

Today, 11 November 2017, is just a year away from the 100th anniversary of World War One guns falling silent, Allied victory and Dedication of Capel St Mary's War Memorial Monument

# Capel Times

Issue Two – November 2017

Free to all residents, friends and supporters

## Great support but we do need the final push

Group Captain Gary Bunkell CBE  
Chairman, Capel St Mary War Memorial Trust

With just one year to go before the Dedication Service of Capel St Mary's War Memorial Monument, we are delighted with the support and money we have received from across many community groups and individuals of all ages.

We still have some money to raise so, if you can, please help. One way is to become a Friend of Capel St Mary War Memorial Trust. *A membership form is on Page 11.*

The Memorial's granite block has been excavated and shipped from a quarry in India. Neil Luxton, our stone mason, will engrave on it the 35 names of the fallen. *Full story on the Back Page.*

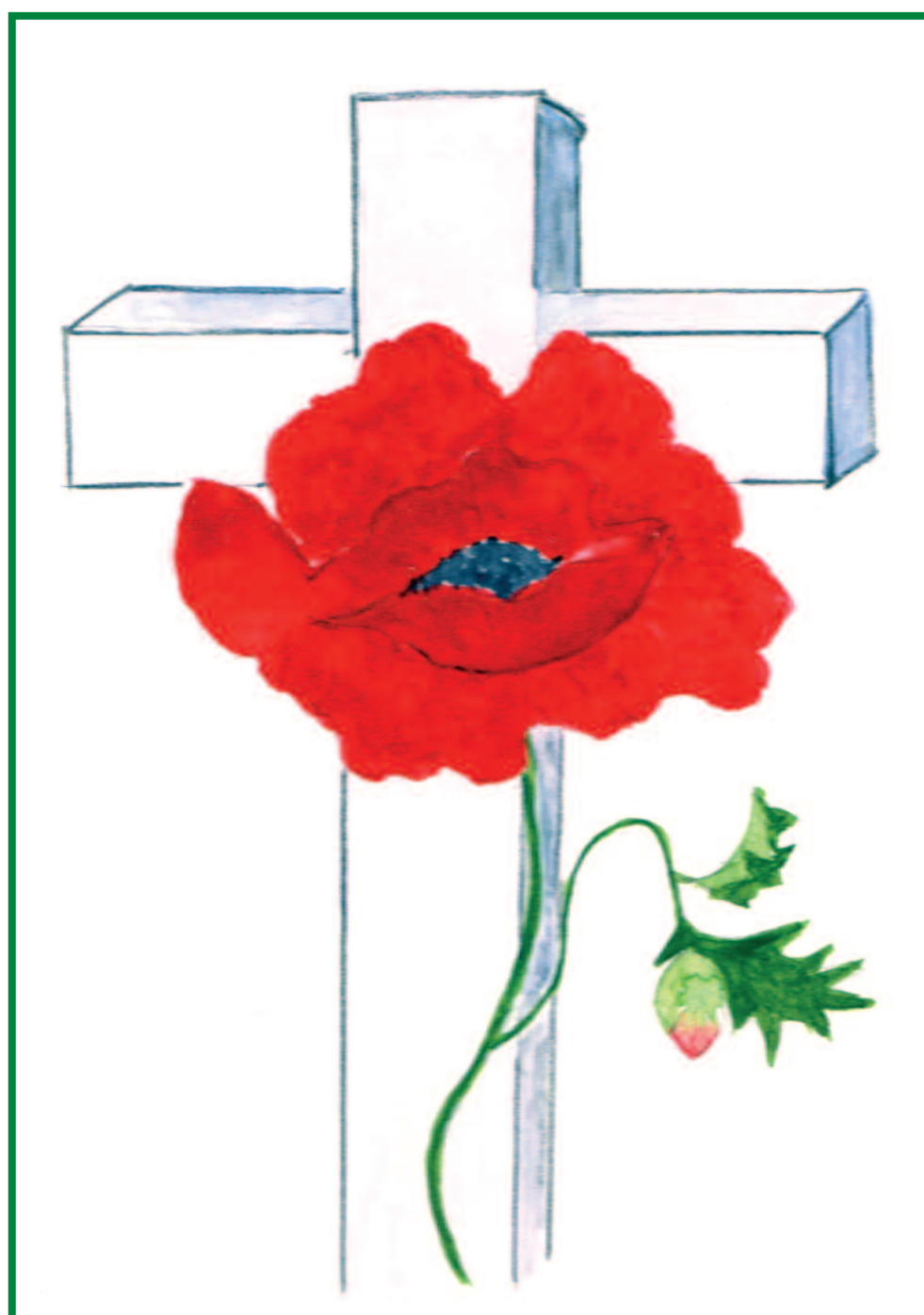
The project to refurbish Ben's Garden at Capel St Mary Primary School, and to include a Memorial to the children of the school lost in two world wars, has made good progress. *Full story on page 2.*

Some of our Heritage Lottery Grant money will be allocated to East Bergholt High School for specific projects to widen the students' understanding of World War One and its impact both at home and abroad. *Full story on Page 3.*

The 1914 World War One garden party in June attracted 300 people and raised £1,275. *Full story on Page 4.*

Planning will start shortly for the War Memorial Dedication Service on 11 November 2018. On the same day, we will mount an exhibition on the impact of the war on Capel. A beacon, one of a thousand across the United Kingdom, will be lit.

