



Honouring Great Paxton's 1st and 2nd World War Heroes

and commemorating 100 years since the end of the First World War.



WW1 remembrance meeting

Agenda for Wednesday 21st Feb 2018 at The Bell, 7.30pm

1. Welcome to the five of us present (Jacqueline W, Andy C, Chris Hall, Roy L, also Caroline T a new custodian, who told us a bit about the old house where she lives. She has agreed to take on research for the Bryan brothers who lived in a cottage not far from her. Andy C gave her what is already known.

- Apologies - Annette R, Graham B, Graham J and Diane J

Because so few have come we were unable to make many decisions so we will need to discuss these items again in greater detail.

2. How has the research gone? What have people discovered about their soldier so far?

Chris H told us what he had found out about Charles Chandler.

Graham and Diane J will tell us next time what they have found out about Frank Luniss.

We discovered some other survivors - Lt H. C. Sweeting OBE of the Kings Royal Rifle House who lived at Paxton Hill House.

Also from a newspaper cutting of Paxton Parish Magazine September 19th 1914

William Chamberlain, Bedfordshire Regiment

Charles Ernest Chamberlain, Bedfordshire Regiment

Lewis Chandler, East Surrey Regiment

Ernest Collins, Bedfordshire Yeomanry

There are two others that maybe Little or Great Paxton

Albert Fletcher - marine on H.M.S.Vengeance

Roy has discovered from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission mention of soldiers killed with connections to Great Paxton (used as a search term) who are NOT on our War Memorial.

What do we do about this? What is their connection with Great Paxton?

C. Jackson, Bedfordshire Regiment

William Watts, Lincolnshire Regiment

Arthur Furnell, Essex Regiment

and

Harry Reynolds, Royal Garrison Artillery

3. How are we going to record and preserve this research and information for the future?

Online? Will one person coordinate this, or will each custodian be responsible for their soldier?

(Lives of the First World War .org - imperial war museum website record facts, remember names, collective group **but needs a subscription fee**)

Also Everyone Remembered a Royal British Legion site

<https://www.everyoneremembered.org/>

Other online sites will need to be updated with our research

Booklet

Roy L suggested we produce a printed booklet sooner rather than later and get enough copies to people in the village to increase awareness and hopefully enthusiasm before November. He will write a draft version with a piece about the bigger 'event' on one page followed by a piece about each soldier opposite with what is already known, fitting the timeline to when they were killed. Then we can add the extra information researched by custodians into this framework.

The first draft will be given to Jacqueline W to edit and produce rough copies for the group to evaluate.

4. Jacqueline was unable to give out the Extra Bits from Graham J. for various custodians as none of them were present, will do next meeting.

5. How many soldiers now unadopted?

Chris H said he and Diane would take Arthur Norman, Roy L took Saunders and with the Bryan brothers taken by Caroline T, all are accounted for.

3. What ideas have people thought of for November? And what are we going to do as a village?
Ideas from Graham and Diane J. (Jacqueline presented their notes as they were unable to come).

Thoughts for 11/11/1918 and Displays on village green, high street and beyond - please comment and/or add your own ideas

- I. Scrub village signs each end of village, they are so grubby. Put a planter filled with plastic or silk poppies under each. Create 2 x plasticised printed signs to say Great Paxton is commemorating WWI soldiers and honouring those killed in action to be put behind a display near each village name sign entering the village.

We all agreed this was a good idea. There are planters underneath the signs already. Will need to discuss the two big signs and their design and wording, but they could be funded somehow.

- II. Have a sea of poppies down the tree on the village "green" on the High and spilling around the ground display. For those good at woodwork, 11 x 2' high wooden crosses then paint white and stencil the name of our non returners, these also to be placed in formation in front of the of poppies. (See the simple impression below). Perhaps we could ask children to make a few paper poppies each for display in church on windowsills. This can be in home time so as not to impact on school curriculum but it is a big part of British history so can be educational



Street create each 'sea' village value. cross

Also agreed in principle. Chris H will make a demonstration wooden for discussion and is willing to make 11 more.

Nets, red plastic? Would need funding.

Poppies:

we like the idea of school children making some, but would probably have to be in home time rather than school. We ask Annette R to speak to the school about this.

Diane J gave Jacqueline W the pattern for a knitted poppy (and Jacqueline W has found more, also one for a wreath) that could be fixed to the net on the oak tree on the Church Lane Green. People can be encouraged to make these but concern was expressed over their weather resistant properties.

