

## THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

# MKC Heroes' Newsletter

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## Remembering Pete Ogburn

*It's with great sadness we bring you the news of the passing of Pete Ogburn, MKC Heroes co-founder.*



**Pete Ogburn 09/09/1956 – 09/11/2020**

As what he described as being 'co-founder of MKC Heroes', Pete Ogburn would have been honoured and humbled to be remembered by the thousands of young people whose lives he touched over the last ten years. Without Pete, the national network of Service and veterans' children would not exist and have come to be the success it is today.

Pete, the son of military parents, his father serving in the Royal Navy from being a boy sailor and his mother having been called up during the War, had a real empathy with the children he supported and an enthusiasm and determination to let their voices be heard. Pete served in the Royal Navy for twenty-two years, including the Falklands Conflict and disaster relief in Sierra Leone.

Pete's involvement with MKC Heroes came when he accompanied his wife, Heather, a Senior Education Officer in Plymouth, with responsibility for military families, to a meeting of forty children from local schools. They met to discuss their lives, what military service was like for children in the families and what would help them.

During the discussion, one child said, 'why can't we have one of them flags, sir, like the old men in blazers have? We could get together and have a parade and be a club.' Others joined in, enthusiastically, saying they could set up clubs in every school in the United Kingdom, and beyond, so that everywhere they went they would have a friend.

Whilst Pete's wife thought this was a pipe dream, Pete took up the challenge, found out about RBL standards, had one made for Plymouth and, over time, supporting his wife, he devised a plan to help her enable schools to create clubs that the children named Her Majesty's Schools Heroes (HMS Heroes). There are now many standards across the country.

As the clubs grew, the volume of support became a challenge and during a chance meeting on Plymouth Armed Forces day, Pete met up with Roger Garratt, who immediately saw that the Royal British Legion could help and a firm friendship and supporting team from the Legion was led by Roger. Through a national children's membership vote, HMS Heroes became the Military Kids Club Heroes (MKCH).

Pete liked to give his wife all the credit for MKC Heroes, but he was the real driving force: accessing funding by bidding for grants; being the treasurer, secretary, web master; competition designer and deliverer; first point of contact for the national network; resources manager; driver; lead of MKCH events team; Plymouth Covenant member; organiser of anything and everything MKCH and so much more. He was even the carpark attendant on MKCH Plymouth choir evenings and spoke at the North Yorkshire MKC Heroes Ripon cathedral service.

Since its inception, MKC Heroes has grown to be a strong network and now includes an Ambassador group of older young people who are role models and deliver the voice of the local network in Plymouth, which was something Pete was inspired by - seeing members grow and blossom into confident young people who were always there for each other.

Pete will be sadly missed by so many young people and their families, but in them his legacy will live on, always with children and young people leading the charge, in the knowledge that, as their motto states they are always 'Together as One'.

***As requested by Pete's colleagues, we have set up a Memory Giving page in his honour. If you, or anyone else you know, would like to donate to MKC Heroes you can find details of how to do so here: [www.memorygiving.com/peteogburn](http://www.memorygiving.com/peteogburn)***



**Pete's hard work and dedication to MKC Heroes has created a thriving and growing network that will continue to champion the lives of Service and veteran children and young people.**



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## Real Stories

Real Stories are still eager to reach out and invite military-connected families to reflect on family life today. Members of the UK Armed Forces Community (anybody who is related or in a partnership with somebody who is serving or has served in the Armed Forces) can submit an image and take part in the virtual exhibition. There's also an opportunity to include a written contribution giving more details about what the image represents or means, which will be presented in their Reflections booklet.

If you can, please do support this project or pass the details along to anyone who might be interested in telling their story and having their voices heard.

Details can be found here: <https://kcmhr.org/real-stories/>

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## Positive News and Stories

MKC Heroes do amazing work all year round and here at TRBL we'd love to hear your positive stories as we believe promoting them is really important. If you have something you'd like to share with us, big or small, please get in touch.

[MKCHeroes@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:MKCHeroes@britishlegion.org.uk)

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## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Despite the incredible challenges we've faced this year, 2020 has certainly been one to remember! Thank you again for all you do for your MKC Heroes. None of it would be possible without your hard work and dedication. We hope everyone enjoys a restful Christmas and New Year and we'll see you again in 2021!

## Remembrance Tributes

Thank you again for your amazing support of this year's Remembrance Tributes. Things might have been different this year, but people's passion and commitment to supporting Remembrance held firm.

You can watch highlights from this year's Field of Remembrance [here](#).

Below is a small selection of images of this year's planted Tributes, but, if you would like more, please contact us at [MKCHeroes@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:MKCHeroes@britishlegion.org.uk)



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