**We will need volunteers over the weekend of 10 and 11 November next year. If you can help, please e-mail me at [gary@capelmemorial.org.uk](mailto:gary@capelmemorial.org.uk)**



## A beautiful emblem for next year?

Symbols of remembrance of the losses and tragedies of war can be as simple as this evocative painting by Dianne Harvey, a member of Capel St Mary Art for Fun Club. The painting is being considered as an emblem for the coming last year of the War Memorial campaign.

## Dress up and join the dance at Orchard Players 1940s Swing Night

Dress up! Dress up! Dress up in 1940s clothes!

The Orchard Players are putting on a 1940s Swing Night with a period cabaret and songs, Glen Miller music and dancing for all in aid of the War Memorial Fund. There will be a prize for the most original 1940 clothing.

The night is being organised by the Players' chair Lynn Perera, Val Munns and Julie Wardley.

Julie said that they are responding to a public request for more music and more dressing up following the Players' great performance at the June Garden Party. See Garden Party report on Page 4.

The event will be in Capel Village Hall on Saturday, 10 March next year. The hall will be dressed up, too, in authentic 1940 style.

Tickets are £10 a person and will be on sale in January. There will be nibbles and the bar will be open. Tickets can be reserved in advance.

## Gains for all at a host of garage sales

It was a great garage sale with a different aim.

Lisa Blumsum, of Capel, and Joanna Green, of Copdock, charged a £5 fee to promote the sale at garages all round the village.

The fee raised £175 which was donated to the War Memorial Trust Fund. Other donations brought in £63, a total for the Fund of £238.

The sellers, the buyers and the Fund all gained. Worth another go next year?

# Ben's Garden is back

The refurbishment of an area of Capel St Mary School garden, dedicated to the memory of Ben Alcock, a pupil who died in 1992 aged nine, is almost complete.

The work is being carried out and financed by Capel St Mary War Memorial Trust.

The Trust is keen to involve young people in its campaign to build the village's War Memorial Monument, and to create awareness of the causes and sacrifices of World War One and World War Two.

The school and Ben's parents agreed that the Trust would provide volunteers for the refurbishment and to install a Memorial to the 22 former pupils who went to war and never returned.

The work started in late August. It included the removal of overgrown shrubs, the installation of a picket fence, laying paving, raising beds and seating.

The original wooden bench has been stripped and repainted.

Ben Harris, who was Ben Alcock's best friend at school, used his skills to build the circular seat, pictured right, around the tree in the garden, in memory of his lost friend.

The project was managed by Jim Sporle, who did a significant amount of work.

Trust and other volunteer workers included Griff Johns, Bill Dimond, Mike Woodward, Gary Bunkell, Steve Prior, Chris Easy, Ian Alcock, Stuart Harris, Jon Bunkell, Eddie and Geoff Cox, Charlie Nixon and Nathan Robinson.

Nathan, when a pupil at the school, helped to raised money for an earlier refurbishment.



Above: The newly refurbished garden. Below: The garden before work had begun.



## An Acorn Pillar for the school's lost children

Twenty-two of the school's former pupils who died in World War One and World War Two are to be remembered.

Their names are to be engraved on a stone pillar.

The pillar will have on its top a stone acorn. Acorns are very special to the school.

Zara Davis writes:

Children work towards a special reward system called SMARTs. They work to gain a significant achievement in nine different learning areas: Number, Word, People, Body, Self, Nature, Music, Presentation and Picture.

When a child achieves a SMART, a staff member writes out a SMART postcard detailing the achievement and sends the child to the

Headteacher for special congratulations.

The child takes the card home to celebrate with family. When all 9 SMARTs are achieved, the child is given an acorn badge to sew on a jumper or cardigan and is recognised in a special ACORN collective worship to which family is invited.

To earn a People SMART it may be that children have shown the ability to work really well with others, have shown kindness and consideration towards others or have thought of others before themselves.

We use the acorn on the badge due to the magnificent oak tree within the school grounds which is the school's symbol on uniform and our headed paper.

## Quote

*"The children have been excited to see the changes and are looking forward to using the Ben's Garden."*

*Zara Davis, the teacher who is overseeing the project.*

*"Ben's Garden was looking very tired. The Trust and volunteers have beautifully upgraded it to a fitting tribute. Their work is a sign of a spirit of community partnership. Very well done to one and all."*

*Canon Pendorf, Priest-in-Charge at St. Mary's Parish Church.*

The full refurbishment cost, once additional items have been sourced, will be about £2,500. The money spent on refurbishment was raised separately from that donated solely for building the War Memorial.



# Cash for High School

Capel St Mary War Memorial Trust is able to help East Bergholt High School to pay for a series of World War One educational projects and visits to the Western Front sites from a Heritage Lottery Fund awareness grant of £10,000. Heritage Lottery believes that understanding and sharing heritage brings people together, inspires pride in communities and boosts investment in local communities.

## Battlefield visits

Cheryl Schmidt  
Assistant Headteacher

Students at East Bergholt High School study the World War One in years 9, 10 and 11. One of our GCSE units of work is based on the Western Front with a focus on injuries, treatments and the trenches. Students begin to study World War One in depth in year 9 with a unit of work in their first term looking at the conflict in depth and the consequences of the war for Europe.

