The Isle of Wight County Committee of the RBL signalled the start of the Poppy Appeal on the Island with a parade and ceremony at St Thomas’s Square, Newport on Saturday 24th October. The underlying theme for the event was the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Gallipoli in which the Isle of Wight Rifles took part and lost so many men.
The event commenced with a box of poppies being transported from Cowes along the River Medina with an escort of cadets on the Sea Cadet launch, the Poppies and escort arrived at Newport Quay and joined a parade made up of cadets from all three services on the island who marched up Quay Street to music played by the Vectis Corps of Drums.

At the top of Quay Street the cadets were met by a group of standards and a field gun and limber from HMS Sultan. The poppies were formerly handed to the field gun team who secured them to their limber and the parade reformed.

Once our guest of honour, HM Lord Lieutenant, had arrived the parade set off under the control of the County Parade Marshal, Terry Clarkson, and the Deputy County Parade Marshal, Reg Hunt. The Union standard was carried by Alan Williams and the County standard was carried by Peter Atkinson supported by standards from Newport & Carisbrooke, Brighstone & District, Bembridge, Seaview & Nettlestone and East Cowes branches together with standards from the Royal Hampshire’s Old Comrades Assoc, the Royal Engineer Assoc, the Royal Artillery Assoc, the Royal Naval Assoc, the Fleet Air Arm Assoc as well as the standards of 1024 Sqn ATC, the Sea Cadets, and C’Coy ACF.

The parade marched into the High Street and into St Thomas’s Square where quite a crowd of the public had gathered, and was halted beside the Cenotaph. The dignitaries were led out by Rev Roger Whatley, RBL County Chaplain and Rev Kevin Arkell, the Vicar of Newport.

During the service the County President, Cllr Ian Ward, welcomed the Lord Lieutenant and guests, amongst whom was Lt Cmdr. Marc Rennie of the Royal Australian Navy who was representing Australia House. The Lord Lieutenant, Major General Martin White, CB CBE JP gave a short address about the significance of the Poppy appeal and his visit to a small town in Flanders destroyed in WW1 but
rebuilt with support from the people of the Island. The County Chairman, Andy Pound, gave a reading which was followed by the County President giving the Exhortation after which the Last Post was played, and he also gave the Kohima after Reveille was played.

The poem ‘In Flanders Fields’ was read by Rev. Roger Whatley and ‘I Am Not a Badge of Honour’ read by Karen Gibson, County Vice-Chairman. The Poppies were blessed and bought forward by a member of the Field gun team and they were given to two representatives of Christ the King College who presented a poppy to each of the dignitaries and guests.

After the ceremony the parade was reformed including some 30 veterans and marched back into the High street where the salute was taken by the Lord Lieutenant, before turning into Quay Street where it was halted and dismissed.

The Vectis Corp of Drums returned to St Thomas’s Square where for 20 minutes they put on a musical marching display which had many feet tapping. The Field Gun team also returned for people to have an opportunity of having their photo taken with the team. Both the band and the Field gun marched out of the square together to a great deal of applause.

Throughout the event the RBL Stand was present in the square with information about the Poppy Appeal together with a display of Poppies and other RBL items. As part of the display a dvd was playing on a screen giving the public an insight into what the Royal British Legion and the Poppy Appeal is all about. A total of £391.50 was collected on the Stand.

The weather held out although a couple of short showers did dampen things a little but all in all it was a great event which bought the Poppy Appeal to the Public’s attention.

I would like to give my thanks to all those, too many to mention here who helped to put this event together.

Terry Clarkson
County Parade Marshal
More images from our Poppy Launch

Photographs contributed by Claire Kay
The RBL IW County would like to thank everyone who supported our Poppy Appeal Launch.

Special thanks to:-

- Island Crane Hire – for providing the equipment to unload the field gun and limber
- Munch Bunch Catering – for providing the gazebo and table for our Stand.
- Newport Harbour Master for arranging the mooring for the cadet’s launch.

I AM NOT A BADGE OF HONOUR

I am not a badge of honour,
I am not a racist smear,
I am not a fashion statement to be worn but once a year,
I am not glorification of conflict or of war.
I am not a paper ornament, a token,
I am more.

I am a loving memory of a father or a son,
A permanent reminder of each and every one.
I'm paper or enamel,
I'm old or shining new,
I'm a way of saying thank you to every one of you.
I am a simple poppy,
A Reminder to you all that courage faith and honour will stand where heroes fall.

Paul Hunter 2014

THE POPPY

Why are they selling poppies Mummy,
Selling poppies in town today?
The poppies my child are flowers of love,
For the men who marched away.

But why have they chosen a poppy Mummy,
Why not a beautiful rose?
Because my child, men fought and died,
In the fields where the poppies grow.

But why are the poppies red Mummy,
Why are the poppies so red?
Red is the colour of blood my child,
The blood our soldiers shed.

The heart of the poppy is black Mummy,
Why does it have to be so black?
Black my child is the symbol of grief,
For the men who never came back.

But Mummy why are you crying so,
Your tears are giving me pain?
My tears are fears for you my child,
For the world is forgetting again.

PASS IT ON!
Welcome to our new County Treasurer........

The County Committee is pleased to welcome Claire Kay as our new County Treasurer.

Claire is currently Branch Treasurer at Ryde RBL Branch and is also one of the Island’s RBL qualified Independent Examiners.

