



The Lord Kitchener Memorial Holiday Centre is a registered Lowestoft charity whose aim is to provide holiday accommodation to ex-service personnel and their spouses or partners as well as the widows and widowers of ex-service personnel. There are ten en-suite twin bedded rooms and the quality of both the food and service are of an extremely high standard.

Many ex-service men and women are already aware of the Centre which offers half board (bed, breakfast and evening meal) from April to the end of October at rates well

below the average, because of grants given by some major military benevolent funds.

Many more ex-service men and women are not aware of the Centre. The criteria for being able to stay at the Centre is that you and/or your spouse should at some period have served in the British or Commonwealth armed forces or the merchant navy. This has recently been extended to include widows and widowers as well.

As time goes by and the years since the end of WW2 and the days of National Service become greater the pool of ex-service men and women who might take advantage of the Centre is declining. With almost guaranteed sun now available at some continental resorts the traditional British 'seaside' holiday is also less popular.

One thing that is not declining is the nation's interest in history, especially family history. If you or your spouse are eligible to stay at the Centre having served in any armed or merchant service (as described above) then why not consider visiting while you investigate your local connections.

Lowestoft had a large service population during WW2, with five separate Royal Navy bases in the town as well as an infantry garrison, coastal defence artillery, anti-aircraft defences of guns and searchlights and many local airfields. The Centre itself spent much of WW2 as a social club for the WRNS under the watchful eye of a resident member of the Church Army.

You don't even have to be researching service history. If your interest is the fishing industry, shipbuilding (Richards, Brooke Marine, Leo Robinson, etc.), transport (Eastern Coachworks, etc.) or anything else you can just use the Centre as a base provided you are eligible to stay.

Local resources for research include the Royal Naval Patrol Service Museum at Sparrow's Nest Gardens where there is also the War Memorial Museum and the Maritime Museum, the Lowestoft Museum in Nicholas Everitt Park or the East Anglia Transport Museum which is a couple of miles away at Carlton Colville. The Suffolk Record Office has a wealth of historical information and has a branch at Lowestoft Library which is open every day of the week including Sundays.

If you don't have a week to spare to visit then why not consider spending a few days here? Kitchener's is now able to offer short breaks of three days (Saturday to Monday nights inclusive) and four days (Tuesday to Friday nights inclusive) as well as the usual week long holidays.

For further information and details of the rates and availability of rooms please contact Kitchener's resident manager, Steven Schofield, at 01502 573564 and/or visit their web site at www.lkmhc.co.uk.