



Remembrance Day Plans

Rifleman Tom Bowen has agreed to lay the *Thame Remembers* wreath at the Remembrance Service on November 9th. The service at the War Memorial starts at 11am.

We will have a stall near to the Memorial Gardens where we will be happy to give out information about the project and receive information and memories about any of our 190. You will also be able to purchase memorabilia and buy raffle tickets for our fruit cake.

As we briefly mentioned last month we will be setting out 190 *Thame Remembers* crosses in a field of remembrance in the Memorial Gardens, The crosses will be laid out in the shape of the *Thame Remembers Cross* and each will bear the name of one of our remembered. We plan to set them out early evening on Saturday 8th November if you are around then, we can always do with a hand. It is planned that the crosses will stay there until Remembrance Day, 11 November and then be put away for use again next year.

Lord Williams's School

There are two memorials at Lord Williams's School; One for World War One and One for World War Two. The names from these memorials are included in the *Thame Remembers* list of 190.

It was very pleasing therefore to be invited to talk to the school about the project and so in late October and November *Thame Remembers* will be making presentations at assemblies of all five year groups at Lord Williams's School in Thame, reaching approximately 1700 pupils in the 11 to 16 age range.

At each presentation we will feature the *Thame Remembers* video and a fifteen minute talk about the project. A sixth form student dressed in WW1 uniform will read the poem 'In Flanders Fields'.

On Saturday 8 November we will also be presenting the project at Founder's Day, an annual gathering of ex-pupils.

Family Tree Magazine

There is a terrific two page article about the project in the December issue of *Family Tree Magazine*. Word of our project is spreading and I was approached about two months ago for an interview for this article. (David)

Crosses Recently Delivered

1 October 2014

FS S R Colbert RAF 1943
Jonkerbos, Netherlands
Mr & Mrs Brian West

12 October 2014

WO C R Jarratt RAF 1944
RAF Memorial, Valetta, Malta
Mr & Mrs David Bretherton

16 October 2014

Lieut G H Gudgeon 1944
Rome Cemetery, Italy
Mr Peter Willis

17 October 2014

Lt A F McDonald RN 1942
Imtarfa Cemetery, Malta
Mr Allan Hickman

27 October 2014

Pte Sidney Allen 1917
Pte Frederick Cross 1917
Poziers Memorial, France
Mr Ian Jones

29 October 2014

WO A H Sutton 1917
Dodoma, Tanzania
Rev Hugh Prentice

Centenary Cake



We have a lovely celebration fruit cake made for us by two local ladies. The cake weighs in at 7.7kg and measures 28cm square. Have you got your raffle tickets yet? They are only £1 each and available from the Town Hall.

Research News

“Wade G”

After months of searching we have finally resolved the mystery behind the name “Wade G” that appears on the Thame War Memorial for WW2. This the only reference to the name Wade, there being no clues on other Thame memorials. Initial research showed that there was only one family called Wade in the Thame area, they lived in Moreton but had no one with the initial G. Clearly our search lay outside Thame, but where? What was his first name? Could he be female? The Commonwealth War Graves lists eight people named Wade with the initial G. That is five called George and three Gordon. But where to start? Closest to Thame to begin with!

Aircraftman George Robert Wade is buried in Carshalton, but his family had always been in that part of Surrey and so no link to Thame. Gunner George Francis Wade was from Edmonton and married Rose Ivy Daisy Woolhouse, now that's a Thame name, but no! she died a widow in 1976 in Bromley, Kent. Sergeant George Wade was born in Stockport and lived in Devon and we left out the George (Private) who was born in Edinburgh for the moment. Sgt George Wade from Flixton in Lancashire seemed to be firmly seated there.

And so we turned to the Gordons. We looked at Lieutenant Gordon Stafford Wade, but he was born in Halifax and never appears to have been south of Leeds. Same with Lance Corporal Gordon Wade born and bred in North Yorkshire, near Ripon. Not many names left now, maybe he was a Gerald or a Geoffrey after all. And so to Sergeant Gordon Wade RAF, not a lot of details about him on the various military websites, not even his age. FreeBMD shows he was married though to Mary Joan Abraham (Bush) on 2 February 1942 in Cambridge and would appear to have a son Marcus John Wade born in the Registration District of Ploughley, Oxon. That's in the Thame area.

Where to go now? What had happened to his widow? A Mary Joan Wade married Peter Reginald Relph in Thame on 28 Jan 1944 and they had one son Howard born in Thame in November 1944. Mrs M Relph of Chestnuts, Thame was a contributor to the 1945



Welcome Home Fund, and so it would be Mary Relph who put her former husband's name forward for the Thame War Memorial. Mary Relph married again in Woolwich in June 1950 to Gordon McIntyre Carlyle, and their son Eon was born in Thame in March 1951.

Mary Joan Abraham was born on 4 April 1915 in Eastbourne, Sussex to Florence Elizabeth Abraham (unmarried), who then married Frederick Howland Bush of Thame (son of Isaac Bush) in Eastbourne in 1917. She died as Mary J Carlyle on 18 Jan 1998 in Newtown, Wales.. This still did not tell us how Gordon Wade came to marry a girl from Thame and how old he was when he died. Another Google search revealed that he was an Engineering Apprentice at RAF Halton in 1935. So it is likely that he met Mary at a dance in Thame or Aylesbury. RAF Halton records show that he was born in Plymouth on 22 July 1919, which would have made him just 23 years old when he was killed. He was the flight engineer in Stirling bomber BK769 which crashed at Lembach, Germany on 15 April 1943 during a raid on Stuttgart. The entire crew are buried in Durnbach Cemetery in Bavaria.

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.



This newsletter is printed and published by Thame Museum Trust and 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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Laying a Cross

We did not envisage when launching this project that we would find ourselves in the centre of Malta, in the shadow of the ancient city of Mdina, laying a cross on the grave of one of our fallen. That happened a few weeks ago, during a pre-planned holiday, and it was a very emotional occasion as borne out by reports received from others who have already laid crosses on behalf of the project.

Another cross delivery in October was one previously thought to have been our greatest challenge, being 500 km up country in a remote part of Tanzania. We were fortunately approached by a retired Australian missionary who, having recently lived for a while in Thame, is returning to Oz and visiting some old haunts on his way. He had previously been a missionary in Dodoma, was already acquainted with the cemetery, and volunteered to deliver a Thame Remembers cross to the grave of Warrant Officer AH Sutton'

