



## **Notes on Remembering the Great War in Bucks, 12th Meeting, held at Viney House, Aylesbury on 27 October 2018.**

The Lord Lieutenant, Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher, Bt. welcomed those attending the meeting, especially anyone attending for the first time.

**Professor Ian Beckett (Bucks Military Museum Trust)** reported that the HLF-funded 'Casualties of War' project was nearing completion in terms of analysis although volunteers were still working on transcription. It would be featured shortly in the *Evening Standard*. The Trust's small photographic exhibition on the 1/1<sup>st</sup> Bucks Battalion in Italy, 1917-18 would be held at the Old Gaol from 30 October to 28 November 2018, concluding the series of exhibitions begun in 2014.

**Laura Cotton (Centre for Bucks Studies)** reminded groups that the Centre would welcome hard or electronic copies of all books and booklets that had been produced as a result of the centenary. She also reported that the Great War Buckinghamshire website had now been soft launched with some sample 'exhibition' pages and biographies. Comment would be welcomed prior to the formal launch in due course ([www.greatwarbuckinghamshire.co.uk](http://www.greatwarbuckinghamshire.co.uk)). With remaining funds from the project a book on Bucks in the Great War was also in production with text by Professor Beckett. The most recent showcase in Milton Keynes had been very successful. A free wrap up event on the Great War Buckinghamshire project would be held at County Hall on Saturday 1 December 2018 from 1000-1500, at which groups and individuals who had undertaken research for the centenary would be welcome to present their findings. Volunteers on the Great War Bucks project had enjoyed a visit to IWM Duxford and it was hoped to extend HLF funding beyond December to enable the work to continue: in any case, volunteers were encouraged to continue to add to what would be an enduring online home for research. It was also reported that the annual History Fair would take place on Saturday 17 November 2018 at CBS and that the next meeting of the Bucks Archives and Heritage Network would take place at Wycombe Museum on Thursday 4 April 2019 with an emphasis upon marketing. The Lord Lieutenant expressed thanks on behalf of the meeting for the work

by Laura, Katherine Gwynn and the other staff of CBS on the centenary projects.

**Lt. Colonel Simon Wilkinson (WW1 Steering Group)** reported that the organisers of the Prime Minister's Points of Light Award were welcoming nominations of individuals whose centenary volunteer efforts had had high impact within local communities. It was suggested that nominations be forwarded to Lt. Colonel Wilkinson ([simon@qualityhomes.co.uk](mailto:simon@qualityhomes.co.uk)). He also reported that the plans for redevelopment of RAF Halton appeared to have been delayed but the Heritage Stakeholders' Group sensed a real opportunity to place county heritage at the heart of future development: it would be necessary to ensure wide public support for such a heritage aspect of the plans in due course. He further reported that a number of veterans' breakfast groups had now been established in the county with the assistance of discounts from Messrs. Weatherspoon's including at Aylesbury, Milton Keynes, and Wing while free lunches were offered to veterans at RAF Halton. The new Royal British Legion Buckinghamshire Band was now up and running and requests for event attendance could be directed through him. Looking forward to 2019, the RBL would be supporting a D-Day veterans' 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary tour to Normandy. The BMMT Viney Memorial Lecture for 2019 would be given by the popular historian and author, James Holland, at a date to be confirmed. A plea was also made for any surplus funds from centenary ventures to be donated to BMMT to enable it to continue its work on preserving the county's military heritage. Thanks were due to all those individuals and groups that had worked on centenary events and projects since 2014.

**Bucks County Council (Bill Bendyshe-Brown)** reported that Armed Forces Day 2019 would be held at Wycombe Air Park on Saturday 29 June 2019. Approximately £11,000 of the required £35,000 of sponsorship had been raised. The event would be smaller than in previous years but would be a free, albeit ticketed, event. An external company would be handling event organisation and sponsorship. In terms of County Council and AVDC events for Armistice Day on Sunday 11 November, an initial short service would be held in Aylesbury Market Square at 0558 with a piper playing 'The Battle's O'er' at 0600 and a cadet reading the 'Tribute to Millions'. Following the exhortation, the Last Post, the Silence, and Reveille, a breakfast roll and coffee would be available to the RBL Pop-in Centre at 0610. The 'Thank You to the World War One Generation' would be held at The Gateway, Aylesbury from 1300 to 1600 with exhibitions, stalls, and entertainments. The latter was a free but ticketed event with tickets

available from [www.buckscc.gov.uk/wwi-event](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/wwi-event). There would be a searchlight in the evening rather than a beacon.