### A welcome to our arts expo

Many High School students and their families live in Capel St Mary and have connections with the Primary School and the Village, writes Cheryl Schmidt.

We are delighted and privileged to be invited to be part of such an important community project.

We look forward to reporting our progress during the next 12 months.

We will warmly welcome residents to our arts expo at the High School next year.

### Lottery cash is paying for a free Capel book

As well as the High School, Heritage Lottery money is being used to research into events surrounding World War One.

They include how the lives of Capel villagers were affected, those who went to the Front, families who never saw their sons again, wives who never saw their husbands again, children who lost their fathers and those working on the Home Front.

Their stories are to be told in a book by Griff Johns which will be distributed free of charge to Capel people. It will also be available online.

We take an annual trip to the battlefields of Belgium and the Somme and students are encouraged to research their family and local history and, where possible, visit the graves and monuments to the fallen men and women with whom they have a connection.

Our poppy art project at the start of the centenary encouraged students to talk to their families about their own family history and produce a piece of art in their memory to be part of our art installation.

We are incredibly excited to be able to build upon these learning opportunities with help from the Capel St Mary War Memorial Trust and have many activities planned over the next 12 months.

Every department, from computing to food technology, has put forward an idea to be included in this project.

With help from Heritage Lottery funding, we are hoping to make a film of war poetry and local stories.

**More news about the High School World War One projects will be in the next Capel Times.**



High School Students at the Vimy Memorial which commemorates more than 11,000 Canadians killed in France in World War One, many of them at Vimy Ridge.



World War One De Havilland fighter plane at Duxford.

## A fantastic Duxford trip

Chris Sodey  
Art Teacher  
and Leader of Music

School young artists visited Duxford Imperial War Museum in October to study historical artefacts, military vehicles and the dramatic movements and sound of the airborne aircraft: a fantastic place for students to become inspired and develop their observational skills.

It was a thought-provoking experience and students reflected upon the lives of

those involved in warfare.

Students created their own artwork which reflected the broad range of interpretations artists have when observing new material. This showcased the talent of our students.

The fantastic experience for all was expressed by Rhys Eley (Year 9) who produced one of the finest pieces of photography of the day.

He liked the way the day ran. "I really enjoyed our tasks. The day was perfect and it was my most enjoyable school trip ever."



## Guest of Honour at War Memorial Dedication is Suffolk Deputy Lieutenant

Sir Michael Bunbury, Bt., KCVO, DL, will be the Guest of Honour, representing Her Majesty The Queen, at the Dedication of Capel St Mary's War Memorial Monument next year.

The Dedication will be at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month exactly 100 years after the World War One Armistice and the silencing of the guns.

Sir Michael is a Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Suffolk. He was nominated for the post by the Lord Lieutenant and received his commission of appointment from the Lord Chancellor by the command of Her Majesty The Queen.

He was High Sheriff of Suffolk, an annual appointment, in 2006. County Sheriffs are the holders of the oldest secular office under the Crown.

Sir Michael, of Naunton Hall, Rendlesham, has served as Chairman of the Council of the Duchy of Lancaster.

The senior military officer at the Dedication will be Air Vice-Marshal Simon Dougherty.

The Dedication will be followed by an exhibition in the Village Hall and, in the evening, the lighting of a Beacon, one of a 1,000 across the country.

## Students research all aspects of World War One



# What an amazing garden party in Capel...



An amazing £1,275 was raised on the day at Capel's 1914 World War One garden party. There were exhibitions, a replica trench, concert and art show.

Entrance and tea and cakes were free. The money, for the War Memorial Fund, came from generous donations, sale of war-themed paintings and raffle tickets sold on the day.

The trench was originally in an Army regimental museum. It was found in bits in a field by former Capel resident, David Empson.

He is a collector and exhibitor of items from both the World War One and World War Two. Many items on display were lent by him.

**The trench** was put together over three weeks by Trust committee members. In it, were a periscope for spotting the enemy, a period stretcher and sand bags. There was a recording of artillery and machine gun fire.

**The concert**, in two sessions, was by The Orchard Players who sang World War One songs and then World War Two songs. The Players were dressed in a variety of uniforms, see the photograph top right. Other residents and visitors dressed in war-themed clothes.

**The paintings** were by the Art for Fun for members. A full report is in column four on this page.

**The exhibitions** included war weapons and items used by the Armed Services and by civilians. There were displays of posters of women at war and women working for the war effort at home.

The garden party was held at Tudor House, 1a The Street on 25 June.



Above: The Orchard Players entertained in a variety of costumes.



Writer Griff Johns in World War One uniform



The replica World War One trench

## Art Club's war-themed paintings sold well

Capel St Mary's Art for Fun Club members exhibited a variety of war-themed paintings.

They sold well and all the money raised was donated to the War Memorial Fund.

The evocative painting featured on Page 1 is being considered by the War Memorial Trust as an emblem for the coming final year of the Memorial campaign.

The painting is by Dianne Harvey, of Capel. It was bought by Sue Johns, also of Capel.

The Club's war-themed paintings will be on sale to raise money for the Memorial at a future event.

Art Club members made a valuable contribution to The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations last year.

