



WW1 REFERENCE GROUP BULLETIN

Welcome to the Bulletin of the WW1 Reference Group

Issue 4 – March 2015

This bulletin is aimed at those with an interest in the WW1 research and Centenary activities of Leicestershire and Rutland and is a product of the WW1 Reference Group hosted by Leicestershire County Council (contact: Tim.Webster@leics.gov.uk).

The WW1 Reference Group is chaired by Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire, Colonel R M L Colville, and its members include Leicestershire County Council, Leicester City Council, the University of Leicester, and representatives of the Royal British Legion, the East Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadets Association and more.

The Groups' aims are to promote activities marking the Centenary of World War One.

The bulletin is free and can be subscribed to by emailing the editor at Remembrance100@leics.gov.uk

You are invited to send us information on local events and projects for inclusion in future Bulletins.

Thank you for reading.



WW1 Reference Group – Activity Update

Chair of the WW1 Reference Group, Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire, Colonel R M L Colville accompanied students from Loughborough Grammar School on their recent visit to Flanders. Colonel Colville's son Harry laid a wreath at the Menin Gate.



Loughborough Grammar School Update



November 2014

- 11th November - The whole school assembled in the Quadrangle and held a two-minute silence to mark the armistice. The youngest boy in the school laid a wreath at the war memorial in the Orangery and the Head Boy did likewise in the Hodson Hall.

December 2014

- 'Over by Christmas' drama production was staged at school.

January 2015

- Jeremy Prescott, representing the Rural Communities Council, gave a lecture SACRIFICE AND REMEMBRANCE – THE COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION. The talk was well attended. Jeremy's passion for the subject and personal military experience shone through.
- The school published a booklet for parents on 'LGS and the First World War' based upon ex-teacher Roger Willson's research.
- First World War project launched. The aim is to get boys to gather stories about their relative's experiences of the conflict. These will then be published in posters around the school. We have already uncovered a boy whose relative, John Parr, was the first Briton killed in the war and a teacher whose relative was shot down by Baron von Richthofen.



February 2015

- Over February half-term 48 boys from Years 10 and 11 went on a school trip to Ypres and the Somme. The aim was for boys to gain an understanding of the major battles that took place in these areas and to remember the Old Loughburians that fell in the Ypres and Somme regions. Highlights of the trip included three Year 10 boys having the honour of laying wreaths in the Menin Gate ceremony, guided tours of the Newfoundland Memorial and Vimy Ridge Tunnels and visits to the memorials and cemeteries at Tyne Cot, Thiepval, Langemark and the new 'Ring of Remembrance' at Notre Dame de Lorette. Boys also placed wreaths to remember OLs at Thiepval, Tyne Cot and Bedford House where several of our old boys are listed on memorials or buried.



My Century of Stories

Ms. Louise Hall



I found my connection to the First World War through volunteering with Leicestershire County Council. Since 2008 I have volunteered with various teams at Snibston Discovery Museum. With the launch of Century of Stories I was excited to join a new group called the *Snibston Research Division*. This group chose to research the journey of a British soldier from Coalville to the Western Front and create a textile map of Europe in 1914 to show the many ways soldiers got to and from the conflict.



I started to research my family by going to my local library, where a librarian showed me how to use Ancestry. After learning the basics I felt passionate about my personal heritage. After a couple of weeks of learning how to read old documents and investigate inconsistencies, I developed a detailed family tree going all the way back to 1791!

I discovered that my great-great grandfather, Arthur, was listed as a farm labourer in 1915 and, as he was blind in one eye, wasn't conscripted until 1916 where he served in the Veterinary Corp. My great grandfather on the other side of the family, Horace, lied about his age and served in the Black Watch

Because of my new skills and my new found interest in family history, I can now help others find their connection to the First World War by giving advice, researching on their behalf and working with others one-on-one by becoming a project Research Buddy.

www.centuryofstories.org.uk

centuryofstories@leics.gov.uk

For more information or to enquire about future History Cafe dates please visit our website www.centuryofstories.org.uk or contact the project team at centuryofstorires@leics.gov.uk.



