

Lindsell War Memorial Plaque & Village Sign

Prior to November 2016 the village of Lindsell had no form of war memorial and no reference to men from the village who died in the Great War other than a scruffy piece of paper pinned to the church notice board containing a list of six names. It is not known why there had never been a proper memorial before. The Centenary of the start of WW1 and the publication by the Records of Uttlesford History of their book "Lest we forget" in November 2014 inspired the village to do something about it. The decision was taken that a suitable memorial should be placed inside the village church. As happened all those years ago, after the end of the First World War, when committees were formed in towns and villages around the country to discuss what form a memorial should take and how to raise money to build and erect it, so too all these years later, a small committee was formed in Lindsell. This group were given the mandate to research, to design a memorial, to negotiate with the church authorities and to raise money for the project.

The first task of the committee was to decide who would be recorded on the memorial. The decision was taken that those who were living in the village at the time of enlistment and had been killed or missing in action would be the names recorded on the memorial.



The research with the assistance of the Recorders of Uttlesford History revealed two men from the village had paid the ultimate sacrifice in the Great War and based on the agreed criteria. These men were:

James STANLEY Private 34072 of the 2nd Battalion Middlesex Regiment who aged 27 years was missing in action on 31st July 1917 at the 3rd battle of Ypres, Belgium and is commemorated on a panel at the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial.

George MEAD Rifleman 393037 of the 2nd Battalion London Regiment (Queen Victoria Rifles) who aged 21 years was missing in action on 8th September 1918 at Pozieres, France and is commemorated on a panel at the Vis-en-Artois Memorial.

The research also looked at the 2nd World War and using the same criteria it transpired that two men lost their life serving King and Country during this war. These men are:

Harry J. BAMBRIDGE Private 6013118 of the 1st Battalion Essex regiment, who aged 21 years was killed in action on 27th November 1941 during the siege of Tobruk, Libya and is buried in the Tobruk War Cemetery.

Victor C. SMITH Lance Corporal 6916256 of the 2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade, who aged 24 years was missing in action on 11th January 1942 during a battle at El Agheila, Libya and is commemorated on a column at the Alamein Memorial.

The design, a suitable material and authorisation from the Church Diocesan Advisory Committee proved to be much more difficult task. The design was straightforward. It was agreed the memorial should take the form of a plaque to be erected inside the church. The plaque would be engraved with the Royal Coat of Arms of King George V (the monarch at the time of the Great War) at the top followed by the words contained in the commemorative scroll, that was issued to the next-of-kin of all soldiers killed in WW1. The names of the war dead, their army service number, their regiment, aged, date and place of death and where buried or commemorated also to be included on the plaque. Various materials such as brass, slate, granite and marble were looked at to make the plaque but cost and the fact that there was a considerable number of words made the cost and size almost prohibitive. A man-made material known as Corian was suggested as the lettering could be engraved onto the recommended size and the cost more in keeping of being reasonable. This was submitted to the Church authorities but was rejected. Their preferred material was wood. Eventually a suitable sign maker was found and commissioned to make the plaque measuring 90cm x 50cm, the cost was paid from money raised from public subscription. Finally on Sunday 13th November 2016 the plaque was unveiled by the sister of Harry J.

Bambridge (Mrs Betty Moore) at the annual Remembrance Sunday Service.



After putting this wrong right (the lack of a war memorial), the people of Lindsell then dealt with another: on Saturday 25 March 2017 we had a ceremony to unveil an ornate village signpost in Gallows Green Road on the outskirts of our village. Again, we had not had one before. The project to get one started in 2012 at the time of the Diamond Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II and it has taken all that time to teach fruition.



Colin Day. Lindsell Local History Recorder