



Self-help was The Legion's watchword

NEARLY 12 MONTHS of hard voluntary work by members of the Penzance British Legion Club culminated on Saturday in the opening of brand-new headquarters in Bread Street.

The new club, which replaces the old one in Causewayhead, was opened by Major Simon Bolitho. Congratulating all those who had put in so much hard work, and wishing them and the club every success for the future, Major Bolitho said: "This is really what the Legion is all about; everyone helping each other. I think this new club is a great achievement for the Penzance Legion."

Major Bolitho was introduced by the President of the Penzance British Legion, Mr. Peter Tresidder, who is also treasurer of the club, and a vote of thanks was given by the chairman, Mr. Tony Nicholls.

FAR CRY

The new, spacious, tastefully-decorated premises are a far cry from the small room above the former Howards Seed Shop in the town, where the Penzance British Legion Club first started. The club was then known as the Ivyleaf club, and it was not until the 1930's when members moved to premises in Chapel Street that it became the British Legion Club.

An increase in membership took the club from Chapel Street to Causewayhead in the early 1960's, and a further increase in members has brought the club to Bread Street.

"We decided to move from Causewayhead, simply because it became too small for us. Our membership has topped the 200 mark and we just ran out of room", secretary, Mr. Ken Nicholls told "The Cornishman".

DELIGHTED

"The members were delighted with the decision to move, and have put in hundreds of hours of voluntary work to convert these premises," he went on.

The new premises, which have been bought by the club, were formerly used as a store room by Phillips' Toy Shop.

They were bought in August last year and planning permission for the conversion was granted in the October.

"We started the work in the November, completely gutted the place, and have rebuilt it.

"It has cost us about £5,500 for the conversion, but without the voluntary help it would have been an awful lot more. Everything that has gone in has gone in brand new.

"We wanted to have far better facilities for our members.

"In the Causewayhead premises if we had 45 people in the bar it was full up. Here we can accommodate at least 100 in complete comfort," said Mr. Nicholls.

As well as the bar facilities, the club also hopes to use a big upstairs room as an entertainment section, but at the moment it is not converted.

"BEST IN TOWN"

"I would say that our new cellar is the best in the town", assistant secretary, Mr. Jack Mead said.

"This is a club built by members for members and we are very proud of it, indeed", added Mr. Nicholls.

"It was formerly an old insulated milk cellar and all we had to do was re-decorate it.

"The bar is completely dual-purpose so that two people can work behind it without getting in each other's way, and this will be far more efficient.

"We have been very very lucky to have so much voluntary help from our members, in fact we could never have done it without them," he added.

"This is a club built by members for members and we are very proud of it, indeed," added Mr. Nicholls.

MAJOR SIMON BOLITHO pulls the first pint at the opening of the new Royal British Legion club, while its chairman, Mr. Tony Nicholls, looks on.



Drawing of the new Penzance Royal British Legion Club in Bread Street, Penzance