

Leicestershire and Rutland War Memorials Project

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 9
February 2011



Update:

The event held at County Hall in December 2010 was a successful evening. Many thanks to everyone who attended and those who brought information. We had displays in the members' lounge of the project website, the Record Office's Royal British Legion project, and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Craig Chalmers, Works Manager for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, gave a fascinating talk on the history of the Commission, its work, and its main challenges today.

Thank you for your patience with the **website** archive development. Those of you who saw the demonstration in December will realise how complex it is, and our colleagues in ICT are doing excellent work getting things working smoothly. Similarly, Catherine Dove's relentless efforts to prepare data and images is ensuring we have as much information as possible ready to go online. Keep your eyes peeled as we are aiming for a **soft launch during March 2011**. A formal launch will follow when we have smoothed down any rough edges. Please do let us know what you think. We will be continually updating once it has gone live.



We now have an **oral history** voice recorder and have started to organise some oral history interviews. Due to a busy winter period (and the weather!) only one interview has so far been conducted, but a couple more will be rearranged shortly. Willing victims are still wanted! I will be in touch!

Our voice recorder!

Events

SOON! The Burbage Fallen: The Burbage Heritage Group is holding an exhibition on the fallen of Burbage to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the unveiling of the World War One memorial. The event will take place at **St Catherine's Church, Burbage**, on **Saturday 26th February 2011** from 10am until 4pm.

The event will feature exhibitions of local research, and displays promoting the County Council projects. For more information contact Burbage Heritage Group. Their website can be seen at www.burbageheritage.co.uk

Saturday 26 February

10.00am - 4.00pm

St Catherine's Church, Burbage

**90th Anniversary of the unveiling
of the Burbage War Memorial**



Burbage Heritage Group will tell the story of "The Burbage Fallen" through their exhibition at St Catherine's Church Parish Room.

The story will be told of the men whose names appear on the War Memorial and the history of the War Memorial.

There will also be information on display as provided by the Royal British Legion and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.



SOON! 9 Decades of Caring and Campaigning: the Royal British Legion in Leicestershire and Rutland 1921-2011 @ local libraries 3rd March - 15th April
Contact Margaret Bonney at Margaret.bonney@leics.gov.uk for further info.



9 Decades of Caring & Campaigning

the Royal British Legion in
Leicestershire and Rutland
1921-2011



Contact:

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www.leics.gov.uk/britishlegion
www.leics.gov.uk/RecordOffice
www.leics.gov.uk/libraries

Do you have memories, documents or memorabilia relating to the Royal British Legion?
Do you have time to spare?

We are looking for volunteers to:

- help research the history
- assist with interviews
- create an exhibition

Share your memories or find out more about how you can help.



Thursday 3 March, 3 - 6pm
Wednesday 9 March, 10am - 1pm
Saturday 19 March, 10am - 1pm
Tuesday 22 March, 3 - 6pm
Saturday 2 April, 10am - 1pm
Thursday 7 April, 3 - 6pm
Friday 15 April, 10am - 1pm

Market Harborough Library
Oadby Library
Coalville Library
Wigston Library
Melton Library
Hinckley Library
Loughborough Library

Listing News:

The war memorial on High Street, **Castle Donington**, which recently received a grant from the War Memorials Trust, was this month designated as Grade II listed. It was designed by Cecil Greenwood Hare and erected in 1921. The site of the memorial, and the limestone, were both donated.



Photo copyright: A Finney

In 2010 the joints were repointed and the timber treated. The community also decided to have the name plaques cleaned.

