Local & Hero

Quarterly Newsletter of Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames War Memorials Association

The Great War Centenary: Our Borough Remembers

Commemorative events around the Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames have marked the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War - the 'Great War'.

At 23:00, 4 August 1914 Britain declared war on Germany following a sequence of events leading to Germany's invasion of Belgium. Sir Edward Grey, then Foreign Secretary, is famously attributed to a quote, "The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our life"

A hundred years later, on 4th August 2014 eleven lit candles at All Saints Church, Kingston Town Centre were snuffed out one by one on the hour until 23:00 as a mark of remembrance.

This followed a civic ceremony in the Ancient Market Square led by the Worshipful the Mayor of Kingston, Councillor Ken Smith JP as well as a service in the Church led by Reverend Jonathan Wilkes of All Saints Church with address form the Bishop of Kingston.

Ahead of the ceremony, Mayor Ken Smith said, "The centenary of the First World War should be a reminder to us all about the reality of war. Never before had our county seen such carnage. Across the country thousands of memorials were built, the nation was in shock...This event is an opportunity for the Royal Borough to reflect and to pay our respects to the fallen and to all those who grieved at that time."

New plaque unveiled

A new plaque, honouring those who gave their lives in the Great War has been added to the public war memorial at High Street, New Malden.

The plaque was officially unveiled at a ceremony on Sunday 27 July 2014 by the Worshipful the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames Councillor Ken Smith JP and The Representative Deputy Lieutenant of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames Colonel Geoffrey Godbold OBE TD DL.

The bronze plaque, commissioned by The Maldens and Coombe branch of Royal British Legion, is in memory of all members of the armed services and members of the police, fire and ambulance services who have also given their lives in the service of our country.

The ceremony was held in the presence of armed services veterans, standard bearers and a guard of honour comprising local Sea Scouts, Royal Navy cadets from TS "Steadfast" and Royal Marines cadets.



Photo: The new commemorative plaque unveiling ceremony at High Street, New Malden

2000 local WW1 stories to be shared.

For nearly 15 years, local historian Graeme Hodge has been researching the stories of circa 2000 local men and women who died as a result of The Great War.

Now, the recently formed Royal Borough Of Kingston Upon Thames War Memorials Association plans to share those stories during the course of the 100th anniversary commemorations and beyond.

"There are some incredible local stories of heroism and bravery..." says Association founder Hodge, "...but we are just as interested by the stories of the average local man or woman who suffered and paid the ultimate sacrifice in this terrible conflict."

Co-founder Ken Cowdery explained that "By connecting a name on a memorial to a local house, school or workplace helps bring memories of the fallen to life and also brings home the terrible impact of armed conflict on our local community."

Local Great War Roll of Honour Online

A Roll of Honour of local men and women from across the Borough known to have died in the Great War has been published online, www.local-hero.org.uk.

A Roll of those who died in the early months of the war from August to 31 December 2014 is also printed in the four centre pages of this Newsletter.

Remembrance Sunday Services and Events

Many events are planned throughout the Royal Borough on Remembrance Sunday, 9th November 2014. Times and locations of known civic ceremonies are listed on the page 15 of this Newsletter.

There will also be informal Armistice Day commemorative services taking place at many of our local memorials at 11:00 on Tuesday 11th November, usually marked by a two-minute silence.

Re-Dedication of Shrewsbury House School's War Memorial

Shrewsbury House School is holding a ceremony (invitation only) to rededicate its War Memorial on Friday 14th November to acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of The Great War. The school lists the names of those who served as well as those who died in the Great War.



Sean Smart, Head of History at the school has been at the forefront of a pupil-led project to investigate the stories behind the names. The Association is pleased to have had the opportunity to assist in some of the research and is delighted to have been invited to the forthcoming services.

Surbiton Rotary Club Remembers

Thanks to the kind invitation of Councillor Yogan Yoganathan, the Association had the opportunity to meet Surbiton Rotary Club members on 28th October.

Ken Cowdery explained "We were able to share our aims and objectives as well as tell a few stories about Surbiton's Great War."

"Club members showed great interest and also reminded us of the significant role that women played during the war, both locally and nationally."

The Club, renowned for championing and fundraising for local and global causes, also gave some helpful fundraising suggestions.

Graeme Hodge said, "The members showed us great warmth and hospitality all evening for which Ken, myself and the Association are extremely grateful."

Likewise all the staff at Hospitality Inn Portsmouth Road, Surbiton were very helpful. All in all, it made for a very pleasant evening.

St. Matthew's bell tolls

On 4th August 2014, St Matthews Church, Surbiton marked the centenary of the start of the Great War by ringing its church bell 137 times consecutively.

Each toll commemorated one of the 137 names of the fallen listed on St Matthew's magnificent Great War Memorial.

St Matthew's has close links with St Matthew's School and the nearby Royal Star and Garter home. At the Star & Garter a commemorative service was also held, attended by Ray Rowe and others form Surbiton's branch of the Royal British Legion.

Surbiton 'lamps' go out

On the evening of 4th August, a small informal ceremony was held at Surbiton Great War Memorial on Ewell Road to commemorate the outbreak of the Great War.

In support of the Royal British Legion's national 'lights out', campaign, candles were lit at 20:00 by each face of the octagonal memorial. Stories were told of some of the 386 fallen on each face before a candle was blown out. One remaining lit candle was snuffed out at 23:00, the time of Britain's declaration of war 100 years earlier. The ceremony concluded with a full reading of Laurence Binyon's poem 'For The Fallen' and the exhortation by all present: 'We will remember them'.

Local men die at Mons – the first British battle in the Great War

Tragically, three local men are recorded to have died in the first major British encounter with the enemy.



Drummer William James ROBINSON

The three were Drummer William James ROBINSON, age 18, Private Harry Clements THOMAS, age 25, and Private Frank Walter DAWES, age 20. All served with 1st Battalion East Surrey Regiment

They all died at the Battle of Mons on 23 August 1914. The Battalion diary advises that, the day before, the Battalion had marched 18m to Mons Conde Canal via Flouges arriving at 15:00. They were positioned to hold the line from a Canal Railway Bridge, just north west of Le Herbieres, to the Ville Pommeroeul Road. On Sunday 23 August 1914, the German attack started shortly after 13:00. By 15:00 the attack was pressed against the whole line. After blowing up a Bridge at 19:00 the battalion marched back to Bois De Boussu. Five Officers and 134 other ranks were recorded as having been killed, wounded or missing on that day.

There is little known about the actual circumstances surrounding each man's death. However, the fate of both Private THOMAS and Private DAWES were not confirmed until April the following year, when the Germans passed a list of casualties to the British via the American Embassy Central Information Bureau. Both men are therefore recorded as having died as prisoners of war. It can only be assumed that they were captured when wounded but died and were recorded as such by German authorities.

Drummer William James ROBINSON, came from a local military family. He had actually been born in Valetta, Malta, presumably whilst his father was serving there as a Colour Sergeant with the East Surreys. At the date of his enlistment in 1910 William was just 14 years 5 months old. On the enlistment papers, Reverend Shuttleworth of St Paul's Vicarage, Kingston was noted in the 'Other' entry often used for the home address. The family was known to live at 31, Bockhampton Road, Kingston - close to the East Surreys barracks on Kings Road. The papers also advise that William was 5'4" tall, with fresh complexion, grey eyes and brown hair. Before enlistment he had attended St Luke's School and been working as a shop porter.



