



FALKLAND ISLANDS MEMORIAL CHAPEL NEWSLETTER

2015



Admiral Lord West emerging from the Chapel in June

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Having been unavoidably absent from the 2013 Annual Service I was delighted to be back at the Chapel on 15th June and to renew contact with so many comrades in arms and families, Friends, SAMA veterans and Association Reunion groups. We welcomed the attendance of the Barrow and Woodward families after their sad losses together with Guests of Honour Admiral Lord West and Lady West and our Lord Lieutenant The Honourable Mrs Mary Bayliss. In all it was very much 'a family affair' with an excellent Address by our own Reverend David Cooper and prayers led by Rev. Neil Jeffers and Father Nick Gosnell of the Falkland Families Association. We were also blessed to have a full complement of Standard Bearers who, as always, conducted themselves magnificently and with

great dignity. You can enjoy the full report on pages 4 & 5.

There was a 'Hero's welcome' for veteran Para Bob Norbury who generously increased the Chapel finances by more than £6,000 when he took part in the Annual International Canoe & Kayak Race from Devizes to Westminster at Easter. See page 6.

I would like to pay tribute again to Headmaster Thomas Garnier and his team of staff and students who not only look after us all beautifully at our June Service but quietly throughout the year ensure that the Chapel is kept 'up to scratch' for its many visitors. This largely 'unseen' work includes the stewardship of Bursar Ron Obbard who keeps an eye on the fabric of the Chapel and reports any problems to the Trustees. You can read about this in more detail on page 7.

At the end of last summer we said goodbye to the Director of Music, Jonathan Brown who together with the Choir and Organist has delighted us all year on year with marvellous choral performances. His post has been filled by Roy Rabey from Cheltenham Ladies College who we welcome

wholeheartedly and we look forward to getting to know him over the coming years.

At our Autumn AGM we were pleased to formalise the acceptance to the Presidency of the Chapel Trust of Admiral The Right Honourable Baron West of Spithead GCB DSC PC ADC. Lord West joined us at the meeting and was very interested in all the matters discussed including our plans for the coming year. We are most grateful to him for fitting us into his extremely busy schedule in the House of Lords.

It will not have escaped your notice that this year's Annual Service falls on the exact date of our victory over Argentina in the Falkland Islands in 1982. It will be a poignant reminder to everyone of the dreadful losses suffered by so many families 33 years ago and will underline, yet again, the importance of perpetual remembrance of so much sacrifice and ongoing suffering of many veterans and families. Please join us for this special day on Sunday 14th June at 12.00. (Full details on page 8).

Major General Jeff Mason
Chairman of the Trustees

Dates For Your Diary

Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel

Sunday June 14th

Service of Remembrance & Thanksgiving at 12.00hrs followed by refreshments in Drake Hall

For booking and details:
Angela Perry 01295 738123 or
angelaEAP@aol.com

Falkland Families Association

Saturday April 18th

Final Annual Reunion Service and AGM in the Guards Chapel at Wellington Barracks

Details from FFA Secretary:
cindystrickland@btinternet.com

SAMA 82

Sunday March 29th

Service of Remembrance & Thanksgiving at the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel at Pangbourne at 12.00.

Details from Jane Adams:
mainofficesama@aol.co.uk



GOVERNOR ELECT VISIT

NEW FI GOVERNOR VISITS CHAPEL

Before leaving the UK to take up his new post as Governor elect of the Falkland Islands, Colin Roberts came to visit the Chapel in April with members of SAMA 82 Executive Committee led by Derek 'Smokey' Cole. Headmaster Thomas Garnier was there to meet him and Angela Perry represented the Chapel Trustees. During the visit Mr Roberts met

a contingent of students who had been part of the Falkland Islands visit the previous Christmas and who delighted him with a presentation of a book of memories of their travels in the South Atlantic. Having thoroughly inspected the inside of the Chapel he joined the Headmaster and students at the Albatrosses and Cairn.



You can now support Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel Trust online, using our give.net donation page from Stewardship!
<https://my.give.net/falklandsmemorialchapel>

You can give quickly and easily using a credit or debit card or, if you are so inclined, using your Stewardship giving account. Just follow the simple, online instructions. Plus, if you are a UK tax payer, don't forget your giving could be increased through Gift Aid, meaning Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel Trust will get even more support!

