



# Marlow

## Welcome

Welcome to the latest newsletter from the Marlow Remembers World War One Association. In this newsletter, we want to share with you details of the activities and events that the association has arranged and supported over the course of the last few months to commemorate the effect of the War on the town and people of Marlow. We have also included our plans for the year ahead.

The programme of national events to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of World War One began in the summer. The Royal British Legion In Marlow organised a very moving and very well-attended ceremony on The Causeway on the night of 3 August to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Britain entering the War.

Prior to the start of the official events, we were overjoyed to hear that our Association had been successful in its application for a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The financial support this provides, coupled with the generous grant we had received from Marlow Town Council, enabled us to put into action the plans that we had developed to organise activities and events that both share the story of how the war changed the town and its people, and also form an appropriate tribute 100 years on to the men, women, boys and girls from the town who served and died in the conflict.



## Talks and Events

**17th February** — Evening event in the Assembly Rooms at 7.30pm on “Memories of the War” organised jointly with Marlow Society Local History Group. Payment on the door.

**5th April** – Commemorative service at the grave of Leonard Roberts in Marlow Cemetery to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death

**11th & 12th July** – A weekend of events to commemorate the use of the training trenches at Marlow Common 100 years ago.

**16th November** – Evening event on Research into the Soldiers from Marlow. Organised jointly with Marlow Society Local History Group.



Blood Swept Lands & Roll of Honour at the Tower of London (Courtesy of Tony Birkett)

This newsletter provides further details of what we have achieved in the last few months, in summary:

- ♦ We started our rolling programme of exhibitions at Marlow Museum telling the story of how the War changed the town.
- ♦ We supported the Marlow Society Heritage Open Day in September, focusing on the stories of the men from the War who are buried in St Peter's Church graveyard.
- ♦ Also in September, we organised a stand at Marlow Carnival where over 100 people came to find out more about the War and also share their stories about relatives who lived through it.
- ♦ On Remembrance Sunday in November, we helped Sir William Borlase's Grammar School hold a commemorative event to mark the contribution made by the school's staff and pupils in the War.
- ♦ Since August, we have been planting commemorative crosses at The Causeway to each of the men and boys from Marlow who were killed in the War on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their death.
- ♦ We have continued with our research into how the War affected life the town, involving many local people with an interest in this subject.
- ♦ We have developed a resource pack about the War to be used in local primary schools based on the stories of local men who fought in the War.

We wish to put on record how grateful we are that the Bucks Free Press has shown such a strong level of interest in these activities and events. This has really helped promote local interest in, and understanding of the impact of the war on their town.

So a lot has already been done! But we have even more exciting plans for the future, (see inset on page 1)

Please do check our website

<http://www.marlowww1.org.uk/> for further details of these and other events and activities.

If you would like to know more about our plans or would like to be involved in any way please contact me at [andyford.marlow@btinternet.com](mailto:andyford.marlow@btinternet.com) or by telephone on 01628 481141.

Best wishes for 2015

*Andy Ford*

Chairman

Marlow Remembers World War One Association

A special thanks to John Hilton for his contribution to the Museum Exhibition.



## Museum Displays

With the help of the Heritage Lottery Fund we are producing and exhibiting displays at Marlow's museum to commemorate the changing nature of the War. The displays are being changed every three months and each will focus on three key areas:

- ♦ The impact of the war on Marlow society and the people left at home.
- ♦ The stories of the combatants killed in the war, timed to coincide with the 100th anniversary of their death.
- ♦ Key events from the war and how they involved or affected local people.

The first display was erected in time for the centenary of the outbreak of war, at the beginning of August 2014, and the second three months later, on Armistice weekend.



## August 2014 Display

The August display had three themes:

- ♦ The impact on Marlow of the outbreak of war.
- ♦ David Dickson.
- ♦ The first few months on the Western Front.



*David Dickson\**

David **Dickson** came from a well to do family in Marlow. His father was a doctor, JP, and councillor.

David attended Sir William Borlase's School and was a keen rower and

boxer. Being a naval cadet before the outbreak of war he was called up immediately when war was declared.

Tragically he drowned at sea in October 1914 when HMS Hawke was torpedoed.