# ...It raised £1,275 for the Memorial Fund



# The continuing story of World War One

# 1914

## Faced with superior German numbers the British Expeditionary Force makes a fighting retreat from the Belgian town of Mons

Between 24 August and 28 September, the Allies retreat to the River Marne with the artillery battle of Le Cateau taking place on 26 August.

During the British retreat from Mons in the early hours of 1 September, the 1st British Cavalry Brigade, with L Battery Royal Horse Artillery, is attacked at Nery in Northern France by a much larger German Cavalry Division. Both sides fight dismounted.

In the early stages of the battle, British artillery is put out of action, apart from a single gun from L Battery that continues a steady fire for two-and-a-half-hours.

Reinforcements arrive and counter attack, routing the Germans and forcing them to retreat. Three men of L Battery are awarded the Victoria Cross. L Battery itself is awarded the Battle Honour Nery, the only British Army unit to carry this Honour.

On 14 September, Erich von Falkenhayn replaces Helmuth von Moltke as German Chief of Staff.

The French achieve a tactical victory on 29 September at the battle of St Quentin, also known as the battle of Guise. The German advance is halted allowing for an orderly allied retreat.

The Belgian city and port of Antwerp is besieged and falls to the Germans

Issue One of *Capel Times* told of the build up, outbreak and first days of World War One. The story is continued here in Issue Two with the British Expeditionary Force and French allies making fighting retreats which gives larger German forces early successes.

between 28 September and 10 October.

In the first battle of Arras, fought between 1 and 4 October, the French army attacks and tries to outflank the Germans. The Germans are trying to outflank the French during the race to the sea, and where the trenches and defensive positions were being extended north.

At the battle of Yser between 16 and 21 October, French and Belgian troops secure the coast line of Belgium along a 22-mile stretch of the Yser River and the Yperiee

The first battle of Ypres between 19 and 22 October ends the race to the sea and stops the Germans reaching Calais and Dunkirk.

The first battle of Artois is fought between 17 December and 13 January 1915.

During Christmas Eve and Christmas Day in some sectors of the Western Front an unofficial truce is observed between German

and British and French Forces. Greetings, gifts and souvenirs are exchanged, football and other games are played.

The break in fighting allows for the recovery and burial of the fallen with both sides helping each other in this not very pleasant task. The removal of dead and decaying bodies from the trenches was humanitarian and hygienic.

The High Command of both sides do not like this fraternisation and issue stern orders for it to stop. It does not happen again.

Although it is widely thought that the Christmas Truce happened along the entire front it did not. In some sectors, the war raged on and men on both sides die, even on Christmas Day.

When 1914 comes to an end, the war that many people had thought will be over by Christmas continues. The end is not in sight and the war will continue for four more years.



## Research and words

## Griff Johns

At the end of 1914 all the Capel St Mary men who have gone to war are still alive. The mourning of village families is still to come as it has already for villages across all the country.

## War opens on Eastern Front

The first battle on the Eastern Front, at Stallupönen, follows the Russian army of the Neman entering East Prussia on 17 August. The battle is a minor victory for Germany but it doesn't deter Russian forces from advancing.

The Russians withdraw from East Prussia with heavy casualties after the first battle of the Masurian Lakes between 7 and 14 September

Austro-Hungarian forces suffer a defeat by the Russians on 2 September at the battle of Rava Russka, in the Ukraine.

There is another Russian victory at the battle of Warsaw fought between 29 September and 31 October. The Ottoman Empire launches a surprise attack on the Russian Black Sea coast on 29 October.

Russia declares war on the Ottoman Empire on 1 November. Four days later, France and the United Kingdom declare war on the Ottoman Empire.

The battle of Lodz, in Poland, between German and Russian forces was fought in bad winter conditions from 11 November to 6 December. The result was inconclusive.

# Death toll mounts in stalemate war

# 1915

## War on the Western Front

After initial success the British offensive in the battle of Neuve Chapelle in the Artois region of France between 10 and 13 March is halted. The Second Battle of Ypres between 22 April and 25 May ends in stalemate.

The Germans use poison gas for the first time. It is a 2nd War Crime, this time on the Western Front.

A secret Treaty of London is signed on 26 April between the Triple Entente of the United Kingdom, France, Russia and the Kingdom of Italy.

Its purpose is to gain the alliance of Italy against its former allies of Germany and Austro-Hungary. The lure is the swathes of Austro-Hungary territory north of Italy and east across the Adriatic.

Britain promises funding and Italy promises to enter the war the following month. The secret deal is published in 1917 by the Bolsheviks.

**Capel's first casualty, Henry Chiverton, Royal Engineers, died of wounds on 2 May during the second battle of Ypres. His full story is told in Issue One of Capel Times.**

The British Liner Lusitania is sunk by a German U Boat on 7 May. *The full story of the War at Sea will be told in a later issue.*

**Capel's second casualty, Edgar Fallows, Suffolk Regiment, is killed in action on 8 May during the second**



## Zeppelins bring terror to the skies

The first German Zeppelin airship bombing raid on Britain is on the night of 19-20 January. The targets of the two Zeppelins, L3 and L4, is Humberside but strong winds divert them. They drop their bombs on Great Yarmouth, Sheringham, and King's Lynn. The toll is four civilians killed, 16 injured and minor damage to buildings. Zeppelins are branded baby killers after bombing London in May and October. In total, 500, mainly civilians, die in Zeppelin raids.

