



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 of meeting held on Wednesday 11th April 2018 at The Bell, 7.30pm

1. Welcome

- New faces? John Curran no email, please give phone number to Jacqueline W
- Annette R, Chris H, Graham B, Caroline T, Andrew W, Jacqueline W, Diane J. Graham J, John C, Roy L.
- Anyone from Parish Council? No
- Apologies - Andy C, no longer able to lead but will contribute and take part.

2. How has the research gone?

Visit to Archives in Huntingdon partially successful. The postcard album that we hoped would show pictures of the village was a disappointment as pictures of European memorials. It was donated by Bert Goodwin, of Great Paxton, which was the link in the catalogue, not about the village.

Did find the school admissions book which gave information about date of birth but not addresses, except that Arthur Norman lived at Bullens farm, which is apparently technically now in the Offords Parish. Also some children came from Croxton and Toseland and further afield.

Caroline T and Diane J to go again to Huntingdon

From the newspaper article about the dedication of the war memorial 7 of the 11 names went to school here.

St Neots History Society have published a CD ROM of WWI names. Graham J to investigate.

Graham J found from the newspaper- Peace day 1919 celebrations St Neots Advertiser 24th July 1919

(And rules of bell ringers at Great Paxton -given to Annette)

Annette has received pictures of Lionel Cane, and some notes about him and his brother Geoff who survived, from the Cane family via Sheila Cane.

Annette has bought the original postcard of the dedication of the war memorial. It is being enhanced by Diane J contact in order to get a good picture to reproduce in the book.

3. Booklet so far Jacqueline W and Roy L

Roy has given Jacqueline the files to sort into a book. Cover to be picture of our war memorial flanked on either side by silhouette drawing of soldier with bowed head.

Jacqueline has an ISBN (international Standard Book Number) to allocate to the booklet so that it can be listed at booksellers and sold to outsiders. Jacqueline will act as distributor. See below No. 7 for financial matters.

This first booklet will contain what is known so far interspersed with what was happening in the the war on the Western Front, the dedication of the war memorial and various church services and an indication of what is planned in the village for November.

When we know what the booklet will look like we will get quotes from local and online printers, as will be too much for the school to donate.

The second book will contain the new research, census pages, history, pictures, places

4. Village combined display for two weeks in November

Mesh net on tree on church green with poppies - Diane J has bought, receipt to be reimbursed

wooden crosses on church green - Chris H, admired greatly, please make enough for each name on the memorial WW1 and WW2 and a larger one to mark the Lancaster crew

plastic poppies for lampposts - Chris H, working party to construct enough for every post - notes from Parish council clerk about ownership and numbers. Will need to count the CCC owned ones. Will need to buy fastenings - string? Fill the main road first, Then roads where displays created. Sponsor a poppy idea?

Plastic flowers from Maggie H, examples to be tried out. Possibly to use in the display at either end of village by signs - thank you for cleaning them Diane j.

knitted poppies from Diane J who will work out how much yarn is needed, and crochet from Jacqueline W and hopefully from others, working parties to be organised. Yarn to be purchased and reimbursed.

Andy C - neighbour - price quotes for 100 tin poppies to be made? Too expensive

November 11th events

Sunday Parade and service at the church - displays in church about each name.
Open in the afternoon as well, with refreshments (and heating - see below No 7.)

Sunday at The Bell pub? Possibly, but not by us. To speak to Rachel and the new owners if they wish to organise a themed event

Village Displays available for a fortnight

Individual and/or collective; outside and in the church. To be installed the weekend before, Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th November, and dismantled the week after November 11th, Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th November. So please SAVE THESE DATES

Ask villagers via leaflet, posters, and other publicity. See below no.5

5. printed flyer to every house for May - draft from Diane J. Printed by the school. Also inserted into Paxton Post for May-June, and the village website. Posters made for village notice boards, shop, pub and church. Contacts given are Diane J and Jacqueline W

Flyer asks:

House displays, please let us know so we can make an interactive online map for a tour of the village. Commemorate family member who doesn't have to be from Great Paxton, please tell us their personal information, name, Regiment or unit etc. so it can be recorded.

Poppies to be made - Craft evenings/mornings/afternoons. (ask if we can have craft sessions - yes says Rachel)

History of houses, built before 1918, link owners to names

red, white and blue bunting

Red yarn

Cake bakers for refreshments after the church service. Proceeds to the Church and to the Royal British Legion.

Request for interest in buying the first booklet for a small charge

Possibly deliver to Toseland/Croxton as well as some of our names came from these villages. Diane J and Jacqueline W to work on flyer. school will print copies in exchange for ream of paper (Jacqueline to supply).

6. School involvement yes will make paper poppies for inside church and will come to parade?

Uniformed groups - yes from Brownies, Annette working on asking Cubs.

Also trying to get a bugler for The Last Post. If no live instrumentalist, then we will need a recording.

Bell Ringers have been asked and will ring before and after service. Times to be organised. Muffles to be ordered for the six new bells.

Time of service dictated by time Annette can arrive from earlier service at Little Paxton. She will probably have to miss the parade, but will arrive before 1045.

7. Financial matters. Suggested we apply for grants to cover costs of displays - Yes. Diane J will investigate - some closing dates are in June

Eg Cotton Farm community chest fund, A14 fund, Mick George, Parish Council

Jacqueline will present the plans to the Annual Meeting of the Great Paxton Parish Council on 21st May. plans to be confirmed at our 9th May meeting

However official grant bodies insist on proper bank accounts, constitution and policies. Annette to ask Great Paxton Parochial Church Council if they will be an umbrella group for us, so that we can apply for grants and sponsorship, to cover such things as heating the church for longer on November 11th, display materials and the production of the second book of research, as well as to bank any monies received from the first booklet.

8. Next meetings.

Wednesday 9th May at The Bell, 7.30pm.

Wednesday 20th June,

Wednesday 11th July

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