



PRESS RELEASE

ARMED FORCES FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

Residents of Whitehill & Bordon attended an Armed Forces flag raising ceremony on Monday 24th June 2019 in the event space outside the Forest Community Centre. The event was held to mark the start of Armed Forces Week, with Armed Forces Day taking place on Saturday 29th June 2019.



Veterans, members of the local branch of the Royal British Legion (RBL), members from the Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers (REME), including a flag bearer from REME, several members of the Air Cadets from Bordon squadron 2142, flag bearers from 1st Bordon Beavers and Cubs, local residents and members from community organisations turned out to support the event and pay tribute to the Armed Forces. Children from the local nurseries, Forest Bears and Tootsies and school children from Bordon Juniors, Woodlea Primary Year 6 and Mill Chase Academy also joined in the event and were presented with union flags to mark the occasion. There was also representation from Hampshire Country Council and East Hampshire District Council.

The Mayor, Cllr Catherine Clark, who was supported by her Escort, Cllr Katie Ancomb, welcomed everyone to the ceremony and opened with a speech of commemoration. She paid tribute to the Corps of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) for the important role that they have played in our town for over a century which was recognised in 2015 when they were awarded the “Freedom of the Town”.

The Mayor thought that it is only right that we should give recognition to the tremendous support, sacrifice and commitment carried out by our Armed Forces (Royal Navy, British Army and Royal Air Force), both veterans and present service men and women. The Mayor also paid tribute to the amazing work carried out by the volunteers to the Armed Forces, such as the Royal British Legion and the Armed Forces Charity, SSAFA.

To commemorate the event one minute’s silence was held as a mark of respect.

Lt Col Mark Ludlow, from the Defence Infrastructure Organisation based at HQ Longmoor camp, was honoured to join in the ceremony and spoke of the history of Her Majesty’s Armed Forces in connection

with the town, dating back to 1867 when training grounds at Woolmer and later the ranges were first purchased to be within a 'marching day of Aldershot'. The Garrison was later established in Bordon, with support from Longmoor camp.

Lt Col Ludlow went on to explain that, despite the loss of the Garrison, the links between the town and the Armed Forces "remain as strong as ever". He paid particular tribute to the 69 members of the Armed Forces from our town who sacrificed their lives.

Lt Col Ludlow then invited Flight Sergeant Crane of the Air Cadets to raise the flag.



To close the ceremony, The Mayor thanked everyone for their support and invited all those in attendance into the main hall in the Forest Community Centre for light refreshments.

25-06-2019

Whitehill Town Council
Council Offices
Forest Community Centre
Pinehill Road
Bordon
Hants GU35 0BS

Tel: 01420 473123
website: www.whitehilltowncouncil.gov.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/whitehilltowncouncil

END