



# Brunssum and GK Community Newsletter



July 2022

## Here comes summer...

Many of us will be getting away over the coming weeks, back to the UK or further afield. You have probably seen posts about airport queues and delays. Help cut the stress by planning plenty of travel time and keeping an eye out for updates from your airline / travel operator or the airport you're traveling through. Check the details of your travel insurance to ensure you're covered for every eventuality and, of course, make sure you have all your documents!

The Summer leave period is also time when we say hello and goodbye to a fair number of our community. Many of those leaving have faced the challenges of COVID away from home and with increased travel restrictions. Nonetheless, we hope you have enjoyed your time in the Netherlands and are looking forward to your next adventure! For those of you joining, the local area has much to offer, from markets to castles, bars to open air swimming. The Hive (in the NSE building) produces guides on local activities and also has a blog: <http://brunssumhive.blogspot.com>

If you've visited somewhere that you've particularly enjoyed, please pop a post on the Community Facebook page so that others can benefit too.

On behalf of the NSE team, we wish you a safe and happy Summer Leave.

# What's On...



## **Wednesday Activities Over the Summer**

With leave and the CLO office being down to one CLO for the time being, we will not be hosting Coffee Drop Ins every Wednesday throughout July and August. Do keep your eye on Facebook and WhatsApp for other activities!



## **What are you up to?**

Are you planning a trip or have you been somewhere you'd recommend to others? Share it with the Community! You could either send a review / recommendation by email or share on Facebook.



## **NAAFI Update**

From this month, NAAFI will deliver once a month only. As before, delivery will usually be between 11:30–12:30 in front of the NSE building. It is advisable to have cash for payment

Order Date	Delivery Date
25 July	1 August
29 August	5 September
26 September	3 October
31 October	7 November
28 November	5 December

# Want to know more?

The British Community Facebook page (Brunssum and Geilenkirchen British Community) is where we post all of our official notices, and these are usually repeated in the WhatsApp group. However, there are lots of other places where you can find out about what's going on in and around JFC Brunssum.

**\*\*Please note that many of these sites are unmonitored / open forum. If you need accurate advice, it is advisable to contact the NSE. Inclusion in this page does not imply endorsement.\*\***

Hive	You can pop into the Hive, located in the NSE building from 0900—1300 Monday to Friday to pick up information or speak to Hive Officer, Charlotte Graham.
JFC Brunssum Morale and Welfare	JFC Brunssum Happenings is the name of the facebook page of the Morale and Welfare organisation covering JFC Brunssum. Movie Schedule, library information, it can all be found on this page.  They also have a website: <a href="http://www.jfcbunssum.com">www.jfcbunssum.com</a>
JFC Physical Activities	Facebook page advertising sporting activities, classes and challenges for JFCBS, GK and USAG
GK/AFNorth/JFC Friends and Faux	Facebook page of the wider community. A great place to look for things going on and ask questions. This is a non-official site.
JFC Brunssum International Club	If you want to meet new people from across the NATO community, then join the International Club. They also have a website: <a href="http://www.jfcbic.com">www.jfcbic.com</a>
Buying and Selling	There are (at least!) 3 buying and selling groups for the NATO community. PCS season can throw up some amazing bargains!  GK/AFNORTH/JFC Childless Classifieds  Easy Buy & Sell GK  USAG, JFC, GK, NATO CLASSIFIED PAGE
AFNORTH School British Section Unofficial Site	A group for parents to share information. This is an non-official site.
Curios Thrift Shop	The facebook page of our very own Thrift Shop. Find opening hours and promotions here.





# AUTUMN TERM



We might only be at the beginning of July, but there's no harm in looking ahead!

2 September - Big Coffee Drop In with several guest visitors, followed by Family Friendly Opening of the Bar.

16 September - Families Day. Exact details TBC, but keep this Friday afternoon free for fun!

4 October - Brunssum International Club Coffee Morning hosted by the UK delegation. Want to get involved? Drop a line to the CLOs ([gso-ejsu-netherlands-community@mod.gov.uk](mailto:gso-ejsu-netherlands-community@mod.gov.uk))

Other events in the planning stages...

