

March 2016

**BRANCH SECRETARIES - PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ITEMS IN THIS
NEWSLETTER SHOULD FORM PART OF YOUR REPORT**

IW County Conference - 2016

Thank you to everyone who supported our County Conference at Brighstone on 6th February. It was great to see so many of you attending and all branches represented.



We were pleased to welcome our Patron, Major General Martin White CB, CBE, JP, HM Lord-Lieutenant for the Isle of Wight, together with Cllr. Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Deputy Chairman of the IW Council and Mr. Terry Whittles, RBL National Vice-Chairman. Also attending were Paul Harris, Membership Council Representative for our Area, Jim France, Area Manager and Claire Peppiatt, Fundraising Manager for South Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Phil Thomas (MSO for Dorset) kindly attended to fill the gap created with Steph's departure, and looked after the minutes for us.

In addition to our County Standards, we also had branch standards from Brighstone & District, Newport & Carisbrooke, Shanklin, Seaview & Nettlestone, Bembridge and Ryde branches on parade which was great to see.

In his speech, our Patron, expressed his thanks to everyone for their efforts during the past year and he encouraged us all to recruit. He has set us a "challenge" for the coming year— asking every member to recruit at least one new member to the Royal British Legion. Our Patron has already stolen the march on us as he has already recruited his wife.

Our Area Manager, Jim France, reported that there are now 10 new caseworkers in the Area. During the last year the Office received 330 contacts, of which 110 were welfare related and 122 were comradeship. 218 contacts were resolved at the first point of contact. Twenty-three grants were made totalling just over £15900.

Claire Peppiatt was able to tell us that the current IW Poppy Appeal total was £119,276.29. This is just £6902 below the total for the whole of the previous year. As we still have a further six months to go in the current poppy period, with your support, we could equal or better last year's total by the time we reach September. Claire is keen to get involved with the festivals on the Isle of Wight so watch this space for more information on this.

Our guest speaker at Conference was our National RBL Vice-Chairman, Mr. Terry Whittles. Before he moved north, Terry used to be the County Training Officer for Hampshire and has been over to the Isle of Wight on a number of occasions in the past to run training sessions for us. In his address Terry reported that the Contact centre receives around 2000 contacts a day. He also informed us that one of the Legion care homes, Galanos House in Warwickshire, was named 'Care Home of the Year 2015' by the National Care Awards, for its high standard of care and dedicated dementia care unit - Poppy Lodge. Galanos House featured in the Channel 4 documentary "Dementiaville" highlighting its innovative approach to treating those suffering from dementia. In his address, Terry also informed us that the current five-year plan "Pathway to Growth" is drawing to its conclusion and a new five year strategy is being developed. The plan sees our four pillars (Welfare, Comradeship, Representation and Remembrance) being reshaped to "Information and Support (Welfare)", "Remembrance" and "Advocacy and Representation" all of which are linked together by "Comradeship".



Branches will recall the request made via the MSO's for the provision of data on branch welfare activities. Terry explained the reason the information was requested and also said that work has been going on to simplify the method of reporting and to better explain the role that branches can undertake within the welfare framework. This will all be launched at the National Conference in May when more information will be made available to branches.

The RBL National Vice-Chairman also presented our cups and certificates.

The winners were:-

The Lawrie Salisbury Memorial Cup Awarded to the Branch without a club, that has shown the greatest percentage increase in membership in the last year.

- WINNER:** Brighstone & District Branch
Runner Up: East Cowes Branch
Third place: Newport & Carisbrooke Branch

The Percy Kent Trophy Awarded to the Branch with a club, that has shown the greatest percentage increase in membership in the last year.

WINNER: Ryde Branch
Runner Up: Ventnor Branch
Third place: Shanklin Branch

The Bernard Nigh Memorial Cup Awarded to the member contributing the most to their BRANCH over the LAST 12 months.

WINNER: Mr Frank Hunt – Ventnor Branch
Runner Up: Mr. Bob Douglas – Ryde Branch
Third: Mr. Dave Ramsay – Newport & Carisbrooke Branch

The M Gent Memorial Cup Awarded to the Branch Standard Bearer who has done the most for their branch in the past twelve months.

