



# Isle of Wight Link



August 2016

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



## SOMME 100

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July saw the Isle of Wight RBL County Committee stage a small ceremony to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the Battle of the Somme in St Thomas's Square, Newport.

The ceremony started at 07:30am with three blasts blown on whistles which was the signal that the troops would have heard at that time 100 years before and it was the signal for them to leave their trenches and advance towards the German lines.



A short service of commemoration followed led by Rev Dr James Izzard the National Chaplain of the Royal Naval Patrol Service.

The service was attended by the High Sheriff Mr Robin Courage MBE , Cllr Charles Chapman and Cllr Lora Peacey-Wilcox the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the IW County Council respectively and Lt Col David Langford Deputy Lieutenant and Cllr Lois Prior, Chairman of Newport Parish Council.

Also in attendance were several veterans, representatives of the local Army reservist unit and the Cowes Sea Cadets.

Rev Izzard revealed in his opening address that the actual first casualties of the Somme offence occurred on the 30<sup>th</sup> June when diversionary attacks caused severe losses to the South Downs (Pals) Battalions from Sussex.

Two poems were read out the first called 'On Somme' was read by the County Vice-Chairman, Mrs Karen Gibson, and the second entitled 'Two Fusiliers' was read out by the County Treasurer, Mrs Claire Kay, both poems had been written by men who fought at the Somme.

Following the poems wreaths were laid by the RBL County President and Chairman of the IW Council. Four families who had relatives who fought at the Somme followed the dignitaries in laying tributes at the war memorial.

The Last post and Reveille were played by Daryll Pitcher and the Exhortation and Kohima were said by the IW RBL County President Cllr Ian Ward.

In helping to arrange this ceremony I have met some very interesting people especially Mr & Mrs Westbrook whose great grandfather fought at the Somme and survived although sadly his brother did not, but he then went on in WW2 to crew one of the 'little ships' helping to evacuate troops from Dunkirk.

On behalf of the IW County Committee I would also like to express my thanks to Island Roads for their assistance in allowing access to the war memorial on the day. And also to Mr Stan Hider of Ryde Branch for his knowledge about the battle and some of the lesser known facts.

Terry Clarkson  
County Parade Marshal

## Somme Anniversary Event at Carisbrooke Castle

The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of the Somme was commemorated in the chapel at Carisbrooke Castle, an event arranged by Lt Col David Langford, Deputy Lieutenant.

The guests of honour were five families of men who had fought at the Battle of the Somme. The ceremony was also attended

by HM Lord Lieutenant Martin White, the High Sheriff Mr Robin Courage MBE, and Cllr Charles Chapman, Chairman of the IW Council.

A guard of honour was formed by standard bearers representing the Isle of Wight RBL County, with the County standard, Newport & Carisbrooke, Ryde, Brighstone & District and Shanklin branches supported by the standards from the Royal Hampshire Comrades Association and the Royal Artillery Association under the control of the County Parade Marshal Mr Terry Clarkson.

At the beginning of the service the County and the Hampshire's standards were laid upon the alter of the chapel, the standards were carried by Mr Peter Atkinson and Mr Alan Lovewell respectively.



The Last Post and Reveille were played by a bugler from Cowes Sea Cadets and the Exhortation was given by Mr Terry Clarkson and the Kohima by Mr Alan Lovewell of the Hampshire's Association.

After the service the standard bearers were honoured to have a photograph taken with the relatives of the men who had fought in the battle.

Terry Clarkson  
County Parade Marshal

## LEGION PUBLICATION CATALOGUE

The current catalogue of leaflets available to branches to assist with publicity and recruiting is enclosed with this newsletter.

## FREE SOMME 100 APP



The RBL has launched a free mobile and tablet app in partnership with TV historian, Dan Snow. Featuring 250 pieces of multi-media content, it brings to life key moments from the battle as they unfolded 100 years ago and provides an insight into the experiences of the men who fought in it.