Claire’s contact details are:-

Claire Kay
13 Cross Street
Ryde
PO33 2AD

E-mail: Claire.RydeRBL@gmail.com

Or you can contact her by sending a text to 07927112600

Shanklin RBL Branch
Festival of Remembrance

Friday, 6th November 2015

Shanklin Theatre
7.30pm

Tickets available from John Rushby at Shanklin RBL club or direct from Shanklin theatre priced at £8 each

Please come along and support us

The Lord-Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight warmly invites you to a

Field of Remembrance Service

Thursday 5 November 2015
Carisbrooke Castle
At 10.45 am

Refreshments will be available following the service.

Ventnor RBL Branch
WW1 Commemorative Event

Sunday 29th November, 2015
1pm at Ventnor War memorial
All Welcome
IW RBL County Conference

Our County Conference will be held on Saturday, 6th February 2016 at the Wilberforce Hall, Brighstone. Conference will commence at 2pm. We are delighted to announce that our guest speaker will be Mr. Terry Whittles, RBL National Vice-Chairman. We hope that you will come along and support this event.

Reminder for Branch Secretaries........

The paperwork for conference was emailed to Branch Secretaries and Branch Chairmen on 2nd September. This included all the nomination paperwork. Please remember that the completed forms need to be returned to the address on the forms no later than 29th November 2015.

If you have any queries with the forms, or have had any difficulties opening any of the files please let Karen know by emailing rbliwcounty@outlook.com

Please also remember to return your completed Branch MS1 form to Stephanie Harris by 31st December 2015.

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Poppy Appeal - Soundbites!

Here are a couple of “sound Bites” you or your collectors may find useful whilst engaging with the general public.

“During the Poppy appeal 2015 over 45 million poppies will be distributed by 350,000 dedicated collectors”

“There is no right or wrong way to wear a poppy- we only ask you to wear it with pride”

“As a result of the public’s support in the last year the Royal British Legion answered more than 450,000 calls for help from the Armed Forces Community”
Club membership is open to all Legion members. Please contact the club direct for more information.

**Legion Clubs on the Isle of Wight:**

**RYDE**
1 St. James Street, Ryde, IW. PO33 2NF
- Telephone: 01983 613302
- E-mail: rblclubryde@gmail.com
- Website: www.ryderbl.co.uk

**SHANKLIN**
2 Collingwood Road, Shanklin, IW, PO37 7LN
- Telephone: 01983 862234
- E-mail: 
- Website:

**VENTNOR**
35 High Street, Ventnor, IW, PO38 1LZ
- Telephone: 01983 853905
- E-mail: rblventnor@gmail.com
- Website: www.rblic-ventnor.co.uk

Ventnor RBL Club recently held their in-house Singles Darts Competition for the Chris Lacey Trophy and the Derek Williams Trophy.

Running since 2002, the annual competition consists of a 501 leg and a Bull’s eye competition with points awarded. The winner being the person with the highest number of points overall.

The year the Chris Lacey Trophy was won by Glyn (Tommo) Thomas, with the Derek Williams Trophy going to Jeff Croad.

Entertainment at Ventnor RBL Club
9pm to Midnight

- 7th November – Patsy Cabaret
- 14th November – Soul Agents
- 21st November – Stevie B
- 28th November – Back Tracks
- 5th December – Phoenix
- 12th December – Route 27
- 19th December – David Graham
- 24th December – Soul Agenda
- 26th December – Bernie
- 31st December - Disco
DATES for your DIARY:-

4th November – “Why We Should Remember” – Yarmouth Community Hall 6pm

5th November – Field of Remembrance. Carisbrooke Castle 10.45am

6th November – Shanklin RBL Festival of Remembrance. Shanklin Theatre 7.30pm

8th November - Remembrance Sunday

8th November - Lake Parish Council Remembrance Sunday service at the War Memorial at 2.30pm. All are invited to attend. For more information please contact:- Michael Taplin, Clerk to Lake Parish Council. 01983 862810

11th November - 2 minutes silence

26th November – IW County Standard Bearer Competition. Church Centre, Newport at 6.45pm

28th November – TA Freedom of Newport Parade. 12 noon St. Thomasl Square.

29th November – Deadline for conference returns to be submitted

31st December – Deadline for Branch MS1 forms to be submitted to MSO

6th February 2016 – IW County Conference, Wilberforce Hall, Brighstone 2pm
IT’S YOUR NEWSLETTER !!!

If anyone has any articles they would like to submit for publication in the monthly newsletter please e-mail the newsletter editor at

rbliwcounty@outlook.com

Or send to:

2 Hope Mead,
Langbridge,
Newchurch,
IW, PO36 0NP

by the 20th of each month.

Anything from jokes and poems, or hints and tips to remarkable personal achievements and Branch events. Or even adverts!

Everything will be considered.

A huge “thank you” to everyone who has contributed articles and/or photographs to this month’s newsletter.

ALL LEGION ENQUIRIES
(including Welfare Requests)

SHOULD BE DIRECLED TO THE CONTACT CENTRE ON

0808 8028080

Membership Support Officer –

Mrs Stephanie Harris

104 Above Bar Street, Southampton,
Hampshire, SO14 7DT

E-mail: sharris@britishlegion.org.uk

Website: www.britishlegion.org.uk

Registered Charity number 219279

Newsletter Enclosures:-

Field of Remembrance Poster

Talk “Why We Should Remember”