The War Widows' Association of Great Britain (WWA) took time out from its current campaign¹ to commemorate the start of the First World War.

During the early part of August as the country and the Government prepare to commemorate the start of the First World War all members of the War Widows' Association, including its Patron His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, President and Vice Presidents will receive a gift of poppy seeds.

The Chairman of the War Widows' Association Irene Wills said “The poppy has long been associated with remembrance and as the nation remembers and honours all those who fought for the peace and freedom we enjoy today and for those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice; let us not forget the war widows they left behind, many of whom are still constrained by legislation and are unable to find comfort and companionship.”

Mrs Wills continued “many members have been in touch already to thank the Association for their gift, which they described as very appropriate. One member is intending to let her grandchildren help plant the seeds, while another’s father had served in the First World War. The Association covers the generations and move forward together helping make life better for all War Widows”

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¹ ‘The Wrong Time to Die’ campaign is aimed at ensuring that all War Widows are treated equally and calls upon the Government to put right a despicable wrong, clarification of the campaign is set out in the notes to editors.
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. Clarification on the current campaign -
   a. If your spouse died or left Military or War Service before 31 March 1973 and you also receive the War Pension Scheme Supplementary Pension **you keep your War Widows’ Pension for life**.
   
   b. If you were widowed after 5 April 2005 and receive Survivors Guaranteed Income Payment from the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme **you keep your War Widows Pension for life**.
   
   c. However, if your spouse died or left Military or War Service after 31 March 1973 and before 5 April 2005, at present you do stand to lose your War Widows Pension if you remarry or cohabit.
   
   d. The War Widows’ Association believes this to be unfair and outdated. It would only cost £70,000 a year to right this wrong (Lord Astor in Hansard on 21 January 2014)

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

5. Baroness Dean of Thornton le Fylde; Baroness Garden of Frognal and Viscount Younger of Leckie are Vice Presidents of the War Widows’ Association

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