All three men are buried at Hautrage Military Cemetery, Hainault, Belgium. Drummer ROBINSON is listed on the Kingston civic memorial and at both St Luke's Church and St Paul's Church memorials. Private DAWES is listed on the Maldens & Coombe public memorial and on the Christ Church (New Malden) memorial. Private THOMAS is not known to be listed on any local memorial, perhaps because his family had moved away to the Reading, Berkshire area.

The East Surreys Go To War

At a recent Surbiton & District Historical Society lecture, Ian Chatfield, Curator of the Surrey Infantry Museum, Clandon shared the story of the East Surrey Regiment's involvement in the early stages of the Great War.

At the outbreak of war, the Regiment's headquarters were based at the top of King's Road, Kingston. The old gate house still stands proudly to this day.

The Barracks, Kings Road, Kingston Upon Thames [courtesy of Surrey Infantry Museum]



However, the vast majority of men in the 1st (1st Bn.) and 2nd Battalions (2nd Bn.) were deployed in Dublin and India respectively. The 1st Bn. was sent immediately to France, arriving 15th August, as part of British Expeditionary Force (BEF). 1st Bn. arrived at Mons, Belgium shortly ahead of the advancing German army and on 23rd August 1914, participated in the BEF's first full scale battle of the Great War.

Although significantly out-numbered, the BEF was effective in repulsing the German attacks. Three local men are known to have died that day: Drummer WJ ROBINSON, killed in action age 18; Private HC THOMAS, killed in action age 25 and; Private FW DAWES, died as a Prisoner Of War, age 20.

Over the next two weeks the BEF was forced to retreat some 200km as far as the River Marne – not far from Paris. On 9th September, 1st Bn. was engaged in heavy fighting. Local man Private RR Parkinson lost his life that day alongside 19 non-officer 'other ranks'. Worse was to follow on 14th September where three local men died near Missy-Sur-Aisne: Private JF PICKETT, age 20; Private O CROCKER, age 30 and Corporal LR POCOCK. They died alongside alongside twelve 'other ranks'.

Over the coming weeks, what came to be known as the 'Race to the Sea' was now underway. Each opposing army tried to outflank the other, leapfrogging each other until eventually the front line extended as far as the coast. In this phase, more local men from 1st Bn. lost their lives. The Battalion diary notes that on 26th September, Kingston-born Private R DOUGHTY was 'Found Dead' although there is no explanation how or why.

In October and November 1914 the BEF was involved in the 'First Battle of Ypres' On 26th October Private J BRAZIER died of wounds, age 33 although again it is not clear how, when or where the wounds were sustained. On 18th, 24th and 29th November respectively, Lance Corporal ES STRIDE age 35, Private PT BROCKWELL age 29, and Private WEA EASTOP age 20, were killed probably as a consequence of enemy shelling or sniping whilst serving in or near the trenches

A similar fate was suffered by Private FC SWEET who, on 18th December, died of wounds sustained on 15th December age 26. On 30th December Private F RANDALL is killed. Both are again likely to be victims of enemy shelling or sniping.

By the end of the year, the 1st Bn. had reach Wulverghem in Belgium – about 8 miles southwest of Ypres and about 65 miles northwest of Mons, where it had seen its first action. Static trench warfare had begun.

In January 2015, 2nd Bn. would also arrive on the Western Front having returned from service in India.

Tolworth woman's Great War tragedy

The tragic tale of a Tolworth woman truly brings home the devastating impact that the Great War must have had on local people, families and our community.

Florence Emily Yarlett, born 1893, was the fifth of eight children of William and Elizabeth Yarlett of 2 Tolworth Terrace (1901 Census). On 20th December 1913 Florence married Alexander Spooner of the Royal Navy at St Matthew's Church, Surbiton. In July 1914 Florence gave birth to their child Alec H Spooner – just before the outbreak of war. Until then, life must have seemed full of hope. No one could have foretold the series of tragic events that were to follow.

Within two months, on 5th September 1914, Alexander Spooner's was dead – his ship sunk by a German U-Boat. This tragedy was followed on 25 April 1915 when brother William was killed on first day of the Gallipoli campaign. Another brother Alfred H Yarlett was awarded a D.C.M. for conspicuous gallantry at Gallipoli a few months later on 21/22 August 1915.

In June 1915, Florence married again, this time to Albert Bridger, from another local family (13 Tolworth Road -1911 Census). In June 1916, Albert was conscripted and sent to fight in France. He went on to be awarded a Military Medal.

On 1 October 1917, Florence's new brotherin-law William Bridger was killed. Then, greater tragedy followed when, on 27 March 1918, her husband Albert was killed. Following a post-war change in the law, Florence and her husband's brother Charles were free to marry in 1921. In 1924, a few months after the birth of a son Thomas Bridger, Charles Bridger died of tuberculosis. To end the tragic tale, Florence died herself in 1928, aged just 35 years.

Thankfully Thomas survived and his daughter, Florence Emily's granddaughter, Sheila Mee (nee Bridger) is alive and well and has been able to share details of this story.

Alexander Spooner, Albert Bridger, Alfred Bridger and William Yarlett are all commemorated on Surbiton's civic memorial and on St Matthew's Church memorial. Read more overleaf about first husband Alexander Spooner's fate on HMS Pathfinder, the first ship to be sunk by a German torpedo

Five local men killed as three ships sunk by same U-boat.

Five local men were killed in a terrible incident that caused shock waves in the Royal Navy and the Admiralty. On 22nd September 1914, a single German U-boat sank three ships in short succession. The losses were terrible with 1459 men being killed and just 837 survivors.

Early on 22nd September 1914 the German submarine U9, under the command of Commander Otto Weddigen, sighted HMS Cressy, HMS Aboukir and HMS Hogue steaming. The ships were patrolling an area of the North Sea known as 'Broad Fourteens'.



U-boat U9, Captained Otto Weddigen

Although the patrols were supposed to maintain 12-13 knots and to 'zigzag', the old cruisers were unable to maintain that speed and the zigzagging order was widely ignored as there had been no submarines sighted in the area so far during the war. At 06:25, U9 hit and sunk HMS Aboukir with a single torpedo. Next to be hit was HMS Hogue, which sank within 10 minutes. HMS Cressy was the next and sank within 15 minutes after being hit by a second torpedo.

Aboard those three ships were at least five local men, all of whom were killed. They were: Stokers Frederick HAMMOND and Charles William RALPH aboard HMS Aboukir; Petty Officer William Henry WEST and Carpenter Edward Daniel PEACOCK aboard HMS Cressy and; Ordinary Seaman Charles William BRYANT aboard HMS Hogue.

Local man killed aboard first ship to be sunk by a U-boat torpedo

Local Royal Navy man Alexander SPOONER, aged 24, was killed on 5th September 1914 - just over a month after the outbreak of war and the birth of his first son. His ship HMS PATHFINDER was the first ever to be sunk by a U-boat torpedo. Author Aldous Huxley witnessed the incident.

Alexander SPOONER was born in Woking, Surrey on 29th November 1889 - fourth child (elder siblings Mark, Maggie and Donald) of nursery labourer George Thomas Spooner and wife Sarah Jane Spooner. He was baptised at Church of England St John The Baptist's Church, Woking on Sunday 22nd December 1889.