Thanks for taking the time to support
Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel Trust

ASSOCIATIONS & CONTACTS

Falkland Families Association (FFA)

Chairman: Mrs Sara Jones CBE

Secretary: Cindy Strickland, 12 Lyndon Avenue, Hatch End,
Pinner, Middlesex HA5 4QG Tel: 01494 725666

FFA Service:

Saturday 18th April, 11am at the Guards Chapel (*ticket only from Sec*)

Merchant Navy Association (MNA)

National Chairman: Captain JMR Sail MNM MNI

National Secretary: Tim Brant MNM FEI

Address: 9 Saxon Way, Caistor, Market Rasen LN7 6SG **Tel:** 01472 851130

Email: t.brant@virgin.net **Web:** www.mna.org.uk

SAMA'82

President: Lieutenant General Sir James Dutton KCB CBE

Chairman: Gordon Mather MM

Secretary: Mrs Jane Adams,

SAMA'82, Unit 5 Torfaen Business Centre, Gilchrist Thomas Ind. Estate,
Blaenavon, Gwent NP4 9RL

Tel: 01495 741592

or Email: secretary@sama82.org.uk or mainofficesama@aol.co.uk

SAMA'82 AGM & Reunion:

27th – 30th March at the Hilton Hotel, Swindon.

The Remembrance Service this year will be held on Sunday 29th March at 12.00 at the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel at Pangbourne.

PANGBOURNE STUDENTS' EXPEDITION TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

Pangbourne College's unique relationship with the Falkland Islands was further cemented when a group of 13 Sixth Form students undertook a Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award expedition to the British overseas territory.

The intrepid adventurers set off on a four-day hike spanning 95km over the South Mountains from Goose Green on the west coast to Stanley on the east coast.

The students tackled the Islands' remoteness, hidden summits, boggy valleys, high winds and rock fall areas, using precise navigation, and were expected to be self-sufficient, carrying all

their belongings, map reading without the help of footpaths and experiencing limited visibility.

Through dogged determination and teamwork, the students achieved their aim, and Duke of Edinburgh Award Co-ordinator Mr Andy Crossley, who spent a year planning the ambitious trip, said, "We have been so very fortunate to have had the opportunity to visit the Falkland Islands for this expedition.

"I am very proud of our students, their industry and resilience through the months of planning and training, and their performance on this assessed expedition has been really impressive."



LORD WEST BECOMES PRESIDENT OF THE FALKLANDS CHAPEL

The Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel Trustees are delighted to announce that Admiral The Right Honourable Baron West of Spithead GCB DSC PC ADC has kindly agreed to succeed the late Admiral Sir John 'Sandy' Woodward as President of the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel Trust. Lord West's tenure was formalised last Autumn at the Trust AGM and is particularly appropriate since he commanded the frigate HMS Ardent in the Falklands War and remains President of the HMS Ardent Association. When HMS Ardent was sunk in Falkland Sound on May 21st 1982 Lord West was the last to leave the ship and was subsequently awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for

his leadership. He also led the victory parade through the City of London on return from the Falkland Islands.

In more recent years Lord West was a Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the British Home Office with responsibility for security and counter-terrorism during Gordon Brown's Prime Ministership from 2007 until 2010 and is now a vocal contributor to the day to day business of the House of Lords.

Chairman Jeff Mason expresses the Trustees' gratitude to him for accepting the role of Chapel President: "Lord West's commanding of HMS Ardent during the Falklands War makes him a highly appropriate choice to succeed Sir 'Sandy' and steer the Chapel through the next era of its life. We are all delighted that he agreed to support us in spite of his extremely busy schedule in the Lords as well as his work in supporting and mentoring his many other charities."



ANNUAL SERVICE 2014

ANNUAL SERVICE 2014 ANOTHER SPLENDID OCCASION!

Another joyous and memorable gathering took place at the Falklands Chapel on Sunday 15th June. The almost full Chapel was filled with the most wonderful music, as always, but almost surpassing that of previous years. The Brass Quintet of the Parachute Regiment Band gelled so perfectly with the resident organist and heavenly College choirs that it was as if they made music together each day! Not our imagination – these too were the sentiments of the outgoing Director of Music, Jonathan Brown – whose talents have been enjoyed by us all for so long.

Our special guests included Admiral the Right Honourable Baron West of Spithead with Lady West and The Honourable Mrs Mary Bayliss, Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire who will retire this year. It was marvellous to see the (almost) entire Barrow family together with so many HMS Glamorgan Association members, and Lady Woodward and Mrs Prim Hoult with close friends of our late and founding President - Admiral Sir John 'Sandy' Woodward – to whom special tributes were paid in Father Nick Gosnell's prayers.

