

Fwd: Official Opening of the Beer Memorial Avenue - 23rd April 2020

From: Gary (oldsteamy@btinternet.com)

To: pdmoon1@gmail.com; m.day891@btinternet.com; mikekirkland56@gmail.com

Date: Sunday, 12 January 2020, 12:40 GMT

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----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: Official Opening of the Beer Memorial Avenue - 23rd April 2020

Date: Sun, 12 Jan 2020 10:59:36 +0000

From: Richard Scott <rscottbeer@outlook.com>

To: oldsteamy@btinternet.com <oldsteamy@btinternet.com>

Dear Gary,

I chair the Beer 2014 Group, which was set up to commemorate those residents of the village who served in the First World War. In the past we have organised a number of exhibitions and lectures, a reconstruction of the departure from Beer in 1914 of Royal Naval Reservists from the village, and a procession in July 2019 marking the centenary of Peace Day.

Our latest project is the construction of a memorial avenue of 30 trees dedicated to the residents from the village who served in the armed forces, on merchant ships, as nurses or as Red Cross volunteers in the military hospital in Seaton. We particularly want to commemorate those who survived (just over 200), as well as those who died.

The landscaping and planting has been completed in the Beer Head car park above the village, and benches and commemorative plaques will shortly be installed. We plan to hold the official opening on the afternoon of 23rd April this year. As well as being St. George's Day, this will also be the 100th birthday of the oldest current resident of the village, who is a Burma Star veteran of the Devonshire Regiment in the Second World War.

A total of sixty three men from Beer served in the Royal Navy, Royal Naval Reserve and Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve in the First World War. Five of them were killed, four of them on the same day, at the Battle of Jutland, and three of them on the same ship, HMS Defence.

The Beer 2014 Group would be delighted if the Royal Naval Association could be represented at the official opening of the avenue, with a standard if possible. Other organisations being invited include HM Coastguard, the Merchant Navy Association, the Royal British Legion and the Royal Air Forces Association.

I do hope you will be able to join us on this very special occasion, and I look forward to hearing from you.