WINNER: Mr. Ernie Howard - Newport & Carisbrooke Branch
Runner Up: Mr. Don Bridges - Ryde Branch

The Draper Shield Presented to the Winner of the County Standard Bearer Competition

WINNER: Mr. Alan Williams - East Cowes Branch
Runner Up: Mr. Peter Atkinson - Brighstone & District Branch
Third place: Mr. Ernie Howard - Newport & Carisbrooke Branch

The Branch Deputy Standard Bearer Shield

Presented to the Winner of the competition held for the Branch Deputy Standard Bearers.

WINNER: Miss Charlotte Atkinson – Brighstone & District Branch

County Certificates of Appreciation

Mr. Simon Tutton Vectis Corps of Drums
Mr. John Wersby Wight Diamonds Marching Band

Our County President, Ian Ward, presented the County Standard to Alan Williams, County Standard Bearer for 2016.

The conference raffle raised £138 towards the costs of the conference. A big thank you to everyone who donated prizes. Thank you also to everyone who helped on the day, especially the ladies of Brighstone Branch for looking after the refreshments and Dawn Phillips for the Raffle.

(NB: to see more information on Galanos House go to the Legion website www.britishlegion.org.uk and search "Galanos House")



Conference photographs courtesy of Mrs. Claire Whatley.

MSO Appointment

Regrettably the successful candidate declined the position of MSO for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, as did the second choice candidate. As a result the position has been readvertised and further interviews have been scheduled for mid-March. Hopefully we will have good news to report in our next newsletter. In the meantime please continue to use the National Helpline Freephone number (0808 802 8080) for queries which would normally have been directed to Steph. These enquiries will be channelled to the most appropriate Legion department for action. The County email rbliwcounty@outlook.com is still available to use for queries which are handled here on the Isle of Wight or for assistance if you have not received a reply from the central helpline.

New RBL National President announced

On 11th February, 2016 it was announced that the RBL has appointed Air Marshal David Walker CB CBE AFC MA RAF (Retd) as our new National President. Air Marshal Walker enjoyed a 34-year career in the RAF, ending his service as Deputy Commander of NATO Joint Forces Command.

Air Marshal Walker's three-year term of office will begin on Sunday 22 May as The Royal British Legion's Annual Conference draws to a close in Eastbourne, East Sussex. He will take over from the incumbent National President, Vice Admiral Peter Wilkinson CB CVO, who was appointed in October 2012. Air Marshal Walker said: "I am honoured to take up the position of National President and to join the Legion at a time of modernisation and change. I greatly admire the charity's commitment to the Armed Forces community.

"During my three decades in the RAF, I've seen the Legion's work have an impact on people of all ages, from fresh-faced recruits setting out on their careers to Second World War veterans.

"The Legion's role remains as relevant today as ever, and I look forward to playing my part in the organisation's vital work over the next three years."

Air Marshal Walker was educated at the University of Bristol and King's College London. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1978 and flew Harriers completing tours in Germany, the UK and the United States, where he carried out an exchange tour with the US Navy flying the F-18 Hornet.

During his service, he commanded No 1 (Fighter) Squadron, flying operational missions over Iraq and Bosnia before being appointed Military Assistant to the UK Minister for Armed Forces in the Ministry of Defence. He later took command of RAF Cottesmore in Rutland and the UK Harrier Force. In 2005, he took command of No 1 Group of the RAF's frontline, with responsibility for fast jet forces, their training and operational performance. He completed his service as the Deputy Commander of NATO's Air Command and then its' Joint Forces Command.

OTHER ISLAND NEWS AND EVENTS

Normally the IW & Hampshire MSO collects the names from branch officers of members to be included in our “*We Will Remember Them...*” section. Until a new MSO is appointed please forward details to the County using the e-mail address below. This will ensure the names are included in the next available edition of *Isle of Wight Link*.

rbliwcounty@outlook.com

Thank you.