The app can be downloaded from the RBL Website [www.britishlegion.org.uk/remembrance/ww1-centenary/somme-100/somme-100-app](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/remembrance/ww1-centenary/somme-100/somme-100-app)

## CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

### Sainsbury's commemorative rose

From July 2016, our corporate partner Sainsbury's are showing their support for the Armed Forces community, with customers and colleagues taking a large role in commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of the Somme.

Legion supporters will be able to purchase a Somme commemorative rose in selected stores and two Somme pin badges available online only, with all profits being donated to the Legion.



*Sainsbury's colleagues volunteering their time to plant poppies in a Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey*

### Marks & Spencer launch Somme poppy pin

Our corporate partner Marks & Spencer (M&S) will join the nation in commemorating the centenary of the Battle of the Somme, and to coincide with this, is pleased to announce the launch of its poppy pin in stores from July 2016.

M&S have raised more than £3million for the Legion since 2009 and all profits from the sale of the poppy pin will go towards the supporting the charity's work with the Armed Forces community



*The Poppy® Collection Poppy Pin is available in Marks & Spencer stores and online from July until stocks last.*

# Island Highland Gathering 24<sup>th</sup> July 2016

## OTHER ISLAND NEWS AND EVENTS



Thank you to our County Recruiting and Publicity Stand, our County Parade Marshal and the Standard Bearer Display Team for attending the Highland Island Gathering at Northwood House on 24<sup>th</sup> July.

Fortunately the weather was much better this year, and the event was well attended.

Thanks everyone for all your hard work.



## RBL Isle of Wight Standard Bearers

Thank you to Charlotte and Dave for setting up the facebook group for our Standard Bearers.

Log on to Facebook, search for “RBL Isle of Wight Standard Bearers” and click the “join” button.



### We will remember them .....

Mr John Young – Seaview & Nettlestone Branch

Mr Steve Bridgett – Ventnor Branch

*Our sincere condolences to family  
and friends.*



## CALLING ALL STANDARD BEARERS AND MEMBERS .....

Some of you may not be aware that John Young, the veteran Paratrooper, has sadly passed away last week. John is the chap who always turned up to AFD and other events in his Para beret in his wheelchair and would often take part in any parades.

He fought at Arnhem in WW2 and went onto serve in Palestine at the end of the war before transferring to the Royal Navy where he was awarded his long service medal.

His funeral service is on **Thursday 4th August at 2:15pm at the IW Crematorium**. I have learnt that only his son and daughter in law may be attending plus some old friends from the mainland.

It would be really great to give this veteran a fitting send off so if you are able to attend please do, John's son would be most happy to see you there.

Thank you and regards

Terry Clarkson, County Parade Marshal RBL



## BATTLE OF THE SOMME CEREMONY

### VENTNOR

4<sup>th</sup> September, 2016

A ceremony to commemorate the 100th anniversary the Battle of the Somme will take place in Ventnor Park on Sunday 4 September, 2016.

The event will commence with music from 1.30pm and the parade will march a short distance into position at 2.30pm for a service at 3pm. The service will include honouring 9 local men who died in August and September 1916.

There will be large turnout of Island and local dignitaries and all Standard Bearers and veterans are invited to attend this ceremony. Those who participate are invited to return to the RBLSC for a buffet.

Parking is available at Flowersbrook, 250m past the War Memorial on the left on the way to St Lawrence.

For more information contact Danny on IW 854869 or [danny.braveheart23@talktalk.net](mailto:danny.braveheart23@talktalk.net).

Danny McMeechan  
Major (Retd)  
Chairman, Ventnor WW1 Commemoration Committee



## News from the Women's Section

The Isle of Wight Women's Section County Committee have sadly decided to lay up our County Standard on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2016. A short wreath laying ceremony will be held at 11am at the War Memorial in Sts. Thomas Square, Newport. The final Women's Section conference will be held at 2pm at the Conservative Club, Newport and this will be followed at 3.30pm with the laying up of the County Standard in Newport Minster. The Branch Standard of the Newport & Carisbrooke Women's Section will also be laid up at the same time.

All Standard Bearers and members are invited to attend. Please come along and help us go out in Style.

