

## **Romsey Remembers**

In Romsey Remembrance and Armistice Day are remembered by the whole community and respectfully we all give our thanks to those who have given their lives for us.

There will be many ways for everyone to remember the fallen that weekend, the Remembrance Trail, Armistice Remembrance Ceremonies, Romsey Choral Society perform 'For the Fallen' at Romsey Abbey and the Sunday Remembrance Day Parade.

This year Armistice Day falls on Saturday 11th and Romsey will have the Fort Cumberland Guard Reenactment team with their cannon display at Romsey Memorial Park from 10.30am with the canon being fired at 11.00. Romsey Old Cadet Buglers will attend to call the end of the two minutes silence.

The Royal British Legion and Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership will also conduct a Poppy Memorial at Station Approach at 11am with wreath laying and prayers.

That evening the Romsey Choral Society will perform 'For the Fallen' music for Remembrance at Romsey Abbey from 7.30. In the first half of the concert, the choir will sing works marking Remembrance by Elgar, Guest, Harris & Ireland. This is paired in the second half with Vierne's spectacular Messe Solennelle, which will make full use of Romsey Abbey's wonderful organ. Tickets are available from Romsey Visitor Information Centre or from the Romsey Abbey website.

The Romsey Mountbatten branch chairman, Peter Hurst, of The Royal British Legion said: The branch has been present in Romsey for over 100 years and the Armistice Day and Remembrance parade celebrations commemorating the lives of those who have been lost in conflict is one of the main purposes of the Legion. We are very proud of the fact that the Romsey remembrance services play such a large part in the lives of Romsey citizens and that these events are well supported by the local community.

On Sunday 12th November, Remembrance Day, the parade will commence from Love Lane at 9am through the town and to Romsey Abbey for the Service of Remembrance commencing at 9.25am. Following the service at 10.30am, all will make their way to the Romsey War Memorial Park where a service will be conducted. Michelmersh Silver Band, Romsey Old Cadet Buglers and the Romsey Abbey Choirs will be in attendance. There will be a fly pass by an Apache from Middle Wallop just before the 2-minute silence at 11am.

The Sunday Remembrance Parade procession will be attended by Deputy Lieutenant Hampshire, Surgeon Rear Admiral Lionel Jarvis CBE DL, Countess Mountbatten of Burma, MP Caroline Nokes, Romsey Town Mayor Cllr John Ray, Deputy Mayor Test Valley Cllr Gordon Bailey, Senior Military, Police, Past Mayors, Senior and Junior Mace Bearers, 22 Engineers (regiment from the British Army's Royal Engineers), 7 Regiment Army Air Corps, Medical Army Core, Air Cadets, Army Cadets, Sea Cadets, Embley Combined Forces Cadets, Scouts, and Girl Guides.

Once the wreaths have been laid the civic party will be led by the Caledonian Pipe Band, to take up their position near Palmerston's Statue in the Market Place at approximately 11.20am. The parade will then march via the North Side of Romsey Abbey, past the Civic Party at Palmerston's Statue and down The Hundred to the Royal British Legion in Love Lane.

Victoria Burbidge and Marc Thompson founded the Romsey War Memorial Archive twenty-four years ago in 1999, still run by them it has helped to spearhead Remembrance in the market town of

Romsey. Victoria Burbidge said: 'It was initially designed as an educational tribute to the 211 men commemorated on the town's war memorial, but now the Archive has gone far beyond its original intention. The in-depth research over the years has uncovered a story behind every man and his family, and school visits have given the opportunity to share those stories with Romsey's schoolchildren by exploring the field of individually named knitted poppies, laid out in the Memorial Park as if they were rows of graves, and to lay a wreath at the war memorial.

'To gain an insight to the individual stories of some of Romsey's fallen there is the opportunity to follow the Remembrance Trail, a series of over forty pictorial biographies detailing their connection with Romsey, their life history and how they died. Situated in shops and businesses around the town you can read their personal story and help keep the memory of those taken. We have uncovered some amazing material, instigated the correction of official records, revealed the horrendous loss sustained by local families and ensured that these men of Romsey are never forgotten.'

Judith Giles, Romsey Town Council Chief Officer, said: 'This will be one of the biggest Remembrance Sunday Parades in Romsey with approximately 100 military in the parade. We look forward to everyone joining us on Remembrance Sunday and remind residents and visitors the roads in the centre of town will be closed during the procession times.'