**Buckingham Armistice 100 Events** would include a Tapestry Exhibition in Buckingham Library from 27 October to 16 November 2018. 'Silent Soldiers' would be present in the Town Centre from 0900 to 1230 on Sunday 11 November 2018, and there would be a Commemorative Concert in the Town Centre from 1715 to 2000 that evening.

**Buckinghamshire County Museum** was holding the '100 Hearts: Legacy of War' exhibition from 20 October 2018 to 12 January 2019, this being one of a number of country-wide events by the Embroiderers Guild.

**Buckinghamshire Remembers (June Underwood)** reported that information was still being regularly received to update the databases. Over 1,200 photographs of servicemen killed in the war had now been received and work was proceeding on those names - at least 200 thus far - that had been omitted from the county's memorials for whatever reason.

**Amersham** had received a national award for its war memorial garden.

**Bledlow (Bill Bendyshe-Brown)** had produced a new booklet on the names on its war memorial and there would be a presentation of the work at the end of the remembrance service on Sunday 11 November. It was intended to hold a further event in March 2019 to bring together the various centenary projects and to display the memorabilia collected.

**Burnham** would be holding '100 Years: An End of WW1 Centenary Party' at Burnham Park Hall at 1800 on Saturday 17 November 2018 in partnership with Burnham RBL. £10 a ticket available from Burnham Park reception.

**Chalfont St Peter Parish Council (Linda Smith)** has Soldier Silhouettes in the churches and they will also go to local schools subsequently. In addition 120 'Lest We Forget' flags have been purchased and will go on display on Sunday 28 October 2018. The remembrance service parade will be led by the All Girls' Marching Band. Bells will be rung at 1905 and there would be a beacon on the common. The Heritage Group had taken part in a Great War event at the Chiltern Open Air Museum, where the WW1 Nissen Hut is now open.

**Chiltern District Council and South Bucks District Council** had offered small grants up to £300 for local projects commemorating the

centenary. The closing date had been 11 October 2018 with winning projects to be notified by 19 October, and all projects to be completed by 30 March 2019. There would be wreath laying in all villages in the districts.

**Flackwell Heath Local Area History Group (Sally Scagell)** will be re-enacting the scene of the 1921 unveiling of the war memorial with four boys (representing army, RN, RAF, and scouts) taking places at the four corners for the 1100 service. They will also be telling the stories of those they represent at the beacon lighting that evening.

**Friends of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry (Lt. Colonel Ingram Murray)** reported requests could be made for the mention of particular names at the regular page turning of the memorial books to the OBLI in Christ Church, Oxford. He could pass on requests to Mike Vince.

**Great Missenden (Jill Pateman)** reported that the war memorial had been cleaned with a grant from the War Memorials Trust: it would be rededicated on Sunday 11 November. An event had been held on Saturday 20 October 2018 to launch the new book, *Great Missenden in World War I*, which had been authored by Jill. A relative of one of those from the village killed had performed recently as a Silent Soldier. 'In Voice and Verse' would be presenting an event, 'Armistice: Remembrance of the Fallen' in St Peter & St Paul Church at 1430 on Saturday 10 November in aid of Friends of Great Missenden Parish Church. Tickets £15 from Samways on Station Approach, or at the door.

**Haddenham Players** are putting on a new play by Margaret Watkin, 'After the War Was Over', in St Mary's Church on Saturday 10 November 2018 at 1430 and 1930. The play represents a continuation of that performed in the village in 2014. Profits will be shared between Help for Heroes and the RBL.

**High Wycombe (Ian McEnnis and Sally Scagell)** reported that its events for Sunday 11 November would be centred on the Mayor's parade beginning with a wreath laying at the War Memorial Hospital and the participation of RAF personnel as well as veterans. It would conclude at the Swan Theatre. With the assistance of John Hampden Grammar School and Wycombe Abbey School, the 125 men and one woman buried or remembered in High Wycombe Cemetery would be commemorated with a 'Silent Army of Trees' from 9 to 12 November, each tree having remembrance cards attached and forming a cross. There will also be self-

guided tours of the Great War graves prepared by John Hampden Grammar School for the 'Tell Them of Us Project' ([www.galaxypix.com/sally/lostthepplot/tellthemofus/CWG.html](http://www.galaxypix.com/sally/lostthepplot/tellthemofus/CWG.html)). The new Star and Garter Home in Wycombe would be opened in 2019 and visits could be arranged prior to opening.

