



Welcome to the seventh edition of this journal in which we hope to report on the activities of the Federation and of the member Associations. The intention is to give you reports on events that have happened since the last Federation meeting and news of events coming up in the future and we also intend to include news of interest to member Associations. For this to work we need you to send us news and photographs of events that you think would be of interest to other Associations and also any future events that you would like to be included.

The journal is not only for the officers of Associations but also Association members so we ask you to give it as wide a distribution as possible to members and anyone else you think might be interested.

Richard Walker

Editor richardwalker123@sky.com Telephone 01752 407411

Chairman Basil Downing Waite bazval@btinternet.com telephone 01752 771983

PAST EVENTS

The parade to rededicate the memorial to the fallen of 3 Commando Brigade in Iraq was held on the morning of the 21st March at the Long Room overlooking Plymouth sound, the weather was not too good, rain, wind and soggy under foot.

The service was led by Royal Navy chaplains Rev Dr Scott Shackleton and Rev Mark Allsop who paid tribute to the sacrifices and the names of the fallen were read out by the Brigade RSM. There was the Last Post and Reveille and all standards were dipped. Wreaths were laid by the Commanding Officer of 30 Commando, Lt Col Chris Middleton and 29 Commando Royal Artillery, Lt Col Ed Dawes as well as by a representative of the Royal Navy, Lt Simon Collins. The day marked the tenth anniversary since eight men of the Brigade were killed in a US Marine Corps Sea Knight helicopter after it crashed in the desert. Plymouth lost 14 servicemen during the Iraq War.



Standards on parade were RMA Plymouth, RNA Plymouth, MNA Plymouth, RFA Association Plymouth and the BKVA Devon and Cornwall with Parade Marshall Richard Bendall. I would like to thank Peter Clark for providing the report and the photograph from the Evening Herald's website and the Rebecca Ricks for further information.

FUTURE EVENTS

Below is the programme that has been produced by Charles Crichton and Richard Bendell for events in Plymouth this year.

PLYMOUTH DIARY DATES 2013 CEREMONIES AND ANNIVERSARIES (EDN1)

The updated diary has not yet been received so will be published in the next Journal.

THE THEATRE ROYAL PEOPLE'S COMPANY

This year the People's Company is hoping to forge stronger future relationships with the Plymouth Armed Forces Community of which Veterans are an important part and to this end Roxanne Peak-Payne the Community Projects Producer and her colleague came to the March meeting to give the Federation delegates some details of their future plans.

The People's Company is open to anyone over 18 who is interested in theatre and it runs regular workshops and also has productions in the Drum. They do much work with different groups in Plymouth some of who are disadvantaged or out of work. Their most recent production was "Sailors and Sweethearts" which was inspired by the paintings of Beryl Cook; a local artist who painted large ladies cavorting in the local hostelrys around the Barbican in Plymouth.

From this September they are planning to run information, taster sessions and workshops in various locations accessible to the Forces Community in collaboration with other organisations working with the Forces Community. These will focus on building confidence, developing new skills and having fun. Then from January 2014 they are aiming to bring the Forces Groups together with the existing People's Company group for the Summer production which will be a major public performance in the Drum Theatre which will be promoted as part of the mainstream programme. It will be a newly commissioned contemporary play no doubt inspired by the life and work of the Forces Community which will utilise the full range of professional facilities and technical support that is available in the Theatre. They will also continue regular weekly workshops for anyone who would prefer not to perform but who wishes to continue to enjoy themselves, not that performing in the main production will not be enjoyable and I am sure very rewarding.

After a year of engaging with the Forces participants they hope they will have built up the skills, confidence and networks to join the People's Company. The Company will then engage with a different section of the Plymouth Community for the next year's production.

The project is currently in the planning stages, subject to funding. Anyone interested should contact Roxanne at Roxanne.peakpayne@theatroyal.com or phone 01752 230372.