For more information please contact Sylvia Williams, RBLWS County Chairman IW 296810

# COACH TRIP



Join us on a coach trip you'll never forget!

QUAY ARTS, NEWPORT

Thursday and Friday, September 22 and 23 at 7.30pm

Book online at [www.quayarts.org](http://www.quayarts.org) or call 01983 822490

Quay Arts Centre, 15 Sea Street, Newport Harbour, Newport PO30 5BD

The Royal British Legion Isle of Wight County has joined forces with Origins Theatre Company in staging a brand new comedy that will not only provide an excellent night's entertainment, but also raise funds for this year's Poppy Appeal.

Coach Trip tells the funny story of a group of older people on a journey to visit the war graves in France, in the company of George the driver and his lovely assistant Mabel! Coach Trip also has its poignant moments, and features a combination of live and recorded music of the 1940s, as well as a bugler.

The play, specially written by Island playwright Kevin Wilson as a tribute to the memory of those who gave their lives in active service - as well as to those who survived them, and their descendants - is being staged at Quay Arts, Newport, on two nights: September 22nd and 23rd.

Tickets are on sale to the general public at £10 each and can be booked by calling 01983 822490 or online at [www.quayarts.org](http://www.quayarts.org)

## We have a special offer exclusively for you.

Origins Theatre have generously allowed us to sell 30 tickets for each performance at **HALF PRICE**, and all the money raised from this will go straight to the Poppy Appeal.

If you would like to purchase one or more tickets at £5 each for either Thursday September 22<sup>nd</sup> or Friday September 23<sup>rd</sup>,

please email [rbliwcounty@outlook.com](mailto:rbliwcounty@outlook.com) or phone Karen 07791 065709 by **Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> August**. Tickets will be issued on a first come first served basis. After this date, tickets will be available at the normal price of £10 direct from Quay Arts, but there will be group discounts for parties of 10 or more, so please spread the word about this exciting new comedy play and come along and support the venture, knowing that you are supporting the poppy appeal too.





## COWES RBL BAND -

The Cowes RBL Band have recently completed their 28th visit to the Normandy town of Deauville where they annually parade through the town for Bastille Day. Cowes & Deauville are twin towns and associations have formed since the mid 1960s with the Cowes Branch of The Legion with many veterans of General De-Gaulles FFI (French Forces Of The Interior) (The Resistance)



Our friends representing Vectis Corps Of Drums



John From The Sandown & Shanklin Military Band



Representing Medina Marching Band, Les, Tim, Kyle & Marie

The Wight Diamonds Contingent



This year we have had healthy assistance from the other four IW bands, bringing with them a good ambience as we all work together as friends all year round.

A big thank you one and all!

Les Gladdis  
Cowes RBL Band

*Club membership is open to all Legion members.  
Please contact the club direct for more information.*

**R B L C L U B  
C O R N E R**

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

**RYDE**

1 St. James Street, Ryde, IW. PO33 2NF

Telephone: 01983 613302

E-mail: [rblclubryde@gmail.com](mailto:rblclubryde@gmail.com)

Website: [www.ryderbl.co.uk](http://www.ryderbl.co.uk)

**SHANKLIN**

2 Collingwood Road, Shanklin, IW, PO37 7LN

Telephone: 01983 862234

E-mail: [r.b.l.shanklin@btconnect.com](mailto:r.b.l.shanklin@btconnect.com)

Website:

**VENTNOR**

35 High Street, Ventnor, IW, PO38 1LZ

Telephone: 01983 853905

E-mail: [rblventnor@gmail.com](mailto:rblventnor@gmail.com)

Website: [www.rblsc-ventnor.co.uk](http://www.rblsc-ventnor.co.uk)