Hallowe'en activity, Shwapping night, Children's Christmas Party...

What do you want to do?

Is there an event or activity you'd like to see in the schedule? Let us know! We can help with planning, funding, advertising and organising.





Send in your measurements! We'll close the competition at the end of August, but we need your measurements and photos to update the leader board!

[Gso-ejsu-netherlands-community@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Gso-ejsu-netherlands-community@mod.gov.uk)

## Play Safe

In any environment there is a risk of crime. Many people naturally believe that within the military environment there is a reduced risk to the safety of their children.

Make sure you know exactly where they are going and who with.

Lay down ground rules for timings that your child is to be home by.

Set boundaries for where they can and cannot go.

Ensure your child knows your address and telephone number and stored in their mobile if they have one.

Tell them who they can trust and tell if they are worried.

Advise your child not to play out alone after dark and to play where other people are around.

Remind them of road safety either when walking or on bikes.



Basic Stranger Danger rules include:

- **Never accept gifts or sweets from a stranger.**
- **Never get in a car with a stranger.**
- **Never go anywhere with a stranger.**
- **Never go off on your own without telling your parents or a trusted adult.**

Contact our service: 0044 (0) 0808 168 3111

[crt.bfsws@coreassets.com](mailto:crt.bfsws@coreassets.com)

[www.forcessocialwork.com](http://www.forcessocialwork.com)



# ~~DON'T~~ TALK ABOUT MENTAL WELLBEING

As your Welfare Champions, we are here to support you and be your listening ear and to sign post you should you require it to a plethora of supporting agencies we have at our disposal. It really doesn't matter how insignificant you think the issue(s) may be but talking it through with someone that wants to help is what matters. 100% Confidential.

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#### External Contacts:

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If you are struggling and need to talk, our trained Shout Volunteers are here for you, day and night. Shout 85258 is a free, confidential, anonymous text support service.



ssafa  
Lifelong support for our Forces and their families  
Helpline 0800 731 4880 (0900-1730 weekdays only)  
Email: [Online.Help.Form](mailto:Online.Help.Form)



24hr Military Mental Wellbeing  
Helpline: 0800 323 4444  
Helpline text: 07537 404719  
Helpline email:  
[helpline@combatstress.org.uk](mailto:helpline@combatstress.org.uk)



Whatever you're going through, a Samaritan will face it with you. We're here 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



Togetherall is a safe clinically managed, online community designed to improve mental health. Togetherall provides anonymous, peer-to-peer interactions so that as many people as possible can benefit from instant, east-access and round-the-clock support when they need it. They engage people who don't traditionally ask for help. Their services are FREE to all serving personnel, reservists, veterans and their families.



Helps Defence people stay mentally fit and on top of their game at work and at home.  
[www.headfit.org](http://www.headfit.org)



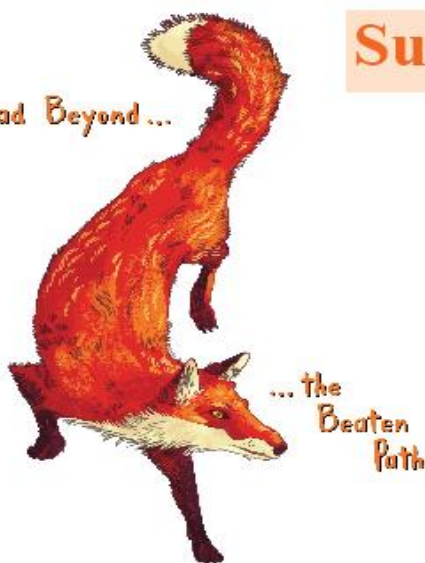
If you need medical help fast (Netherlands), but it isn't a 112 emergency, you can dial 0900 8844. They will be able to book a week, emergency appointment or request an ambulance if required.

## USAG BENELUX-BRUNSSUM FAMILY *and* MWR Libraries



### Summer Reading Program

Read Beyond...