We will remember them

Mr Frank Peart – Ryde Branch

Mr D. Burke – Ventnor Branch

*Our sincere condolences to family
and friends.*



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

4th March 16	Branch Chairman/Vice-Chairman Meeting - Shanklin RBL Club 6.30pm
13th March 16	RGBW Back Badge Service, Northwood Church 11am
14th March 16	Commonwealth Day Flag Raising, Flag Pole Ryde Esplanade 9.30am. <i>Please see enclosed invitation for more details.</i>
21st April 16	Event to mark 90 th Birthday HM The Queen – details to follow
31st May 16	100 th Anniversary Battle of Jutland Flag Raising , Ryde - details to follow
4th June 16	Drumhead Service – Battle of Jutland Ryde - details to follow
9th/10th July 16	Branch Management Course – Isle of Wight
17th/18th September 16	County Management Course – Isle of Wight



RBL Training Courses Available on IW

The County has arranged for the following courses to be held on the Isle of Wight this year. The venue will be the upstairs hall at the Conservative Club in Pyle Street, Newport (there is a stairlift for anyone who has difficulty with stairs). Refreshments are provided. The course will be run by a national Legion training officer.

Branch Management - 9th & 10th July 2016

This is a two day course available to all current (or prospective) Branch Officers and Committee members. It is designed to give you a greater understanding of your role in the branch and an overview of our responsibilities in connection with the Charities Commission and the RBL in general.

County Management – 17th & 18th September 2016

This is a two day course available to all current (or prospective) County Officers, Committee members and Specialist Appointment holders and is designed to give us a greater understanding of roles and responsibilities and how we can develop the County successfully.

Application forms, and more details, are enclosed with this newsletter. Please send in your completed application forms as soon as possible. If you have any queries regarding either of the courses please contact Karen Gibson 07791 065709 or email rbliwcounty@outlook.com

Ventnor RBL Branch

WW1 SOLDIER REMEMBERED

28th February 2016



A very moving ceremony to honour a Ventnor soldier who died during WW1 took place on Sunday at Ventnor War Memorial. The event was organised by the Ventnor WW1 Commemoration Committee and the committee has a five year commitment to honour all 113 local men recorded on Ventnor War Memorial.

Pte Arthur Dixon, whose parents Fred and Hannah Dixon lived at Verona Villas, Newport Road, Ventnor, enlisted in The Kings (Liverpool Regiment) in October 1915. He died of double pneumonia on 20th February 1916 in Liverpool and he is also commemorated on the County War Memorial, Carisbrooke Castle. Arthur's niece Jean Harris and her husband Brian, who had read of the event in the County Press, attended the ceremony. Jean was born on the Island and moved in Ventnor in 1938 and she and Brian now live in Carisbrooke.

During the ceremony which was conducted by Reader Jenny Hopkins-Holder, Jean laid a cross and Brian laid a bunch of red roses. The ceremony was again well attended, with Ventnor Town Mayor, Cllr Jason Mack reciting the Exhortation and Bugler Will Nixon playing the Last Post and Reveille.

Three Standards were present, Ventnor Royal British Legion, Royal Navy Association and Royal Engineers carried respectively by Ernie Willis, Alec Penstone and Neil Webb.

Of particular note is Alec Penstone, a veteran of the Artic Convoys, aged 91. Alec, who was recently presented with the Legion d'honneur, has attended all these ceremonies but has decided to hang up his Standard. Alec is a great character and he will be greatly missed, but he has said he will continue to attend these ceremonies.

Major (Retd) Danny McMeechan, Chairman of the Committee, said that he was delighted that a relative of Arthur Dixon was able to attend the ceremony and this made all the work done by the Committee really worthwhile.

Photo shows Brian and Jean Harris either side of the flag.

RBL CLUB CORNER

*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

Facebook:

SHANKLIN

2 Collingwood Road, Shanklin, IW, PO37 7LN

Telephone: 01983 862234

E-mail: r.b.l.shanklin@btconnect.com

Website:

VENTNOR

35 High Street, Ventnor, IW, PO38 1LZ

Telephone: 01983 853905

E-mail: rblventnor@gmail.com

Website: www.rblsc-ventnor.co.uk



Look out for our Clubs on Facebook



RGBW Isle of Wight Branch

BACK BADGE SERVICE – Sunday 13th March 2016

The RGBW Isle of Wight Branch cordially invite all members and standard bearers of the Royal British Legion to join them at their Back Badge Service being held on Sunday 13th March 2015 at Northwood Church. The Service will commence at 11am and will be conducted by Rev. Roger Whatley.