At the age of 17 David's death was commemorated in the town and a memorial erected to him at the school.

*\*With kind permission of Sir William Borlase's Grammar School*

## November 2014 Display

The August display was replaced on Armistice weekend.

The new display focused on:

- ♦ The changes beginning to be felt in Marlow as a result of the war.
  - ♦ By November 1914 for instance, 25 Belgian refugees were living in the town, being supported by local charity donations,
  - ♦ and the Work for Women Fund were making in the region of 100 items of clothing a month for the war effort.
- ♦ Four men who were all killed on the same day, 1 November 1914, at Ypres.
  - ♦ Private Chandler, Private Dunn
  - ♦ Private Edwards, Rifleman Forrest.
- ♦ The Christmas Truce in the trenches.
  - ♦ At Christmas 1914 opposing armies who were bogged down in the stand-off of the Western Front, held small scale truces. Twenty Marlow men had, by this date been killed in the fighting, mostly on the Western Front and as many as 400 men from the town spent that first Christmas away from families in the trenches.



## Roving Displays

In addition to the exhibitions at the museum, we have made arrangements for each display to be exhibited at a number of other locations in and around Marlow.

To date, the first display has been on display in Marlow Library, Brooke Furmston Sheltered Housing Scheme, and New Court Sheltered Housing Scheme.

We will shortly also be exhibiting it at the new Cliveden Manor Residential Home.

### Roving Displays

If you would like to host the display at a venue in or near Marlow, please do contact us at [andyford.marlow@btinternet.com](mailto:andyford.marlow@btinternet.com).

## ***For Schools***

After a successful summer exhibition of World War 1 artefacts for primary and secondary schools, the School's Programme concentrated on developing a resource pack specifically looking at the involvement of Marlow in WW1 for use in primary schools.

The pack was distributed at the end of September to allow schools sufficient time to plan the lessons around Remembrance Day if they so desired.

Each of the four lessons in the pack were designed to answer stimulus questions through discovery.

### **1. Marlow in the War.**

Using an audio file or transcript of "Memories of Marlow-the First World War", collected by The Marlow Society (1988-1990), children learnt from local Marlovians about life in Marlow during the war.

### **2. The Men from Marlow who fought in WW1**

Children learnt of the huge sacrifice that the men of Marlow made during the War. The children were made aware of the immense significance of the long list of names read out at the Causeway service each year. The database of Men who fought provided children with the opportunity to analyse actual data.

### **3. The Significance of Marlow's War Memorial**

Children learnt the location of the Marlow War Memorial and examined its purpose and importance.

### **4. Case Study of David Dickson**

The case study of David Dickson was used to tell the story of a young man who was killed when his ship HMS Hawke was sunk by a German U-boat. He was only 17yrs old, went to Sir William Borlase's Grammar School and played hockey at Marlow Hockey Club therefore the children were able to identify with a "real person" from the

town.

The work produced by the children was impressive ranging from newspaper articles on the devastating death of David Dickson, letters to David comparing their lives today, designs of war memorials and, perhaps the most poignant were, the discussions that the children had with their peers about what life was like in Marlow 100yrs ago and the impact that the War had on the town.

The memories of Marlow audio tapes proved to be a very valuable resource.

The feedback from the teachers who kindly evaluated the pack was very positive. All of the responses identified excellent learning from the children and commented on the wealth of local information in the pack that captured the interest of the children.

## **Marlow Museum**

Marlow Museum's winter opening hours from November to February are:

**Sundays 2pm to 4pm.**

Summer opening hours from March 1st to the end of October are:

**Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays  
1pm to 5pm.**

The Museum can also open by special appointment for groups, schools, etc.

The Museum can be found just in front of the Court Garden Leisure Centre, Pound Lane, Marlow.

For further information please go to [www.marlowmuseum.org](http://www.marlowmuseum.org)

# 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.



# Borlase Remembers

Sir William Borlase's Grammar School staged a very effective exhibition and play in November, to commemorate the outbreak of the First World War and, in particular, the boys from the school and from Marlow who gave their lives in the conflict.