LNR Cadets Update

Fifty trees for fifty soldiers

(02.11.14)

On a bright Saturday morning in Hugglescote, representatives of Coalville detachment joined The Royal Leicestershire Regimental Association, the Royal British Legion, local and civic dignitaries and families at an event to commemorating the "Famous Fifty".



Of these 50, 28 were killed in action and many of those who returned had been gassed and injured, and were left to face the grim reality of a very different kind of life. Some of them were used as tunnellers and some were entombed at Vimy Ridge.

To commemorate the centenary of this event a row of 50 rowan trees were planted on Millfield recreation ground and a Plaque with the 50 names engraved on it, was unveiled at the ceremony.



Anzio cadets lead peers in an Act of Remembrance (02.12.14)

At 11 o'clock on the 11th November, cadets from Anzio Detachment represented LNR ACF in leading over 1,000 pupils at Northampton Academy in an Act of Remembrance to members of the services who have fought and died in conflicts since the Great War.

Around 30 cadets paraded in full uniform with their Detachment Commander, SSI Michelle Grimes, whilst the service was conducted by other members of the school.

SSI Grimes said: "It was fantastic to see the cadets of Anzio and other neighbouring detachments in front of the rest of the school. It shows a great respect by all those involved for the brave service men and women who have fought and died in the name of freedom and democracy."



East Midlands Oral History Archive Update

EMOHA, in partnership with Leicester Arts and Museum Service, has put more than 2 hours of oral histories about WW1 online. Thirty years ago local historians at the Leicester Oral History Archive started to record the memories of local people in Leicestershire & Rutland. In the 1980s and 1990s almost 300 recordings were made with people who lived through 1914-18 as children or adults. EMOHA has selected recordings in which people have talked about the Home Front during the war, edited them down to just over 2 hours of material, and arranged them in different themes such as 'The Start of the War', 'Attitudes to Germans', and 'Counting the Cost'. These sound files are on the EMOHA website and Soundcloud (where you can listen to all of the clips as part of a playlist).

The website is here - <http://www.le.ac.uk/emoha/community/resources/ww1/index.html> and the recordings are also on Soundcloud - <https://soundcloud.com/emoha>



The screenshot shows a website page with a blue header and a yellow logo on the left. The main title is "Leicestershire & Rutland Remember the First World War". Below the title, there are two photographs: the top one shows a large crowd gathered in front of a large stone archway, and the bottom one shows a street scene with a large cross on a building. To the right of the photos is a column of text. Below the text is a navigation menu with links to various sections of the archive.

Leicestershire & Rutland Remember the First World War

Oral histories of the home front in Leicestershire & Rutland during World War One.

At the outbreak of the First World War Leicester had a population of over 227,000, Leicestershire had more than 245,226 people, and Rutland more than 19,601 (figures from the 1911 census). The city (it was actually a town then) was smaller than it is today and had none of the large housing estates that were built in the 1920s, 1930s and after the Second World War. However, if you walked through the centre of Leicester in 1914 there would be many buildings and places you would still recognise today.

The years leading up to the outbreak of war had been turbulent. Although Leicester was a prosperous town with the clothing, footwear and engineering industries leading a diverse economy, between 1912-13 there were more than nine strikes in both the clothing and shoe factories. Disputes arose over job losses due to newly introduced machinery, dismissals of trade unionists and cuts in wages.

In July 1914, the suffragette Kitty Marion, Ellen Sheriff and Elizabeth Frisby, armed with wood shavings dipped in creosote and an axe to break in, trekked across a field in the middle of the night and managed to burn down Blaby railway station, causing £500 worth of damage. Millar boxes in Eastgate, Humberstone Road, Rutland Street and Newark Street were also attacked by suffragettes. So was Leicester Golf Course on Stoughton Drive, where 'No Votes, No Golf' was carved into the turf in February 1913. Telephone lines were cut, too.

You can read about what happened in Leicester during WW1 on the [Story of Leicester website](#) and in the books that have been written about that period, which are listed on the [further resources and links](#) section of this website. While most of the books concentrate on Leicester rather than Leicestershire, this website presents recorded memories from both the city and the county during WW1.

