

N. F. F. W. R. A.



**National FEPOW Fellowship
Welfare Remembrance Association**

'Lest We Forget'.

**PATRONS: HRH THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER
General the Lord Richard Dannatt GCB CBE MC DL
Patrick Toosey**

HONORARY PRESIDENT – Charles Barratt DL, Norfolk

CHAIRMAN: Mr Tony Burrows 01603 407014

TREASURER: Mrs Lynda Burrows 01603 407014

SECRETARY/ GRANTS OFFICER/FEPOW CHAPLAIN

Mrs Pauline Simpson BEM

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March 2026

Dear Friends and Associate members

It has been some time since I have been in touch for which I sincerely apologise. The continuation of events after VJ Day to which Jerry and I were most surprised and honoured to be invited to, took us right up until the Pilgrimage to Singapore and Thailand for significant Remembrance Services at Kanchanaburi, Chungkai and Kranji cemeteries.

Jerry's sister Edwina was confirmed with a terminal illness just before we left and upon our return, we were constantly by her side and supporting her partner and Jerry's mum, until Edwina sadly passed away on Christmas Eve. If you remember his father passed away whilst we were at Llandudno not much over a year ago.

Apologies for starting off on a rather sad note but I hoped you would understand my delay in not being in touch sooner with an explanation.

IN REMEMBRANCE – 'LEST WE FORGET'



We were saddened to receive the news of the death of two of our long-standing Associate members – Jenny Major and Jean Cass who were regulars on our Annual Reunions. We send our sincere condolences to their families and friends at this difficult time.

Jenny was the daughter of Bert (FEPOW) and Peggy Major regular attendees of our Reunions including the very first one in 2006 at the Scarborough Hotel.

Jenny's family have issued an invitation to attend a gathering to remember Jenny at the Cutter Inn in Ely on 18th April at 11.30am. If you are able to attend, please would you let me know asap.

VJ 80 Day – 2025

To all Associate Members of NFFWRA

What a wonderful VJ80 Service at Norwich Cathedral was organised by Pauline. It was really good to see so many people there and at the lunch afterwards. *Tony Burrows – NFFWRA Chairman*

NFFWRA organised and was involved in many events to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Japanese surrender that ended World War Two in the Far East. May I say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make it all happen, and to everyone who took part.

I was particularly heartened to see Norwich Cathedral full to capacity for our Service; over 1100 tickets were issued and the Service was a truly wonderful way to honour the memory of our Far East POWs. Thank you!

Photos can say more than words and therefore I hope the success of the day is captured overleaf! - Pauline

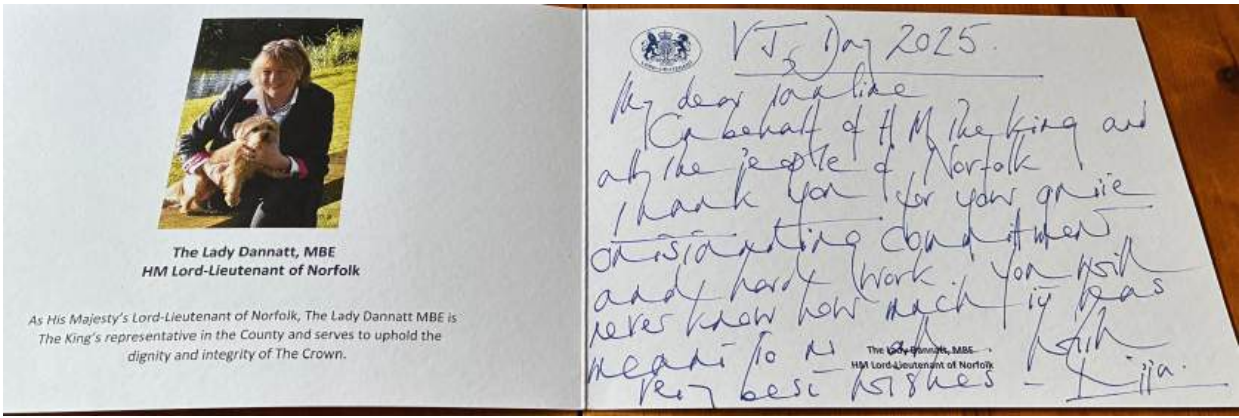
Norwich Cathedral marks VJ Day 80 with commemorative service

(Photos inside the church – credited to Bill Smith)



Bishop Graham 'What a triumph of a day! Congratulations on organising such a fitting and moving service for VJ Day. You thought about everything.'

'Magnificent Service, a masterpiece. Must go down as the main pillar of your legacy – a marvellous task achieved'. Former NFFCA Welfare Executive Officer



'On behalf of HM the King and all the people of Norfolk thank you for your quite outstanding commitment and hard work. You will never know how much it has meant to us all'. Pippa



Olga Henderson (former civilian internee) our special guest lays the NFFWRA wreath



Philip & Tina with Paddington on tour

Brenda, Lynne & Jean

Ben & Ioan with Anna & Lauren Simpson

A substantial donation from the late Denys Simpson and Mrs Pat Simpson enabled the magnificent flower arrangements to be organised by the Cathedral Flower Guild with enormous thanks



Before!



After.....