With support from us, the school organised and held a very successful exhibition on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2014. The exhibition ran between midday and 4pm, following the Royal British Legion annual commemorative service in the town that morning. The exhibition included research by History, English, French, Geography, PE and Music students as well as contributions of artefacts from staff and students. Our display worked well, complementing the work of the students. The inclusion of John Hilton's memorabilia and Michael Eagleton's photographs, Rolls of Honour and original newspapers from the time provide further insight into life during the early 20th century. There was also a very effective poppy sculpture built by pupils, which emulated that at the Tower of London.

The school also held a chapel service which was repeated during the day. The service, including readings, music and an address by the Headmaster, was particularly moving and effective. The chapel was full for both services.

In addition the school presented a technical theatre installation and staged poetry readings with pupils reciting poems they had written in

French and English. Some of the poems were based on the life of Wilfred Owen and others were inspired by the imagined lives of Old Borlasians who died in the War.

In addition to the exhibition the school devised and staged a play, 'Borlase Remembers', on the evening of 11 November. The play was presented three times at hourly intervals, attracting audiences of 50 people each time. The action was set around the school grounds and told the story of the war through fourteen scenes. The action started with the shooting of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in 'Sarajevo' and moved through scenes such as 'Recruitment', 'Courage' which was set in a 'trench', 'Punishment' where a soldier was shot for insubordination, to 'Bloodshed', a dance by some of the current boys at the school, 'Reflection', a voiced number by the boys choir and finally 'Remembrance'. 'Remembrance' was held in the chapel and included a roll call of the Borlase fallen in the conflict, some readings and music, concluding with 'I vow to thee my country'.

The play was innovative and very effective, particularly in its use of the whole school. Pupils and staff had clearly worked hard on devising the material and on staging and producing the play.

The events together were a fitting tribute in this commemorative year to the boys from Borlase and from Marlow who joined up and died in the War and an effective way of encouraging the younger generation to engage

## A tribute to those who died

Over 230 men and boys from Marlow and the surrounding area served and died in the War. As a fitting tribute to their sacrifice, we will be planting a Remembrance Cross for each of them by the memorial in The Causeway on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their death. Over the course of the next four years, we believe this will build to serve as a poignant reminder of the impact of the War on the town.

We are very grateful to colleagues in Marlow Camera Club who will provide a photographic record of the development of this tribute over the coming months and years.





## Researching the Past

Under the very helpful leadership and guidance of local family historian, Jan Caddie, Belinda Ford and the research group have embarked upon an ambitious programme of research to find out much more about how the War changed the town and its people.

To date, we have been focusing on the stories of the soldiers who fought and died in the conflict. We are recording those stories in a Book of Remembrance in Marlow Museum and using the research to inform our displays and talks to local community groups.



*Looking south, a view of both sides of the street, and in the road a man on a tri-cycle. High St, Marlow. c 1914.*

*With kind permission of Michael Eagleton, photograph held on SWOPs database, copyright High Wycombe library*

Our plans for future areas of research include examining how the War affected:

- ♦ The role of women in local society.
- ♦ Local employers such as the Brewery.
- ♦ Local sports clubs including Marlow Rowing Club and Marlow Football Club.
- ♦ Local schools and churches.

We are also currently researching how local men and boys responded to the call to arms and in particular the impact of conscription on the town, including those who appealed not to be sent to war.

We plan to share the results of our research through the exhibitions at the Museum and through talks to various local community

groups.

If you would like to know more about our research or would like to get involved in any way (no prior experience is necessary and full training will be provided), please do contact us at [andyford.marlow@btinternet.com](mailto:andyford.marlow@btinternet.com).

## Looking Ahead

The highlight of the year ahead will be a weekend of activities that we will be arranging at Marlow Common on 11th and 12th July to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the practice trenches were dug and used there.

We are also collaborating with the Marlow Society Local History Group to arrange two public events to share the history of the town and the War. The first event is on 16th February in the Assembly Rooms at 7.30pm, *payment on the door*. It will involve sharing recordings of people who remember living through the War in Marlow and an exhibition of photos of the town from the time.

In addition, on 16th November we will be holding a similar evening event where we will share the results of our research to date on those who fought and died in the War, as well as how conscription affected the town.

