



Leicestershire Crosses

“They shall grow not old...” Ian and I have arrived in Welford Road Cemetery in Leicester, home of Leicester City, Leicester Tigers and the Everards Brewery, on a beautiful spring day in the East Midlands.

The cemetery has a visitor centre and this is our first port of call to sign the visitor book. It is manned by two volunteers from the friends of Welford Road Cemetery. We explain to them the purpose of our visit and we are given a photocopy of the exact location of the gravestone we require. We duly sign in. The gentleman also informed us that on every armistice day crosses are laid on every military grave in the Cemetery.



We head off towards the far corner to locate George Sherwin’s resting place which is next to the Military war memorial. It has a large cross which gives us something to aim for.

I find the grave first and reflect how sad it is that he is not with the rest of his military colleagues but I feel better as we may be the first people in a long time to visit his headstone and remember him. Tears roll down my cheeks as Ian places the cross and reads the exhortation. Ian having served for twelve years in the Royal Air Force feels great pride at having the privilege to place the cross on George’s grave and duly throws one up (salutes him for you none military types). Whilst there we also pay our respects to all the other military personnel who died and are named on the memorial wall.

We head back to the visitor centre and have a good look at all the information and photos relating to the military personnel that have been laid to rest. George along with his comrades also has Thomas Cook, the founder of the modern day package holiday, for company.

We bid farewell to the volunteers and head off to Burton on the Wolds for our second mission of the day. We drive the fifteen miles to the village and locate the cemetery on the outskirts. This is a smaller burial ground and certainly a more peaceful place than Welford Road. We enter through a wooden gate and see the Portland stone headstones to our right. As always with Commonwealth War Graves Commission sites the area around them is immaculate. I locate Norman Millard, who is in a row of three headstones, and this time I have the pleasure of laying the cross to remember our second airman. Again Ian reads the exhortation and the tears roll down our cheeks once more as Ian salutes Norman and then “throws one up” for each and every airman buried at Burton in the Wolds.

The only connection we have with these brave airman is the market town of Thame where we have had the pleasure to live for nearly 17 years. On this day we both felt that connection to these two airman and they will always be our airmen when we remember them on November the 11th along with the rest of those on the town memorial.

We locate the local pub and raise a glass of Everard’s Tiger to these two brave gentleman who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

“At the going down of the sun and in the morning we WILL remember them”.

Jackie Welch



Crosses Delivered

9 April 2017

Air Mechanic
George Henry Sherwin
Royal Flying Corps

Ian Welch
Welford Road Cemetery
Leicester

9 April 2017

Sergeant
Norman Kenneth Millard
Royal Air Force

Jackie Welch
Burton-on-the-Wolds Burial Ground
Leicestershire

Join us at Portsmouth



This newsletter is printed and published by Thame Museum Trust and distributed free to all

There are no less than nine sailors from Thame commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial, which is located on Southsea Common overlooking the promenade, and it has always been our intention that a party from the town should be invited to participate in laying a Thame Remembers wreath to honour their sacrifice.

We are now delighted to announce that we have set the date, booked a coach, and would like to invite supporters of Thame Remembers to join us for this very special occasion on

Wednesday 14 June 2017.

We have added an extra dimension to the day with the unique opportunity to tour one of the Royal Navy's most modern "state of the art" war ships, HMS Dauntless. The anti-air warfare destroyer Dauntless, commissioned in 2010, is the second ship of the Type 45 or Daring-class destroyers and is one of the most powerful warships ever launched by the Royal Navy. She is currently 'alongside' at Portsmouth Naval Dockyard awaiting re-fit and her present Captain, a lad from Thame (Moreton actually), has kindly invited us on board to visit. In the afternoon there will be a couple of hours free time, an opportunity to tour Portsmouth's Historic Dockyard which is the home of Nelson's Flagship HMS Victory, the Mary Rose, HMS Warrior and many other iconic vessels and exhibitions. Or you may prefer a Harbour cruise.

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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www.thameremembers.org**

So what's it going to cost?

- The coach is being subsidised by Thame Remembers so we are able to offer places at just £6.50 each.
- Lunch is up to you. Time for lunch will be limited but there is a reasonably priced beach bar/grill close to the memorial, or you may prefer to take a picnic to eat on the seafront or in the park behind the memorial.
- The tour of HMS Dauntless is free with a promise of a cup of tea at the end.
- The Historic Dockyard offers many shops and cafes but the individual attractions do involve an entrance cost. The Mary Rose museum charge for group tickets is £13.50 each (concession rate) which we will pre-book if there are enough people interested.



Security

Security at the Naval Dockyard is very strict. They will only take the named people on the coach and you will need to bring in-date photo ID (Passport) on the day.

Booking

Spaces on the coach will be limited to thirty and so we are offering this to our supporters first before going public. Please contact David or Mike as soon as possible to book your place.

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Portsmouth Trip Schedule

14 June 2017

- 08.00 Coach leaves Thame
- 10.30 Wreath Laying Southsea
- 11.00 Lunch / Refreshment time
- 12.20 Leave Southsea
- 12.45 Tour HMS Dauntless
- 14.00 Historic Dockyard
- 17.00 Leave Portsmouth
- 19.30 Arrive Thame



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.