In 1891 the census records the family as residing at Courthouse Cottage, St. John's Village, Woking. However, by 1901, the census records the family as having moved to Tolworth. They were now residing at 3, Natal Cottages, Pine Road (off Red Lion Road). The family had increased to six children, with the additions of Andrew Nelson born in Woking in 1893 and Charlie Campbell born in Surbiton in 1896. Charlie's twin sister, May Julia Spooner died at birth or shortly after.

After leaving school Alexander, worked as a carman (a driver of horse-drawn vehicles for transporting goods) before joining the Royal Navy in January 1908, aged 18. His enlistment papers show that he was 5'6¾" tall with chest size 36½ inches. He had a fresh complexion, grey eyes and light brown hair. In the 1911 Census, Alexander is recorded as being aboard HMS Doon – a floating dock stationed at Clee, Great Grimsby, Lincolnshire.

Alexander had taken on a trade in the Navy as a stoker. Stokers were the ship's boiler engineers as well as being responsible for feeding coal to fuel the steam engines. Being below decks most of the time, stokers must have been highly vulnerable in the event of the ship sinking, especially if struck by a mine, or torpedo.

In September 1913, Alexander successfully passed a three-month Mechanical Training Course to enable him to become a Stoker Petty Officer (formerly known as Leading Stoker First Class). On 25th October 1913, he was stationed aboard HMS Pathfinder as a Leading Stoker.

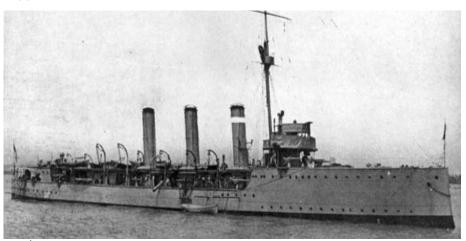
Life must have been going well for Alexander as, on 20th December 1913 he married Tolworth woman Florence Emily Yarlett at St. Matthews Church, Surbiton. Then, in July 1914, Florence gave birth to their first son Alec H. Spooner. The young family could probably not have conceived the tragic circumstances that would follow. A few weeks later the war broke out and just a month later, Alexander had been killed.

HMS Pathfinder was a light 'scout' cruiser, first commissioned on 18 July 1905, having been built by Cammell Laird in Birkenhead. At the outbreak of war Pathfinder was part of the 8th Destroyer Flotilla based at Rosyth in the Firth of Forth and was commanded by Captain Francis Martin-Peake. In the early stages of the war, the ship would have been tasked with patrolling in and around the Firth.

was essential to attract attention. He ordered the stern gun to be fired.

One survivor recalled that the bulkheads held firm until five minutes after the big explosion but there was insufficient time to lower lifeboats.

"The ship gave a heavy lurch forward and took an angle of about forty degrees down by the bow. Water came swirling up to the



On 6th August 1914 – within two days of the outbreak of war – German U-boat U21, under the command of captain Otto Hersing, set off as part of a III Flotilla from Heligoland. Its orders were to discover the whereabouts of the British 'Grand Fleet' and establish the location of any British patrols or blockades.

Initially things did not go well. Throughout its 350 mile outward voyage the flotilla failed to sight any British warships. Worse still, on 9th August, between the Orkneys and the Shetlands, one of the flotilla U15 had a fatal encounter with the British light cruiser HMS Birmingham. Another, U-13 also disappeared and was never heard from again. However, the flotilla continued on its journey, certain that major British warships would be based at the Firth of Forth.

When they arrived, two U-boats were posted just off the estuary and on 5th September, Captain Otto Hersing, commander of U-21, first spotted HMS PATHFINDER on patrol off Abbs Head, ten miles southeast of the Isle of May. Later that day, at 15.30, HMS Pathfinder was spotted again. This time Hersing resolved to attack.

At 1543 U-21 fired a single 50 cm diameter 'Type G' torpedo. Within two minutes Pathfinder's lookouts spotted it heading towards the starboard bow at a range of 2,000 yards. The officer on watch, Lieutenant-Commander Favell gave orders for avoiding action but it was too late. At 15.50 the torpedo hit and detonated beneath the ship's bridge. There was then a second, massive explosion within the fore section of the ship as the magazine blew up. The fore mast and No 1 funnel collapsed and then toppled over the side.

Although the explosion was well within sight of land, Captain Martin-Peake knew it

searchlight platform. The Captain shouted, "jump, you devils, jump!"

The bow section sheared off under the strain as the stern heaved up to a sixty-degree angle. In just four minutes, HMS Pathfinder slipped below the surface.

Fishing boats from Eyemouth were first on the scene and encountered a sea awash with debris, fuel oil, clothing and body parts. Destroyers HMS Stag and HMS Express followed too but most of its crew was lost. Records seem to differ on the numbers killed ranging from 259 to 270. There were just 18 survivors. Four subsequently died and are buried at Dalmeny, Fife and Warriston, Edinburgh. The grave of an unknown crewmember can be found at Dunbar, overlooking the scene of the sinking. The Captain and his secretary remained with the ship until the very end but somehow both survived.

Writer Aldous Huxley staying at Northfield House, St. Abbs witnessed the sinking and wrote in a letter to his father 14 September 1914: "...we actually saw the Pathfinder explosion – a great white cloud with its foot in sea."

Following Alexander Spooner's death, his widow received a consoling message from Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty at the family home 200, Thornhill Road, Tolworth: "The King commands me to assure you of the true sympathy of his Majesty and the Queen in your sorrow."

Alexander is listed along with another 256 of those who perished aboard HMS Pathfinder on the Chatham Naval Memorial (panel 4). His name can also be found on the Surbiton civic memorial and at St Matthews Church, Surbiton. Brief obituaries were published in *De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour* and the *Surrey Comet*.