## Baby-killer raids kill 500 civilians

**battle of Ypres. His full story is told in Issue One of Capel Times.**

Italy declares War on Austria-Hungary on 23 May.

The first aerial victory by a synchronised gun-aimed fighter aircraft is by German air force Lieutenant Kurt Wintgens flying a Fokker Eindecker. He brings down a French Morane-Saulnier Parasol two-seater flown by Captain Paul de Peuty with observer Lieutenant De Boutiny on 1 July.

Captain Hawker, of the Royal Flying Corps, is on July 25 the first British combat pilot to be awarded the Victoria Cross. He attacks and brings down three enemy aircraft over Passchendaele.

A major British offensive in the

battle of Loos fails. The battle of Hohenzollern redoubt, a phase of the battle of Loos, is fought between 25 September and 15 October.

**Capel's third casualty, Second Lieutenant Richmond Deck, Suffolk Regiment, is killed in action on 30 September. His full story is told in Issue One of Capel Times.**

**Capel's fourth casualty, William Fallows, Suffolk Regiment, is killed in action on 3 October. His full story is told in Issue One of Capel Times.**

Sir John French is replaced by Douglas Haig as Commander of the British Expeditionary Force on 19 December

## War on the Eastern Front

Russians launch a Carpathians offensive on 2 January. It lasts until April.

Germans fire chemical weapons for the first time, 18,000 shells of Xylol bromide tear gas, a war crime, on 31 January at the battle of Bolimov, west of Warsaw. It is so cold the gas freezes. A Russian Army is defeated at the second Masurian Lakes battle between 7 and 22 February.

A minor German push at Gorlice-Tarnow, south east of Krakow, on 1 May to relieve Russian pressure on Austro-Hungarian forces, becomes 1915's main offensive and lasts until October. Defeated Russians retreat deep into Russia.

From June to September Russians retreat from Poland and Galicia. Germans break through the Russian lines near Lviv in the Ukraine on 22 June. Austro-Hungarians enter Lviv on 5 August.

On 8 September, Germans occupy Warsaw and Tsar Nicholas II takes command of the Russian army from Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolayevich.

The United Kingdom declares war on Bulgaria on 15 October, followed by France a day later. Italy and Russia declare war on Bulgaria on 19 October.

**The story of the War on the Eastern Front, Italian Front and Balkan Front continues on Page 11.**

## Commander

United Kingdom



French

French



Joffre

Imperial Germany



Moltke

Austro-Hungary



Emperor Joseph

Russia



Grand Duke Nikolayevich



## ers in Chief

Kingdom



Haig

Republic



Nivelle

man Empire



Falkenhayn

arian Empire



Emperor Charles

Empire



Tsar Nicholas

# First military conscription imposed

# 1916

## War on the Western Front

Conscription into the services in the United Kingdom is introduced for the first time on 27 January by the Military Service Act 1916.

The United Kingdom is the only European army without conscription but as the war goes with fewer and fewer volunteers it is essential. Conscription ends in 1920.

The battle of Verdun begins on 21 February. It becomes the largest and longest battle on the Western Front during World War One.

It ends on 18 December. The German objective is to bleed France dry of men. But the line held.

**Capel's fifth casualty, Private George William Norris, Suffolk Regiment, dies in France. His story is on Page 8.**

Germany declares war on Portugal on 9 March. Portugal officially enters the war.

The Easter Rising for an independent Ireland lasts from 24 to 29 April. Irish citizens take over key buildings in Dublin, including the Post Office which becomes their headquarters.

They are led by Patrick Pearse, a school master. The nationalists are outgunned and surrender.

The toll is 485 killed and 2,600 wounded. The leaders



## Tanks on battlefield for first time

The British Army is the first in the world to develop and use tanks. The first tanks, nicknamed Little Willie, are demonstrated to the Army in February. Their first appearance in warfare is at Flers-Courcelette, during the battle of the Somme, in September. The new secret weapon has mixed success. One-in-three breaks down, others do break through to German lines. They travel at walking pace, cannot withstand heavy shells and get stuck in mud.

## Mixed success for new weapon

are tried and 16 are executed.

At Hulluch, north of Loos, Germans send two clouds of a mixture of chlorine and phosgene gas at British lines. The first, on 27 April, reaches the lines allowing the Germans to gain a small foothold. The second, on 29 April, comes as the wind changes. The gas blows back over German lines.

Panicking Germans run into the open and are shot giving the British a victory.

The battle of the Somme begins on 1 July and lasts until 18 November with little gain. The first day is the worst in British military history with nearly 20,000 casualties.

There are some successes. In the opening phase of the second battle of Albert on the 1 and 2 July, the British capture Fricourt.

Between 3 and 17 July, the British capture Le Boisselle, Mametz Wood and Orvillers.

During the second battle of Albert and the battle of Bazentine Ridge, the British capture Contalmaison and Trones Wood.

Before the attack there is seven-day artillery bombardment. German front and rear positions are damaged and the German nerves tested. But their barbed wire defences are not badly damaged.

At the villages of Mametz and Montauban, German defence crumbles by the end of the day.

The British meet machine gun fire in the Gommecourt to Thiepval area where large deep bunkers give the key strong points of Gommecourt, Serre, Beaumont-Hamel and Thiepval protection.

The preliminary bombardment kills and injures only a few Germans.

