

Leicestershire & Rutland War Memorials Project

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 15
October 2012



News:

New memorial to post-1945 casualties will be unveiled in November.

As many of you already know, the County Council commissioned a new memorial for County Hall that will be publicly accessible and which commemorates those who have dedicated or given their lives in the Armed Forces since 1945. The memorial called 'Stand Easy', designed by Kenny Hunter, will be unveiled in time for Remembrance Day and will be located in a courtyard at right of Reception. Keep your eye on the local press for updates.

New WW1 Research Project in Leicester announces Heritage Lottery Fund grant for casualty research!

Crystal Clear Creators, a Leicestershire-based arts organisation has been awarded an HLF grant for an exciting research project about Leicester in the First World War, and are looking for your help...see the article below from Sue Mackrell and David McCormack for more information.

Catherine Dove, who had been assisting on the project since 2010, has sadly left us (for Exmoor National Park!). Catherine was a huge boon to the project, completing an overwhelming amount of data inputting to our website, conducting war memorial condition surveys, and a host of other things to boot. Needless to say, she will be very much missed, and website improvements will be coming along slower (but will nevertheless continue). Good luck to Catherine in her new post down south!

Student placement, Laura Massey, completed 30 hours of work on the conservation issues affecting war memorials. During her work with us, she gained some survey experience in the field, studied her findings and produced a report. Laura is interested in a career in conservation and we wish her all the best with the conclusion of her studies at Leicester University. Laura also spent time researching the causes of conservation issues affecting war memorials and is keen to take her newly gained skills back to her native Dorset and keep an eye on her local memorials!

Kegworth Museum has completed their **WW1 and WW2 casualty research**, which is in three large folders ready for display in the museum. They were loaned to us for scanning and we now hold a digital copy – all thanks to Kegworth Museum! More information on their British Legion and wartime exhibition will feature in the next newsletter.

I am very glad to announce that **Nottinghamshire County Council** have embarked on some **condition checks** on their freestanding war memorials. Initiated by Jason Mordan, Historic Buildings Leader, and aided by a placement student, I visited them to see how the survey was going. They have adopted a similar methodology to us, and I was proud to see its potential crossing the County boundary. Which County will be next?

We have had a very generous **donation of research folders on the Gordon Highlanders in World War Two from Mr J Briggs of Ratby**. The collection of information will eventually be scanned for our archives and then the original folders offered to the Gordon Highlanders Museum (based in Aberdeen), whom I think will be delighted with the find. All credit goes to Mr Briggs for rescuing this from a car boot sale! As stated, the folders relate to the Gordon Highlanders only, but if you do have WW2 queries relating to this regiment and want me to look something up, feel free to contact me at any time.

Articles:

Sue Mackrell & David McCormack:

Crystal Clear Creators – Heritage Lottery Funded Project Leicester in the First World War



“We are looking for around 20 participants to take a key role in the research project. Ideally the group will represent a range of age, gender and cultural backgrounds.

The project is free of charge and no experience is necessary – interest and enthusiasm are all we are asking for. Professional researchers and archivists will help develop skills in accessing primary and secondary sources, including regimental diaries, letters, census returns and photographs. Workshops will be led by writers and historians, and there will be the opportunity for visits to local and national museums, including the National Archives and the Imperial War Museum.

The project will culminate in an exhibition and presentation of research findings in the summer of 2014, the centenary of the outbreak of war.

Possible Areas of Research:

Names from Leicester city war memorials and personal information about them. We hope to add to the Leicestershire project's database:

- Experiences of soldiers in the Leicestershire Regiment, Leicester Yeomanry and other regiments in which Leicester men enlisted.
- Leicester men in Royal Navy, Royal Flying Corps, and Merchant Navy.
- Links between Gurkha, Sikh, and other ethnic regiments, and Leicester.
- Members of auxiliary services - Royal Medical Corps, nurses, ambulance, etc.
- Researching experiences of conscientious objectors.
- Whether there are any links between the secret services and Leicester.
- Identifying Leicester men and women who returned from the war.

