

Newsletter Issue No 115 July 2018 Special Edition



**At 11.00am on 11th November 1918
the “War to End All Wars”
was finally over.**

**The sacrifice made by so many in order that we, 100 years later,
can live in a free society should always be remembered, with gratitude.**

**It is important to recognize that, in addition to all who sadly died, many more were
scarred for life, physically, mentally, financially & emotionally.**

The world had changed, for ever.

**Mellor Parish Council, with much help from any who wish to be involved, want to
commemorate the Centenary of The Armistice on Sunday 11th November 2018.**

**Details of plans so far are within this newsletter, but it is hoped that many will come forward
to inform and to take part—readers for poetry & readings, those with memorabilia.**

**Many of those who went to war were from Mellor—
do you have any relatives who were involved in any way?**

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

A Working Group has started to make preparations for the Remembrance Day Service—

The usual Church Services will be taking place, including Blessing of the Wreaths which are to be presented at

9.30am Service of Remembrance in St. Mary's Church

Following this, any who wish will then meet at the War Memorial for

10.45am for Service of Remembrance, led by Clergy from at least St. Mary's, Mellor & Mellor Methodist

The Silence will be held at 11.00am prompt, when names of The Fallen will be read out.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP AND JOIN IN? FIRSTLY, MAKE SURE THE DATE IS IN YOUR CALENDAR!

NEXT—PLEASE READ THIS NEWSLETTER, TELL OTHERS, HAVE YOU ANY INFORMATION— LET US KNOW!

10.45am has been deliberately planned in order to allow people to assemble at the War Memorial, when short readings can be heard, but 11.00am is the time when the nation is silent and we remember. If you would like to read a poem, please let us know.

ALL local groups are asked to take part, in particular they may wish to place a wreath on the Memorial. There will be a particular time allotted for this.

MUSIC—a bugler is being contacted for The Last Post & Reveille, however background music will also be needed in School—do you have Ideas? Contacts? Talent? - DON'T BE SHY!

MEMORABILIA—In 2014 there was an amazing exhibition of WW1 memorabilia & contact has been made with those involved. St. Mary's School will again be carrying out projects on this. However any quick internet search will bring up so much information, which was not available even as recently as 2014—are you interested? Do you have any memorabilia? Is there any family history from World War 1 you would be prepared to share with others?

Do you know anything about your own family, or about Mellor, from that time?

Do you want to know?

Are all the names of The Fallen on Mellor War Memorial?

NO, THEY ARE NOT! WHY NOT?

WHO IS MISSING? DOES IT MATTER? SHOULD ANYTHING BE DONE?

This may not be easy to answer. Any who have done research can tell you that there were many reasons for inclusion and exclusion of names on War Memorials.

- Sometimes relatives needed to pay for inclusion & they may have had no money
 - Names were sometimes added by a sweetheart or distant family member
- In some cases the name was of someone who had worked (but not lived) in a village
 - In others, they lived elsewhere, but married in the local church
- In cases of missing soldiers, often a family would not accept their death, hoping for their return

Simple research has shown a number of names, but maybe you know of others?

See pages 5 & 7 for all the names found so far, those who went, and those known to have died

Parish Council Membership

Cllr Mr Bernard Murtagh (CHAIRMAN)	68 St Mary’s Gardens	01254 813663
Cllr Mrs Stella Brunskill	Oulton, Myerscough Rd, Mellor Brook	01254 812694
Cllr Mrs Margaret Johnson	14 Mellor Brow	01254 813638
Cllr Mr Nick Marsden	8 Glendale Drive	01254 814215
Cllr Mr Alan Upton	53 Whitecroft Lane	01254 812730
Cllr Mr Noel C Walsh	Bench Mark Barn, Elswick Lodge	01254 813365
Cllr. Mr. Michael O’Grady	21 Elswick Gardens	01254 812031
Cllr Mrs Pat Young	The Old Foundry Stanhill Lane, Oswaldtwistle	01254 351516
Cllr. Mrs. Dot Crooks	59 Mellor Brow	01254 812021
Cllr. Mr. Ian Moss	15 Hob Green	01254 813581
Mrs Teresa Taylor (Clerk)	6 Chatburn Avenue, Clitheroe BB7 2AU	01200 422607

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS:

