

## Ludgershall Great War Centenary Exhibition



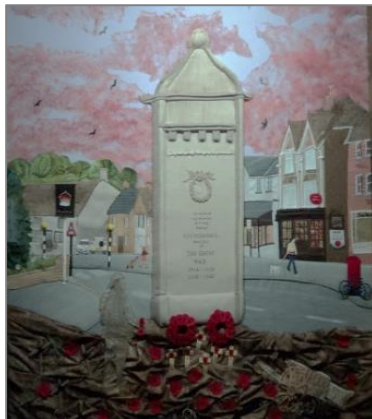
In January 2014 a Commemoration Committee was set up to plan an exhibition to mark the centenary of the start of WW1.

The committee was made up of Ludgershall residents Winifred Dixon, Maurice Betteridge, Peter Unwin, Patricia Brice, Alison Prescott, John Hollis, Catherine Allan, Lisa Laing and Bob Dance.

The exhibition was held in the Memorial Hall over Armistice weekend 2014.



A foggy start in Ludgershall but the sun eventually shone on the Armistice Day Parade



The Commemoration Committee commissioned a collage for the people of the parish. Alison Prescott (designer and team leader), Ann Mundy, Deborah Cull, Doris Cupitt, Jenny Hollis, Linda Chappell and Ros McGowan worked together to make the collage which was completed in early August 2014.

The collage depicts modern day Ludgershall remembering WW1 with the present day High Street behind the war memorial and, in the foreground, a battlefield with remnants of war, a graveyard, and the ghostly figure of 'Tommy' looking up at the names of the men inscribed on the memorial. Each fallen soldier is 'named' by a halo over a poppy on the battlefield. The sunset in the sky represents "The going down of the sun."

The collage was officially unveiled by Edward and Ronald McEvoy, grandsons of Sgt James McEvoy, killed in action in 1914, and blessed by Claire Maxim, Rector of St James' Church.

Attending the exhibition were some of the descendants of Ludgershall's casualties of the Great War - Guy Taylor, grandson of Sgt Willie Taylor; Albert Rose, grandson of L/Cpl Albert Henry Rose; Joy Dovey, great niece of Pte Reginald Loader, and Brian Birt, husband of great niece Mary Birt, descendant of Pte John Conquest.

Patricia Brice researched the 32 soldiers named on the War Memorial and 5 soldiers who rest in St James' Churchyard. Left to right below: CWGC headstones of Charles Brock, James Dunt, Charles Kent, Philip Oliver and William Taylor.



Biopics of The Great War casualties



The children of Castle Primary School gave a moving "speaking to music" ensemble to a captivated audience; they also designed and presented a board of poems and poppies for the exhibition.

A book entitled "Ludgershall and The Great War 1914-1918" has been published in remembrance of the men of Ludgershall and surrounding villages who served in the Great War and includes Patricia Brice's research on the soldiers named on the War Memorial; local author Winifred Dixon's contribution on the Great War and some of its battles, and Maurice Betteridge's account of the airfields constructed on and around Salisbury Plain.

The exhibition displayed artefacts, photographs, books and artworks. Old WW1 film footage was shown on a large screen and popular songs of the war were played. Refreshments served included locally made WW1 soup. In excess of 250 people attended a very successful weekend.