Life in Leicester during the war – especially focusing on London Road:

- Photographs and descriptions of Leicester during the war.
- Role of women in employment; those involved in suffrage movement.
- Researching home life – children, housing, food, morale, mass media etc.
- Researching places of entertainment – if possible, on London Road.
- Hospitals taking in soldiers, particularly the Fielding Johnson Hospital.
- Researching role of professional photographers, on London Road if possible.
- Rise of spiritualism during and post war.
- Researching YMCA Archives – letters from soldiers at the Front, etc.
- London Road Railway Station, transport for soldiers, return of wounded.

Post war in Leicester:

- Experiences of men returning from the war.
- Experiences of those returning wounded - hospitals, convalescent homes.
- Homelessness amongst returning armed forces.
- Leicester Workhouse – wounded men (unable to work), widows, children.
- Impact on women, children and families.

We will be facilitating workshops in schools, colleges, the Records Office and other venues.”

For more information please contact:

Sue Mackrell and David McCormack, 01455 631230

email: jessntab@aol.com

www.crystalclearcreators.org.uk



Olympic Year – Sporting Memorials in Leicestershire

Liz Blood

In the wake of the 2012 Olympics, this article highlights some of the sports-related memorials that we have come across. Thanks go to those of you who have made us aware of these. Interestingly, we have very few photographs of these sites and in some cases no names, or even a record of which conflict they commemorate. Can you help us to record our sport memorials better?

Husbands Bosworth Gliding Centre is understood to house a WW2 roll of honour inside its clubhouse. Can you tell us more?

There is a memorial at **Ibstock Cricket Club**, from the local branch of the Royal British Legion. We have no photos of it, nor a list of names, and cannot confirm which war it relates to. We understand that the Club is used by the local branch as its meeting venue, and the Club looks after it in recognition of former Club players who fell.

Afghanistan casualty Christopher Gray, from Ratby, is commemorated by the Kop Gray stand at **Ratby Football & Sports Ground**. We have no specific information on the stand, but **below** is a photograph of the grounds. We think there is a memorial plaque there, unveiled on 28th May 2011 at a memorial football tournament.



Ratby Football & Sports Ground

Coalville Rugby Club. The photograph **below**, from the 1990s, is the only image we have of this memorial, so our thanks are due to Aubrey Finney for his recording at the time. The inscription shows that it is the whole ground that is dedicated in memory, not just the memorial itself. Can you provide us with a new photo? If you do visit, please take a snap for us so we can see its current state and situation.



Inscription:

COALVILLE RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB / ROLL OF SERVICE / THE SECOND WORLD WAR 1939 - 1945 / TO THE MEMORY OF THOSE WHO DID NOT RETURN / THIS GROUND IS DEDICATED / [NAMES] / THE FOLLOWING ALSO SERVED / [NAMES]

Mountsorrel Leisure Centre houses a WW1 and WW2 plaque, installed when the Leisure Centre was opened. Thanks go to Patrick Neal for telling us about this. We don't currently have a photograph.

Mountsorrel is also one of the villages that have **war memorial playing fields**. The idea of the 'utilitarian memorial' – something that was useful to the living community rather than a monument, was a popular (though sometimes controversial) idea both after the First and Second World Wars. While some people liked the idea of sports being played by successive generations on land given in the name of casualties, others found it distasteful, or were concerned that they would be more vulnerable to development and change.

Other memorial parks and playing fields can be found at **Kirby Muxloe** (WW1), **Stoney Stanton** (WW1, WW2), **Witherley** (WW2), and (possibly) **Rothley** (WW1).

Schools also got new fields, or dedicated their fields to casualties who had attended (or taught at) them. One example is **Ashby Grammar School**, which has a sports field with a rough boulder and bronze plaque bearing inscribed white lettering remembering the casualties of World War Two.

