



WAR WIDOWS' ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN

**THE WAR WIDOWS' ASSOCIATION HOLD THEIR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) ON
SATURDAY 8TH APRIL 2017 IN THE DOUBLETREE BY HILTON, MANCHESTER.**

The 2017 AGM will see a change of Chairman; Mrs Irene Wills BEM will hand over to Mrs Mary Moreland. This is the first time in the history of the Association when its Chairman will come from Northern Ireland.

Mrs Wills said "As my time as Chairman comes to an end I will be a little sad; it is always the case that there is never enough time to do everything. I launched the 'Pensions for Life' campaign in 2014 when I took over the role and as you know that came to a successful conclusion in November of that year. I would have dearly loved to have completed the final step in the pension battle and ensure that the War Widows' Pension was reinstated for the small number of war widows who fell outside the November 2014 announcement." Mrs Willis continued "being an organisation totally managed by volunteers I could not have managed during the past three years without the support of my Committee of Trustees. But I know I am handing over to a safe pair of hands and Mary can be assured of my full support in the future."

On taking over the Chairman's role Mrs Moreland commented "As I take over the role from Irene 'I have a mixture of emotions. I feel extremely privileged and honoured to be Chairman of an Association that is recognised as the United Kingdom's leading representative organisation for widows of armed forces personnel where death has been attributed to service and I know the role will be challenging." Mrs Moreland continued "Irene has left big shoes to fill; during her time as Chairman much progress and many positive changes have been brought forward for the benefit of our members and I hope to carry these forward." Concluding Mrs Moreland said "The Association has achieved so much in the past but there is still much to do; for example to finish what Irene started and achieve reinstatement of the War Widows' Pension for all war widows; and also ensure the Government recognises the War Widows' Pension is a compensation and not a benefit and to treat it as such."

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The AGM forms part of a four day getaway for War Widows from all over the United Kingdom starting on Thursday 6th April 2017 when members begin to arrive in Manchester for a packed programme of events.

On Friday members will enjoy a trip to Chester; on return they will have a themed evening dressing up as their favourite game or sport.

On Saturday after the AGM members will don their posh frocks and black tie to enjoy a Gala dinner. Sunday will be a much quieter day when members have the opportunity to explore Manchester, attend church or in the afternoon take a trip to the Hat Works Museum.

Notes to Editors:

1. The [War Widows' Association](http://www.warwidows.org.uk) (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.
4. The President is Baroness Fookes DBE DL.

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