

REMEMBRANCE NEWS



with chair
Denise
James

Cascade project proves what a great community we have



Children with wooden poppies at the Keynsham Remembers service

Despite the rain, crowds still gathered and were eager to watch the unveiling of the poppy cascade. Everyone held their breath as it was slowly raised up to the top of St John's Church's East Tower.

Although we had been planning this for several weeks, we were still not sure if the weight of the cascade would allow it to remain in place once secured, especially as there was still a week to go until Remembrance Sunday; it was a case of fingers crossed. It was only a couple of days before that local TV and radio began to take an interest, after originally saying that they had already selected specific Remembrance projects for their coverage. Keynsham was featured on Made in Bristol TV News and on Radio Bristol.

Later on in the week crowds gathered again, this time packing St John's Church for the Keynsham Remembers memorial service, leaving standing room only. Youngsters from Chandag Junior

School and St John's C of E Primary sang with the Keynsham Good Afternoon Choir and entertained everyone with a selection of World War I songs. At the end of the service, 89 specially commissioned wooden poppies were handed out to the children and were then placed in the grounds of the church. The service was featured on the local news by both ITV and BBC Points West.

Remembrance Sunday saw record crowds gathered along the High Street to watch the parade march from St John's Church down to the Memorial Gates for the wreath-laying ceremony. For

the first time, Keynsham in Bloom joined other organisations and laid a wreath at the Memorial Gates.

Members of Keynsham Rocks also laid 89 hand-painted rocks in the crown-shaped floral display next to the children's play area ahead of the Remembrance service.

During the run-up to Remembrance Day, the High Street became a blaze of red with local businesses adding their own interpretation with colourful window displays and knitted poppies.

We never thought that the poppy cascade would receive so much coverage, with visitors

making special trips to Keynsham just to see it. Even a week after Remembrance Day, people could still be seen taking photos. This is by far the most memorable project that we have been involved in. Many of our lady knitters said that they felt honoured to have been part of the project and are keen to be involved in our next one.

Directly after the memorial parade, Keynsham in Bloom volunteers headed up to Wellsway School, where we had a selection of hand-painted pots, decorations and festive plants on sale to raise funds for our community projects. We will also be selling decorated pots and festive plants at our fundraising stall at the Farmers' Market on Saturday, December 8.

I would once again like to say a special thank you to everyone involved with the poppy cascade, to local businesses for their window displays and to everyone who worked so hard behind the scenes in organising the Remembrance Parade. Thanks also go to Southern Electrical Contracting for their generous support in providing a cherry picker and operative. We also give a special thank you to Keynsham Royal British Legion for hosting our poppy workshops and to St John's Church for facilitating the poppy display. Together we all raised the profile of Keynsham and demonstrated what a great community we are.

Thank you for honouring those who gave their today

In the months leading up to the Remembrance Parade the Royal British Legion Keynsham Branch worked closely alongside Keynsham in Bloom and the many volunteers who achieved the most beautiful displays at St John's Church and around Keynsham and members look forward to working together again in the future.

The RBL committee ensured that poppies were mounted on lampposts and flags were flown along the High Street, where the shops put fabulous displays in their windows and shopfronts.

The Centenary Remembrance Parade held in Keynsham

on November 11 was certainly wonderful. On behalf of the RBL Keynsham Branch, I would like to thank everyone involved who worked so hard to put on the parade. Special thanks to Stephen McCaw, the vicar of St John the Baptist Church, for the Remembrance service and to the church choir. It had been discovered that some names of the fallen were missing from the plaques in the church; with dedicated work by Keynsham and Salford History Society these names were uncovered and a new plaque was made, which was unveiled during the service.

A huge thanks goes to all who

marched in the parade itself. An outrider led the way with 93 Squadron Marching Band followed by, in no particular order, representatives from RBL Keynsham Branch, RBL Women's Section, RBL Club, Royal Army Medics, REME, Royal Navy, Royal Airforce, Keynsham Army Cadets, 2386 Keynsham Air Training Corps, Keynsham Town Council, B&NES Council, Ukip, Keynsham Lions, 1st Keynsham Scouts, Keynsham Guides, Avon and Somerset Police, Avon Fire and Rescue, Bristol Ambulance, South Western Ambulance Service, Oddfellows, Co-Op Funeralcare

and the Rotary Club of Keynsham.

Special thanks to the parade marshal Dave Jenkins and to the other marshalls who kept us safe and secure, managing the road closures to perfection.

Finally, a big thank you goes to the many thousands of people from Keynsham who came to watch the parade – your support and respect for the fallen was something you should all be very proud of. We thank you.

Remembering those who gave their today for our tomorrow.

Amorée Radford
RBL Keynsham Branch Secretary