In the 1980s and 1990s oral history projects across Leicestershire made around 300 recordings with people who lived through WW1 either as children or adults. These memories have been edited into sound clips and have been created from the collections of the [East Midlands Oral History Archive \(EMOHA\)](#) with the help and support of the [University of Leicester](#) and [Leicester Arts & Museums Service](#). More information about how this was done can be found on the [Information about the Recordings](#) section of the website.

The Start of the War

- The Start of the War
- Stranded in Australia
- Attitudes to Germans
- Signing up
- Billeting the Troops

Life on the Home Front

- The Home Front
- Food pt 1
- Food pt 2
- Women working pt 1
- Women working pt 2
- Men working
- Zepplins

Death & Absence

- Death & Absence pt 1
- Death & Absence pt 2
- Hospitals

Aftermath

- Armistice

Christmas Truce, 1914: a witness recalls...

Several years ago I was in the archives and found a spool of tape in a box that just said 'Arthur Tugwell' on it. When I played it I heard a fascinating account of the 1914 Christmas truce during WW1. I recently brought it out again to play to BBC Radio Leicester's Bridget Blair, who was making the BBC WW1 at Home programmes. She, having far more enterprise than I, tracked down the descendants of Arthur Tugwell and made this programme about them - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01qd2my>

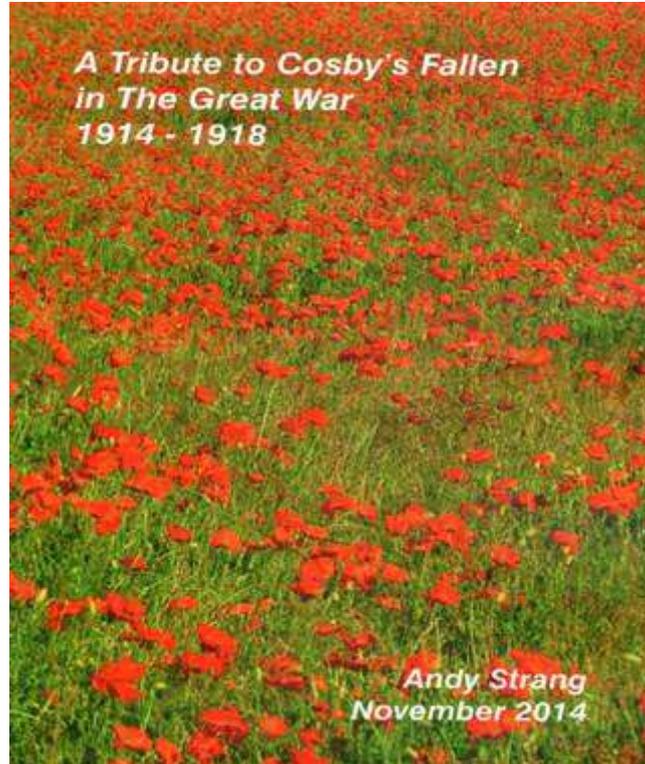
Colin Hyde



New WW1 Local Publication

A Tribute to Cosby's Fallen in the Great War of 1914-1918

by Andy Strang



The history of the events leading up to the 1914-1918 Great World War are described in this 130 page book together with biographies of the 41 men who fell during this conflict. Also included are details of the dates and places where they died and are commemorated as well as the regiments in which they fought.

A list of the 104 Cosby men who survived the Great War is also included.

Copies of the book, which was published by Cosby Heritage Society, are available at £5 per copy plus £1.50 post and package by contacting Andy Strang on 0116 2864641 or strangs@talktalk.net

Please note that all monies raised by the sale of the book will be reinvested in Cosby heritage Society's special project account and used to fund publication of the next book on the men listed on Cosby's WW2 memorial.