Do you know of more?

Cambridge Lecturer's Leicestershire Pocket Watch! **Liz Blood**

In April 2011, I visited Cambridge University to deliver a paper there on the War Memorials Project at a conference entitled 'The Heritage of Memorials and Commemorations'. Also presenting at the conference was resident academic, Dr Gillian Carr (whose paper was on the landscape of war memorials in the Channel Islands). Dr Carr asked me whether the Leicestershire project recorded artefacts, as it turns out that she has a curious link with Leicestershire...

I recently contacted Dr Carr at Cambridge to follow this up, and she has kindly sent me further details and some pictures of the artefact in question. It is a gold pocket watch that belonged to her paternal grandfather, Wilfred Carr, who served in World War One and died in 1947. The pocket watch has a very interesting inscription:

"To Mr Wilfred Carr in recognition of services given in securing a convalescent home for Leicester. June 1922."



All that Dr Carr knows of her grandfather is that he was a town clerk in Leicester, but she does not know at what level or at what time. Do you know anything about Wilfred Carr? Can you identify the building or organisation referred to in the inscription? If we can find the convalescent home that this refers to, we can ensure that the pocket watch is recorded as a part of its history.



We have not seen anything like this yet, so it is an exciting and rare find that we would love to learn more about!

2014-18: What are you planning?

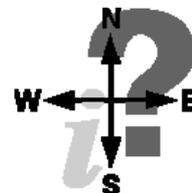
If you or your group have started to make plans to commemorate the 2014-18/19 period, please let us know what ideas you have.

The County Council's Adults & Communities Department is hoping to coordinate County-wide publicity and support to local events, and are looking to form a network of interested groups early to ensure enough time for preparations. Make sure you are part of this when it launches next year.

Groups that have so far started to plan their activities include **Ashby Museum**, who are involving surrounding parishes in publishing research on local casualties, and **Bottesford Heritage Group**. I'm also very pleased to announce that Mr Ivor Perry of the **Wolds Historical Association** is undertaking a project to research the casualties of **Wymeswold**. If you feel you can help, get in touch and I will pass details on.

If you would like me to include your plans in the next newsletter, to inspire other groups, drop me a line whenever you can!

Research Help:



LEICESTER CATHEDRAL ROLLS OF HONOUR

Marion Vincent, Heritage Warden for Rothley

A new source of information for me was in Leicester Cathedral where the following might also be useful to others on the War Memorial Project. A Book of Remembrance in a locked case with the following dedication:



“To the glory of God and in honoured memory of the officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men from the City and County who fought and fell in the Great War 1914-1918. This golden book containing a record of eleven thousand of their names is here preserved as a memorial to their valour and sacrifice”

The names in this book are in separate Battalions of the Leicestershire Regiment and other county regiments.

In the Chapel of the Leicestershire Regiment there are further books which could help in research:

- Roll of Honour of the Officers and Men of the Leicestershire Regiment who fell in the Great War 1914-1918
- Roll of Honour of the Officers and Men of the Leicestershire Regiment who fell in the war of 1939-1945.
- Memorial Book of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment who died in Ireland 1920-1922, Sudan 1924, Palestine 1938-1939, North-west Frontier of India 1938-1939, Korean Campaign 1951-1952 and Cyprus 1956-1958.

There are wall tablets in the chapel to different campaigns including the South African War of 1899. There is also a Memorial Book opened on the 1st July 1973 with the names of officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment who have died during peacetime or after retirement. These have been inscribed at the request of relatives. There is a further book currently being updated with recent deaths.

Leicester Cathedral is open every day from 8am-6pm and Sunday 7am-5pm. The Verger on duty will unlock the cabinets on request. Leicester Cathedral is off Peacock Lane, St. Martins, next to the Guildhall.

Events:



Friday 9th November 2012 – New memorial unveiled at County Hall. Keep your eyes on the local media for updates.

