

# THE SPIRIT OF NORMANDY

A CHARITABLE TRUST TO PERPETUATE THE MEMORY OF THOSE WHO FOUGHT TO PRESERVE FREEDOM IN 1944



January 2017

## NEW TRUSTEE

The Spirit of Normandy Trust is delighted to announce that, during 2016, Flaminia Martin was appointed as a Trustee.

Flaminia is the Granddaughter of our Founder, General Peter Martin. She has already taken up a range of duties and has been instrumental in updating our web site and social media input.

Flaminia also attended the commemorative event at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas in June to represent the Trust.

Shirley Harper O'Neill has stepped down as a Trustee but continues to give her time to the Trust as and when she is able



*Veterans, families and friends attend the memorial event at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016*

## COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS 2016



*Commemorations at Bayeux Military Cemetery*



June 2016 was a busy time in Normandy with a large number of commemorative events being held. Trustees of the Spirit of Normandy Trust attended many of the events, commencing with the gathering at the statue of Montgomery at Colleville Montgomery. This year the Honourable Henry Montgomery, grandson of Field Marshal Montgomery, was present at the event. Over the next few days events were held at numerous locations, including the Cathedral and Military Cemetery in Bayeux, Arromanches Sea Front, Pegasus Bridge, Rots, Jerusalem Cemetery, Port-en-Bessin and at the 3 Div/RA Memorial at Hermanville-sur-Mer.

The Trust has worked closely with the Royal British Legion, resulting in Veterans Hector Duff and Fred Harris taking an active part in the services. We also invested time liaising with Adrian Cox, Deputy Mayor of Arromanches, ensuring that coaches carrying veterans were adequately catered for. More veterans attended Arromanches in 2016 than for many years.



*Veteran Fred Harris with the Honourable Henry Montgomery*



*Rev. Mandy Reynolds marches with veterans*



*Lord Dannatt, Patron, with Rev Mandy Reynolds and Richard Palusinski, Chairman, speaking to the veterans reunion at North Weald*

### REMEMBRANCE WEEKEND

Normandy Veterans attended ceremonies in London over the Remembrance period. Veteran Don Sheppard and Trust Vice Chairman Ian Stewart attended the Spirit of Normandy plot at the Field of Remembrance, Westminster. Richard Palusinski, Chairman, his wife Jennifer, Ian and Mary Stewart and Veteran Fred Harris attended the Festival of Remembrance at the Albert Hall and a number of veterans including Mervyn Kersh, Don Sheppard, Allan Gullis, David Whiteman, Robert Steen and Francis Russell marched as part of the Spirit of Normandy Contingent at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday. We are particularly grateful to WO Baz Firth RN for his hard work managing the group at the Cenotaph.

### VETERANS' REUNION AND PRIZEGIVING

Our second reunion for Normandy Veterans was held at North Weald Airfield on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2016. The day was well attended and Lord Dannatt, Patron of the Trust, spoke of the indelible mark on world history made by those who took part in the Normandy Campaign. There were a number of static displays on the day including vintage cars, military vehicles and weapons and uniforms from the Second World War. Vintage buses carried people to and from displays at the airfield. Isabella Prince, First Prize winner for Key Stage 3 was presented with her prize for her excellent submission to the Young Historians Project. The day was brought to a closing climax by an aerial display by a Spitfire.

### 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

2019 will see the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Normandy Landings. As it is only two years away now, we working on plans to ensure that as many veterans as possible, who wish to do so, can get to Normandy for commemorative events.

PROVISIONAL DATES FOR THE DIARY (to be confirmed)	
5 <sup>th</sup> June 2017 to 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	73 <sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Commemorative events in Normandy
6 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	Commemorative event, National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas
29 <sup>th</sup> Sept to 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2017	Reunion events in Portsmouth in partnership with Return to Normandy