Arrangement in the colours of the Royal Norfolk Regiment

VJ 80 Lunch following the service at the Assembly Rooms

We were very privileged to have in attendance at our lunch the Lady Dannatt MBE, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk accompanied by our Patron General the Lord Richard Dannatt as well as our Lord Bishop Graham Usher and the Dean of Norwich Cathedral the very Revd Dr Andrew Braddock. Many military and civic guests were alongside our members and former civilian internees and representatives of the Australian and Canadian Embassies.



Thank you to Lauren Simpson for her attention to detail in preparing the table plan, menus, invitations, tickets and more besides!



What made our chairman laugh is anyone's guess!



In honour of our former President FEPOW Bob Hucklesby and in tribute to the 560th/287 and 288 Royal Engineers.

Bob's RE girls (FEPOW RE daughters) are on the increase from 4 -7 and joining them are FEPOW son Nigel Peters. I was very fortunate that despite being invited to the commemorations at the NMA, the National Standard Bearer for the Royal Engineers, David Hadfield was very happy to join us in Norwich. Thank you David. It meant a lot to us all.

Heather, Gay, Sue, Pauline, David, Nigel, Deidre, Diana & Denise

From
Lieutenant Colonel Alastair Todd LVO
Private Secretary to
TRH The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester



KENSINGTON PALACE
LONDON W8 4PU

18th August, 2025

Dear Pauline

Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester have asked that I write to thank you most sincerely for your support during their visit to Norwich Cathedral on Friday 15th August 2025.

Their Royal Highnesses were very pleased to attend the Service and Reception in Norwich Cathedral in commemoration of the Eightieth Anniversary of Victory over Japan, and enjoyed meeting so many friendly people during the day. The Duke and Duchess would wish to pass on their thanks and appreciation to all those involved for such an interesting and memorable visit.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester send you, and all at the National FEPOW Fellowship Welfare Remembrance Association, their warmest regards and look forward to seeing you again.

Yours sincerely
Alastair

Mrs Pauline Simpson BEM

ANNUAL OPENING OF THE REMEMBRANCE GARDENS AT WESTMINSTER ABBEY 2025

My grateful thanks to Sue and Ian Fletcher for representing NFFWRA at this event in November



‘What a lovely experience, and to meet Queen Camilla. She told me all about her dad and of his great respect for FEPOWS. She also wanted to know about my father. I was taken aback on how long we talked. This was followed by meeting the Royal British Legion President. Thank you very much for asking us to be there’.

REMEMBRANCE DAY at THE GREAT YARMOUTH FEPOW MEMORIAL 2025

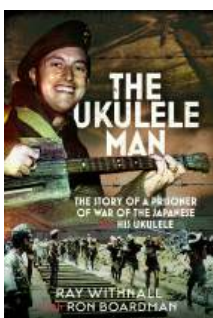
Thank you to ‘team NFFWRA’ and the ‘clergy team’ from Gt Yarmouth, Revd Canon Simon Ward and Revd Albert Cadmore for representing me at the 2025 Remembrance Day Service on the seafront. The very first service I conducted was in 2004 and I was sorry to be absent this year for the first time, however, I was invited to join the VJ 80 Pilgrimage to Thailand and Singapore and to conduct services in Thailand for the Thai RBL at Kanchanaburi and Chungkai and therefore I hope I can be excused on this occasion.



Tony our chairman welcomed all those present and Ian Fletcher laid our NFFWRA wreath.



Chungkai Cemetery Thailand on 11th November 2025



On 4th April – ‘The Ukelele Man’ by Ray Withnall, and co-author Tom Boardman’s son Ron, tells the remarkable true story of Tom as a Japanese prisoner of war. Tales of creativity, resilience and courage reveal how ingenuity and determination helped triumph over adversity. Tom loved coming on our Reunions and it was always a joy to have him with us.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Annual Service at the Wymondham FEPOW Memorial Church in Wymondham is on Sunday May 17th at 12.30pm

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS REUNION 2026

A new year is now well under way and in response to Lynda's memo (Autumn 2025) following a decision at our 2024 AGM advising of the subs being discontinued and my request to express your interest in attending the Reunion in October I can now, further to your responses, confirm the details.

**Friday 30th October to Monday 2nd November 2026
at The Merrion Hotel, Llandudno. LL30 2LN 3 Nights – Dinner, Bed and Breakfast**

**Associate members at 31/12/25 is £325 per person.
New Associate members joining after 31/12/25 - £347 per person**

There will be additional activities added to the weekend's entertainment for which no further payment will be due. I will be in touch separately with those who have already expressed an interest with application and payment details. This is a Reunion that was requested at our last AGM so we look forward to seeing you all. It's not too late to apply.

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NFFWRA sends its sincere condolences to the family of Carol Cooper and to the Trustees and members of COFEPOW on the death of Carol Cooper – former Chair of COFEPOW on 10th November 2025.

Carol with her fellow Trustees was instrumental in founding COFEPOW and establish and build a permanent memorial to those who had served in the far east theatre of the Second World War, and who endured such unimaginable suffering.

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PILGRIMAGE TO SINGAPORE & THAILAND NOVEMBER 2025



The full Pilgrimage Report will be available soon on the website: www.nationalfepowfellowship.org.uk



Wishing you all a very HAPPY EASTER

LEFT – Jerry, Gerry and Jeremy our guide at Sembawang Naval Dockyard