**Look out for our Clubs on Facebook**

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT VENTNOR RBL CLUB .....**



**9<sup>th</sup> August 2016**

Ventnor Carnival Rings Night 7.30pm



**11<sup>th</sup> August 2016**

Ventnor Carnival Darts Night 7.30pm

*For more information on these events please contact Ventnor Club direct*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>6<sup>th</sup> August 16</b>	Poppy Race Day - Newmarket
<b>9<sup>th</sup> August 16</b>	Carnival Rings Night, Ventnor RBL Club 7.30pm
<b>11<sup>th</sup> August 16</b>	Carnival Darts Night, Ventnor RBL Club 7.30pm
<b>20<sup>th</sup> August 16</b>	Garden Party & Art Exhibition, Seaview 2.30pm – 4.30pm
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> September 16</b>	“Sea Sunday Celebration Service”, St. Blasius Old Parish Church, Shanklin
<b>4<sup>th</sup> September 16</b>	Somme 100 Ventnor WW1 Event at Ventnor War Memorial 3pm
<b>17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> September 16</b>	County Management Course – Isle of Wight
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> September 16</b>	“The Coach Trip” Quay Arts Centre, Newport 7.30pm
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> September 16</b>	“The Coach Trip” Quay Arts Centre, Newport 7.30pm
<b>24<sup>th</sup> September 16</b>	High Sheriffs “Isle of Wight Day” – details to follow
<b>26<sup>th</sup> September 16</b>	Laying up of RBLWS County Standard, Newport 3.30pm
<b>30<sup>th</sup> September 16</b>	Last date for Branch accounts to be submitted to MSO
<b>9<sup>th</sup> October 16</b>	Laying up of Wootton Branch Standard – St Edmunds Church 10am
<b>29<sup>th</sup> October 16</b>	IW Poppy Launch – details to follow
<b>24<sup>th</sup> November 16</b>	County Standard Bearer Competition & Branch Deputy Standard Bearer Competition

## SEAVIEW & NETTLESTONE RBL BRANCH

Seaview & Nettlestone RBL Branch are holding a Garden Party and Art Exhibition at the Seagrove Pavilion, Seaview on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2016. The event will commence at 2.30pm. Everyone is welcome.



Please see enclosed poster for more information.

## Branch Treasurers:-

If you still need to arrange for the Independent Examination of your branch accounts the contact details for our trained Independent Examiners are:-

Karen Gibson	01983 865664 07791 065709	<a href="mailto:gibsonkiw@outlook.com">gibsonkiw@outlook.com</a>
David Ramsay	01983 524849	<a href="mailto:daveramsay240@msn.com">daveramsay240@msn.com</a>
Claire Kay	01983 811652 07927 112600 (text only)	<a href="mailto:claire.countyrbl@gmail.com">claire.countyrbl@gmail.com</a>

# 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

[rblwcounty@outlook.com](mailto:rblwcounty@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.

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

If you joined as a new member from 1 April 2015 onwards, your membership will be due for renewal each year on the date you joined. If you joined before 1 April 2015, you will renew on 1 October 2016.

From 1 October 2016, the membership fee will be £17. Some branches charge an additional branch subscription fee on top; this will be printed on your renewal notification. There will be no further changes to branch subscriptions for the rest of the financial year 2016-2017

When your payment is cleared, it should take up to 10 working days for you to receive your card. Direct Debit is the easiest way to pay for your membership as this will go through automatically on Monday 3 October. Due to reasons beyond our control, paying cash in branch takes longer to process and as a result, there may be a delay in sending out your membership card. To avoid this, pay by Direct Debit or use Paypoint if you prefer to pay in cash and your payment will be processed more quickly

Please note that Club fees are no longer processed centrally as part of your membership fee. They will be collected by your Club, as agreed by the Membership Council.

**ALL LEGION ENQUIRIES  
(including Welfare Requests)**

SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE CONTACT CENTRE ON

**0808 8028080**

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Membership Support Officer – Christopher Bolton

E-mail: [CBolton@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:CBolton@britishlegion.org.uk)

AREA OFFICE:

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

E-mail: [rblwcounty@outlook.com](mailto:rblwcounty@outlook.com)

Website: [www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk)

Registered Charity number 219279

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## *Newsletter Enclosures:-*

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### Publications Catalogue

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Poster – Seaview & Nettlestone Garden  
Party & Art Exhibition.

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### County Update – July 2016



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