you all on Saturday.

Yours,
Grenville IF
St Luke's
Aberdeen