Lord West read the 1st Lesson – an extract from Covenant with Death by John Harris – and the 2nd Lesson from John 21 was read by Mr Roderick Barrow, son of the late Captain Michael Barrow CVO DSO RN.

The Address by former Para 2 Chaplain and Chapel Trustee, Reverend David Cooper, was both thought provoking and notable – he set out to encourage those of us who had not been to war to think deeply about those who had, the sacrifices they had made, the physical or mental conditions they still endure and, of course, those who had paid the ultimate price.

Considering clashing events were also taking place at the NMA to which we lost our regular 'bell ringer' (Captain Phil Roberts), Ray Poole of the Falkland Families Association did an excellent job of striking the 'Eight Bells' to herald the Service. Nine smartly turned out Standard Bearers proudly displayed their flags and the five hundred plus congregation sang their hearts out to the rafters! We missed our 'resident' Piper too – Paddy Burton, struck down with an untimely illness but a

courageous young student named Toby Hillier stepped into the breach and did himself proud with his deft performance of the Lament after the Last Post.

The floral displays and tributes had been lovingly constructed the day before by Flower Guild Chairman Sadie Clare and volunteer Sue Hollebone – a confection of summery cobalt blue delphiniums, palest yellow roses and white lilies. So much to admire.

Families filled the right hand side of the nave and our regular veteran reunion groups – including The Royal Engineers, HMS Hermes, HMS Invincible, HMS Aldenham – the left hand side, with HMS Glamorgan centre stage in the Gallery seating. The thoughtful team of student ushers were joined by Zoran Zuvic of the Falkland Islands Defence Force, and ensured that the less able bodied were seated comfortably downstairs. Together with members of his family on their first visit to our Service was Chapel regular and intrepid canoeist Bob Norbury with Maureen his wife (full report page 6).

The gathering in Drake Hall after the Service was no less commendable; delivering a simple and appetising menu, the catering department excelled themselves and many commented on its high quality. Numbers of guests commended the student helpers and in the words of one veteran, a retired Colonel, "The whole thing was made all the more memorable by the charmingly courteous service of the Sixth Formers. Those who criticise the youth of today would do well to see such young people in action. Pangbourne was not my school but, my goodness, how proud those youngsters made me feel to be British."

In his Parish Notices, Chairman Jeff Mason paid tribute to the resilience of the kitchen who had been beset by power cuts and protracted storms on the Friday and had cooked much of the delicious fare off campus! You would never have known!

Jeff also welcomed everyone and announced that Admiral Lord West had agreed to become the second Chapel President.



