



## Notes on Remembering Bucks in the Great War Meeting at Viney House

28 March 2015

The Lord Lieutenant, Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher, opened the meeting and welcomed particularly those representatives attending for the first time.

**Professor Beckett (Bucks Military Museum Trust)** announced that the previous problems with the Trust's website had now been resolved, with the Great War sections simplified and links clarified. Those commemorative events notified could now be updated as soon as details had been received. The Great War Virtual Trail was also up and running: images would be added progressively through the summer. The Trust would be holding a largely photographic exhibition on the Royal Bucks Hussars at Gallipoli at the Old Gaol at Buckingham from 18 August. Following the First World War event at the County Museum on 21 February, at which the Trust advertised the Virtual Trail, it would be organising its own Trail roadshow event at Wycombe on either 19 or 26 September.

[http://www.bmmt.co.uk/index.php/virtual\\_trail/](http://www.bmmt.co.uk/index.php/virtual_trail/)

Clearer details had also been received with regard to the AHRC-funded Great War Engagement Centres, those closest to Bucks being the consortia headed by the Universities of Kent and Hertfordshire. Up to £15,000 was available as grant funding for projects related to the research themes of each centre. For the 'Gateways of the First World War' Centre at Kent, the themes were memorials and commemoration, life on the home and fighting fronts, medical history, propaganda and popular culture, maritime history, and operational military history. For the 'Everyday Lives in War Centre' at Hertfordshire, the themes were food, farming, theatre and entertainment, childhood, family, cartoons and popular culture, supernatural beliefs, and conscientious objection. Projects would need to be led by members of each Centre's academic network and would need to meet the academic criteria laid down by the AHRC in exploring the themes, developing knowledge and skills in community partners, and having a real and discernible impact. Deadlines for 2015 were 31 March, 30 June, 30 September, and 31 December. It would not be easy to get funding or to negotiate the application process, full details of which were available on the Centre websites

[www.gatewaysfww.org.uk](http://www.gatewaysfww.org.uk) and [www.everydaylivesinwar.herts.ac.uk](http://www.everydaylivesinwar.herts.ac.uk)

**Laura Cotton (Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies)** indicated that the revised bid to the HLF of some £41,000 was currently being assessed, the expectation being that the decision would be known in May. It was still the intention to cover as much of the scope of the original bid as possible, and the reduced cost reflected more in-house staffing of the project. Volunteers were needed to help scan the Centre's Great War and military photographic

collections, and to assist in the transcription of sources such as the 1/1<sup>st</sup> Bucks Battalion Casualty Books, which had enormous detail on servicemen's wounds, hospital treatments, training and leave periods, and transfers, as well as disciplinary record.

**Joanna Barclay (Bucks in the Great War Film Project)** introduced this new project to emulate the DVD produced by Hertfordshire. Assistance had already been pledged by the National Film and TV School at Beaconsfield and Pinewood Studios, and funding was being actively sought. It was hoped that the professionally produced film, which would be made available to all schools in the county, would be premiered at Pinewood in July 2016 marking the anniversary of the 1/1<sup>st</sup> and 2/1<sup>st</sup> Bucks Battalion actions at Pozières and Fromelles. The theme, however, would be very much the home front illuminating such aspects as recruiting, nursing, agriculture, industry, and women and children. Material for the script would be collected by the end of 2015. If groups or individuals had interesting material or interesting stories to tell then they would be most welcome to contact Joanna on [joannabarclay2@gmail.com](mailto:joannabarclay2@gmail.com)

**Aylesbury Vale District Council's 'Aylesbury Vale Remembers Project'** made a community film with a grant of £27,000 from the Community Covenant. It involved 80 children from six local schools. Work from the project had been exhibited at Buckingham Primary School and the Royal Latin School, and at the Old Gaol, before being transferred to Aylesbury. It will be displayed in Aylesbury Library until 12 April. Future venues will include the RBL 'pop-in' shop in Aylesbury High Street, Cottesloe School, The Grange School, and Halton Community Combined School, before it returns to Akeley Wood School at Buckingham. A total of 400 pupils visited the exhibition at Buckingham Primary School alone in January 2015 and, to date, the film has been viewed over 120 times on You Tube, and there have been over 1,400 'hits' on the AVDC website. The film can be viewed and the magazine is downloadable free from [www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/WW1](http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/WW1)

**Buckingham Heritage Trust** held a successful exhibition on Buckingham and the War in addition to hosting the AVDC project exhibition. As indicated above, it will host the BMMT display on Gallipoli in August.