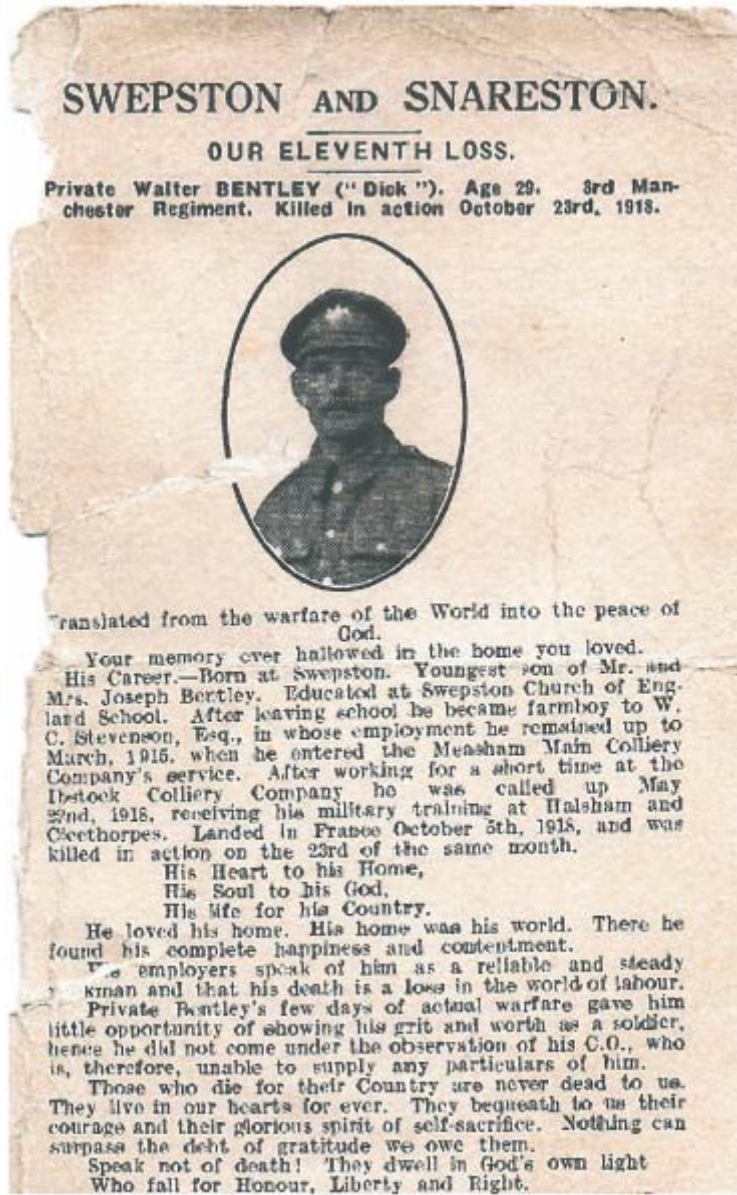
Websites:

Would you be interested in being filmed talking about a war memorial or speaking about casualties for some short videos to go online? I have a small digital video recorder and a little bit of know-how and am sure we can pull something together. Maybe you would just like to tell us what you think is important about war memorials, or why you have an interest in or connection to them. Who knows who might be watching...

The **Commonwealth War Graves Commission** recently launched an appeal for information on a new webpage about **Australia's first submarine**; the AE1 and its 35-strong crew who were lost on 14th September 1914. At least one name looks to be associated with Leicestershire, the oldest crew member, Chief Thomas Lowe who was from Leicester. Can you help? Look at their **AE1 Incorporated** website at <http://www.submarineae1.org.au/> if you know anything, or to take up the detective trail.

News:

Recent donation. A set of **WW1 memorial postcards** were donated to our archives by Mr and Mrs Hull, to whom we are most grateful for the donation and the following information on where they came from:



Private Walter Bentley

Mr Hull: 'My wife's maternal side lived in the area of Swebstone, Snarestone and Newton Burgoland, Leicestershire. Among papers that her elderly aunt passed on to me, was information about the village WW1 deaths; in the form of past cards. One of them, Walter Bentley was part of the family. They gave quite a bit of information about the deceased soldiers. This led me to research all the names on the war memorial in Swebstone church which covered Snarestone as well through the Commonwealth Graves Commission web site.

In the mean time I learnt of the Leicestershire Villages web site and submitted my research. This can be viewed on the two village sites, together with copies of the postcards in the picture gallery section.' You can see this research online at <http://www.leicestershirevillages.com/swepstone/swepstoneworldwar1casualties.html>



Mrs Hull: 'The cards came from my late Auntie, Lucy Smith, who we assume got them from among her parents' possessions when they passed on. Her parents were Frederick William Smith and his wife Mary Ann Smith nee Bentley. They lived in Newton Burgoland and had 13 children. Walter Bentley, one of the commemorated soldiers, was Mary's brother.'



Additional postcard of Private 'Harry' Pepper

SWEPSTON AND SNARESTON.

OUR EIGHTH LOSS.

PRIVATE JOSEPH GLOVER.

7th Batt., 1st Canadian Contingent. Died of wounds in France,
November 10th, 1916. Aged 21.

Like a true Briton, the glory of the Empire and a burning love
of Motherland, drew this brave heart from Canada, to fight for
the freedom of the world.



A brave and noble son of honour, true to Empire, Country,
King.

His Career: Youngest son of Mr. Joe Glover, Snareston. Born,
October 7th, 1895. Educated at Snareston School. Placed in
service of a farm at Quorn. Worked also for John Champhat,
Esq., Heather Hill, who speaks of him as one of his best
labourers. Emigrated to Canada. Enlisted on the outbreak of
war. Drafted to France. Wounded January, 1916. At own request
sent back to trenches the following July. Died of wounds
November 10th, 1916. Buried at the Berlin Communal Cemetery,
France.