British casualties are unprecedented: 58,000 with 19,000 dead.

There are battles for Longueval and Delville Wood from 14 July to 15 September, and Fromelles from 19 to 20 July,

**Capel's sixth casualty, Private William Friend Abbott, Suffolk Regiment, is killed in action on 20 July. His full story is told on Page 8.**

Somme offensive battles of Pozierand and Guillemont are fought between 23 July and 28

**Capel's seventh casualty, Lance Corporal Frederick Walter Grimsey, Suffolk Regiment, died during the battle of the Somme. His full story is told on P8.**

The Somme offensive ends with enormous casualties on 18 November.

The battle of Verdun ends on 18 December with casualties of 377,231 French and 337,000 Germans.



# William Abbott

Suffolk Regiment  
1890 - 1916

William Friend Abbott enlisted in Ipswich and after basic training he was posted as Private 18342 Abbott to the Second Battalion, Suffolk Regiment. He was posted missing, killed in action, on 20 July 1916 during the Battle of the Somme.

William has no known grave but is remembered with Honour on Pier & Face 1c & 2a of the Thiepval Memorial. His name is also on a Memorial Plaque at St John's Church, Great Wenham.

He was posthumously awarded the 1914-1918 British War Medal and the 1914-1919 Victory Medal. His parents would have received the Memorial Plaque and Scroll.

William was born January 1890 in a cottage on Coles, Wenham Magna, now known as Great Wenham. He attended Capel St Mary School, as did his siblings.

His parents were Thomas and Ellen (nee Friend) Abbott. Thomas was born circa 1860 in Wenham Magna and was baptised on 4 November 1860 in All Saints Church, Wenham Parva, now Little Wenham. He died in 1948.

His mother, Ellen Friend, was born circa 1860 in Wenhamston. Before marriage, she was employed as a general servant by Arthur E. Smith, a coach builder's manager, in Halesworth, Suffolk. She died in 1944.

The couple married in 1889 and had five children two of whom died as infants.

On the 1911 census, Thomas is aged 50 and employed as a horseman on a farm. The surviving children are listed as William, aged 21, employed as a cowman on a farm; his younger brother, Frederick Harold Abbott, aged 14, also a cowman on a farm and their sister, schoolgirl Laura Ellen Abbott, aged 12. All the Abbott children were born in Great Wenham. The family was living near Carriers, Great Wenham.

# 1916

## George Norris

Suffolk Regiment  
1894 - 1916

George William Norris enlisted as Private 8930 Norris in the Suffolk Regiment in 1914. By early December he was in France and would have seen active service during 1915.

The winter of 1915-16 was cold and wet, with trenches ankle deep in water. They were without duck boards on which to walk. This caused many casualties from frost bite, pneumonia and trench foot.

George became one of these men, succumbing to Bronchopneumonia on 5 March 1916.

He was posthumously awarded the 1914-1915 Star, 1914-1918 British War Medal and the 1914-1919 Victory Medal. His parents, and next of kin, would have received the Memorial Plaque and Scroll.

George is remembered with Honour on a plaque on St John's Church, Great Wenham and at Wimereux Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave number 1. L. 28.

The youngest son of Robert Seaman Norris and Elizabeth Norris, nee Smith, George was born in 1894. His father, Robert, a farm worker, was born in 1851 at Hacheston. He died in the Samford registration district of Suffolk in 1940. George's mother, Elizabeth, was born in Saxmundham in 1854 and worked as a servant before marriage. She died in 1920 in the Samford district of Suffolk.

The couple had married in 1878 in Parham. George with his brother Frederick, was educated at Capel St Mary Primary School. They were two of eight siblings.

## The village they left far behind...



The photographs show, from the top: The King's Head; St Mary's Church; London Road cottages and police station; Fuchsia Cottage. Frank Goddard lived there with his mother before emigrating to Australia. He died with the Australian Imperial Forces in 1917.



## ...Never to see again

Three more brave Capel men lose their lives and more will die before the end of the war in 1918

## Frederick Grimsey

Suffolk Regiment  
1894 - 1916

Frederick Walter Grimsey enlisted in the Suffolk Regiment and served with 8th Battalion. He was a Lance Corporal, number 13007. The rest of his early military record has not survived. All that is known is that he arrived in France on 4 October 1915 and died during the battle of the Somme.

His body was not found and he has no known grave. He is remembered with Honour on the Thiepval Memorial Pier and Face 1.C & 2.A and on the Plaque in St Mary's Church, Capel.

Frederick was posthumously awarded the 1914-1915 Star, the 1914-1918 British War Medal and the 1914-1919 Victory Medal

His next of Kin would have received the Memorial Plaque and Scroll.

Frederick was born in 1894 in Capel St Mary the son of Isaac Grimsey, a shepherd and Sarah Grimsey (nee Beer). They lived at Watts Farm.

Isaac was born at Hintlesham in 1851 and died in Capel. He was buried in St Mary's Churchyard on 22 November 1934. Sarah was born in 1855 in Hintlesham and died in Capel. She was buried in St Mary's Churchyard on 17 January 1934. The couple married in 1877 in Hintlesham.

They had four children: Tabitha, born in 1878, died 1958; James John, born in 1880, died 1964; Earnest William, born in 1882, died 1964. They were born in Hintlesham. Frederick was baptised in St Mary's Church, Capel, on 28 September 1895.



