



SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL

# Press Release

## ANZAC DAY REMEMBERED

Sandown Mayor Paddy Lightfoot laid a wreath to commemorate ANZAC Day (25 April) at Sandown's war Memorial, following a brief service conducted by Rev Mark Williams, of Christ Church and St Pauls.

ANZAC Day is a National day of remembrance in Australia and New Zealand, who served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations and "the contribution and suffering of all those who have served". The Day was established to recognise the sacrifices of those who served in the Gallipoli Campaign, in Turkey: a campaign in which 800 men from the Princess Beatrice Isle of Wight Rifles served.

Cllr Lightfoot said 'The Town Council has renovated the war memorial in its Centenary year, as well as working with Green Town Volunteers to install commemorative planters, and it is fitting to remember the sacrifices made by service personnel, including Sandown families, on this Day'.

Christ Church maintains Commonwealth War Graves, and is currently recognising its 175th anniversary with an exhibition which includes details of those interred in the grounds of the Church. Rev Williams added 'It is poignant to remember that Princess Beatrice unveiled the memorial 100 years ago in memory of those involved in the First World War, and we wished to ensure ANZAC Day was honoured'.

Cllr Frank Baldry, curator for the memorial, concluded 'We've secured grants to replace the flagpoles and residents wished us to use the memorial for more commemorative events given the sacrifices made by residents of the Town in conflicts across the generations'. In addition to the exhibition at the Church, there is also a youtube film about the Centenary of the Memorial (Growing Up In The Bay), and also a film about Christ Church's 175th anniversary.

