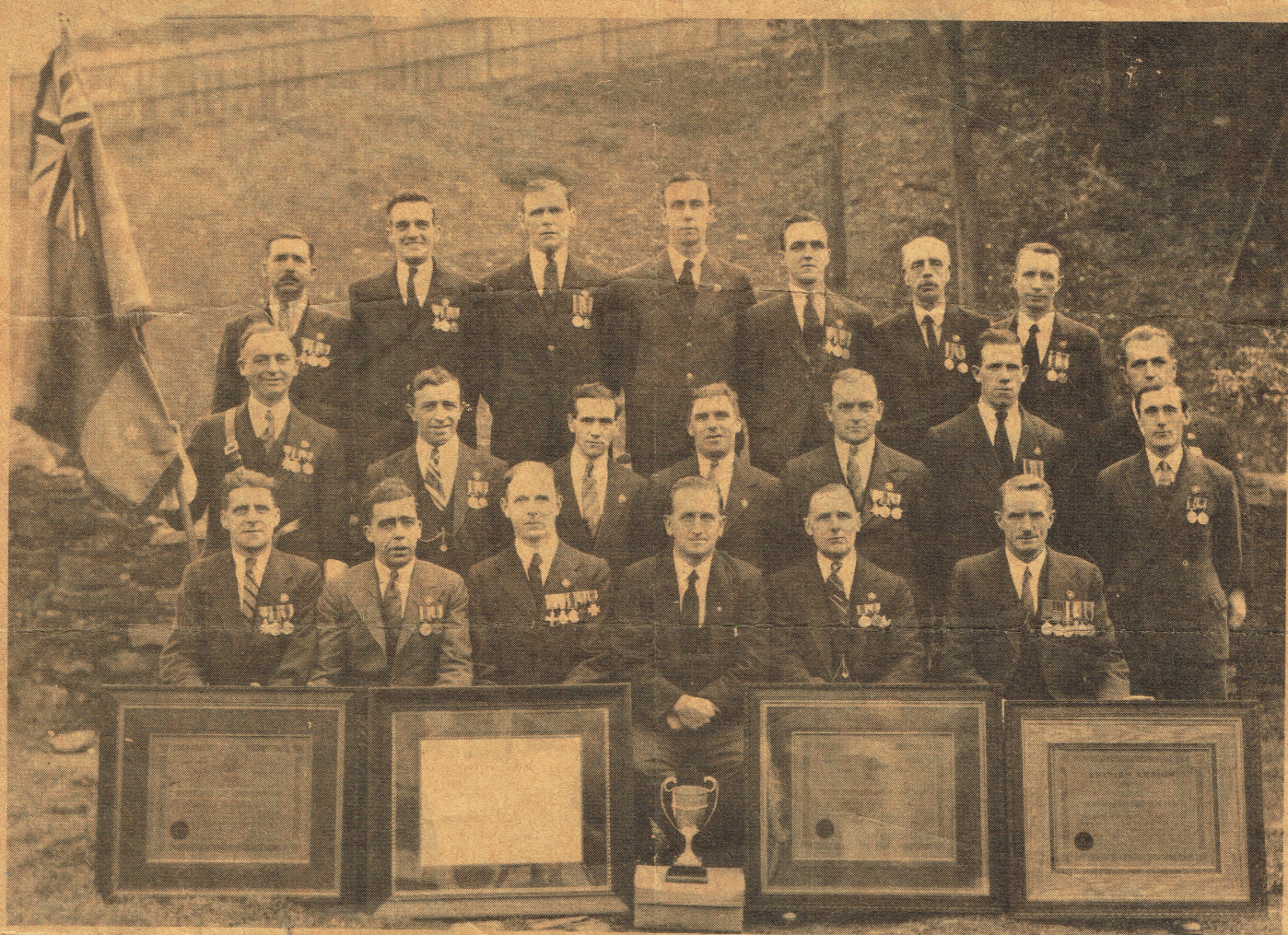




AS Garw Valley recently celebrated its Community Week, we thought this picture might bring back memories for a lot of local people.

Taken 44 years ago, it shows the committee of the Garw Valley Branch of the British Legion. The occasion it commemorated was the winning of the Wales Area Cup which was awarded for looking after the welfare of disabled ex-service men. The same year they were runners-up for the Haigh Cup which meant that they were one of the eight best British Legion Branches in the United Kingdom.

The branch was formed in 1921 and members were present at the opening of the Menin Gate in Ypres, Northern France, which commemorates the death of 56,000 men who died in the mud during the famous World War 1 Battle and whose bodies were never found. They were also present at the opening of the

Welsh National Memorial at Cardiff which was attended by the later Duke of Windsor when he was Prince of Wales.

The branch was responsible for organising many pilgrimages to the battlefields of France and Belgium in the years following the end of the 1st War.

Our photograph shows — Back (left to right): W. Jones, F. Shaylor, A. G. Mercer, (chairman, joint committee), W. H. Cridland, S. Shaylor, G. W. Bennett, W. H. Pritchard (treasurer, Benevolent Committee). Centre: W. Burdord, (standard bearer), Ben Davies, W. James, E. Smith, J. Matthews, J. Smith, H. A. Higgins (treasurer). Front: Don Falconer (secretary Joint committee), R. Pugh (branch secretary), Major H. H. Johnson, M.C. (president), T. H. Leidtke (chairman), A. E. Cooper (benevolent secretary), Sergeant J. V. Murphy, D.C.M. (assistant secretary), E. Brocklebank.