

Mick Avery conducts his last Remembrance Service at the age of 93 on the anniversary of the ending of the Great War



This year's Remembrance Service at Nomansland "Well of Sacrifice" will be Mick Avery's last which coincided with the one hundredth anniversary of the ending of the First World War. Mick a WWII veteran, now approaching his ninety-fourth birthday, has been for the last fifteen years conscientiously arranging and leading our Remembrance Services. On this very special occasion over two hundred individuals gathered at the Memorial including the pupils of New Forest Primary School and members of The Royal British Legion, the local 4th Romsey Scout Group, Girl Guides, Cubs, Brownies and Beavers – an impressive gathering for a relatively small village.

Mick is a spritely ninety-three-year-old and is often seen riding his bicycle around the village and walking in the New Forest. He also has wider interests being a guide at Salisbury Cathedral and on occasions officiated at church services. His moral compass was forged in the Second World War and throughout his life has promoted peace and understanding between all peoples.

Now as we look back on his long life you cannot help admiring that generation of men and woman, who in our darkest hour, stepped forward to protect the values and freedoms we hold dear. He was in the Merchant Navy during WWII engaged in transporting materials across the Atlantic as part of a convey, a hazardous occupation at the best of times, particularly with the threat of enemy submarines, which significantly reduced his chance of survival. However, he did survive and is now a witness to those times. He also saw active service in the Mediterranean and Far East providing the Fleet with much needed fuel.

We are truly indebted to Mick for his war time service, commitment to education as a teacher and subsequent devotion to the wider community and for this we would like to express our everlasting thanks.

Again, many thanks.

Bill Dunn and Parish Clerk

13th November 2018