# The horror of life and death in trench warfare

Trench warfare begins in the first few weeks of World War One.

The deaths, injuries, and disease of the trenches continue until the end of the war.

The first trenches are dug by the British on the orders of their Commander, Sir John French, on 14 September, 1914, the second day of the first battle of the Aisne.

It is day one of the race to the sea by the British and French to stop the Germans reaching the Channel ports, outflanking the French and putting them out of the war.

The German response is to dig opposing trenches.

The first battle of the Aisne ends in a draw on 28 September two weeks after the stalemate and the beginning of the horror of the trenches for millions of men.

The first winter of the war, 1914-1915, is bitterly cold and wet. Trenches are exposed to the weather and some are waist deep in water and running with lice and vermin.

An estimated 20,000 troops go down with trench foot, a very painful condition of peeling skin and open sores.

## It goes on and on for years



Fix Bayonets



Over the top



The lookout

The European nations which stayed neutral and avoided the sufferings of the war



Denmark and the Danish-Norwegian Spitsbergen co-dominium



Liechtenstein



Monaco



The Netherlands and Dutch Empire



Norway



Spain and its African territories



Switzerland



Sweden



# The forgotten colonial war across Africa

# 1914-1918

The forgotten war in Africa is not planned to happen. Colonial Britain, France, Belgium, Portugal and Germany decide in 1885 to be neutral in Africa even if there is a European War. Their military forces are small, poorly equipped and in Africa to only control the Africans.

## 1914

Britain's Committee of Imperial Defence, formed in August, established that command of the seas was to be maintained. German coaling and wireless stations must be destroyed.

In August, British, French and Belgium troops invade the German colony of Kamerun, today's Cameroon and Nigeria. German troops and civilians flee to neutral Spanish Guinea.

The Royal Navy shells the German Dar Es Salaam wireless station.

Germans attack Belgium facilities on Lake Tanganyika and a Portuguese outpost on the Tanzania-Mozambique border.

Britain and France invade Togoland, forcing Germans to withdraw from the capital Lome and later surrender.

In September, Germans forces raid deeply into British East Africa and Uganda.

South African troops invade German South West Africa. They are defeated at the battle of Sandfontein.

Germans try to take the Orange River crossing into British South Africa but fail at the battle of Karamas. South African forces eventually take control of German South West Africa.



## 1915

In January, Germans win a battle at Jassin on the British and German East Africa border. Despite victory, and removing a threat to the port of Tanga, the Germans cannot sustain losses of men and equipment and turn to guerrilla warfare.

In June, the battle of Bukoba, on Lake Victoria, is the British first victory in German East Africa. The German radio station is destroyed preventing both German broadcasts and British interception of them.

In November, the Volta-Bani war by an African Indigenous Army against the French in what is now Burkina Faso and Mali in West Africa starts. It involves 15,000 – 20,000 Africans. The French prevail though resistance continues until February 1917. Rebel leaders are jailed or executed.

The French suffer many casualties fighting the Zaian Confederation of Berber tribes in Morocco. The tribes have Central Powers' financial and intelligence backing. Fighting lasts until a French victory in 1921.

## 1916

In February, Germans win the battle of Salaita Hill, the first

large-scale engagement in the East African Campaign. It is close to the border town of Taveta in present day Kenya.

General Jan Smuts, the former Boer leader, commands 2,300 troops from Britain, India, Rhodesia and South Africa, with 1,300 men on the hill and 1,000 in the surrounding area. They have only light weapons.

The German assault begins with a four-inch guns bombardment followed by artillery from 2,000 metres away.

As the British retreat they are outflanked and attacked by a relief column from Taveta.

Germany surrenders its Kamerun (Cameroon) colony. Britain and France divide it.

In March, British and South African troops make three assaults on German positions in jungle surrounded by hills in the battle of Lateman Nek in East Africa.

The German break and retreat to Lake Kahe.

The battle of Kahe is the last in the Kilimanjaro area.

British and South Africans inflict heavy casualties on the Germans for the loss 21 men. The Germans retreat deep into the interior.

In the battle of Mlila, General Smuts leads three British divisions from Kenya into German Tanganyika. As the Germans avoid a full-scale confrontation, it is a British tactical victory.

In September, Dar Es Salaam, a city and port on Tanganyika's Indian Ocean coast, is captured from the Germans. Its radio station is cut off from Berlin.

In the battle of Kisaki, large South African forces are routed attacking heavily defended positions in German East Africa.

German Togoland is divided into British and French administrations.

## 1917

In January, a malaria pandemic is devastating South African troops in German East Africa. The battle of Behobeho is judged to be inconclusive.

In July, a British force of 4,000 attack 3,000 Germans defending the Kiawe bridge over the Lugonya river in East Africa. The German force is destroyed with 500 killed and 2,500 captured for the loss of 122 British.

In August, six thousand British and Portuguese troops defeat 2,400 Germans at the battle of Rumbo in German East Africa. German losses are 1,500 killed and 600 captured. British and Portuguese losses are 386 killed with some men wounded or missing.

In October, Germans win a pyrrhic victory against South African and Nigerian troops at the battle of Mahiwa, in German East Africa. Both sides suffer heavy losses and withdraw.

