

Marlow's Heritage Day - Saturday 13th September 2014

The Marlow Remembers World War One Association took part in the town's Heritage Day in September. The event was held at St Peter Street on Saturday 13th September and we took over a room in the Pugin Rooms.

To commemorate the War we set up a number of displays to, including a series of photographs, some copies of the South Bucks Free Press from the war period and two Rolls of Honour. We also set up access to family history websites so that we could assist



people with any enquiries.

In total we had in the region of 200 visitors to the displays. There was a real interest in the information we had available, especially in the photographs. Many visitors were keen to share their families' stories about the War, with some having links to Marlow.

Our main focus for the event was the commemoration of the fallen from the War who had a connection with St Peter Street. We had been able to find out some of history behind their sacrifice and compiled a short booklet which was available for those visiting the displays.

Three of the fallen are commemorated in St Peter's churchyard: Frank Barnes, Harry de Swaart and Nigel Baynes.

Of the three only Nigel Baynes was buried in the churchyard. He was injured in France in December 1914 and was moved to England to

recover. Although he made good progress initially, he succumbed to pneumonia and died on 19 March 1915, aged 37. He was buried with full military honours in Marlow, having been gazetted Major after his death. A firing party formed a guard of honour, firing three volleys and the service was conducted by the Rev Father Daley, from Westminster Cathedral. Local newspaper reports referred to 'an impressive scene'. However despite extensive research, the reason why he was buried in Marlow remains a mystery. If anyone has any information on this we would love to find out more!



Grave of Major Nigel Baynes in St Peter's churchyard (Courtesy of Belinda Ford)

The other men with a link to St Peter Street had been living at Bridge House, before the war. These men were all from the same extended family; Jack and Walter Langley were brothers and the third Hedley Foster was their step brother. This was a well to do family, their father, John Langley being a JP and Chairman of Marlow Urban Council. Jack and Hedley both attended Sir William Borlase's School and were keen rowers with Marlow Rowing Club. All three brothers were killed in combat; Jack first in August 1915, Walter next in August 1916 and finally Hedley in August 1917.

Overall, the Heritage Open Day was a major success, generating lots of interest from local people and providing many further areas for our team to research and explore.

We will be liaising with the Marlow Society to see how we can support future Heritage Open Days in a similar way.



The successful Marlow Eight crew of 1913-14.



Courtesy of The Marlow Society

Hedley Foster is second from the right. All these men signed up and fought in the war.

Marlow Carnival Saturday 20th September 2014

To publicise our work and to encourage people to get involved we took part in the Marlow Carnival at Higginson Park on 20th September. We had a great spot near the play ground at the top of the park and with the help of a gazebo borrowed from the Marlow Society, our 'Pull Up' signs listing the Marlow men who died in the conflict and a set of photographs from the period, we were quite a draw for the passing public.



Photograph of Marlow Carnival
Courtesy of Belinda Ford

In total we attracted over 100 people and made more than 20 new contacts. Many people were interested in telling us about their own family stories of the War. One man had acquired a World War One blanket for instance and promised to lend it to the museum.

Another was the grand daughter of one of the three Moores brothers, who were local and died in combat. She had a photograph and some memorabilia which she offered to lend to a future exhibition.

Of the people we spoke to at the Carnival a number were interested in undertaking further family history research.

To help build on this interest two of the Association's Committee members arranged a follow-up research meeting, at which they described, in more detail, the research that was being undertaken and where each member of the group could contribute best.