Saturday 10th November 2012 – LEICESTER, Welford Road Cemetery, 11am. Short service and laying of wreaths organised by the Friends of Welford Road Cemetery. (Thanks to Chris Stephens for notification).

Sunday 11th November – ARMISTICE DAY and REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – local events will be held around the County. There is also an all-day event being held at Donington le Heath Manor House, ‘Soldiers of the Great War’ that I will be attending, representing the Project (see poster at end).

14th November 2012 – **Special invitation:** The **War Memorials Trust** kindly invites everyone who receives this newsletter to their regional Members Event. This is a **talk by Dr Gavin Stamp**, architectural historian and Trustee of the War Memorials Trust, being held at **Newarke Houses Museum**. There will be a very brief word by myself (Liz Blood) on the Leicestershire project by way of introduction.

“Following the success of the event last year, Gavin will be repeating his talk about the official war memorials and war graves of the Great War. However, this year it will be held in Leicester to give our supporters in that part of the country an opportunity to hear this fascinating talk. It will cover topics such as the memorials of Lutyens and the work of the Imperial War Graves Commission. The event will take place at Newarke Houses Museum in Leicester, appropriately the home of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment Museum. Light refreshments will be served from 6pm with the talk beginning at 7pm.



Tickets cost £8 for Trust members and £10 for non-members. To book, contact Claire on 020 7834 0200, or email info@warmemorials.org. Further details will be supplied with tickets but please note that the venue is not wheelchair accessible.”

Conservation News:

English Heritage have notified us that both **Shepshed** and **Birstall** war memorials have been listed, both at Grade II. To find out more about listing war memorials, see our web page at www.leics.gov.uk/warmemorials_listing

The **memorial stone** marking the site previously thought to be the spot where **Richard III** fell has been moved from King Richard's Field in Shenton to Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre, where it can be seen with a new interpretation board in the courtyard (**see right**).



Two war memorials have been moved from the closed **Melton Working Mens Club** to the Melton Mowbray Royal British Legion club house.

Conservation projects have been initiated in Ashby de la Zouch (St Helen's Churchyard), and Thrussington. Projects recently finished include Oadby (London Road roundabout) and a memorial hall pergola at Oadby's North Memorial Homes. All of these were offered a grant by the War Memorials Project.

John MacDonald, heritage warden for Coleorton, let me know that a war memorial plaque from the closed **Coleorton Methodist church** has been donated to **Ashby Museum**, which plans to put it on display in one of their regular galleries.

Can you help...?

Ibstock Historical Society - Photographs of Ibstock men

Ian Vickers is a member of the Ibstock Historical Society and is creating a website as a tribute to the men listed on the Ibstock (Central Avenue) war memorial and is looking for your help. Ian says:



"I have a family connection with the memorial but the research is taking me places I never expected, every major theatre seems to have had someone involved from Ibstock or the surrounding villages, from Arctic Conveys to North Africa and all points in between. Part of the tribute is to include a picture of the man (or at the very least their gravestone/memorial) as well as family dynamics and some detail about him or his sacrifice. Could I ask the Newsletter readers that if anyone has any pictures of the men to let me know – I have about 30% of the men so far from family or old Coalville Times articles but am searching for more."

If you can help, contact Ian at vic_ibstock66@hotmail.com



Loughborough Grammar School Roll of Honour 1914-1918

To mark the centenary of World War 1, a book is being written about those who are named on the School's Roll of Honour and the effects of the war on the School. Karen Ette would like to know if you can help her.

There are 59 names on the memorial, each requiring careful, conscientious research. If anyone has any information about any of those named which they would be willing to share, Karen would be very pleased to hear from you.