Leut. Matthew writes: "Private Glover was with the Machine
Gun Section in the front line at night when he was hit through
the stomach about 8.30 p.m. on November 9th."

The Officer Commanding writes: "I could not have wished for a
better or more reliable man. He is a big loss to the Section, and
is greatly missed by us all."

Sister-in-Charge writes: "Private Glover spoke quite cheerfully
of himself and made light of his wounds. He seemed such a fine
young fellow."

"It is a great thing to die for England," well expresses Joe's
thoughts.

"It is a great thing to die for England,"

Brave young British boy!

These are the tidings that you bring us.

Tidings of great joy.

Hit up your hearts then, oh ye mounters,

Follow where he goes.

Weave his words in your crown of laurel

With the English Rose.

March, 1917.

HENRY C. W. TOWNEND.

SWEPSTON AND SNARESTON.

OUR SIXTH LOSS.

PRIVATE RICHARD HUGHES.

6th Warwickshire Regiment, Killed in action in France,
August 17th, 1916. Age 28.

A living sacrifice acceptable unto God.—Rom. 12, 1.

He died that we might live—

Hail—and Farewell!

—All honour give

To him who, nobly striving, nobly fell,

That we might live!

His career: Second son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Hughes, Newton
Burgoland. Born at Wasperton, Warwickshire, March 18th, 1888.
Educated at the Church of England School, Wasperton. For over
five years after leaving school he worked for J. Gold, Esq., Anstey,
near Coventry. Then after some years in farm service he accepted a
responsible post under the Coventry Corporation.



Private Hughes enlisted while in the employ of J. Grant, Esq.,
Poleshill, which post he had secured through his connection with
the Coventry Corporation.

Enlisted at Nuneaton, February 29th, 1916. Received his training
at Clevedon, Somerset, and on Salisbury Plain. Landed in
France, July 5th, 1916. Fought in several engagements during a
month of great military activity.

Killed in action in France, August 17th, 1916, and buried by a
party of the 25th Division in the vicinity of Thiéval, France.

Private Hughes well fitted as he was both in ability and training
yet refused promotion feeling that he could serve his country
best as a private.

It has been said of Private Hughes that he was killed as a
soldier should be, in action, charging the German lines. That he
was just the right sort for a soldier; full of grit and no grumbler.
He cheerfully endured the numerous hardships of war and trench
life.

We can feel sure he and others who have fallen as martyrs in
the defence of all that is right and just against German barbarism
will reap their reward in another land.

All that we had we gave,

All that was ours to give,

Freely surrendered all

That you in peace might live.

March, 1917.

HENRY C. W. TOWNEND.

Private Joseph Glover and Private Richard Hughes

There is a great deal of information contained within the cards, all of which has been transcribed ready to go into the archives. There are also some lovely quotes and remembrances. The local heritage society will also be notified, as they have seen some additional postcards for the village, which can be seen online at <http://www.snarestone.org.uk/WW1homepage.htm>

Memorial highlight:

John de Roos (or Ros), 1396-1421, St Mary the Virgin Church, Bottesford



This beautiful effigy in the chancel of the church of St Mary the Virgin, Bottesford is the earliest war memorial on record for Leicestershire and Rutland so far. More research is needed to establish whether the effigy of William de Roos on the opposite wall of the chancel, is also a war memorial. It is possible he was also a casualty of the Hundred Years' War, in 1414. If you can tell us more, please do!



John de Roos was killed at the Battle of Baugé in France, serving under Henry V during the most well-known phase of the Hundred Years' War (which included the Battle of Agincourt in 1415). It was a Franco-Scottish victory over the English and took place on 21st March 1421. John de Ros (8th Baron de Ros) may have been aged only 25 at the time. Many English leaders were killed or taken prisoner.



The effigy, which is marked with what looks like centuries of graffiti, depicts John de Ros in typical early 15th century full harness (armour) with his family heraldry incorporated.

It is included on the UK National Inventory of War Memorials, and has made us wonder if Leicestershire and Rutland have any more effigies of casualties of war...

Can you help...?

1. We have been informed by the Record Office that one of their users had come across a reference to a **Standard Engineers** memorial, **Evington Valley Road**, which had 95 WW1 names on it. Does anyone know anything about this memorial or where it may be today?

As ever, if you have anything you would like to be included in coming newsletters, please contact the project at warmemorials@leics.gov.uk or call 0116 267 0004.

Many thanks once again for your support and all your efforts,

Liz Blood
Heritage Support and War Memorials Officer