**Bucks County Museum's First World War Exhibition** had now closed after eight months, having attracted a large number of return visitors. The graphic panels used in the exhibition as well as other components in the museum's own collections would now be available for use by other groups in the county. Enquiries could be made to [wphillips@buckscountymuseum.org](mailto:wphillips@buckscountymuseum.org)

**Burnham's project last year**, involving seven local schools, had resulted in a new project to restore the war memorial, for which £10,500 had been received from the War Memorials Trust with an additional £3,500 raised by the Parish Council and community itself. Work on restoration by Cliveden Conservation would begin on 1 April, and it was intended to re-dedicate it at 1100 on 23 May 2015.

**Great Missenden's work on the names on its war memorial**, containing 39 names, was under way. It was as yet undecided whether there would be a publication or a website to disseminate the results.

**Milton Keynes Heritage Alliance** is mounting a theatrical performance for schools based on projects undertaken by pupils themselves on 6 November 2015.

**Oakley Parish Council** would be holding a special event on 28 April 2017 for the unveiling of the VC plaque to Edward Brooks VC. The Band of The Rifles would be in attendance. It was also intended to highlight the contribution of others in the village to the war, such as four brothers who all died.

**RAF Halton** has been able to resolve the problems experienced last year with the restoration of the practice trenches of the 21<sup>st</sup> Division, with 2 Mercian Regiment assisting with the renovation work needed. It was hoped that the trenches would be open for arranged visits from mid-summer for perhaps two or three days a month. In addition, it was intended to build a partial replica of the trench system indoors, and a smaller replica of a trench section for touring on a trailer. Details of planned openings could be obtained from [andy.claesens280@mod.uk](mailto:andy.claesens280@mod.uk)

**The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum (SOFO)** at Woodstock was re-activating its enquiry service for those men who served in the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry or the Oxfordshire Hussars. The First World War exhibition was now closing and would be replaced in September by an exhibition on the RFC in and around Oxford, including its presence at Port Meadow.

**Stone Local History Group** had been using the wartime press and school logbooks to record wartime events in the village, with articles appearing in the parish magazine and an annual exhibition coinciding with the fete. The booklet on the war memorial had been updated, and it was anticipated that a larger exhibition would be held in 2016.

**Tingewick Historical Society's war memorial** project was nearing completion and the booklet had been reprinted.

**The Trenchard Museum** was still able to offer lectures on the 21<sup>st</sup> Division and its training at Halton. Exhibitions were under development for the centenary of the RAF in 2018.

**Waddesdon Manor's exhibition** had been extended into a second year. Thus far, 143 staff from the estate had been identified as having served in the armed forces, and it was likely that the final total would exceed 200. Additions to the exhibition were the background to the award of the DCM to James de Rothschild and the CBE to Marie de Rothschild. Ivor Gurney's new book on the names on the Waddesdon war memorial and those in neighbouring villages would be published shortly, while the text from the exhibition panels would be available on the Waddesdon website in due course. Talks on Waddesdon Manor during the war could be requested, for which contact [catherine.m.taylor@nationaltrust.org](mailto:catherine.m.taylor@nationaltrust.org)

**Wendover U3A** was listing all those who served during the war. The *Wendover News* was covering events month by month and a tapestry depicting events was due to be completed by November 2015: it would then be used at subsequent exhibitions. A memorial plantation was being prepared with 69 trees, one for each man lost during the war.

**The Western Front Association (Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Branch)** had been present at 58 events in the region and had answered over 2,500 enquiries in 2014. In 2015 to date, it had attended 10 events and was dealing with an average of three enquiries each day. It had examined such aspects as the wartime role of the Newport Pagnell Fire Brigade, the unique grave of a munitions worker in Stony Stratford cemetery, and German PoWs working on what became the Slough Trading Estate. The WFA had gone into partnership with a uniform supplier and was undertaking a series of visits to housing associations with tactile displays targeted at elderly residents. It was not intended to attend as many events in 2015 but it would respond to requests. One particular forthcoming event was the seminar in conjunction with RGS High Wycombe to be held at RGS on 12 September 2015 on the theme of Transportation during the Great War. Speakers would address such aspects as railways, the movement of casualties, London buses, and the use of fire engines on the Western Front. Tickets £22.50 including buffet lunch and refreshments were available from WFA Seminar, 32 Devonshire Green, Farnham Royal, SL2 3DR or [www.wfaoxbucks.co.uk](http://www.wfaoxbucks.co.uk)

**Wycombe District Council** is opening the newly restored Old War Office Gates between Wycombe Abbey and the Rye on 19 May, while the Quaker Peace Garden should be ready for the centenary of the arrival of Gallipoli casualties at Wycombe Hospital in May to June.

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held in October or November 2015.