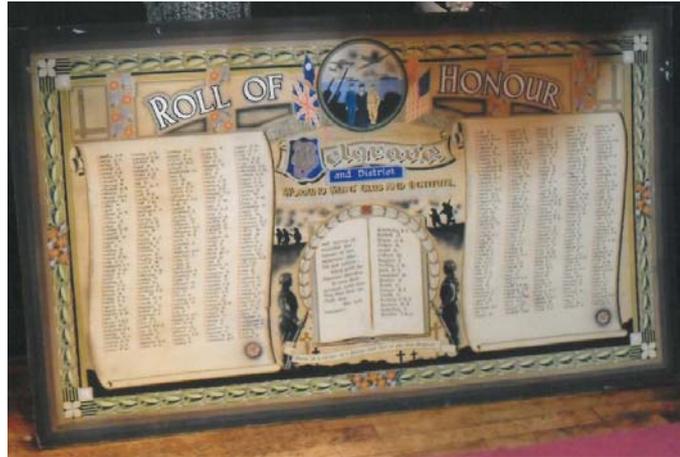
E-mail: K.Ette@lesgrammar.org or **telephone:** 01509 233233 or 07976 511649. **Postal address:** Karen Ette, c/o Loughborough Grammar School, 6 Burton Walks, Loughborough. Leics., LE11 2DU

Members of Loughborough Grammar School who gave their lives in the 1914-1918 War

J. Allsopp	A. L. Harris	T. B. Paul
C. F. Ball	R. Hay	A. Perkins
H. C. Barrow	A. S. Heward	N. G. Perkins
W. F. Bourne	F. Holland	F. B. Pitts
F. B. Carter	W. L. Holt	E. S. Plumb
A. D. Chapman	A. G. Hutton-Balfour	H. H. Proudfoot
H. F. Chapman	W. F. Jelley	A. W. H. Purnell
J. Chapman	W. F. Kent	H. W. Reynolds
H. C. Clarke	C. E. Lancaster	A. Rowbotham
W. F. Clarke	A. W. Leslie	H. Smalley
J. H. Corah	J. T. M. Lewis	W. P. Sullins
S. Corah	T. F. McCarthy	A. R. Tinsley
F. Cresswell	L. J. Moir	R. B. Turner
A. L. Dawson	F. W. Moss	A. W. Whittaker
J. R. Eaton	G. A. Moss	W. H. White
M. Findlay	H. J. H. Moss	R. Wilkinson
J. S. Fuller	J. C. Needham	J. H. Wilson
W. H. H. Gibbs	J. J. F. Oldershaw	L. B. Woulidge
H. Gridgings	A. F. Palmer	

Jungle Club memorials – answer to a previous enquiry

Chris Stephens has recently been looking into the question of the war memorials located in the 'Jungle Club' (formerly Belgrave Working Mens Club and Institute) asked by Janet Lucas earlier this year. Chris managed to secure a visit to see the memorials, which are still on-site, in storage. The club's owner plans to redisplay them. Many thanks to Chris for sharing these photographs. We are glad to hear that these memorials are still there.



WW1 (left) and WW2 (above)

Thank you for your continued interest in the War Memorials Project,

Elizabeth Blood

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www.leics.gov.uk/warmemorials



Selection of war memorials offered grants by the Project so far!

Soldiers of the Great War



DONINGTON Le HEATH MANOR HOUSE

SUNDAY, 11th November 2012

10.30 am – 4 pm

Explore life on the battle front and the Home Front during World War One, with Army and Naval re-enactors, songs and poems and children's crafts. Plus...find out more about your war time relatives with the Leicestershire and Rutland War Memorials Project database.

ADMISSION FREE

Donington le Heath Manor House is on the south-west edge of Coalville, between Hugglescote and Ibstock.

It is open 7 days a week from 11.00am – 4 pm. There is a free car park and also a gift shop.

The Old Barn Coffee Shop will be serving light refreshments from 11am 4pm.

FUTURE EVENTS

November 17th 7.30pm Souvenirs: An evening of South American music and stories. Tickets Adults £12 Children/concessions £9

**December 1st – 2nd 11am – 4pm Christmas at the Tudor Manor
ADMISSION FREE**

“And their Country Found them Ready...”