Education 50+ and afterwards Project

Are you an Armed Forces veteran? Do you know an Armed Forces veteran?

Can you help with an exciting new project?

A new Age UKIW project which aims to get people aged 50+ volunteering in schools for the mutual benefit of reducing social isolation and improving intergenerational awareness, is looking for volunteers. There's also a real aspect of enhancing the education of pupils as the project impacts in several curriculum areas.

One strand of the project involves forces veterans who might be willing to be interviewed by students about their memories of military service. In doing so it is foreseen that memoirs will be used in academic study or project work and a valuable record of the individual's military service will be saved.

Mike Sizer-Green, the Age UKIW Education 50+ Project Officer, would love to hear from you if:

- You served with our armed forces
- You are or were related to someone who served or who is still serving
- You have experience of armed forces life.

The first interviews for the Project took place on Thursday 25th February 2016 when two service veterans, David Langford and Tony Hess, were interviewed by IOW College Public Service students studying for their Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Mike Sizer-Green said "The day was hugely successful but we need more service veterans to be subjects for future interviews at the college and other educational establishments on the Island".

Below is some of the feedback received from the participants who took part in the first interviews:

Terry Gaskin – Public Services tutor – "The educational benefits for the students in this exercise were huge. I'm not just talking about their academic development, but also the enhancement of their social and moral understanding of an older generation. It is something I want to see repeated".



David Langford - "I joined the Army half a century ago in a different age with different values both in military and civilian life... I think that the values that existed then could teach the current young people how to mix more and dare I say it, be happy and more content with life".

**THE
RR
PROJECT**

The Education 50+
and
afterWARDS project

invite you to

RECALL & REMINISCE

Share your experiences about
the armed forces

Tony Hess – “...breaking the cardinal Service rule of “Never volunteer!!”... I thoroughly enjoyed and felt really upbeat with the experience...I believe that hopefully the students may have gained an insight into my early life in the RAF and how it impacted on me... I believe that it is important to share these experiences with the younger generation”.



Bradley King – IOW College student – “I always had an interest in the military so it was a real privilege to have a chance to talk to Tony. I was really grateful that Tony shared his experiences about his time in the RAF with me. I feel that if other young people like myself also have a chance to listen to the extraordinary experiences of our nation’s servicemen and women, they should because it is truly fascinating”.

Wiktor Babiarz – IOW College student – “He told us to make sure that we respect people... So it makes me think, when he joined the forces he was only 15 and a half and as he told us that he had an attitude towards people and he did not care about them and all of those 8 years in the RAF changed him to a better person, to think about people, to make sure you treat them the same way you want to be treated”.

David Langford, Deputy Lord Lieutenant and a past County RBL President, is keen that this project should be successful and has said –

“One was always told in the Army to never volunteer. However this Age Concern project bringing together Veterans and school children sounds an excellent idea on several levels: I know that Veterans like to reminisce – sometimes like the proverbial fisherman and his catch, the lamp might swing further than was strictly accurate at the time! Nevertheless most Veterans have a wealth of stories about their time in the military. We no longer have National Service and the Forces themselves are much reduced, so many families have never known anyone who has done military service. Thus a generation is growing up who have a very sketchy view of any military matters – outside that portrayed by Hollywood! In many ways I feel it is our duty to gently educate young people in what service life was about. It is always more interesting to hear about a personal experience than to read about the national strategy of any operation. Therefore I would commend this Age Concern IWUK Education 50+ Project to all Veterans, not least because I suspect you will thoroughly enjoy it!”

For more information about the project, or to volunteer, please contact Mike Sizer at Age UK IW by email mike.sizer@ageukiw.org.uk or telephone 01983 525282

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 ONP

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 DIRECTED TO THE CONTACT CENTRE ON

0808 8028080

Membership Support Officer – TBC

AREA OFFICE:
104 Above Bar Street, Southampton,
Hampshire, SO14 7DT

E-mail: rbliwcounty@outlook.com

Website: www.britishlegion.org.uk

Registered Charity number 219279

Newsletter Enclosures:-

Branch Management Training Course
details & application form

County Management Training Course
details & application form

Education 50+ - Age UKIW Project
information leaflet

Invitation from Ryde Town Council to
attend Commonwealth Day Flag Raising