The Norbury family



The Elley family



The Hon Mrs Mary Bayliss and Captain Martin Reed



The Last Post



Toby Hillier in piping form



The Para Band in action



The Royal Engineers



Tom Gisby looking pensive



William & Bridget Saunderson



Tim Van de Kraam & Edwina Ball



Zoran Zuvic & Juliette Horsford

ANNUAL SERVICE 2014



2nd Master Gerry Pike & Rev. Neil



A happy gathering at lunch



Adrian Belcher & Stephen Jary



Angela & Jim Perry



Delphinium confection



Captain Martin Reed with Mrs Bayliss & Dick Melly behind



Rev. David Cooper addresses the congregation



David and Pam Le Rougetel



Gentlemen of the Merchant Navy



Glamorgans in the Gallery



HMS Glamorgan lay their wreath



James Gillanders & family



Jane & Jeremy Sanders with Prim Houtt & Lady Woodward



Jim & Mary Butterfield



Jane & Julian Thompson



Jeff & Lucy Mason



Jim & Christine Loveday



Jon O'Keefe & the Dodmans



Roy Takoe & Pauline Cakebread



Lord & Lady West



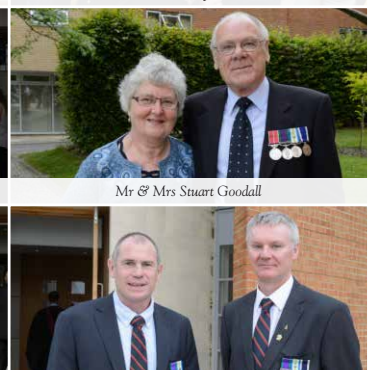
Mark Waller & his parents



Members of HMS Hermes



Messrs Taylor & Robertson Taunton MNA



Mr & Mrs Stuart Goodall



Rev David Cooper & Joanna Thomas



Paul & Dawn Benson



Roddy Barrow and family



Paul Turner & Nigel Barrett



Royal Engineers Paul Sinclair, Gokarna Kattuwat & Keith Kelly



Rose and Alf Anslow



The Belchers and the Jarys



The Bellringer! Ray Poole

THE FALKLAND FAMILIES ASSOCIATION TO CLOSE

Sara Jones CBE has been keeping Chapel Trustees abreast of the FFA plans and deliberations and here writes to let us all know what has transpired. It goes without saying that the 'raison d'être' behind the building of the Memorial Chapel was and is to provide a fitting place of sanctuary and commemoration for all those who lost their loved ones in 1982. The Chapel is there for the families and the Trustees wish to make it clear that they will help anyone who has difficulty getting to the Chapel to get there – please ask through the Secretary.



"It was, with regret, that the Committee of the Falkland Families Association decided to put the proposition to the membership that our Association should wind up after our Service in 2015. We have been a successful organisation since we were formed on the Cunard Countess on the pilgrimage in 1983. The majority of our original

members were parents of those who died in the conflict and thus over the years our numbers have dwindled. We have been grateful for the support we have received from the military at Wellington Barracks in organising our annual Reunion but we cannot rely on them to the extent we did. I have been Vice Chairman and now Chairman throughout our 31 years. Des Keoghane was our first Chairman and much of the Association's success is down to him. Many of the Committee have served for years and understandably do not feel they can go on for ever. New members for that Committee are hard to come by! These are some of the reasons that have led us to our decision. Here I would like to pay tribute to those who have served the Association so faithfully over the years.

Speaking personally it has been a privilege to be involved with the Association for so long and I know I will miss that involvement but I also know it is better to finish at a time of our making than have it forced upon us.

The knowledge that has given us the most comfort is that we have our beautiful memorial Chapel at Pangbourne and we know we can all meet at the annual Service and keep up the firm friendships that have meant so much to us over the years.

We would obviously be delighted if anyone wishes to join us for our last Service on the 18th April at the Guards' Chapel, Wellington Barracks. Please let the Secretary know."

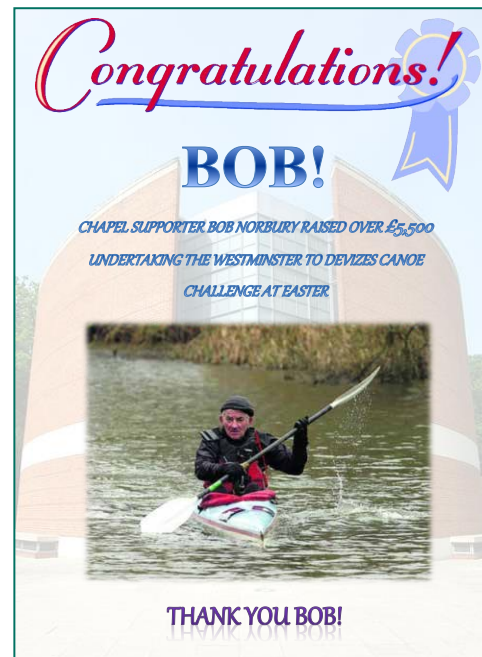
BOB'S DONE IT AGAIN!

In 2007 veteran Para and Chapel supporter Bob Norbury took part in the Annual International Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race Challenge and raised a phenomenal £11,000 for our Memorial Chapel.

Seven years on and he's done it again at the tender age of 71! It wasn't surprising then that after a year of hard training and successfully completing the 'first leg' of the race on 18th April, Bob reluctantly had to pull out of the Challenge soon after beginning the 'second leg' on the 19th April above Reading due to a severe elbow injury. This painful injury meant that he could not continue to paddle and therefore had no choice but

to stop. As you can imagine, he was devastated but all his proud sponsors helped him raise another £6,000 + for the Chapel and were relieved that his injury was not worse. They all agreed the fact that he took on such a challenge at 71 years old and trained religiously for a year was testament to his bravery and commitment.

All those who sponsored Bob – a huge thank you! The money Bob has raised will go towards the work of the Chapel and to maintaining the building to a high standard for the hundreds of visiting veterans and bereaved families who come there each year for Services, Reunions and Remembrance gatherings.