🌋 Roll Of Honour, August 1914 – December 1914 🌋 Adopted How, Where, date public age name rank serving with Dec. other memorials died Died +/-1 memorial Κ 17/08/ CAULDER, Albert Private Queen's Own (Royal West Died, India 30 N Kent Regiment); 2nd Bn. 1914 (Smut) Κ 23/08/ ROBINSON, Drummer East Surrey Regiment; 1st Killed, France 18 Kingston St. Luke's Church, Ν 1914 William James Bn. "C" Company and Flanders Kingston; St. Paul's Church, Kingston Κ 23/08/ THOMAS, Harry Private East Surrey Regiment; 1st Killed, France 25 N 1914 Clements and Flanders М 23/08/ DAWES, Frank Private East Surrey Regiment; 1st Died, France 20 New Christ Church New N 1914 Walter and Flanders Malden Malden 24/08/ BRAZIER, Albert Dorsetshire Regiment; 1st Killed, France 24 N Sergeant 1914 Henry and Flanders South Lancashire Regiment S 24/08/ TAYLOR, Alfred Private Killed, France 20 Surbiton Christ Church, N 1914 Walter (Prince of Wales' and Flanders Surbiton Volunteers), 2nd Bn. Household Cavalry and Κ 26/08/ TURNER, Herbert Private Killed, France 33 Kingston St. Luke's Church, Ν 1914 Charles Cavalry of the Line; and Flanders Kingston 19th (Queen Alexandra's Own Royal) Hussars, "B" Sadn. Κ 26/08/ MERRYWEATHER, Corporal Royal Dublin Fusiliers; 2nd Killed, France 27 Ν Alfred William 1914 and Flanders S 26/08/ GILKISON, James Lieutenant Argyll and Sutherland Killed, France 30 Shrewsbury House School; Trinity Church, 1914 Highlanders (Princess David R (temp and Flanders Captain) Louise's), 2nd Bn./1st Bn. Wimbledon (91st Foot) attd. 19 Infantry Brigade 26/08/ ROSS, Ronald Royal Scots (Lothian Killed, France 19 Ν S Second 1914 Campbell Lieutenant Regiment), 2nd Bn. and Flanders 27/08/ RACKLEY, William Lance Household Cavalry and Died. France 23 Kingston Ν 1914 Arthur Corporal Cavalry of the Line; 11th and Flanders (Prince Albert's Own) Hussars Royal Munster Fusiliers; 27/08/ HALL, George Private Killed, France 30 Ν 1914 and Flanders William 2nd Bn. 01/09/ LANE, John Henry Private Grenadier Guards; 2nd Bn. Unknown, 24 Ν 1914 France and Flanders 02/09/ HASTINGS, Percy Major Queen's Own (Royal West Wounds, 41 New St. John the Baptist, Ν 1914 Kent Regiment); 1st Bn. Malden Kingston Vale France and **Flanders** S 05/09/ SPOONER. Leading Royal Navy, H.M.S. Died, At Sea 24 Surbiton St Matthews Church, Υ "Pathfinder." Surbiton 1914 Alexander Stoker Κ 09/09/ PARKINSON, Roy Private East Surrey Regiment; 1st Killed, France St. John's Church, Ν 1914 Robert and Flanders Kingston K 09/09/ RULE, Henry Private East Lancashire Regiment; Wounds, 24 St. Luke's Church, N 1914 Kingston 1st Bn. France and Flanders FRY, Thomas Royal Fusiliers; 4th Bn. 10/09/ Private Wounds, St. Luke's Church, Ν Kingston 1914 France and **Flanders** 10/09/ CLEARE, William Royal Sussex Regiment; Christ Church New Regimental Killed, France 40 New Ν Malden 1914 Serjeant 2nd Bn. and Flanders Malden Major 14/09/ PICKETT, James East Surrey Regiment; 1st Killed, France St. Luke's Church, N Private 20 Kingston 1914 Frances and Flanders Kingston 14/09/ MAYO, Louis Private Lancashire Fusiliers; 2nd Killed, France Ν 1914 and Flanders 14/09/ WHEELER, William Royal Scots; 2nd Bn. Lance Killed, France N 1914 John Corporal and Flanders

🌋 Roll Of Honour, August 1914 – December 1914 🌋 Adopted How, Where, date age public name rank serving with Dec. other memorials +/-1 died Died memorial М 14/09/ POCOCK, Leonard Corporal East Surrey Regiment; 1st Killed, France New Christ Church New Ν Malden 1914 and Flanders Malden М 14/09/ CROCKER, Otto Private East Surrey Regiment; 1st Unknown, 30 Ν 1914 France and Flanders 15/09/ RING, Edward Guardsman Scots Guards; 1st Bn. Wounds, 29 Kingston St. Peter's Church, Ν 1914 France and Norbiton Flanders 17/09/ COXON, Alfred Private Duke of Wellington's Wounds, 30 Kingston St. Peter's Church, Ν (West Riding Regiment); France and Norbiton 1914 George 2nd Bn. **Flanders** Κ 18/09/ JEFFERYES, Charles 2nd Dragoon Guards Wounds, 26 Kingston St. Peter's Church, N Sergeant 1914 (Queen's Bays); "A" Sqdn. France and Norbiton Flanders 20/09/ GILKISON, Duguld Captain The Cameronians (Scottish MID Killed, France 34 Upper Shrewsbury House 1914 Rifles). Bde. Mai. 5th School: Trinity Church. Stewart and Flanders Hale. Infantry Brigade Farnham, Wimbledon Surrey 22/09/ HAMMOND, Stoker 1st Royal Navy; H.M.S. St. John's Church, Died, At Sea 38 Kingston Ν 1914 Frederick Class "Aboukir." Kingston 22/09/ RALPH, Charles Christ Church New Stoker 1st Royal Navy; H.M.S. Died, At Sea New N 1914 William Class "Aboukir." Malden Malden 22/09/ WEST, William Petty Royal Navy; H.M.S. Died, At Sea St. Peter's Church, 31 Kingston Ν Officer 2nd "Cressy." 1914 Henry Norbiton Class 22/09/ PEACOCK, Edward Royal Navy; H.M.S. Died, At Sea N Leading 31 1914 Daniel Carpenter's "Cressy." Crew S 22/09/ **BRYANT**, Charles Ordinary Royal Navy, H.M.S. Died, At Sea 21 Surbiton St Andrews Church Ν William "Hogue" 1914 Seaman 26/09/ DOUGHTY, Richard Private Died, France N East Surrey Regiment; 1st Κ 1914 and Flanders 28/09/ HARDING, Harold Grenadier Guards; 2nd Bn. Wounds, St. Luke's Church, Private 36 Kingston Ν Κ 1914 France and Kingston **Flanders** 12/10/ EGGINTON, Bombardier Royal Field Artillery, 107th 20 Christ Church, N S Killed, France Surbiton Battery (23rd Brigade) Surbiton 1914 **Edward George** and Flanders 15/10/ HASTINGS, Royal Navy; H.M.S. 17 N Boy 1st Died, At Sea Kingston "Hawke." 1914 Frederick Stewart Class WOODWARD, Royal Marine Light St. Luke's Church, 15/10/ Private Died, At Sea Kingston Ν Infantry; H.M.S. "Hawke" Kingston 1914 William Henry 19/10/ LEVER, George Private Hampshire Regiment; 1st Killed, France Ν 1914 **Thomas** and Flanders 20/10/ PLATT, Sydney Private **Sherwood Foresters (Notts** Killed, France Kingston, Ν 1914 and Derby Regiment); 2nd and Flanders New Malden 21/10/ KETTLE, William 25 Ν Κ Private Middlesex Regiment; 4th Killed, France 1914 George and Flanders SMALL PIECE. 23/10/ Killed, France 34 Κ Private Devonshire Regiment; 1st Kingston St. Peter's Church. Ν 1914 **Charles Thomas** and Flanders Norbiton Κ 24/10/ DISS, Henry John Lance Middlesex Regiment; 4th Wounds, 32 Ν 1914 France and Corporal **Flanders** Κ 24/10/ HOWARD, Joseph Private Wiltshire Regiment; 2nd Killed, France 19 St. Luke's Church, Ν 1914 and Flanders Kingston Κ 25/10/ BALDING, William Royal Fusiliers; 1st Bn. Killed, France 22 St. John's Church, Ν 1914 Druid Corporal and Flanders Kingston Κ 25/10/ HUNT, Arthur Rifleman Rifle Brigade; 3rd Bn. Killed, France 31 Swilland Parish Ν 1914 Ernest and Flanders Church, Suffolk 26/10/ BRAZIER, James 33 Ν East Surrey Regiment; 1st Wounds, 1914 Bn. France and Flanders