Over 40 of the men who died in the War are buried or commemorated in cemeteries and graveyards in Marlow and the surrounding villages. On the anniversary of the death of each of these men we will be holding a short commemorative service in recognition of



their sacrifice. The first of these will be on Easter Sunday, 5th April which is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Leonard Roberts who is buried in Marlow Cemetery. For further details of these activities and

events, please contact

[andyford.marlow@btinternet.com](mailto:andyford.marlow@btinternet.com) or visit our website <http://www.marlowww1.org.uk/>.



# Life on the front line

These French phrases were taken from a small hand book published in 1915 to help soldiers fighting in France and Belgium. A small selection are shown below, the italicised titles above each indicate the section in the book to which the phrase belongs.

## *Information about the Enemy*

**French:** Y va-t-il des troupes allemandes dans le village? le bois? la ville?

**English:** Are there any German troops in the village? wood? town?

## *Information about the Road*

**French:** Ecoutez et dites-moi la vérité ou je vous emmené avec moi.

**English:** Listen and tell me the truth, or I will take you with me.

## *Information about the Road*

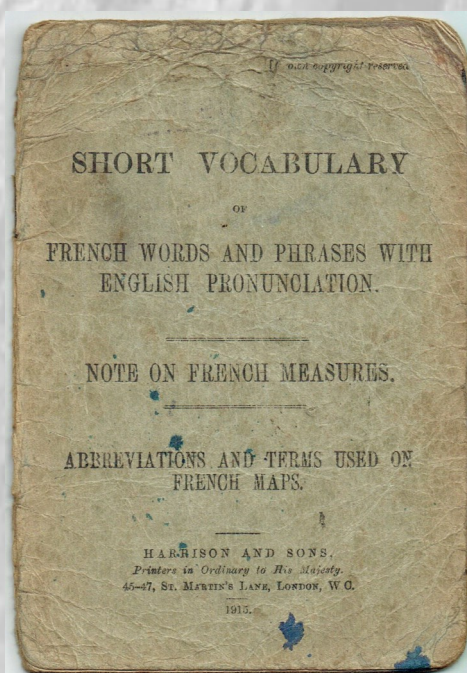
**French:** Serait-il possible pour les troupes d'aller a travers champs, au lieu de faire un détour?

**English:** Would it be possible for the troops to go across the country, instead of going round?

## *Information about the Enemy*

**French:** Combien d'heurs a dure le défilé des troupes?

**English:** How many hours did the passage of troops take?



## *In the Stable, and at the Blacksmith's*

**French:** Défense de fumer dans l'écurie.

**English:** Smoking in the stable is forbidden.

## *Information about the Locality*

**French:** Quand part le train pour Berlin?

**English:** When does the train start for Berlin?

## *In a Town, Billets, Hotel, etc*

**French:** Mettez du thé dans ce bidon.

**English:** Fill this water-bottle with tea.

## *In the Stable, and at the Blacksmith's*

**French:** Cherchez vite du foin et de la paille: il faut que les chevaux aient une bonne litière.

**English:** Get some hay quickly and some straw; the horses must have good bedding.

## *Shopping & c*

**French:** Pouvez-vous me recommander une blanchisseuse?

**English:** can you recommend me a laundress?



# Marlow

## And finally....

During the course of our research over the last few months, we were contacted by William Cubitt who is the son of George Cubitt who fought in the War.

George was a pupil at Sir William Borlase's School and wrote a series of poems during the conflict to record his memories and feelings. William has kindly shared these with us and we thought it added resonance to reproduce one here as it poignantly reminds all of us of the need to commemorate 100 years on.

### A WAR MEMORIAL

The cross stands firm in its new-built strength,  
A text is carved in stone;  
The squire and the parson speak at length,  
While each man thinks of his own.  
The band strikes up for a final hymn...  
But who will remember Bill and Jim,  
The staunch of heart and strong of limb,  
When a hundred years have flown?

*George S Cubitt*

### CONTACT US

If you have any stories, recollections, images or artefacts from WW1 please feel free to contact us on 'more@marlowww1.org.uk'