It has, over the years, become an important place of sanctuary and contemplation for them all and we owe a huge debt of gratitude to Bob for his generosity of spirit and commitment to the cause.

Thank you and congratulations, Bob! Please take a break now for Maureen, Paul and Caroline's sake!



The Norbury Family

CARING FOR YOUR CHAPEL

As one of their primary tasks, the Trustees are responsible for the upkeep of the Chapel. Not always a glamorous role, it is essential to ensure that the Chapel remains a fit and proper place for visitors both to contemplate the building's purpose and also to enjoy their surroundings.

Whilst the building is still relatively youthful (it was opened by the Queen in March 2000), it is also well-used. The day to day upkeep is directed by our 'man on the ground', College Bursar Ron Obbard, who also helps us by reporting any problems. The more significant tasks are the responsibility of the Trustees – and this of course is one of the reasons why the need for constant fund-raising is so acute.

A major problem has been leakage through the relatively low-pitched roof. This striking feature brings its own difficulties, and a series of leaks has plagued the lives of successive Chaplains; a recent and costly initiative

to seal the complex guttering arrangements appears to have been successful – and the Chaplain has put away his buckets!

Another problem of cracked paving stones in front of the Chapel was resolved by installing a series of bollards and benches adjacent to the Parade Ground. This has prevented heavy vehicles from approaching the Chapel, whilst also providing welcome seating for visitors and we remain grateful to those of you who generously sponsored the installation. Recently the Trustees have decided to renovate the plaque in the Memorial Garden which depicts an outline of the Falkland Islands. This has become masked due to the curtain of hard water which flowed over its surface; the Trustees have decided to simplify arrangements by removing the troublesome water aspect and cleaning the plaque so that it is a more prominent feature of the Memorial Garden.

Key elements of the Chapel are those areas dedicated to the remembrance of those who engaged in the 1982 war. Over the years, the number of items on display has slowly increased, although the Trustees agreed a firm policy that the Chapel should not become in any way a museum. Nevertheless some time ago the Trustees accepted the bell of RFA SIR GALAHAD, sunk under horrific circumstances on 8 June 1982. They were also pleased to have been given mini models of all of the British ships that partook in the war, displayed in the Memorial room along with the direct link to the virtual Garden of Remembrance maintained by SAMA 82 (which can be updated with comments from Next of Kin or fellow veterans; see adjoining article). The room on the right hand side of the Chapel is dedicated to information about the conduct of the 1982 campaign. A great deal of effort has been expended on ensuring that the information on display is informative, accurate and appropriate, and it has also

been necessary to update the audio and visual display aspects to ensure that they function correctly and are capable of being maintained with relative ease.

The next major overhaul of the Chapel is now planned for the summer of 2016 in time for the School's centenary celebrations. The intention is that the Chapel will be redecorated and smartened up so that it can play a fitting part in this important milestone for a remarkable school.

By Trustee Rear Admiral Dick Melly



SAMA 82 GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

We hear from Jane Adams (Secretary at SAMA) that work is currently taking place to transfer the Garden of Remembrance (GOR) to the server that hosts the SAMA website but that this is proving more difficult than first anticipated. For all the families who already have their loved ones information in the GOR there is no problem but for those who would like to add information,

there is a current delay while the system is being worked on. The ultimate aim is to be able to control input and edits from SAMA Headquarters which will, in turn, send updates to the Chapel GOR as they occur. Jane suggests that families wishing to add information to the GOR should send the information to her for safe keeping until the system is up and running. (See contacts box on page 2)

PRAYER FOR THE YEAR BY REVEREND NEIL JEFFERS

Almighty God and Father,
As we come to the beginning of a new year,
Incline our ears to listen to your Word,
Incline our minds to whatever is pure and good,
Incline our hearts to the love of God and neighbour,
Incline our hands to your service and the service of our fellow men.
In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen



Neil can be contacted directly
on 0118 9767 449 or by
e-mail at
Neil.Jeffers@pangcoll.co.uk
or by post through the College

BOOK REVIEW

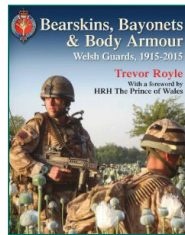


by Robin Brodhurst
Chapel Librarian

This is an impressive volume which tells the story of the whole century of the Welsh Guards. Trevor Royle is an author who has specialised in mainly Scottish regiments, but he has also published notable volumes of such diverse military matters as the Crimean War, National Service and the Civil War. Thus he comes to the Welsh Guards with much experience. They have chosen well in their choice of author. He writes clearly and straightforwardly telling the story through excellent use of battalion war diaries supported by personal recollections, and using superb illustrations throughout. If I have one criticism it is that there are not enough maps, a perennial complaint from many military historians.