**Marlow (Mike Hyde)** would be holding the usual annual remembrance on the Causeway on 11 November 2018. In addition, Sir William Borlase Grammar School would be holding an event from 1300 to 1700 with displays. The Rowing Club would be naming two new boats, one named 'Lest We Forget' and the other to bear the name of one of the club members killed during the war. Silhouettes were being placed and there would be a display and talks in the Library. A presentation to the local National Trust Association Branch on Tuesday 27 November 2018 would be a wrap up of the events held since 2014. Letters of a Marlow serviceman held in the Liddle Collection at the University of Leeds had been transcribed and published as a booklet. The Marlow WW1 Town Walk to the trenches at Pullingshill Wood had been included in Chilterns Walking Trails.

**Milton Keynes (Sam Crooks)** reported a variety of events taking place throughout the city and surrounding villages and communities. In the city five commemorative benches would be dedicated in new estates established since 1980 between 1000 and 1500 on Saturday 10 November: these being Fishermead, Oldbrook, Springfield, Woolstone and Willen. The central remembrance service would be at the MK Rose in Campbell Park on Sunday 11 November 2018, and 17 churches would be taking part in the bell ringing at 1230 with five beacons throughout the city. Milton Keynes Living Archive had been tasked with preserving the legacy of the centenary. Other events included a performance telling stories of inspirational wartime women at Stony Stratford at 2000 on Friday 2 November; a performance by the Living Archive Band, also at Stony Stratford, at 1500 on Sunday 4 November; laying out of knitted and crocheted poppies at Wolverton on Wednesday 8 November; an exhibition on peace and sacrifice at Wavendon on 10 and 11 November; knitted poppies at Simpson from 10-16 November, and a centenary concert at St Thomas's Church at Simpson at 1900 on Saturday 10 November; a remembrance event at Hanslope on Saturday 10 November; and an exhibition at Gayhurst on 11 November. Parades and services on Sunday 11 November would be held at Bletchley, Bow Brickhill, Gayhurst, Lavendon, Moulsoe, New Bradwell, Newport Pagnell, Old Wroughton, Olney, Shenley Church End, Simpson, Stony Stratford, and Wolverton.

**Steeple Claydon** dedicated a new memorial garden to supplement the existing war memorials in St Michael's Church on Friday 21 September 2018.

**Stewkley Local History Group (John Sheldon)** would be holding a Great War Armistice Centenary Exhibition and Display in Stewkley Village Hall from 1400-1700 on Saturday 10 November, and from 1200-1700 on Sunday 11 November 2018. The WI would be putting on a free lunch and free refreshments after the remembrance service.

**Stone Local History Group (Carole Fryer)** reported that there would be an exhibition, 'The Great War In and Around Stone' in Stone Village Hall from 1200-1700 on both Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 November 2018. The commemorative service would be held at the War Memorial Gates in Oxford Road at 1045 on Sunday 11 November.

**Trenchard Museum (Francis Halford)** continued to offer Great War themed events and sessions for schools and children.

**Tyler's Green (Colin Doyle)** has renewed the 36 plaques placed on memorial lime trees in 1936 to commemorate the fallen: a grant was received from a local councillor. The WI will be planting poppies around the trees and 58 crosses will be placed on the Common to commemorate those lost from both Tyler's Green and Penn. There will also be a flagpole and a beacon on 11 November 2018. RBL was now going into care and nursing homes to hold remembrance services for those unable to attend events.

**Wendover** would be hosting a Ubiquitous Theatre production of R. C. Sherriff's 'Journey's End' at the World's End Garden Centre Theatre at 1930 from 8-11 November. Profits to Heart of Bucks Remembrance 2018. Tickets £15 from [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk)

Following the reports, there was a discussion of the future given that this was the last of the regular co-ordinating meetings. It was resolved that the meetings be subsumed within the **Bucks Archive and Heritage Network** as a sub-group to meet again on occasions as needs required. The approaching 80<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the Second World War, for example, might be an opportunity to revive it if desired. Laura Cotton would take over the database from the Lord Lieutenant.

The meeting expressed its thanks to Sir Henry for co-ordinating the meetings over the last five years, and also to Lt. Colonel John Williams for making the arrangements to use Viney House and for providing refreshments.