🌋 Roll Of Honour, August 1914 – December 1914 🌋 Adopted How, Where, date age public name rank serving with Dec. other memorials +/-1 died Died memorial S 27/10/ BUTLER, Edward Private Royal Fusiliers (City of . France and 20 Surbiton St Matthews Church, Ν 1914 George London Regiment), 4th Bn. Flanders Surbiton Κ 28/10/ SAINSBURY, Private 17th Lancers (Duke of Wounds, 30 Kingston Ν 1914 Frederick Noah Cambridge's Own); France and **Flanders** 29/10/ TAYLOR, Frederick Royal Fusiliers; 4th Bn. Killed, France Ν Private 32 Kingston 1914 and Flanders 29/10/ FLETCHER, Wilfred Private King's Own Yorkshire Light Killed, France 29 Ν S Infantry, 2nd Bn. 1914 and Flanders 30/10/ GARDINER. 3rd (King's Own) Hussars; Killed, France All Saints Church, 21 Ν Κ Trooper Kingston George William 1914 and Flanders Kingston 30/10/ JONES, William Private King's Own Yorkshire Light Killed, France St. Paul's Church, Κ 26 Ν Kingston 1914 Henry Infantry; 2nd Bn. and Flanders Kingston Hill 30/10/ JELLY, Alfred King's Own (Yorkshire Killed, France Ν Κ Private Light Infantry); 2nd Bn. 1914 Joseph and Flanders 30/10/ SIMMS, Alfred Private Yorkshire Regiment; 2nd Killed, France 19 Ν Κ 1914 Sidney and Flanders TRIMMER, William 30/10/ Killed, France 22 N Lieutenant Hampshire Regiment, 1st S 1914 Douglas Maclean and Flanders King's Own Yorkshire Light 31/10/ FRY, Charles Killed, France St. Paul's Church, Κ Private 32 Ν Kingston 1914 Infantry; 2nd Bn. and Flanders Kingston Hill 31/10/ LEWIS, John Hampshire Regiment; 1st Killed, France 25 St. Luke's Church, Lance Kingston Ν William 1914 Corporal and Flanders Kingston; Kingston Congregational Church 31/10/ REDKNAP, Albert The Queen's (Royal West 33 Lance Killed, France Kingston N 1914 Joseph Corporal Surrey Regiment); 1st Bn. and Flanders 31/10/ CULLIP, Alfred Sergeant The Loyal North Lancashire Killed, France Ν 1914 Regiment; 1st Bn. "E" and Flanders Company 31/10/ DOWN, Henry Wiltshire Regiment; 1st Private Killed, France 20 N 1914 Charles and Flanders 31/10/ KIBBLE, Frank Lance Wiltshire Regiment; 1st Killed, France 27 Ν 1914 George Corporal and Flanders 31/10/ ALBORN, Albert Rifleman King's Royal Rifle Corps; , France and N 1914 2nd ed. **Flanders** Northumberland Fusiliers; 01/11/ Killed, France St. John's Church, St. CHIVERS, Ernest Lance Kingston N Peter's Church. 1914 **Thomas** Corporal 1st Bn. and Flanders Norbiton 01/11/ PULLEN, Alfred Plumber's Royal Navy; H.M.S. Good Died , Sea St. Luke's Church, Kingston Ν Kingston 1914 James Mate Hope 01/11/ NEWALL, George London Regiment; N Private Killed, France 1914 Frederick 1st/14th Bn. (London and Flanders Scottish) S 01/11/ WRAY, Charles Private Oxford and Bucks Light Killed, France 27 Long Ν 1914 Infantry, 2nd Bn. and Flanders Ditton S 04/11/ CRUTTWELL, David Private Honourable Artillery Died, UK 26 Ν 1914 Wilson Company, Infantry 05/11/ BAILEY, George Private The Queen's (Royal West Wounds, Ν Κ 1914 Surrey Regiment); 2nd Bn. France and Flanders 05/11/ ELLIOTT, Edward Wounds. Ν Lance 3rd (King's Own) Hussars; 23 1914 Corporal France and Flanders 07/11/ WELLBELOVE, **Christ Church New** Private Gloucestershire Regiment; Killed, France 16 Kingston, Ν Harold Charles 1st Bn. "B" Cov. 1914 and Flanders New Malden Malden London Regiment; St. Paul's Church, NORTH, Archibald 26 09/11/ Private Wounds. Kingston N 1914 Frederick 1st/14th Bn. (London France and Kingston Hill Scottish) **Flanders** 11/11/ JOHNSON, Thomas Private Scots Guards; 1st Bn. Killed, France 27 Ν Kingston 1914 and Flanders

	🌋 Roll Of Honour, August 1914 – December 1914 🌋										
area	date died	<u>name</u>	<u>rank</u>	serving with	Dec.	How, Where, Died	age +/-1	public memorial	other memorials	Adopted	
K	13/11/ 1914	NOTT, Charles	Private	Royal Scots Fusiliers; 1st Bn.		Died, France and Flanders	28	-		N	
S	13/11/ 1914	CORNISH, Charles Lawson	Lieutenant	Highland Light Infantry, 2nd Bn.	-	Killed, France and Flanders	27	Surbiton	St Andrews Church	N	
М	15/11/ 1914	ST. GEORGE, Howard Avenel Bligh	Second Lieutenant	1st Life Guards;	-	Killed, France and Flanders	19	New Malden		N	
K	16/11/ 1914	WRIGHT, Francis William N.	Sergeant	Royal Irish Rifles; 1st Bn. "C" Company		Killed, France and Flanders	27	Kingston	St. Luke's Church, Kingston	N	
М	17/11/ 1914	CAULDER, Edwin	Private	King's Own (Yorkshire Light Infantry); 2nd Bn.	-	Killed, France and Flanders	-	Kingston, New Malden	St. Luke's Church, Kingston; St. John's Mission	N	
S	18/11/ 1914	STRIDE, Ernest Sidney	Lance Corporal	East Surrey Regiment, 1st Bn.	-	Killed, France and Flanders	35	Surbiton	Christ Church, Surbiton	N	
К	24/11/ 1914	BROCKWELL, George Thomas	Private	East Surrey Regiment; 1st Bn.		Killed, France and Flanders	29	Kingston	St. Peter's Church, Norbiton	N	
К	27/11/ 1914	CHALLIS, Charles James	Private	Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry; 1st Bn.		Wounds, France and Flanders	-	-		N	
К	29/11/ 1914	EASTOP, Walter Edward Augustine	Private	East Surrey Regiment; 1st Bn.		Unknown, France and Flanders	20	-		N	
K	18/12/ 1914	CALEY, Wiliam Frederick	Private	The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment); 1st Bn.		Killed, France and Flanders	-	-		N	
S	18/12/ 1914	SWEET, Frederick Charles	Private	East Surrey Regiment, 1st Bn.	-	Wounds, France and Flanders	26	Surbiton	St Matthews Church, Surbiton	N	
М	19/12/ 1914	COZENS, Frank William	Rifleman	Rifle Brigade; 1st Bn	-	Killed, France and Flanders	-	New Malden	Christ Church (New Malden) ; St. John's Mission	N	
K	22/12/ 1914	LANGRISH, Roy Middleton	Sergeant	Devonshire Regiment; 9th Bn.		Died, Home	21	Kingston	St. Luke's Church, Kingston	N	
К	22/12/ 1914	WEEDING, John Richard Baggallay	Second Lieutenant	Welsh Regiment; 2nd Bn.	MID	Killed, France and Flanders	32	Kingston		N	
K	28/12/ 1914	WALLACE, Robert Linlithgow	Lance Corporal	Leicestershire Regiment; 1st Bn. "A" Coy.		Wounds, France and Flanders	21	-		N	
K	30/12/ 1914	FINCH, Edward	Private	Royal Sussex Regiment; 2nd Bn.		Killed, France and Flanders	29	Kingston	St. Paul's Church, Kingston Hill	N	
K	30/12/ 1914	RANDALL, Frederick	Private	East Surrey Regiment; 1st Bn.		Killed, France and Flanders	-	-	St. Peter's Church, Norbiton	N	
S	31/12/ 1914	EDWARDS, Edwin Allen James	Lieutenant	Bedfordshire Regiment, 3rd Bn. (attd. 1st Bn.)	-	Wounds, UK	19	Surbiton	St Matthews Church, Surbiton	N	

Key: Area: Chessington, Kingston, Maldens & Coombe, Surbiton, Tolworth & Hook

Decorations: DCM Distinguished Conduct Medal, MC Military Cross, MM Military Medal, MID Mentioned in Despatches

Help Find 'The Missing'

Our research so far has uncovered stories of circa 2000 people with a local connection that died as a consequence of WW1. However, there are still a number of missing stories - where we have not yet been able to establish a local connection or other information.

