



Ladies, Gentlemen and honoured guests, my name is Colin Tebb, and I am the chairman of the Essex Historic Military Vehicle Association. I'd like to warmly welcome you, on behalf of the Essex HMVA, and in conjunction with Maldon District Council as we raise a flag in honour of our very first Armed Forces Day in Maldon.

This event allows us to publicly express our appreciation to the men and women of the Armed Forces, both past and present, including current troops, reservists, veterans, cadets and the communities that support them in their role in keeping us safe and building a better world for our children both here and abroad.

We often take our peace and security for granted. But the fact that we have it is largely due to the brave men and women of our Armed Forces who are our ultimate protectors. Too often, their bravery and dedication are not fully appreciated. Armed Forces Day brings what they do to the forefront and reminds us all of the vital contribution they are making.

In no small way, Armed forces day also allows us to support and encourage the Armed Forces themselves – while this will be a normal working day for military personnel, we hope, in no small measure, that they are aware that the British public are thinking of them both today and every day and supporting the work that they often perform so far from their own homes.

I would also like to take a moment to thank all the exhibitors who have taken time to set up their collections and who have agreed to display them for others enjoyment today.

Maldon Armed Forces Day would not have been possible without the hard work of all those who have participated, and I would like to thank all the members of the Essex HMVA who have given up their spare time working unpaid behind the scenes to plan and stage this event as well as all the members of Maldon District Council who have helped us achieve this event.

Finally, for those who are interested in seeing even more military history, you are welcome to join us at **Echoes of History** on the 10th & 11th of August in Purleigh.

I would now like to invite the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Essex, **Simon Brice**, to say a few words.