Prof Andy Strang

Secretary, Cosby Heritage Society



Centenary Events in Photographs

Send Centenary photographs to Remembrance100@leics.gov.uk



Clockwise from top left: Ellistown unveils a new war memorial, 30th November 2014; Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Patrick Rendall MBE with his Father Lieutenant Commander Robert Rendall RN (Retired) at the remembrance ceremony in Thrussington 9th November 2014 (Photo by Lionel Heap); Remembrance gathering held at Royal Tigers' Wood on 11th November 2014 by members and friends of The Royal Tigers' Association (Royal Leicestershire Regiment)



A trilogy of remembrance for Hoby

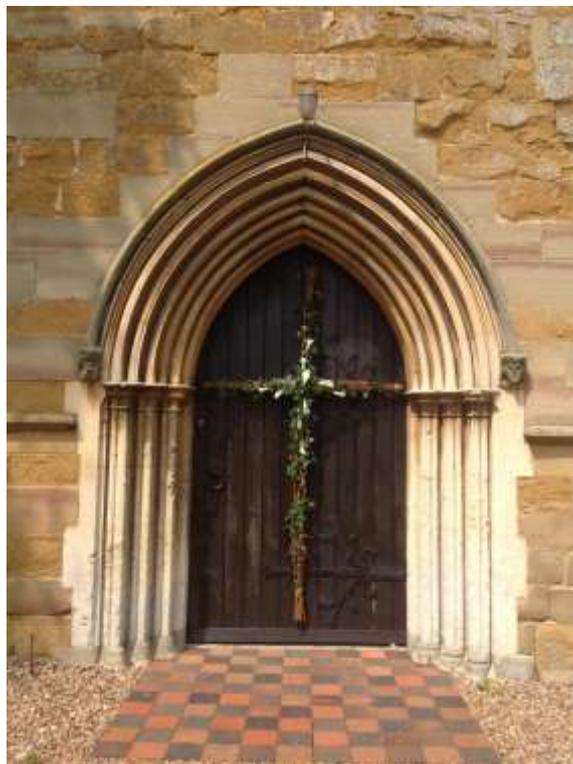
There will be a trilogy of commemorative events held in May 2015 in the Leicestershire village of Hoby as part of the 100th anniversary of the First World War.

Hoby & District Local History Society will be presenting a theatrical review called 'Hoby's Great War' on Saturday 16 May at 7.30 p.m. at All Saints Church, Hoby. The review will demonstrate how the Hoby community was affected during the First World War. Performed in the Church, with scenes set in the Church, pubs, chapel, institute, farms, school, houses, river and fields, it is designed to make you laugh and cry; above all it will entertain you. Entry is free but please apply for tickets to secretary@hobyandistricthistory.co.uk or phone Diane on 01664 434422

Tuesday 19th May 2015 marks the 100th anniversary of the death of the first Hoby resident sent to war. At 6.00 p.m. on Tuesday 19th May 2015, there will be an evensong service and a half muffled peal to remember George H Sharpe 2nd Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment at All Saints Church, Hoby.

The History Society will also be staging an exhibition entitled "FORGET ME NOT" on Saturday, 23rd, Sunday 24th and Monday 25th May, from 11am to 5pm at All Saints Church, Hoby. This exhibition honours the role that the ancestors of current Hoby residents played in the First World War. Hoby residents have scoured the family archives, dusted off war time memorabilia, interviewed their relatives and this has all been collected together into an exhibition. Visitors will see the stories of our ancestors as told by relatives. Entrance is free but any donations received will be divided between The Royal British Legion, Help for Heroes and Combat Stress. Refreshments will be available at both these events.

For more details visit www.hobyanddistricthistory.co.uk or follow on Twitter @HobyHistory or Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Hoby-District-Local-History-Society/921662717874023?ref=hl>



Bottesford Roll of Honour

On the 8th March, Bottesford's WW1 Centenary Project rededicated the recently restored Roll of Honour from the Methodist Chapel as part of their HLF-funded programme.

Information about the rededication can be seen here:

<http://www.bottesfordhistory.org.uk/content/new-contributions/rededication-newly-conserved-bottesford-chapel-roll-honour>

Photographs of it being re-hung can be seen here:

<http://www.bottesfordhistory.org.uk/content/new-contributions/rehanging-bottesford-methodist-chapel-roll-honour>

Do not miss out on the project's creative ways to record its activities (example below).

For more information, visit Bottesford Living History:

<http://www.bottesfordhistory.org.uk/content/category/bottesford-parish-1st-world-war-centenary-project>



FRIDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2014



BACK FROM GREAT YARMOUTH



RESTORED AND BACK TO BOTTESFORD