The Summer Reading Program is for all U.S. and NATO ID card holders of all ages.

If you enter the program, you read books (also e-books) and will receive a variety of prizes for the number of minutes you read. Preschool children earn prizes by having books read aloud to them.

Additionally, we offer amazing, program related, weekly activities.

SRP registration at:

<https://brunssumlibrary.beanstack.org/reader365>



Brunssum Library  
[mwrlibrary.armybiznet.com](http://mwrlibrary.armybiznet.com)  
HQ JFC Brunssum, Bldg. 604  
DSN 314-597-4307 or +31 045 534 0307



## Support Contacts

In addition to contacting your CLOs, JFC Welfare Champions and the NSE, there are organisations and people who can help in many ways.

**Please take note of the below welfare points of contact for future use:**

For details on multiple available supporting organisations, and to contact the EJSU welfare team, please visit: [www.ejsu.net/welfare](http://www.ejsu.net/welfare)

### Padre:

Maj. Nia Williams: Email: [Nia.Williams264@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Nia.Williams264@mod.gov.uk)

### European Welfare Officer (EWO)

Chris Jones

Office: 0032 (0) 6544 8082

Mobile: 0032 (0) 478 97 02 80

Email Address: [Christopher.Jones252@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Christopher.Jones252@mod.gov.uk)

**SSAFA Health Visitor, Kerry Riley:** [UKStratCom-DMS-DPHC-EJSU-CEPGrp@mod.gov.uk](mailto:UKStratCom-DMS-DPHC-EJSU-CEPGrp@mod.gov.uk)

**Army Families Federation:** [ejsu@aff.org.uk](mailto:ejsu@aff.org.uk)

**Brunssum Hive:** [brunssumhive@armymail.mod.uk](mailto:brunssumhive@armymail.mod.uk)



**Feeling lonely, low or just fed up?**

**Maybe you could do with someone to talk to?**

**We can provide support via Zoom or face to face. We are completely confidential and operate outside of the Chain of Command.**

**Email: [Brunssum.isc@ssafa.org.uk](mailto:Brunssum.isc@ssafa.org.uk)**

**Or call **FORCESLINE** on 0800 260 6767 or **LIVE CHAT** also available at <https://www.ssafa.org.uk/get-help/forcesline>**

**We are here to support the person behind the uniform and your family.**

# ICDL Remote sign up and invigilation available

We are currently able to remotely sign up Military Personnel and their dependents for IDCL at a reduced rate : Level 1 for £62.46 and Level 2 for £86.40 (both £148.86). Military personnel are able to use their Standard Learning Credits. All payments will need to be made with Visa or MasterCard. To sign up, ensure you have access to a computer and a webcam (placed so we are able to see you in tests). All training is online and can be done at your own pace but needs to be completed within 12 months. When signing up, please let us know what version of Microsoft Office you use so we are able to set your learning and test at the right level. Remote invigilation for testing maybe cancelled in the future (if this happens, we would come to your Education Centre to invigilate the tests there).

**The International Computer  
Driving Licence® (ICDL)  
is THE internationally-recognised qualification to  
demonstrate computer competence**

**Do you want to gain computer skills that can give you confidence and competency and help you find a job?**

**Benefits to you:**

- Competency and confidence across a range of IT user skills
- Improves your speed and efficiency at home and at work
- Helps you find employment by gaining and proving you have vital IT skills
- ICDL is a qualification that is recognised internationally

ICDL requires

- no previous computer knowledge

It means you remove the stress and frustration of not being able to use your computer efficiently

It helps build a career and qualification path, which you can then take to higher levels if you wish

It's a flexible and fun way of learning

**To find out more, call us on: 00 31 (0)45 526 3455  
Pop in to the UK e-Learning Centre in the  
UK JSU Building 306 (there's a café too!) or email  
[ukelearningbrunssum@gmail.com](mailto:ukelearningbrunssum@gmail.com)  
We're open from 0900 to 1400 every work day**