NIGEL EVANS MP
 Constituency Address:
 9 Railway View, CLITHEROE, BB7 2HA
 tel: 01200 425939 fax: 01200 422904
 email: evansn@parliament.uk
 web: www.nigel-evans.org.uk
Lancashire County Councillor
 ALAN SCHOFIELD:
 email alan.schofield@lancashire.gov.uk
 mobile: 07876 844262
Ribble Valley Borough Councillors
 NOEL C WALSH: Bench Mark Barn, Elswick Lodge,
 tel: 01254 813365
 STELLA BRUNSKILL: Oulton, Myerscough Road,
 Mellor Brook, tel: 01254 812694
 email: stellabrunskill@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Council Meetings for the next period
 Thursday 5th July
 NO MEETING in August
 Thursday 6th September
 Thursday 4th October
 All are held at 7pm in the Methodist Church, Mellor Lane.
All are welcome to attend the Public Session at the start of each meeting to raise any items of concern

Website: www.mellorpc.org.uk **You can also contact us by email at** mellorpc@outlook.com

Agendas and Minutes of all Parish Council meetings can be viewed on the website. They are also available in Mellor Library, or by making an appointment with Parish Clerk, Teresa Taylor on 01200

THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

Have you been? The Editor has visited twice. Any who have are very moved by all they see. Where is it? In Staffordshire, on the edge of the National Forest. There are over 360 memorials of many types and textures, set in 150 acres, with over 30,000 trees planted.

The most moving area I feel is the “Shot at Dawn” Memorial.

During the First World War over 3000 troops were condemned to death, following a 20 minute Court Martial. They were found guilty of a number of offences, often “cowardice” when they may have refused to go “over the top”. 346 troops were actually shot in this way, & perhaps we need to consider that this was war; if they had been allowed to disobey orders, total mutiny could have ensued.

WW1 could have had a very different result.

However, the way the sentence was carried out sounds horrific. The soldier (many were underage, having lied when they signed up) would have been taken out at dawn, all his military regalia (buttons, cap badge, any medals) would be stripped from him and he would be offered a blindfold, hands tied behind him and a “target” hung round his neck, for a heart shot. Six of his own comrades would line up opposite as the firing squad (a further deterrent to any who wished to disobey orders). The officer present would shout “Ready” then drop his hand as the signal to fire. The doctor present would examine the body—if the soldier was not dead, the officer would complete the task with a pistol shot to the head.

Imagine the mental effect on each of the firing squad, even years later. If they had disobeyed, a similar fate.

12 amazing WW1 Facts that you probably don't know

1. An explosion on the battlefield in France was heard in London

While the war raged on in the mud and trenches, a very different war was taking place beneath the soldiers' feet. A group of miners, operating in total secrecy, dug tunnels up to 100ft underground, to plant and detonate mines beneath the enemy's trenches. Their biggest success was at Messines Ridge in Belgium where over 900,000lbs of explosives were simultaneously detonated in 19 underground tunnels. Much of the German front line was destroyed, and the explosions were heard 140 miles away by the British prime minister in Downing St.

2. Journalists faced execution

A handful of journalists risked their lives to report on the realities of war. As the Government sought to control the flow of information from the frontline at the start of the war, journalists were banned. Reporting on the conflict was, in the opinion of the War Office, helping the enemy. If caught, they faced the death penalty.

3. 12 million letters were delivered to the front every week

Astonishingly, it only took two days for a letter from Britain to reach the front in France. The journey began at a purpose-built sorting depot in Regent's Park before being shipped to the trenches. By the end of the war, two billion letters and 114 million parcels had had been delivered.

4. War work turned some women's skin yellow

When a generation of men went to fight the war, more than a million women took their place in the workforce. They worked long hours, often in poor conditions and with dangerous chemicals. The so-called 'canaries' were women who worked with TNT, which gave them toxic jaundice and turned their skin yellow.

5. WW1 sparked the invention of plastic surgery

Shrapnel was the cause of many facial injuries in WW1 and unlike the straight-line wounds inflicted by bullets, the twisted metal shards produced from a shrapnel blast could easily rip a face off. Horrified by the injuries he saw, surgeon Harold Gillies, took on the task of helping victims and pioneered early techniques of facial reconstruction in the process.

6. Wilfred Owen was unknown at the end of the war

Wilfred Owen is one of the best known poets of the WW1, but when he died on the frontline, just a week before the end of the war, he was relatively unknown. At the time, his view of the war as one of pity and horror was in the minority. It wasn't until the 1960s that a literary elite decided this was the most authentic view of the conflict because it chimed with their own anti-war feelings. This resulted in the publication of two key war poetry anthologies which heavily featured Owen.