We would be delighted to hear from anyone whom has information on the missing names.

Our online roll of honour <u>www.local-hero.org.uk</u> shows these names at the end of each list. We can be contacted at <u>mail@local-hero.org.uk</u>.

'Every Local Life Remembered' Campaign

'Every local life story remembered by at least one local person' is the target of a new local WW1 remembrance campaign.

The aim is to ensure that, as a community, we remember all those from within our community who have made the ultimate sacrifice - 'lest we forget' (as is inscribed on Surbiton's civic memorial).

Local people or organisations are asked to choose one or more of the names from the WW1 roll of honour and to 'adopt' their story. You may be a family member, local person, school, faith group, community group or business.

The Association will share any information it has or comes across about the story behind your chosen name. You may be interested in researching the story further yourself.

So far, connections have already been with local family members so some of the names have already been adopted.

If you or your organisation is interested in 'adopting' a story, you can choose a name from the roll of honour above or view the full roll on our website www.local-hero.org.uk. Then just contact us at mail@local-hero.org.uk.

Letters from the Front: Ernest Thomas Chivers

Ernest Thomas CHIVERS was born in Pimlico on 8th January 1887. He was the second son of Harry and Emma Sarah Chivers. Harry, Ernest's father was a regular soldier and at the time of the 1891 Census was a Drummer in the 2nd Battalion of the East Surrey Regiment. The family resided at 2, Florence Road, Kingston-upon-Thames close to Kingston Barracks. Ernest attended St. Paul's School, Kingston Hill. He enlisted into the army at Kingston-upon-Thames on the 26th July 1907, aged 20, He joined the Northumberland Fusiliers as a Private and was assigned the Army number 1498. At the time of his enlistment, the family had moved a few streets away to, 5, Lowther Road.

According to Surrey Comet Ernest was "...one of the most prominent members of the Kingston Cygnet Swimming Club, and had been the winner of the club's one-mile race in the Thames." A keen footballer, he was a member of the Kingston Football Club in the season before the war. He was a good athlete, and won the Army Temperance Association Marathon race in 1910, for which he received a gold medal. In the following year he was the second best champion athlete of the entire Dover Garrison. At the time of the 1911 Census, he was garrisoned at Hillsborough Barracks, Sheffield. Having served six years he was discharged to the reserve early owing to a knee injury sustained while playing football.

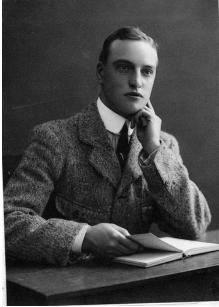
Just prior to the war, Ernest was employed as a 'collector' to Mr. Thomas Forsyth, coal merchant, Cromwell Road, Kingston.

Being on the Reserve List, Ernest was called up on the outbreak of the war. He was assigned to 1st Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers, then based at Cambridge Barracks, Portsmouth. On 13th August 1914 the Battalion left barracks and travelled on two special trains to Southampton. Here the men and transport wagons embarked on S.S. Norman whilst their horses embarked separately aboard S.S. Italian Prince. The ships set sail at 16:00.

After about an hour at sea, the officers and men were eventually made aware that their destination would be Le Havre. The French port was sighted just before midnight. As they entered the outer harbour, excited troops crowded along the decks and rails to experience their first sights and smells of France. The total strength of the Battalion that arrived in France on the morning of 14th August was 1016 officers and men.

The Battalion's first taste of action was a skirmish on the 22nd August when they encountered advanced parties of German soldiers whilst defending the Mariette Bridges situated to the west of Mons. Thereafter they were in almost continuous action taking part the next day in the Battle of Mons and subsequently at Frameries, Le

Cateau, the Marne, the Aisne and Neuve Chapelle.



A letter to his father in Kingston, dated 23rd October was published in the *Surrey Comet*:

"We have been stuck into it pretty thick for sometime, but we have got the best of the deal. We are well amongst it even yet, as we had good proof yesterday. We were shelled most surprisingly by the Germans. They did some damage; but it might have been worse had they taken mere advantage or known what was on. I was quite in the open myself, but happily I was not to be hit. I am writing this in a trench, and the Indians are just near here. I have not been right up to them, although I can see them in the distance. I think they will give good account of themselves. I know myself I have knocked any amount of these beastly Germans out, at least one should know if he gets a hit at 10 or 20 yards distance, I have seen them roll over as I fired. There were two saucy beggars pelting at me but I got there first and saved myself, I was very shaky as was firing over a pile of wood when one of their bullets struck near my head and I was hit over the right eye with a lump of the wood. Of course this didn't count. There are more of our men hit by stray shots, than well aimed ones."

"The enemy are very determined but we have made headway and repulsed all their attacks in the theatre of war in which I am in."

"By the way, the Germans almost fell on me the other night; of course my chums were with me along the trench. We saw their forms in the dark, let blaze, but only hit one, at least there was one dead the next morning just a few yards in front of me and any amount all along our line. I saw them with my own eyes. I do not care for the night work, but the Germans seem rather partial to it. This disturbs our rest, or rest we might get. I wonder if they ever they get any. I believe they work the 'night business' because we cannot see to shoot straight in the dark. We can only chance shooting in

the direction from whence the bullets come. But we do our best to husband the ammunition without sending back for more.

"Aeroplanes are as numerous as the enemy's spies, although the German type of plane are not so evident as ours. I have seen hundreds of German shells wasted on our aeroplanes. They cannot bring one down and it amuses us to see them miss. I saw two of our machines follow up a German and bring it down. This happened during the retirement from Mons, and we gave a hearty cheer. The German machine is like a spread eagle. We have the news about a great Russian victory on the Vistula, and together with our success we are in high spirits. I am a long, long way from the place which we took yesterday; and with the bayonet too and no bother with it. But as it happened the Germans just cleared in the nick of time, so we only had to knock them over as they ran. One or two I caught sight of managed to get away as they disappeared in the distance, where there must have been a slope. However, we had obtained our object and got well up on the other side of River A ...

I have done an awful lot of marching, and sometimes my legs haven't been worth twopence, but much to our surprise one day we had a train ride and to crown all a lift in a motor car. This completed our treat. I suppose we get enough to eat, sometimes more than others; it's all according to our situation. But we are never neglected, even if our jam has to come up under fire. The troops receive a lot of parcels from their friends at home, every man seems to be thought of. All this helps to cheer us on our way, and to have a 'fag' or two before going into action soothes our nerves. Of course we do not smoke at night, but as soon as day breaks we impatiently await the permission to smoke. We all have good warm underclothing now and in fact you can take it from me that all is well with England. We have woke up."

