

COWES HERITAGE

NEWSLETTER

SPRING EDITION 2020.



Annual General Meeting.

This is an invitation to join us for the **2020 Annual General Meeting** on Tuesday 14th April 7.00 pm at Birmingham Rd Methodist Church. As well as the official business, which is normally brief, there will be refreshments and a chance to chat, followed by an illustrated talk by **Dr. Ruth Waller** entitled “**The Archeology of Cowes (and Northwood & Gurnard)**”.



Those who have attended any of Ruth’s talks know we are in for a very informative and entertaining evening. Ruth has a way of bringing the past to life, her knowledge and love of her chosen profession is easy to see. I for one am looking forward to learning something new about the area where I live.

I'm sure you are all aware that May 8th is the **75th Anniversary of VE Day**; the official ending of the War in Europe. As part of the national remembrance Cowes Town Council are making **Sunday 10th May** a day of celebration. The event will be based at Cowes Yacht Haven and is intended to be a day of fun and entertainment. Cowes Heritage's contribution to this event will be a display of photos of wartime Cowes plus the VE Day street parties as well as showing our very first DVD "Cowes at War" made in 2004 to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of D Day.



Above procession in St Mary's Rd, part of the victory celebrations.

We are also pleased to announce "**Cowes 1939 to 1945**" an illustrated talk at Birmingham Rd Methodist Church on Tuesday 12th May 7.30 pm; entry is free but donations will be welcome and refreshments will be available.

If anyone has any photos, artefacts eye witness accounts or anything relating to the period Cowes Heritage is always happy to add them to our archives or copy them in order to record and preserve this period of history which had such an impact on the town and those living through dreadful events and eventual celebration.

Please contact David Jones, 01983 298445 or email davwin@talktalk.net
Or you can leave a message on our website www.cowesheritage.co.uk

I was delighted when these two photos arrived in the post; thanks to East Cowes Heritage for passing them on and to the lady who found them in her mother's photos.



The first photo is of Denmark Road School football team proud winners of the Island Elementary Schools' Shield. They easily beat their opponents Newport C.E. School 9-1 in the final in April 1929.

Their superiority was recorded in the IW County Press of April 6th 1929 (right).

The shield had been presented by Sir Godfrey Baring in 1907 since which time Denmark Road teams won the Shield eight times including their latest emphatic success.

I believe the shield became known as the Baring Shield and was competed for by schools' under-15 football teams; I'm unsure whether the competition still exists.

Island Bowls clubs also competed for a Baring Shield.

ISLAND SCHOOLS' SHIELD FINAL.
Cowes Denmark-road v. Newport C.E.—
Since the Island Schools' shield was presented by Sir Godfrey Baring, Bart., in 1907, it has been won by the Cowes Denmark-road boys no fewer than eight times, but, judging by the boisterous enthusiasm displayed by their young supporters in the final, played at the Westwood ground, Cowes, on Easter Monday, they are as keen as ever on winning the trophy. They have not often had such an easy task in the final as on this occasion, their Newport rivals being decisively beaten by an eight-goal margin. The Cowes lads were the bigger lot, one or two of the Newportians being quite diminutive, and they were much the better players, though had they made better use of their chances the losers, who fought gamely to the end, regardless of the heavy score against them, would have had at least three more goals to their credit. The match aroused considerable interest, the receipts amounting to about £10. Mr. F. Willis, of Cowes, was the referee, and the elevens were: Denmark-road—Woodmore; Webb, Patey; Wright, Corke, Lewis; Saunders, Crowther, Cave, Vallender, Paul. Newport C.E.—Seaman; Steele, Elkins; Scott, Fry, Simms; Hunt, Farrington, Ralph, Gale, Hingley. Playing with the wind in their favour, the Newportians commenced in nippy style, the game being fairly even, but gradually the Denmark-road boys obtained the upper hand, and after a quarter of an hour Crowther got through on the right wing and gave them the lead with an excellent shot. Two minutes afterwards Cave ended a smart dribble with a capital second goal for Denmark-road, who led by 2—all at half-time. The Cowes lads opened the second half strongly, and, with the Newport defence wavering under pressure, the destination of the shield for another year was speedily settled. Denmark-road, playing

The second photo was taken in 1932 and shows the 2nd Cowes Life Boys outside Birmingham Rd Methodist Church Hall.

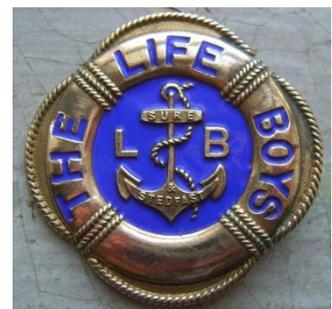


Following the merger of The Boys' Brigade and the Boys' Life Brigade in 1926 the junior section, of what was now the Boys' Brigade, became known as the "Life Boys". A life buoy became their symbol and their uniform was a sailor's cap, navy blue jumper and shorts. This image of a badge was found on Pinterest.

In 1966 the Life Boys became a full part of the Boys Brigade as the Junior Section.

Among this group are Keith and Alan Prouten, uncles of the lady who provided the photos.

Today the only Boys' brigade groups on the Island are the 1st Newport and 2nd Ryde.



Finally a brief mention of our planned 2020 Exhibition. This year we have chosen to look at the 1960s. Our next newsletter, in June, will contain more details. Any pictures or stories from that decade whether at work or play will be welcome. More information will be in the next newsletters.

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