In November, the Germans are unable to fight because of a shortage of food and ammunition. In three columns they set out to invade Portuguese East Africa. One column is cut off before the border and surrenders. In the battle at Ngomano, the other columns outflank and rout the Portuguese.

## Lion of Africa



It is one of the most notable disasters in British military history.

In November 1914, British Indian Expeditionary amphibious force and a land force from British East Africa fails to take the German East African port of Tanga on the Indian Ocean and a German settlement on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro.

From that date, the German East African Commander, General Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck uses guerilla tactics until the end of the war.

## 1918

From June to August, 30,000 Adubi fighters, a sub group of Nigeria's Yoruba people, rebel against British colonial rule, destroy key railway and telegraph lines and kill a European trading agent.

They are protesting against taxes and forced labour.

The British Army restores order and the rebel leaders are jailed or executed.

In August, after evading the allies during months of guerrilla raids in Portuguese East Africa, the German General Von Lettow-Vorbeck is almost encircled at the town of Lioma by Britain's King's African Rifles.

He manages to break out, cross to Northern Rhodesia and hold down large numbers of allied troops.

In November, under a white flag a British magistrate hands Von Lettow-Vorbeck a telegram saying that two days earlier the Armistice has been signed on 11 November. Von Lettow-Vorbeck orders a ceasefire and surrenders on 25 November.

In the next Issue of Capel Times: War in the Middle and Far East and the Naval War



# Eastern, Balkan and Italian fronts

# 1915 - 1916



## The Eastern Front 1916

The Brusilov offensive in Galicia is the greatest Russian offensive against Austro-Hungary, Germany, and the Ottoman Empire. It is the Austro-Hungarians' worst crisis, and the greatest Russian victory, of the war. But it is at great human cost: 1,000,000 Russian dead, wounded or captured. German, Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman casualties are 1,337,000.

At the Battle of Kowel, in Galicia, during the Brusilov offensive, between 24 July and 8 August, Austro-Hungarians stall a Russian advance.

Romania enters the war on the Allies side on 27 August. By December it is defeated in two battles and the conquest of Romania is complete.

The Brusilov offensive ends with Russian success on 20 September.

The Emperor of Austria and

King of Hungary, Francis Joseph I, dies on 21 November.

Germans occupy Bucharest on 6 December.

The Russian mystic, Grigori Rasputin, is assassinated in St. Petersburg on 29 December.

## The Italian Front 1916

Italy declares war on Austro-Hungarians on 23 May.

Italians capture Gorizia in the sixth battle of the Isonzo River, in Western Slovenia, which lasts from 6 to 17 August.

An Italian offensive between 12 September and 11 December at Monastir on the Salonika front is designed to break a deadlock in Macedonia and force Bulgarians to capitulate. Monastir is captured but there is little other success.

The battle of Krivolak between 17 October and 21 November sees the start of the Salonika front in Macedonia.

## The Balkan Front 1915

The French land at Salonika and with the British and Italians establish a Balkan Front on 27 October.

In the Kosovo offensive, Serbians push into Albania. Seven days later the Serbians collapse, retreat to the Adriatic and are evacuated by the Italian and French navies.

Austro-Hungarians leave Serbia after the battle of Kolubara which lasts from 16 November to 15 December.

## 1916

Austro-Hungarians launch an offensive against Montenegro on 5 January. They capitulate 12 days later.

Bulgarians beat off a French and British attack at the Battle of Doiran in August.

Serbia is invaded by Germans, Austro-Hungarians and Bulgarians between 7 October and 4 December.



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**Capel Times Issue Three next Spring will cover all the European Fronts from 1917 to 1918, the Middle East, Asian and Pacific Fronts from 1914 to 1918, and the Naval battles from 1914 to 1918.**

**Capel Times Issue Four next October will cover the build up to, and the course of, World War Two.**

Capel Times is published by the Capel St Mary Memorial Trust, 16 Thorney Road, Capel St Mary, Ipswich IP9 2LQ



# The work is beginning to create our War Memorial Monument

The stone for Capel St Mary's War Memorial Monument has arrived from India and preparation work has begun.

Provided there is no very wet or snowy weather, the ground work will be finished and the Memorial will be ready for erection on the village green by late Spring next year.

There will be further work on landscaping and the Garden.

The stone has been shipped from a renowned quarry in Khammam, in the state of Hyderabad, to Luxstone Stonemasons in Sudbury.

It is a very tough quartz and mica based igneous mid-grey Sadahalli granite, which polishes well, will not erode and requires only minimum maintenance.

The names of the brave men from Capel who gave their lives in two world wars will be machine engraved on the Monument's panels.

To stand out, the letters will be filled with black enamel and should not require much more than a re-paint every 10 to 20 years.

The masons working on the Monument are Neil Luxton, pictured left below, with Rob Hoskin.



Neil, a second generation stonemason and lettering specialist, has worked at Brentwood and Ely Cathedrals and the Old Bailey.

He is the in-house stone mason for Highgate Cemetery, London, and has created memorials for many well-known people.

Rob is a specialist in renovating Monuments and headstones. He has also worked, among other places at Highgate.



## From a granite quarry in India: Capel's War Memorial stone

The photographs, above, illustrate the first steps in the creation of our village's War Memorial Monument. From the top, the extent of the huge, renowned granite quarry in the Indian state of Hyderabad, the selection of the granite block and the cutting of the block.