7. The youngest British soldier was 12 years old

Sidney Lewis was just 12 years old when he lied about his age and joined the army during World War One. He was one of thousands of eager underage boys who enlisted and ended up fighting alongside their adult counterparts on the front. Some were motivated by patriotism, but for others it was an escape from their dreary lives.

8. WW1 nearly caused a financial meltdown in Britain

At the turn of the 20th century, Britain was an economic superpower, but the world's first global war would cost more than any that had gone before. For example, the cost of bullets fired in one 24 hour period in September 1918 was nearly four million pounds.

9. Blood banks were developed during WW1

The British Army began the routine use of blood transfusion in treating wounded soldiers. Blood was transferred directly from one person to another. A US Army doctor, Captain Oswald Robertson, established the first blood bank on the Western Front in 1917, using sodium citrate to prevent the blood from coagulating and becoming unusable. Blood was kept on ice for up to 28 days and then transported to casualty clearing stations for use in life-saving surgery where it was needed most.

10. Colourful makeovers meant WW1 ships hid in plain sight

It was crucial to protect the merchant ships carrying the food and military supplies to the front from enemy torpedoes. Norman Wilkinson, an artist and Royal Navy volunteer came up with the idea of covering ships in bold shapes and violent contrasts of colour. The complete opposite of normal camouflage, dazzle camouflage was supposed to confuse the enemy rather than conceal the ships.

11. 9 out of 10 soldiers survived the trenches

Being in the firing line was rare for a British soldier. They constantly moved around the trench system - meaning more often than not they were kept from the dangers of enemy fire. The more typical experience for the British Tommy would have been a life of boredom and regular routine.

12. Generals were banned from going over the top

The stereotype is that the ordinary soldiers of WW1 were lions led by donkeys - the donkeys being incompetent generals who sat out the war in comfort while thousands died unnecessary deaths. In fact, so many of the generals wanted to be closer to the fighting they had to be banned from going over the top because they kept getting killed. The experience required to be a general was too significant to lose.

Names on Photo in Mellor Methodist Fellowship Room**Those who went, assumed came back, but do you, or your older relatives know if they did?**

BILLINGTON	Frank	HAWORTH	John H.
BILLINGTON	John	JOHNSON	John W.
BILLINGTON	Walter	JOHNSON	Richard
BOND	Harold	LONGWORTH	Thomas
BRIGGS	James	NORTH	Albert
BROWN	Rev. Lewis A.	NORTH	George
COOK	John	PEACOCK	Bertram
CROASDALE	Frederick	PEACOCK	Josh T.
CROASDALE	Herbert	PEACOCK	William
CROASDALE	John R.	RUSHTON	Thomas
DUCKWORTH	John	SHAW	Arthur
EASTWOOD	James	SMITH	Frederick
FIELDEN	Norman	SMITH	John
FISH	Ernest	SMITH	John
FISH	Walter	WALSH	Percy
GABBUT	Francis B.	WHALLEY	Herbert
GILLIBRAND	Arthur	WHITTLE	William
HAMER	Amos	WORDEN	James N.
HAMER	Sydney	WORDEN	John H.
HASLER	Josiah	WORDEN	William
HEYES	Richard A.		

Those who Died

COOK	Eli K.
HARGREAVES	Fred

Those who were Killed

BARNES	Thomas
BEGGS	Harry
BILLINGTON	Joshua
DEAN	Harry
HAMER	Norman H.
NORTH	John J.

NAMES ON MELLOR WAR MEMORIAL 1914–1919

1914 -19

Thomas	Rushton	Edward	Pye
Joseph	Marsden	John	Blackburn
James	Hughes	Fred	Whalley
Harry	Beggs	John T.	Knowles
Isaac	Greenbank	Joshua	Billington
Joseph	Gillett	Eli K.	Cook
Richard	Slater	William	Waddington
John J	North	Fred	Hargreaves
Norman	Hamer	Joseph	Holdsworth
James	Clarkson	Alfred	Hamer
William	Singleton	Thomas	Greenbank

Who were they?

Do YOU know?

Where are they buried?

A search on Commonwealth War Graves Commission website shows 2 lists for those in graves in Mellor (one for each Churchyard).

