



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

Report for Meeting held on Wednesday 14th March 2018 at The Bell, 7.30pm

1. Welcome

Graham B., Diane J., Caroline T., Graham J., David E., David H., Roy L, Jacqueline W., Annette R., Andrew W.

Anyone from Parish Council? No

Apologies - Andy C., David L. (Paxton Online), Chris H and Diane H.

2. Allocate soldiers to any new custodian? Andy has the existing research

All 11 soldiers now adopted. Arthur Norman taken by Graham J. And Roy L has passed Sidney Saunders to John C

3. How has the research gone?

What have people discovered about their soldier so far?

A lot has been added to the Facebook page. **This needs to be written up for each person by the custodians in the first instance - add to April agenda**

Caroline T. has found some interesting references to Great Paxton in the index to Cambridgeshire Archives and will go with Diane J. and Roy L to Shire Hall to investigate on 4th April. In particular a Great Paxton Postcard Album. And references to the sale of the Towgood Estate 14th May 1914, and cottages sold.

Jacqueline W has asked about old WI minute books which could give names of residents.

Old Parish magazines- we know Bert Goodwin has recorded snippets from some

editions but more could be learnt. Are these in Cambridge, St Neots or Huntingdon?

Maps in library and archives 1887, 1901, 1926 compare and count houses? And imagine likely houses in 1911 and 1921 to match with the census.

Where are the old school log books that pieces have been reproduced from?

Names of the children and families [we learn that many of the men were boys in the school under Miss Etchells, from the newspaper description about the war memorial dedication that Roy L found]

4. How are we going to record and preserve this for the future? A booklet?

Jacqueline showed people a draft copy of a booklet created by Roy L. That we thought could be produced quickly to encourage villagers to participate in November. To be sold for £2.50? To be used for the displays.

Title to be:

Remembering the men of Great Paxton who gave their lives in the Great War 1914-18 and Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the end of hostilities

This has a synopsis of the war on the western front, interspersed with the brief information we already hold about each name on our memorial. Added at the end would be a picture of the dedication of the war memorial and any facts discovered about it, and some excerpts from two service sheets from Annette R: a service of prayer from January 1915 and an Armistice Day service from 1924. The picture would be given to Diane J who has a contact who will be able to enhance the reproduction of it.

Jacqueline is to check copyright for the photos from the Imperial War Museum, and if not freely available, we will use some of Roy's own pictures of memorials in Europe.

This would be followed later by a book with all the research done by the WW1 custodians, with as many pictures as possible of the people and the village.

The research for the WW2 men to be in a third booklet?

Maybe a proper local history book of family history?

Little interest was shown in the internet memorial sites at present (Lives of the First World War .org - imperial war museum website record facts, remember names, collective group but needs a subscription fee). This can come later if required.

Extra Bits from Graham James for various custodians if they want to have them.

5. What ideas have people thought of for November? what are we going to do as a village?

Displays to be set up for a week before and left for a week after November 11th.

Chris H has made a wooden cross. Jacqueline brought the example. Admired by all. Please make more! For the Church Green

how to fix, metal stakes? Yes.

permanent future storage - middle chamber church bell tower, Annette yes ok.

plastic poppies for lampposts. How many lampposts in the village - Jacqueline W will ask Parish Council (email sent 1/4/18).

As part of the preparation Diane J has offered to clean (and has done, thank you), the village signs on the High Street at each end of the road. The planters here to have poppy displays for November.

Plastic flowers from Maggie H,

knitted poppies from Diane J, and Jacqueline W

Andy C - neighbour Derek - price quotes for 100 tin poppies to be made? How to fix?

All craft items accepted. Diane J to make a leaflet for the whole village, asking amongst other questions, for people to make things, and would they like a craft evening or two at The Bell (the new owners to be asked in April) see below.

Sunday Parade and service at the church 11/11/2018. Yes agreed

Sunday at The Bell pub (the new owners to be asked in April)
Village Displays? Individual and/or collective; outside and in the church - question on the village leaflet

Possible timetable for Sunday November 11th would be:

gather at 10am on the church green

Start parade at 1015

1030 arrive at church

Service starts at 1045

Two Minutes Silence at 1100 at the outside War Memorial

Possible a relative of one of the names might read out the list.

Back into church for remainder of service.

Displays in church about each name, and light refreshments

Not certain what next other than to encourage people to walk around the village admiring the hopefully many displays, and going to the pub for lunch.

We then hope the Bell will participate in organising an afternoon evening event.

6. Do we need money and Where do we get it from? Displays, subscriptions, events, sale of the first booklet

Grants etc, events earlier in the year, ask for donations? What do we need it for? Cost of the tin poppies, the crafted poppies, the wooden crosses? Many people may be willing to donate but should they?

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

Permanent memorial seat on the church green as a replacement for the old one?
Ask the Parish council?

7. Publicity and advertising of the group

Paxton Post, Great Paxton Online, posters, Facebook group, printed flyer to every house for November.

Diane J to create a flyer to be delivered to all houses in the village, asking people who live in houses that were in existence in WW1 to look at their deeds for any clues to names of

residents, or owners.

8. School involvement? Uniformed groups?

Annette has asked the school and they will make paper poppies for the church, and encourage families to attend the Remembrance Service.

Annette has asked the Brownies and they are interested.

She will speak to the Cubs again.

Annette knows of a bugler who may play The Last Post for us, otherwise there is a music group that practices in the school, and David L has given Jacqueline W a list of music groups in St Neots.

9. Where should the research be archived, where should it live for the future?

Would like it to be accessible to view.

There are a lot of local history collections in and about the village. Could it be deposited in the School? Probably little is original documentation most will be copies. Annette to ask.

10. Next meetings

Wednesday 11th April at The Bell, 7.30pm

Wednesday 9th May at The Bell, 7.30pm

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