WAR WIDOWS DESCEND ON SOUTHPORT

Members of the War Widows’ Association of Great Britain will from Thursday 16th April 2015 to Monday 20th April 2015 attend their Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Ramada Plaza Southport.

On Thursday 16th April 2014 War Widows from all parts of the United Kingdom will converge on the Southport Hotel, for four days packed full of diverse activities.

With little time to relax before the work commences, on Thursday afternoon Regional Organisers will attend a half day workshop. On Friday 17th April 2014 members will visit to Port Sunlight taking in the Iron Men of Corby; on return to the hotel members will dine and be entertained in 40's style with prizes for the best dressed. On Saturday 18th morning the AGM business takes place in the presence of the Worshipful, the Mayor of Sefton Councillor Kevin Cluskey. Members have a little time after the meeting to prepare for the Gala dinner on Saturday evening in the presence of Her Majesty's Vice Lord Lieutenant Mr David McDonnell and Mrs McDonnell.

On Sunday members are free to explore the many and varied delights of Southport before preparing to head homewards on Monday.

Speaking about the AGM the Chairman Mrs Irene Wills, BEM said “So many of our members look forward to our AGM and each year it is held in a different venue; I am delighted that this year we are in Southport. The Association is the United Kingdom’s leading representative organisation for widows of Armed Forces Personnel and our membership is spread throughout the UK; members have travelled from Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
and England to attend the AGM.” Mrs Wills continued “We do have a regional network of ambassadors who organise events in their region during the year; however our AGM and our Remembrance Weekend provide an opportunity for members from all parts of the UK to come together as one large group.”

Reflecting on her first year in office Mrs Wills said “It is hard to believe that it is a year since I took office, so much has happened. It has been extremely busy and eventful, but nonetheless a very successful year. At our 2014 AGM last year I formally launched the ‘War Widows’ Pension for Life’ campaign and was delighted to be invited to Number 10 Downing Street on 8th November 2014 to hear the Prime Minister announce that from 1st April 2015 all War Widows currently in receipt of a War Pension will be able to retain this pension for life; the members of the Association can be rightly proud of their contribution in making this happen.” Mrs Wills continued “I know there is still much work to do; we still have a number of members who have already surrendered their pension on remarriage and while we fully accept that legislation is usually never made retrospective there is an opportunity for a forward thinking government to reinstate these widows pension. This weekend is about everything we do Campaigning, Caring and Remembering, Through the Generations, Moving Forward Together. We continue to work hard to ensure that all War Widow’s are treated fairly.”
Notes to Editors:

1. The War Widows’ Association (WWA) was founded in 1971.

2. The achievements of the War Widows’ Association to date can be accessed at www.warwidows.org.uk.

3. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales is Patron of the War Widows’ Association and the President is Baroness Fookes DBE DL.

4. The War Widows’ Association does not have any paid staff and is managed on a daily basis by a Committee of Trustees who are all volunteers.

5. The War Widows’ Association does not have any premises and is grateful to the Royal British Legion in providing it with a mail room facility.

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