However, as has been shown to be the case elsewhere, the names on the War Memorial do not completely correspond to those on the War Memorial. Some in graves are not on the War Memorial (WHY?), whilst some who are named on the War Memorial may not be buried in Mellor—they may be buried elsewhere, due to family connections, their body would not have been brought back to England if they died overseas (but they may be named on a family memorial) or sadly their body may never have been found. Many soldiers from Lancashire were involved in the Battle of the Somme between July & November 1916 & their name may be included in the 72,000 names of those who have no known grave but recorded on The Thiepval Memorial.

Those Listed with graves in St. Mary's Churchyard

Private CARR 58933

Private CHARNLEY 242754

Gunner DITCHFIELD 214341

Private HINDLE 4782

Air Mechanic 1st Class JACKSON 214491

Private MARLOR 72499

Sapper MARSH 504665

Nursing Sister ROBINS

Air Mechanic 3rd Class STIRRUP 298121

Private WADDINGTON 37080

However, there may well be more—the editor noticed a memorial inscribed Reg. THOMPSON 2nd Bn East Lancashire killed in action 23rd October 1916, aged 30 years.

It is also interesting to note that there were 2 Air Mechanics & a Nursing Sister in War Graves—does anybody know anything about them? PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU DO

Those Listed with graves in Methodist Churchyard

Private BULMER 50440

Ordinary Seaman CHEW HMS Vivid 111

Ordinary Seaman COOK RN Depot

Lieutenant COUPE Royal Flying Corps & East
Lancs Regiment

Private JACKSON 24071

Private JENNINGS 8785

Private NORTH TR/3/13676

Serjeant SUTTON S/11071

Again, these do not all correspond with the names on the photo. Perhaps there was no photo of them, or they were away when individual photos were submitted, maybe even serving overseas.

Does anyone know anything about the photo in the Fellowship Room—when it was collated, by whom?

Contacts and information

VILLAGE GROUPS & ORGANISATIONS

Mellor Babies and Toddlers (term-time):

(Thur 1-3pm @ Mellor Methodist—weekly):

Helen Bottle E: helenebottle@gmail.com

Mellor Pre School: Angela Hetherington-Fogg 812875 /
Beryl Nugent 812056

Little Angels: Rita Gorman 812566 /
Margaret Baldwin 812360

Beavers / Cubs / Scouts: Susan Middlemass 812642

Rainbows: Lynn Fish 813591

Brownies: Michelle Venn 812711

Guides: E: helendentith@btinternet.com

Vision (Youth Fellowship) : Debbie Chadwick 812091

Mellor Juniors Football Club: Carol Williamson 07974 258
148 or Richard Lucas 01254 580658

Mellor Allotments: Meryl Rishton 01254 245460

Mellor Bowling Club: Gordon Livesey ????

Mellor Community Association (Village Hall): John Hy-
mas 813282

Mellor Connections: Carolyne Hymas 813282

Mellor Village Show: Marjorie Nicholson 814121 /
Dot Crooks 812021

Luncheon Club: Judith Marr 812741

Mellor St. Mary's CE Primary School : 812581
Headteacher Mrs. J. Embley-Peers

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT WW1? IF SO, THE FOLLOWING MAY HELP

<https://www.cwgc.org/find/find-war-dead> Helps for initial search, to find date & place of death, Grave or Memorial reference, Regiment & Number, but more specific information regularly updated. This information will assist with further searches on other websites

<http://www.lancashireinfantrymuseum.org.uk> has phenomenal archives for all 6 Lancs. Regiments, some other Regimental Museums have research facilities, many do not, but websites give background. They usually have War Diaries, but you may need to visit to access these.

<http://www.longlongtrail.co.uk> very good for background to battles etc

'wearing poppies neither supports nor glorifies wars'

'we must remember'

'if anything it reminds us war is not a glamorous or glorious thing'

'it's a practical way to raise badly-needed funds'

'critics should be thoroughly ashamed of themselves'

'we should learn from wars'

'without their sacrifice critics would not be free to criticise'

'it teaches us to respect'



So you see, when a poppy is worn
Let us reflect on the burden borne
By those who gave their very all
When asked to answer their country's call,
That we at home in peace might live.
Then wear a poppy! Remember – and give!

Last verse of A poem by Don Crawford

www.ancestry.com (subscription to pay, or free in Lancashire Libraries) Censuses, Medal cards, Soldier's effects – these give personal details to build a picture - all can be downloaded and saved

<http://www.lancashirebmd.org.uk> Civil registrations of Births, Marriages, Deaths, not all transcribed and specific to a year when searching
<http://www.lan-opc.org.uk/indexp> Church and Parish records (mostly C of E) but again, not all transcribed. This can help with families, in conjunction with Census