On 1st November 1914, just over a week after his letter, Lance-Corporal Ernest Thomas CHIVERS, 28 years old, was killed in action when his battalion made an abortive attempt to re-take the Flemish village of Wytschaete, - captured by the Germans earlier that day.

He has no known grave, but is listed on Panel 8 and 12 at the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres. His name can also be found on the Kingston-upon-Thames War Memorial and the war memorial tablets at St. John's Church, Kingston and at St. Peter's Church, Norbiton. He was awarded The 1914 Star with clasp, The British War Medal and The Victory Medal.

Further reading see: Sneddon, J.M. (2013) The Devil's Carnival: The Ist Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers: The First Hundred Days of Armageddon: August-December 1914. Updated ed. Brighton: Reveille Press.

Gilkison brothers killed:

Thanks to great niece Deirdre Gilkison McElroy, the Association has been fortunate to gain access to and share a letter sent to James David Gilkison's next of kin notifying them of his death.

Tragically, both James and his elder brother Duguld Stewart Gilkison were killed within a few weeks of each other and within the first month of fighting.



the army in 1907



Duguld S (left) and James D Gilkison (right)
James was born in 1 August 1884 in Epsom,
Surrey and Duguld on 5 March 1880 in
Cambeltown, Argyle & Bute, Scotland.
They had a sister Joan born in 1881. Both
boys attended Shrewsbury House School
and then Rugby School. Duguld then went
onto Sandhurst to pursue a career as a
commissioned officer in the army whilst
James first went to Trinity College, Oxford
to study law, then became a barrister in 1906
before eventually taking on a commission in

James served as a Lieutenant with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders whereas Duguld served as a Captain with the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles). With the onset of war, these experienced, well-educated officers were promoted. James became an acting Captain whereas Duguld, a Boer War veteran, become Brigade Major of the 5th Infantry Brigade.

Both were married but only Duguld is known to have had children. James certainly mixed in salubrious circles. Court Circular reports in the Aberdeen Journal of 1911 show "Lieutenant J D Gilkison, of the King's guard of honour of the 2nd Battalion Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, had the honour of dining with their Majesties" (King George V and Queen Mary).

Both travelled to France with the British Expeditionary Force with Duguld and James arriving on 13th and 14th August 1914 respectively. They would have then travelled toward Belgium to face the enemy. It is likely they were both involved in the first British battle at Mons on 23rd August 1914.

Just a few days later on the 26th August, as the French and British armies retreated, James was the first to be killed at the Battle of Le Cateau, aged 30. He was initially reported as wounded and missing. It was not until the letter sent by a comrade and Prisoner of War AGH Maclean of Ardgour was received that the truth about his death was known.

PY.

F. Legsgefangenensendung -Prisoners' Post.

Torgau-am-Elbe,
Germany.
(Brückenkopf).

24th October, 1914. (delayed in despatch).

My dear Sir,

Your letter of 12th inst. reached here to-day and was handed to me.

I am most sorry to say that, to the best of my belief, your son Jim was killed at Le Cateau on 26th August. I did not see it happen myself, but it was reported to me within a few minutes, by his Coy. Sgt. Major, as it was just as the G's got into our trenches, and those of us who were alive were rounded up.

His Coy, "C." end half mine, "E" had gone to support our infantry, who, unknown to us, had been told not to retire. Rest of 93rd must have gone in general retirement.

Jim met his desth in mest gallant manner, so Coy. Sgt. Major told me. He was in my Coy.in 91st.

Only 2 of us remain, so far as we know, of the Officers of these $\mathbf{1}_2^1$ Companies - Connal Rowan and self - A. Stirling is also a prisoner.

The Regiment lost one of its best liked officers, and I a very true and valued friend, in Jim, and I need not add my deepest sympathy.

This is necessarily very short, and in this hand. Yours very truly, ad/- A. G. H. Maclean of Ardgour.

By the time they received the letter, the family would almost certainly have already known that brother Duguld had been killed aged 34 on 20 September 1914 at the Battle of the Aisne. The General Commanding First Division wrote:

"His work during the Campaign has been simply splendid and I honestly think he was one of the very best soldiers in the Army. He was always ready to cope with the most difficult extremity and by his extraordinary gallantry he continually set the very best possible example to everyone.

"I tried on all occasions to keep him away from the worst of the shooting, because he was constantly desirous of being in every post of danger, and I am afraid that when I left, he took risks which were not absolutely necessary."

Colonel Davies, the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry wrote:

"During the very trying time of the retirement, when we were all dropping with

fatigue and want of sleep, he was always absolutely clear headed and confident. The anxiety for one in his position was no doubt great but he always set an excellent example of cheerfulness and confidence. When things went better, and we were advancing, he was equally good."

Colonel Westmacott of the Worcestershire Regiment who commanded the Brigade after General Haking was wounded wrote:

"He was the most fearless man I ever met and a great loss to us and to the Service."

James David Gilkison is buried at Le Cateau Military Cemetery and Duguld Stewart Gilkison at Vendresse British Cemetery, both in France.

Both brothers are commemorated locally on plaques at Shrewsbury House Memorial and at Trinity United Reformed Church, Wimbledon.

Events coming up

The following events are known to be coming up over the comig months. Please let us know if there is anything else planned.

Sunday 9 November 2014:

11am Remembrance Sunday events at Public Memorials at

- Royal British Legion, Church Lane, Chessington KT9 2DR
- War Memorial Gardens, Union Street Kingston Upon Thames KT1 1PB
- High Street, New Malden, KT3 4PX
- Memorial Gardens, Ewell Road, Surbiton KT6 6AG

Friday 14 November 2014:

10.30am Re-Dedication of Shrewsbury House School Memorial (invitation only).

Wednesday 19 November 2014:

19:30–21.00 'RBK War Memorials Association' 20-minute talk by Graeme Hodge at Western Front Association, Cobham. £2.00 (free to members).

Thursday 20 November 2014:

19:00–20.00 'Kingston's Fallen In The First World War' talk by Graeme Hodge at Kingston Museum. Free.

19:30-20:45 'Myths & Mysteries of the First World War', a talk by author Leonard James at Stoneleigh Community Library. Tickets £6 00

Thursday 27 November 2014:

19:30-20:45 'The Making of War Horse – The Film', a talk by Andrew Robertshaw – military consultant on Steven Spielberg's film - at The Lightbox, Woking. Tickets £6.00 (+ concessions)

Saturday 29 November 2014:

14:30-16:00 'Surrey Infantry's World War One Victoria Crosses', a talk by Ian Chatfield, Curator of the Surrey Infantry Museum, at Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworthy Road, Woking. Tickets £5.00 (+ concessions)

Tuesday 2 December 2014:

Evening: A talk by Graeme Hodge at Maldens & Coombe Historical Society.

13:00-14:00 'The Surreys Go To War', a talk by Ian Chatfield, Curator of the Surrey Infantry Museum at The Lightbox, Woking. Tickets £6.00 (+ concessions)

Thursday 26 February 2015:

19:30-20:45 'Wounded', a talk by author Emily Mayhew at Byfleet Community Library. Tickets £6.00.

Exhibitions:

'1914: Remembering Kingston at War':

- 3rd-23rd November 2014, Tudor Drive Library, Tudor Drive, Kingston KT2 5QH. Free.
- 1st-23rd December 2014, Surbiton Library, Ewell Road, KT6 6AG. Free.
- 5th-17th January 2015, Tolworth Community Library, 37-39 The Broadway, Tolworth KT6 7DJ. Free.

