

COPP HEROES NEWS 5

JANUARY 2013

Welcome to the opening COPP Heroes newsletter for 2013 with ongoing news from Hayling Island. The memorial is looking in good shape and we will keep you informed as the mound begins to naturalise and green up.

We continue to find new friends and our good news is that Hayling Island Golf Club have now undertaken responsibility for the upkeep of the mound for the next decade, which is really most reassuring for the Memorial team.

The Golf Club have a good relationship with English Nature, and are experts in the maintenance of the seaside environment, having specialist knowledge of the requirements set out for management of the plants and wildlife found in Sites of Special Scientific interest.

Those present on the 27th September, may recall that the memorial mound had been lovingly profiled and raked, and it has now been seeded with grasses natural to the area, and more low-growing protective shrubs planted.

For all this splendid work we are indebted to the officers and ground staff of the club, who completed their work in early November. Some green shoots have already appeared and I look forward to posting more images and news of further progress in the Spring.

Publicity from the dedication ceremony last September, has led us to a number of new contacts, not least the news that we have another COPP survivor, Stanley Victor Pond, who served in COPP 8 in the Far East. Stanley emailed me in December, and we look forward to hearing all about his experiences.

The nature of the unit's work means that there are still big gaps in our knowledge. Peter Palmer who served with COPP from start to finish, is helping us create a definitive list of COPP personnel for the website and our future publications.



*Inset: Club captain Bill John, secretary Lance Quanttrill, president Ernie Tambling
Below: Lance Quanttrill and greenkeeper Rob Dowling*

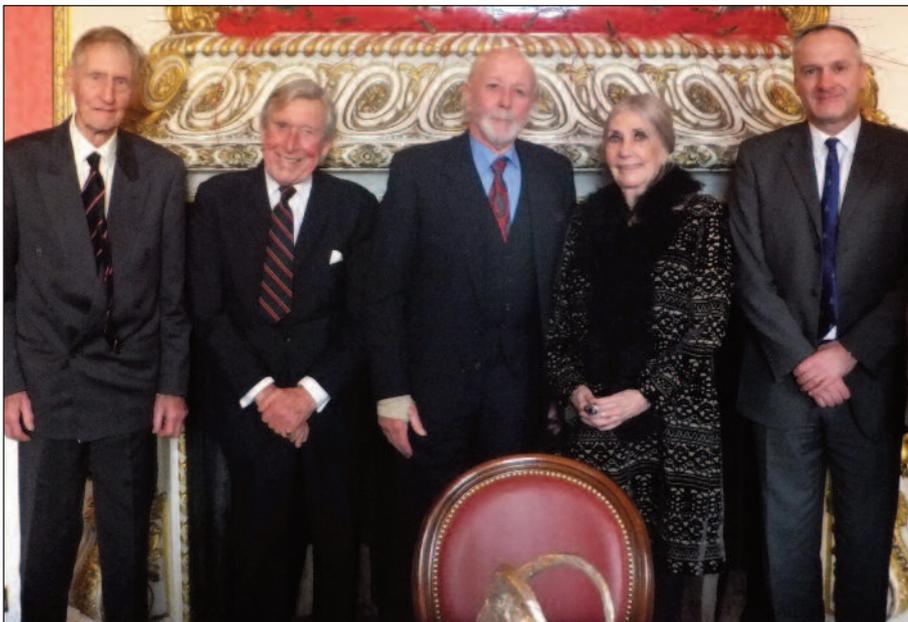


ROYAL MARINES HONOUR COPP MEMORIAL PROJECT

Major General Ed Davis, the Commandant General of the Royal Marines and Special Services, honoured some of those most closely involved with the COPP Memorial project, and took us to London for a celebration lunch at the Navy & Military Club in London's St James' Square on the 5th December.

The Special Boat Service unit of the Royal Marines provided the initial inspiration for Combined Operations Pilotage Parties, and now fulfils the role formerly carried out by COPP personnel. The SBS Association have taken very great interest in the project, and were instrumental in putting us in touch with their patron, Lady Patricia Countess Mountbatten who performed the Memorial's dedication in September 2012. We were indeed most fortunate that together with CDS General Sir David Richards & Major General Davis, they took such an active interest in our plans.

Pictured Left to right: Jim Booth, Douglas Sharp, Robin Walton, Eileen Walton, Major General Ed Davis

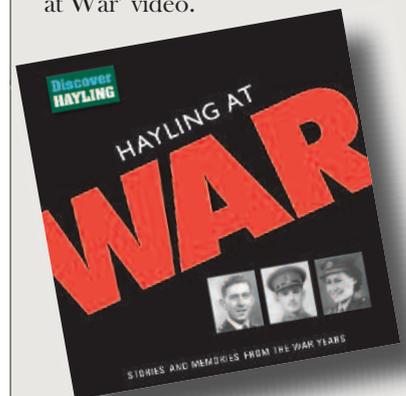


A big thank you for the many cards and kind messages received over the Christmas period. It was encouraging to hear from all those who made contact - there is still so much to do here if we are to fully complete the project.

Mike Beel and I have put together a super collection of photographs and videos of the big day, and our many visits to Ian Piper's Cornish quarry, including the delivery of the memorial granite by 24 Regt. Royal Engineers Commandos.

We are actively looking into the production of a limited edition large format book, recording the making of the memorial from start to finish, which would make a splendid permanent record, but individual copies could be rather expensive to produce.

We have also got a mass of video footage of all our activities, taken by Mike and by Andy Mangnall at the Dedication Ceremony. We aim to put all this onto a DVD, together with our earlier 'Hayling at War' video.



As I say, there is still a great deal to do, and there is even talk of a COPP based WW2 visitor centre of some sort, but as we found with the memorial itself, the big problem is always the hard work in getting funding together.

*Robin Walton
January 2013*