The chapter which will be of interest to readers of this magazine is that on the Falklands War, concerning as it must, the tragedy of Bluff Cove and Sir Galahad. Rarely can there be a better illustration of the fog of war, as nobody appeared quite to know exactly what was happening. One's heart goes out to the CO, Lt. Col. Rickett, as he was forced to split his fine battalion for the move to Bluff Cove, against all his instincts, remarking to Major General Moore as he left his briefing "General, you must promise me that you'll look after my men, because I can't do so." Neither of them could have

known of the complex series of events, mistakes, and mishaps that would lead to the LSL RFA Sir Galahad being ambushed by five Argentinian Skyhawks. Royle describes the appalling scenes on the tank deck as fuel and ammunition ignited and men were burned to death. However, amongst the horrors the calm professionalism of the guardsmen came to the fore, none better than CSM Neck of No. 3 Company, who organising the evacuation, formed his men into a queue, and up a companionway to safety. He called one guardsman back against the flow of traffic. "Did you fill in your ADAT (Army Dependents' Assurance Trust) Form?" "Yes Sir," came the reply. "Good. Now you see the bloody point of it. Go on, get a move on, you're holding everyone up." Not for nothing are the Guards Warrant Officers at RMA Sandhurst worshipped by the cadets. For his leadership that day CSM Neck was awarded



an MM. Sadly this is a medal that has been discontinued. Both the DCM and MM meant (and still mean) a very great deal to soldiers of a particular generation.

Effectively this incident deprived the Task Force of half a battalion, which might have been critical in the later battles. The Welsh Guards could only play a supporting role in those battles supporting 42 Commando on Mount Harriet on 10 June, and then the Scots Guards attack on Tumbledown on 12 June. Before they could attack Sapper Hill the cease fire came. After that the battalion provided the guards for the repatriation of Argentinian prisoners of war on board SS Canberra and the MV St. Edmund. Just a hint of a story here, when the author says that the latter group "included Argentinian Special Forces personnel who were found to be constantly plotting to attack the guard and hijack the ship".

One would love to know more!

Royle engages with some of the controversies which inevitably came in the discussion of the episode. He is critical of the Naval Board of Inquiry, as it did not tackle important issues affecting the transport of the Welsh Guards, nor has there ever been a satisfactory explanation for the absence of air defences at Fitzroy. The failure of communications is also still not fully explained. All of these, one suspects, could be put down to what Clausewitz called the friction of war. Certainly it was the Welsh Guards who were forced to pay the price, and in this marvellously full and detailed history of the Regiment this chapter makes compulsive reading. When set against the losses of the two World Wars, of course, they are relatively insignificant, but they hold a treasured place in the Regimental heart, and at The Falklands Memorial Chapel.

Thank You!

The Trustees would like to thank everyone who has supported the Chapel over the past year by sending gifts, sponsoring Seats, becoming Friends, giving Legacies and Services Collections. They would also like to thank our new photographer Gareth Jones of Sports-alive who is responsible for most of the excellent photographs in this newsletter. The Trustees send their best wishes to you all for 2015.

ANNUAL SERVICE 2015: SUNDAY 14th JUNE

The 2015 Annual Service of Remembrance & Thanksgiving will be held on Sunday 14th June at 12.00. As always we look forward to welcoming you all again: families, veterans, reunion groups, serving personnel and supporters. Coffee will be available on arrival and after the Service lunch will be served as usual in Drake Hall. There will be **no tickets** this year but we would be grateful if you could return the enclosed reply slip letting us know how many Chapel seats and meals you require. As usual there will be a train collection

service from Reading so if you need this service please 'tick' the box on the form. For your guidance you would need to be at Reading Station by 11.00. Thank you!

The Trustees would like to hear from any family members or veterans who would like to attend but who are or have been unable due to financial hardship or inability to travel distances unaccompanied. In these special circumstances it may be possible for the Trustees to give a measure of assistance to those who now find themselves unable to attend

or have been regularly unable to attend as long as funds are available for this purpose. In this case a letter of application should be sent via the Secretary and will be treated with the utmost confidence.

CONTACT FIMCT

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