- 26th January 8th February 2015, Old Malden Library, Church Road, Worcester Park KT4 7RD. Free.
- 14th February 8th March 2015, Kingston Library, Fairfield Road, Kingston KT1 2PS. Free.

'The Ingram Collection: Impact of War':

 to 4th January 2015. An exploration of how artists have responded to 20th Century conflict. The Lightbox, Woking. Free.

'Horses at the Front: 1914-1918':

25th November 2014 to 15th March 2015. An exploration of how artists depicted horses during the war. The Lightbox, Woking. Free.

Interested in finding out more about the Great War locally?

Are you or is your local school or community group interested in finding out more about the impact of The Great War on our local community?

Over the past months, Association members have given many talks locally and attended local school workshops. We have held several talks at Kingston Museum, Western Front Association, Surrey History Centre, Surbiton Rotary Club, Surbiton Methodist Church, Christ Church, Surbiton. We have attended workshops at Southborough School and Kingston Grammar. Many talks are planned in the future.

If interested in then please do contact us at mail@local-hero.org.uk. We will see if we can be of help.

Did you know? Some local Great War facts

• The number of fallen listed on our local public Great War memorials totals 1293:

626 Kingston

386 Surbiton, Tolworth and Hook

265 Maldens & Coombe

16 Chessington

• In our research so far we have found a further 892 names that have local connection but are not listed on the memorials, as follows

617 Kingston

179 Surbiton, Tolworth and Hook

96 Maldens & Coombe

- The sum of those listed and those not listed amounts to 2185 local stories. There may be a few errors or duplicates but we do expect to discover more names too as our research continues.
- So far we have managed identify and research about 2000 of these local people.
- Most of the research has been undertaken by Graeme Hodge. We think he is the leading local expert.

Your Association Needs You!

We would be very grateful to anyone who could help us with the following:

- Database/website design/development.
- Social media development
- Graphic design.
- Fundraising
- Newsletter Research and Editorial
- Committee role(s) treasurer and secretary.



If you a local person or business that might be able to help or is just interested in finding out more about the Association, then please do contact us mail@local-hero.org.uk.

Acknowledgements

Much of our research has been made possible thanks to the hard work of many people and organisations in the past and present whom have kept records safe and shared them with the public. We would therefore like to acknowledge with thanks:

ocally.

- History Rooms and Museum, Royal Borough Of Kingston Upon Thames
- Maldens & Coombe Historic Society
- Royal British Legion, Surbiton
- Shrewsbury House School
- Surrey Comet Newspaper
- Surrey History Centre, Woking
- Surrey Infantry Museum, Clandon

Nationally:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- Imperial War Museum
- National Archives, Kew
- National Army Museum

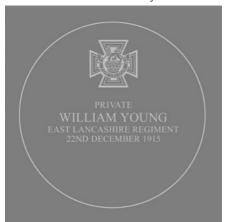
Genealogy websites

- Ancestry.co.uk
- FindMyPast

Special thanks to Kingston History Rooms, especially Jill Lamb and Amy Graham. Also congratulations to Lucy Harris, Dan Leissner and all volunteers on the '1914: Remembering Kingston At War' exhibition.

Douglas Belcher VC Plaque to be unveiled.

The UK Government has agreed that a plaque to commemorate the Victoria Cross heroes of The Great War. The plaques are to be positioned near the birthplace at the discretion of the local authority.



Example of a similar VC plaque

Scott Herbertson, Executive Head of Cultural Services and Lifelong Learning at Royal Borough Of Kingston Upon Thames, organised a consultation committee comprising family descendants, Royal British Legion, this Association and others to choose the best place for the plaque to be positioned.

Douglas Belcher was born at 2 Park Villas, Arlington Road, Surbiton but it was felt that this location was a little too remote for the plaque to be noticed. After discussion, all agreed that the most suitable position would be in the Memorial Gardens on Ewell Road, near to the Great War memorial.

A small unveiling ceremony organised by the Royal Borough, is currently planned for May 2015 - centenary of the action for which the award was granted. Family descendants plan to be in attendance as do The Rifle Brigade, Douglas Belcher's regiment and this Association

'Surrey in the Great War: A County Remembers'

Surrey History Centre's bid for the second stage of the First World War Project - 'Surrey in the Great War: A County Remembers' - has been delivered to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

'We expect to have a decision very early in 2015 and, if we are successful, will then be able to start on this ambitious and exciting project,' advises Phil Cooper, project officer. '...Support from communities across the County is hugely encouraging and we have already been receiving requests to register as a volunteer and other offers of support.'

The project plans to create a website and searchable database containing information about people who have a Great War connection with Surrey, and also stories about the experiences of Surrey's communities during the war. The database would also be linked into the county's Historic Environment Record so war memorials will be flagged up on any planning applications taking place in the local area.

A new element in the planned project is the digitisation and indexing of a range of Surrey newspapers from the 1914-22 period. These provide a great resource for anyone researching Surrey in the Great War period.

Phil requests that anyone doing research about Surrey in the Great War to contact the Surrey Heritage team at Surrey History Centre. They will then ensure that they are contacted and consulted once the project starts.

For more information call 01483 518730 or e-mail phil.cooper@surreycc.gov.uk or visit http://bit.ly/1knEmCB,

'1914: Remembering Kingston At War' exhibition on the road

This highly commended exhibition that explores Kingston residents' involvement in the war, is now on tour around the Borough's libraries, following its successful term at Kingston Museum from May to August.



The exhibition, which received Heritage Lottery Grant backing, was organised by Jill Lamb's team at the Kingston History Room sand Museum.

The exhibition's lead officer Lucy Harris worked with a large team of volunteers to pull together the exhibition in a few months. Local people were also asked to share artifacts dating back to the war.

Graeme Hodge, who had assisted in shaping the ideas for the exhibition and as well as sharing his database of the fallen said, "We are extremely proud to have been involved with this excellent project." The exhibition is currently at Tudor Road Library until 23rd November and moves next to Surbiton Library in December. A full schedule of dates for other libraries is listed under 'Events' on page 11 of this Newsletter.

Local War Memorials Association Founded

At a meeting on 27 July 2014, the newly formed approved its constitution and appointed Ken Cowdery and Graeme Hodge as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively. It was agreed that the official inauguration date would be 4th August 2014, to coincide with the centenary of Britain's declaration of war in 1914.

The newly appointed Chair said "Graeme has done an incredible job researching the Borough's fallen over the past 15 years and we now want all this data to become a free local resource to encourage *local* remembrance, learning and reconciliation."

"The stories will be told not only through our regular Newsletters, but we will also continue to attend talks and workshops at local museums, schools, churches, etc."

A temporary website www.local-hero.org.uk provides a chronological Roll of Honour of all those known to have been killed or died but the Association plans a much more comprehensive resource.

The Association also plans to launch campaigns for 'every local man to be remembered locally' and for new information boards to be erected at our public memorials.

At the core of the mission, the Association will be supporting a bid for the Surbiton Memorial to be cleaned. It has recently liaised with Commonwealth War Graves Commission to arrange reinstatement of Private J W Humphries gravestone at Surbiton Cemetery.



Royal Borough Of Kingston Upon Thames War Memorials Association

sincerely thanks

Himendra Jasani of

Mail Boxes Etc.

61, Victoria Road, Surbiton

for your sponsorship and support.

If you would be interested in sponsoring the Association in some way or this Newsletter, please contact us at mail@local-hero.org.uk