



Mapping the Graves

The Thame Remembers website continues to be a major resource; able to deliver timely content to our followers as well as being an aid to introduce new volunteers to help us complete our four year mission. We are making huge strides with the help of Steve Perry (a digital marketing specialist), who teamed up with Pentangle (Thame website developers) to re-evaluate the website and social media output.

Since our launch in 2014, we have often been asked: *Where can I see what crosses are still to be delivered?* We do produce a hard copy list of those deliveries that are still "open" and the Roll of Honour is available on the website, but people often want a little more than that and now we have made finding the locations easier.

Using Google Maps technology, we are now able to offer an interactive map on the website that gives the information needed. It has been in development for the last couple of months and by the time you read this, we will be live!

The map (right) is an example of what the screen looks like. The large colour coded pins locate the grave and indicate if delivery is 'open', 'allocated', 'delivered' or is an ocean grave. Zooming in on one of the smaller markers will open up that area and reveal the number of large pins detailed on the marker.

Each casualty also has a new web-page where you will be able to read more about them as we unearth more content.



Another Name

The mapping project prompted us to check through all our data and lists of casualties. There was one name that had appeared on an early list but had not made its way onto our current list of casualties.

Private Sidney Augustus Shrimpton was born in London to Emily Shrimpton in 1890 but brought up in Long Crendon by his grandparents. He was appointed as a postman in Thame at age 20 and lived and worked in Thame from then until he enlisted in the Royal Fusiliers. He died in July 1916 during the Somme offensive and is remembered on Thiepval memorial.

This addition makes our target now 214 names.

Jottings

❖ The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum at Woodstock are hosting a talk on Wednesday 6 April (7.00pm) about the history of the Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry from the American War of Independence, Waterloo, two world wars, through to Northern Ireland and Afghanistan.

❖ As a result of our research, Thame Town Council are to consider adding names to the town War Memorial and have asked us to draft a proposal for the criteria for inclusion of a name.

❖ 100 years ago, on the 27th January 1916, the British Government passed the Military Service Act, which made all single men between the ages of eighteen and forty one liable to be called up for compulsory military service. Conscription had begun.



Battlefield Tour Confirmed

As hinted at in December we are planning a second Battlefield tour. The planned dates are Thursday 8th to Monday 12th September 2016.

The itinerary will be different to the previous trip, and take in places such as Poperinge (Toch house), Wellington Tunnels in Arras and the new "Ring of Remembrance" French memorial north of Arras, which is inscribed with 580,000 names of all nationalities who lost their lives. We will also be visiting the main sites such as Thiepval, Lochnagar crater, Vimy Memorial, Tyne Cot and Ypres, where we will again attend the nightly "Last Post" ceremony at the Menin Gate.

Plans this time are to stay for two nights in Mouscron in Belgium and then two nights in Arras, France. The cost of the trip will be £399 per person sharing a double/twin room on a bed and breakfast basis. There will be a single supplement of £112. All rooms will have private facilities.

Coach travel is in a Silver Service vehicle with reclining seats, tea/coffee making facilities, air-conditioning and on board toilet. The service also includes portage. We have requested Leger Travel to provide the same superb coach and drivers as last time.

Booking again will be through Spear Travels, where Hayley is waiting to take your deposit.

The delivery of a number of Thame Remembers crosses will be included and naturally we will try to accommodate any personal requests for cemetery visit where we are able.

All is dependant of course on filling the coach, so do not hesitate, please book your seat as soon as possible.

The "Ring of Remembrance" new French memorial



#Thame
museum

*This newsletter is printed
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distributed free to all*

This paper is intended as a digest of news items about the Thame Remembers project to keep the people of Thame up to date with what is happening.

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Oliver's Project

Wipers Times
Remembers....



Oliver Coulcher-Porter
4A

A proud mum recently brought her young son's school project to our attention and deposited a copy at the Museum.

The project covers many aspects of World War 1 and gives a lovely insight into the conflict through the eyes of a 9 year old. It is well researched and illustrated using poems and caricatures, making this a very pleasant and easy read, far beyond that expected of one so young.

On this page we are only able to show the cover and one page from the project. The full project booklet will be available at Thame Museum from 16 February 2016.

Poppies

Poppies were adopted as a symbol of those who died by the royal British Legion in 1921. It was chosen because in Flanders, Belgium everything was destroyed. Homes, farms and natural life were destroyed by the fierce and cruel fighting in the war. The poppy was the only thing that survived and flourished in the warm weather. It brought hope, life and colour to those fighting. A poet John McCrae was moved by the poppies and wrote the famous poem 'In Flanders Fields' published in 'Punch' Magazine.



Thame Remembers is a project of Thame, Oxfordshire to commemorate the centenary of World War One by researching those from Thame who fell in all conflicts worldwide, and remembering them by placing a Thame Cross on their grave or memorial wherever in the world that may be. If you feel that you can help please contact Dave on 01844 21 5178.