



SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL

Press Release

MEMORIAL MEMORIES MARKED

Sandown Town Mayor Paddy Lightfoot, IW RBL President Ian Ward BEM and Christchurch Rev Mark Williams marked the contribution made by pupils from the Bay CE Primary School, Sandown, to the recent Armistice and Remembrance Day Commemorative events, as well as the Centenary of Sandown War Memorial, presenting pupils with special DVD's and certificates.

Pupils researched the history of the memorial, as well as the lives of 2 Victoria Cross recipients, Eric Charles Twelves Wilson (baptised at Christchurch, Sandown, in 1912), and Harry Frederick Whitchurch; and the film includes interviews with relatives of service personnel on the memorial.

Sandown Mayor Paddy Lightfoot said 'It is heartening to see pupils contributing to the commemorations, and their research into the history of the Town's Memorial and the events of the past 100 years, has created a film which honours the memories of the service personnel from the Town'.

Ian Ward BEM added 'As an ex-serviceman it's important to remember the sacrifices made, and in this Centenary Year of the RBL, head of School Mrs Lawrence and all pupils have helped to remind us of what the Poppy represents and the role the British Legion continues to play'.

Sandown Memorial, the first 100 years, is freely available on you tube and part of the 'Growing Up In The Bay' film series, and includes music from the Sandown & Shanklin Military Band, with narration by Retired Air-Vice Marshall Tony Staples CBE.

Rev Mark Williams concluded 'We've been able to mark the Centenary of the Memorial, as well as 75th commemorative events for VE and VJ days, safely under Covid guidance, and the pupils have researched the churches of Sandown, and the Town's military background'.

The Town Council renovated the memorial for the Centenary, working with Green town Volunteers on commemorative troughs, and with pupils on a display at the Town's Library; in addition, helped with the poppy appeal which has seen over £14,000 raised through collections in the Bay.

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Picture L-R Rev Mark Williams, Ian Ward BEM, Sandown Mayor Paddy Lightfoot with Pupils from Bay CE Primary School.



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