



Welcome to the sixth 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.

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PAST EVENTS

There were no events to report on in February but we have been working on the final Diary of Events which is detailed below.

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)

Sat 16 March	Plymouth Argyle Armed Forces Day-Home Park
Thur 21 Mar	Re-Dedication of the Garden of Remembrance-Long Room
Sat 20 April	St George's Day Celebration-Plymouth City Centre
Sun 21 April	3.00pm St George's Day Scout's Day-Minster Church of St Andrew
8-27 May	Battle of the Atlantic 70th Anniversary Events (BOA70)– London, Londonderry and Liverpool. See web site royalnavyatlantic@gmail.com
Fri 17 May	City of Plymouth-Lord Mayor Choosing-Guildhall
Sat 18 May	City of Plymouth-Lord Mayor's Day
Sun 19 May	Lord Mayor's Service-Minster Church of St Andrew Plymouth
Fri 31 May	12.00am US Naval Memorial-Tamar Bridge
Mon3-Thur 6 June	Visit to Plymouth by the Society of United States Daughters of 1812
Wed 5 June	11.00 Door of Unity Service-Minster Church of St Andrew Plymouth. Attended by the Daughters of 1812. Unveil new memorial plaque.
Thur 6 June	11.30 am Normandy Veterans wreath laying-Hoe Belvedere Gardens
Mon 24 June	Time to be decided. Raising of the Armed Forces Day Flag-Plymouth Guildhall flagpole
Sat 29 June	Plymouth Armed Forces Day (The 2013 National Armed Forces Day will be hosted by the City of Nottingham) RAF and Allied Air Forces Monument Service-Plymouth Hoe
Sun 30 June	Time to be decided. Sea Sunday- Minster Church of St Andrew, Plymouth. Service will include a commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic and Atlantic Day.

Sat 15 Aug	11.00 am Burma Star VJ Day Commemoration-Plymouth Hoe
Sun 1 Sept	10.00am Merchant Navy Day-Barbican
Thur 12-Sun 15 Sept	Heritage Open Days
un 15 Sept	11.15am Battle of Britain Memorial Day- Minster Church of St Andrew Plymouth
Sat 26 Oct	11.00am Captain Henry VC Commemoration-Ford Park Cemetery
Thur 7 Nov	11.00am Burma Star-Commemoration-Crownhill Fort
Thur 7 Nov	Plympton Royal British Legion Annual Band Concert
Fri 8 Nov	Federation Remembrance Festival-Plymouth Pavilions
Sun 10 Nov	Remembrance Day-Plymouth Hoe
Sun 1 Dec	11.00am Devonport North Corner Commemoration
Thur 31 Dec	11.30am Hinkley VC Commemoration Ford Park Cemetery

This first edition of a list of Anniversaries and Ceremonies for 2013 has been compiled from best available information by Commander Charles Crichton. It would be helpful if each event could show a start time, a point of contact for further information and, where appropriate, the assembly time and place for the Standards. It is intended to include this information in the second edition to be promulgated in April. Event organizers are invited to send additional information, updates and corrections to Cdr Charles Crichton by email: charles_delia@talktalk.net

ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

At the last Federation the chairman gave us a short brief on this subject and after that I thought it would be worth giving it wider coverage.

The covenant was signed last year during the National Armed Forces Day parade on Plymouth Hoe and is between the People of Plymouth and the Local Armed Forces and I have reproduced the covenant below:

This Armed Forces Community Covenant is made between:

The serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families working and residing in Plymouth; Plymouth City Council and members of the charitable, community and voluntary sectors.

An Enduring Covenant Between The People of the United Kingdom Her Majesty's Government and All those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces of the Crown and their Families

The first duty of Government is the defence of the realm. Our Armed Forces fulfill that responsibility on behalf of the Government, sacrificing some civilian freedoms, facing danger and, sometimes, suffering serious injury or death as a result of their duty. Families also play a vital role in supporting the operational effectiveness of our Armed Forces. In return, the whole nation has a moral obligation to the members of the Naval Service, the Army and the Royal Air Force, together with their families. They deserve our respect and support, and fair treatment. Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether regular or reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved. This obligation involves the whole of society: it includes voluntary and charitable bodies, private organisations, and the actions of individuals in supporting the Armed Forces. Recognising those who have performed military duty unites the country and demonstrates the value of their contribution. This has no greater expression than in upholding this covenant.

So what does this mean in practical terms, well the representatives of the organisations who have signed the covenant meet regularly, of which our Chairman Basil is one, and co-ordinate projects to help the Armed Forces and their families.

The RBL City Centre drop in centre for Forces and Veterans which has been mentioned several times in meeting is one of these projects. They also allocate funding for various projects to help Forces Families and there is close liaison between the Plymouth City Council Service Children's officer and support team, and Royal British Legion; the Naval Personal Family Services and Royal Marines Welfare (NPFS and RMW) and the Armed Forces groups based in the City. Funding to support the Covenant comes from the Government and recently the Chancellor announced that the money from fines paid by banks would be put to this cause.