Chris H has seen some plastic sheets in Clovers and will get some to experiment cutting plastic poppies for the net and maybe even for the lamp posts.

Question to Parish Council - do we need permission to tie things to the lampposts for two weeks?

There could be a craft evening (or two or more) at The Bell to make these poppies as a community activity.

- III. At a special service, with Annette's permission, each custodian to name their soldier/s, state rank, date and place of death, their age and where they had lived in Great Paxton. A display with photo and more details, if possible, for each soldier on one side in the church for people to wander around before and after service. End service with The Last Post? Is there a trumpeter in the band that uses the school to practise who'd be willing to do this I wonder?

Again agreed.

Display boards available, more would be needed. Each custodian to produce items that can be copied for display (not to use any originals in case of damage or loss)

Bugler or trumpeter? Anyone know if someone would be willing to play The Last Post for us, and is not already booked up.

Each custodian to reserve the date and be able to come to church.

Uniformed groups - Scouts etc, Guides etc. Any others in the village eg Sports groups?

Can the Benefice bellringers ring the church bells, or if they have committed to elsewhere already, can we ask for any other trained ringers in the village (and we know there are some) to ring for us. Annette - will you ask Mary P please ASAP?

Timings will be based on 11am Two Minute Silence

IV. Before and After church, a morning walk around the village to view any displays (put note on GP website to ask if anyone would like to commemorate anyone from their own families or simply decorate their house or garden). We would need to have firm commitment so we can map displays so people know where to walk.

Agreed.

When would we ask displays to be put up and for how long?

Ask residents of houses that we know have connections with our soldiers if they will allow a display on their property. Hopefully they will create it, otherwise we will make it.

Ask people in general if they will make remembrance displays and tell us so we can map them as a walk. A small display in a window is as important as a bigger one. Need also to have permission to take and use photographs of displays.

Chris H has contact with a re-enactment enthusiast who is willing to dress as a WW1 soldier and mingle and talk to people on Remembrance Sunday. Are there any other role players/re-enactment people (in the village) willing to join us?

Discussion over how they would fit in and what would they say and do?

V. Visit pub in time for their Roast Sunday lunch service (presume some will have booked for that!). Maybe ask if the menu today could reflect 1918? A buffet so more people can come? Andy C has spoken to Abi, but with the changeover of ownership recently announce this will need further consultation

VI. Afternoon visiting displays for our soldiers and personal ones in gardens, enjoy tea, coffee and cakes or a drink in The Bell as bar open will be open. Could the pub charge for tea, coffee, cake but give a donation to The Royal British Legion, especially if the cakes have been donated, perhaps we could ask for volunteers to bake?

VII. Back to the pub for singalong evening if we know someone who can play piano and, if the pub doesn't have one anymore, could we borrow a keyboard? We had an evening like this for 50 years anniversary of VE day and it was fantastic. I have a great knowledge of these songs and would be happy to lead the singing!

Themed evening, food and entertainment.

4. Do we need money and Where do we get it from? For displays, subscriptions, events

Grants etc, events earlier in the year, ask for donations?

Ask the Parish Council - present ideas to the meeting in May. an invitation has been sent via the Parish Clerk for a councillor to come to the meetings (in an official capacity).

If we raise too much what do we do with it? who do we donate it to?

5. Publicity and advertising of the group - Paxton Post, Great Paxton Online, posters, dedicated Facebook group, Great Paxton Facebook group, printed flyer to every house soon with the plans as well as later on with the detailed timetable for November.

Jacqueline W will create these unless we get a better offer.

We will need community help to distribute flyers to the whole village.

6. Permanent memorial

an inscription on the headstock of one of the restored bells in the church tower? (Cost of £200, raised how? What words? Decision needed ASAP) May have been taken already.

Something on the Church Lane Green? **To be discussed again**

7. **Research for someone - how was Armistice Day celebrated in Great Paxton in 1918?**

9. Next meetings

Wednesday 14th March, and Wednesday 11th April at The Bell, 7.30pm

Houses with connections to the fallen

Paxton Place - the vicarage Cane L

Petherwin High Street Cardell E

Black Bull High Street (number?) Bowles brothers

42/43 High Street Bryan brothers

(Manor farm - Phillip Cardell 2WW)

(Low Farm/ Brookside - Lancaster crash 2WW)

Houses with connections to the living

(Paxton Hill House - Sweeting 1WW)

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