

We will remember them



COLEFORD: A rain-drenched ceremony on Saturday, above, with the town's mayor Nick Penny laying a wreath below.



NEWENT: Above, the Remembrance service at Newent Community School. Left, the parade marches through the town on Sunday and below, after the school's service Mark Harper MP is pictured with Dafí Griffiths, head-boy Sam Isbell, deputy head-boy, Richard Balding, chairman of Newent and District Royal British Legion, Elisha Ferton deputy head-girl, Amila Threadgill, head-girl and Colin Thomson, standard bearer.



COMMUNITIES across the Forest of Dean turned out en-masse for Remembrance Day Parades in towns and villages over the weekend.

Although the format has remained unchanged throughout the years, the annual ritual has lost nothing of its emotional power and continues to attract large and respectful crowds.

Originally the parades paid tribute to the British servicemen who died for their country during the First and then Second World Wars and whose names are enshrined on local war memorials.

However, in the years since 1945, the Remembrance Day and Armistice Day has widened to include the men and women who have died in other military conflicts around the globe in the intervening years.

India, Palestine, Malaya, Korea, Suez Canal Zone, Kenya, Cyprus, Suez 1956, Borneo, Vietnam, Aden, Radfan, Oman, Dhofar, Northern Ireland, the Falklands War, the Gulf War, Bosnia, Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Iraq and Afghanistan - have all taken their toll of lives.

Particularly noticeable in parades in recent years has been the number of children's groups taking part, from Beavers to ATC cadets, and this year was no exception.

The main events locally were in Cinderford, Coleford, Lydney, Newent and Monmouth, which enjoyed an unseasonably sunny if chilly Sunday morning.

In Cinderford several hundred people thronged into and around the Triangle to hear the service conducted by Cinderford British Legion branch Chaplain, The Rev Mike Barnsley.

He gave an explanation of the origins of the Reveille and Last Post bugle calls.

This was followed by the Exhortation and the bugler sounding Last Post, then the two minutes silence and Reveille.

Saturday and Sunday saw gatherings at Lydney's War Memorial. On Saturday, there was a gathering of children from local schools reciting names of the war dead and placing poppies at the foot of the memorial.

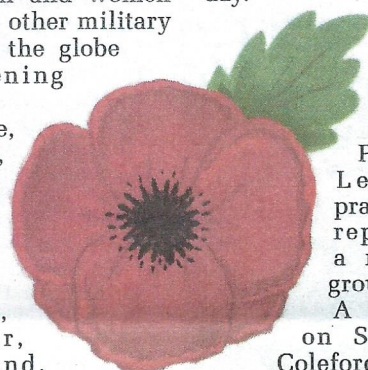
The Sunday event was the centrepiece of the town's remembrance before the service in St.Mary's Church. Whilst waiting for the main parade to arrive after its procession through the town behind the

drums of the Air Training Corps, the Lydney Training Band continued to play during the wreath laying, which was led by the Member of Parliament, Mark Harper, and the Mayor, Cllr Bob Berryman.

After the wreath laying the parade entered the Church, where there was standing room only for many.

The service was conducted by the Rev Sarah Fenby, Vicar of the Parish and Chaplain to the local branch of the British Legion.

At the start of the service, colours were presented at the altar, those of the local Branch having returned to the town in the early hours, after appearing at the Albert Hall the previous day.



Lessons were read by the Mayor and Viscount Bledisloe, Patron of the local Legion Branch, prayers were led by representatives of a number of local groups.

A shower of rain on Saturday turned Coleford Market Square into a sea of umbrellas for the town's Remembrance Service.

In Whitecroft a service led by the Rev Denise Hargreaves was held at the village Memorial Hall. Pillowell Silver Band led the parade from the Miners Arms followed by Standard Bearer Mr Ian Howells and a large contingent of local villagers.

Newent Community School held their second annual commemorative service in the school fields that again encompassed the whole school and which was also attended by Mark Harper MP amongst the guests.

During the service conducted by The Reverend Simon Mason and on behalf of the school, head girl Amelia Threadgill and head boy Dafí Griffiths read out the names of the former pupils who had fallen in conflict.

The British Legion organised the traditional parade through the streets of Newent, led by British Legion Standard Bearer Colin Thomson, watched by a hundreds of residents also showing their support, and leading to the Service of Remembrance in St Mary's Church and at the town's war memorial.

Soldiers from Beachley-based 1Rifles laid a wreath at the war memorial as part of the commemorations in Monmouth on Sunday.