MARINES ON THE GREEN

‘We will always return here’ says leading serviceman

Walmer Green fell silent except for the strained notes of a bugler sounding Last Post.

It was a poignant moment that united past and present members of the Royal Marines Band Service, former Marine Commandos and the people of Deal.

They joined together to remember the 11 musicians who lost their lives because of the atrocity of September 22, 1989, when the IRA bombed the Deal Barracks of the Royal Marines School of Music at Walmer.

The Rev Seth Cooper, vicar of St Mary’s Walmer, led the rededication service at Sunday’s concert, and paid tribute to those who have been killed in conflict, including those who have served or fought for Queen and country.

People stood to sing the hymn Praise to The Lord, and he named each of the 11 men killed after giving a reading from St Paul’s Letter to The Romans.

Wreaths and floral tributes were laid by family members, friends and fellow musicians.

The service was led by the Rev Seth Cooper

Pictures: Alan Langley FM4843125

Dignitaries also paid their respects including by Maj General Robert Magowan, Commandant General Royal Marines; district council leader Cllr Paul Watkins and chairman Cllr Sue Chandler; chairman of Walmer Parish Council Cllr Pat Heath; and MP Charlie Elphicke.

Lt Col Nick Grace, who knew all of the killed 11, said: “The rededication for us is a really important part of why we are here. We will always return here and continue to rededicate this bandstand at these concerts.”

The rededication service FM4843144

A floral tribute FM4843143

The rededication service FM4843163

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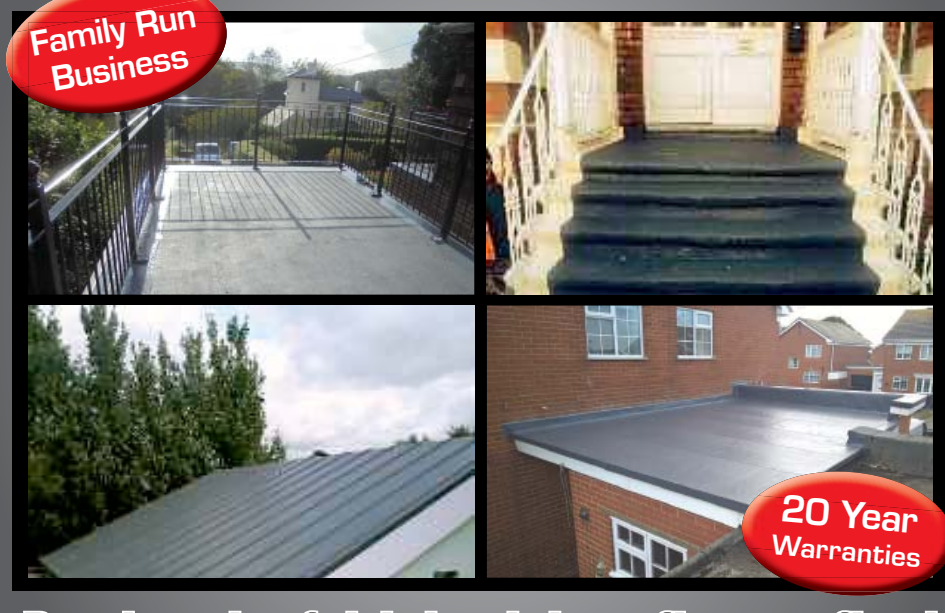

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