



# WAR WIDOWS' ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN

Founded 1971

Registered Charity No1002656

Patron: HRH The Prince of Wales KG. KT. GCB. OM. AK. QSO, PC, ADC

President: The Baroness Fookes DBE DL

Vice Presidents: The Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde  
The Viscount Younger of Leckie  
The Baroness Garden of Frognal

## WAR WIDOWS' ASSOCIATION REMEMBERS

When the Nation comes together on Sunday 12th November many remember all those who have suffered or died in war, but it is essential that those left behind are not overlooked; we have a duty to ensure that Britain's 'Forgotten Women and Men'; the War Widows' and War Widowers are remembered; the very reason for **the War Widows' Association Service on Saturday 11th November 2017.**

**This will be the culmination of a busy few days for the Association, which is managed totally by volunteers, it does not have any paid staff or permanent offices.**

On Thursday 9th November Trustees and members attended the opening of the Field of Remembrance, HRH Prince Harry met Mary Moreland the Chairman of the Association. Taking time out on Friday 10th the Trustees had an early start and paid a visit to the Poppy Factory in Richmond, returning to celebrate the publication of a Collection of Oral History Interviews which chronicle the experiences of women who lost their husbands and/or fathers as a result of service in the Armed Forces.

**On Saturday 11th November 2017 Members of the War Widows' Association, their family, friends, supporters and guests will gather as they do each year at 12.30 for their Annual Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph.** The Service conducted by the Association's Padre Rev Dr Flight Lieutenant John Harrison Royal Air Force; music is provided by the Southern Highlanders Pipe & Drums and the RAF Halton Volunteer Band. After the service lunch will be served at Sixty-One Whitehall for members and their guests.

The War Widows' Association Chairman Mrs Mary Moreland who will be in attendance at all events commented *"It took almost 80 years for War Widows to be 'allowed' to take part in the National Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph. The ladies that formed the Association had a long struggle to ensure War Widow's and Widower's had rightful recognition and it is through their efforts that the Saturday Association's Remembrance Service has become an established part of the Nation's Remembrance calendar."*

Mrs Moreland continued *"Our Service is a very important and emotional day for our members. Remaining true to our foundation as a Campaigning organisation, the Association has moved forward and can now be summed up in three words; Campaigning, Caring and Remembering. Each member here today has very personal memories; there are so many stories to be told, and these have started to be told. On Friday we celebrated the publication of 'A Collection of 14 Oral History interviews'.*

*When the ultimate sacrifice is paid those left behind, the War Widow is often forgotten. I hope through the Association's collaboration with Dr Nadine Muller and Dr Ailbhe McDaid on the War Widows' Stories project that those forgotten women will no longer be forgotten".*

Members attended the Official Opening of the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey on Thursday 9th November and the National Service of Remembrance on Sunday 12th November.

### Notes to Editors:

1. The War Widows' Association (WWA) was founded in 1971 and achieved Registered Charity Status in 1991.
2. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales is Patron of the War Widows' Association and the President is Baroness Fookes DBE DL.
3. The War Widows' Association Service is held each year on the Saturday immediately preceding the Sunday National Service of Remembrance. The Programme of events is as follows

- a. 10.30 - Welcome/Comfort stop Sixty One Whitehall
  - b. 12.15 - form up to walk to the Cenotaph
  - c. 12.30 - Service commences
  - d. 13.15 - Reception for members and invited guests Sixty One Whitehall
  - e. 14.00 - Lunch for members and invited guests Sixty One Whitehall
4. The War Widows' Association is essentially a campaigning organisation. The day to day running of the Association is controlled by the Chairman and members of the elected Committee of Trustees. They are supported by a network of Regional Organisers who organise local events.
  5. The War Widows' Association does not have any paid staff. All of its work is completed totally by volunteers. It does not have any offices and is grateful for the support of The Royal British Legion in providing a mail room facility.
  6. The War Widows' Association has In addition to Campaigning to improve conditions for all War Widow's it has two further pillars, Caring and Remembering;
  7. The membership of the War Widows' Association covers all three services irrespective of the rank of your partner and all parts of the United Kingdom.
  8. In 2017 at their Annual General Meeting the War Widows' Association install a new Chairman; the first time the Chairman will be from Northern Ireland.
  9. The achievements of the War Widows' Association to date can be accessed at [www.warwidows.org.uk](http://www.warwidows.org.uk).

**Media enquiries to Public Relations Officer at**

Email: - [press@warwidows.org.uk](mailto:press@warwidows.org.uk) or [info@warwidows.org.uk](mailto:info@warwidows.org.uk)

Telephone: - 0845 2412 189 or 07718 066900

*“Through the Generations - Moving Forward Together”*