

PROJECT REMEMBER 2018

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Project Remember 2018 – Our Objectives

Project Remember has been conceived by a small group of local residents who have got together to carry out the renovation of Pett War Memorial. The aim is to have the works funded and completed this year, in good time for the Remembrance Day commemorations on 11th November 2018. An important deadline, since that day will be the exact centenary of the Armistice which brought World War One to a close. The project has the full backing of Pett Parish Council, who have constituted the team as an official Working Party, and of the Pett Parochial Church Council, in whose churchyard the Memorial stands. Our contact details are listed below.

The War Memorial honours seventeen men from this small community who fell in World War One, as well as a further seven men who did not return from World War Two. Our recent researches have however uncovered the names of several more men with apparent connections to the parish, giving rise to the prospect that their names should be inscribed as well. This research is ongoing.

Our Memorial was erected and dedicated in 1920. It shows the signs of nearly a 100 years of weathering and is in need of cleaning and restorative attention if it is not to deteriorate further. The carved letters are becoming illegible in places. In addition, the Memorial stands rather anonymously in the graveyard, giving the outward impression of being merely another headstone or private monument. Access to the Memorial is also not easy and probably does not meet current safety standards. Overall, the Memorial's setting is less than ideal. Rather like a newly discovered Old Master, it needs a proper frame to show it to its best advantage.

On the pages that follow, we describe the project in more detail, how we intend to fund the work and our fundraising progress so far, and the stories of the men on the Memorial, in so far as these are known. There is an appeal below for reader donations, with details of how your payment can be made. Also a request for any information that you may have regarding the men whose names are not (yet) inscribed on the Memorial. And if you have any old photographs or other archive items relating to the men or the Memorial, do send them in. You can either contact the PettNet website direct or write to any member of the Project Remember team.

THANK YOU

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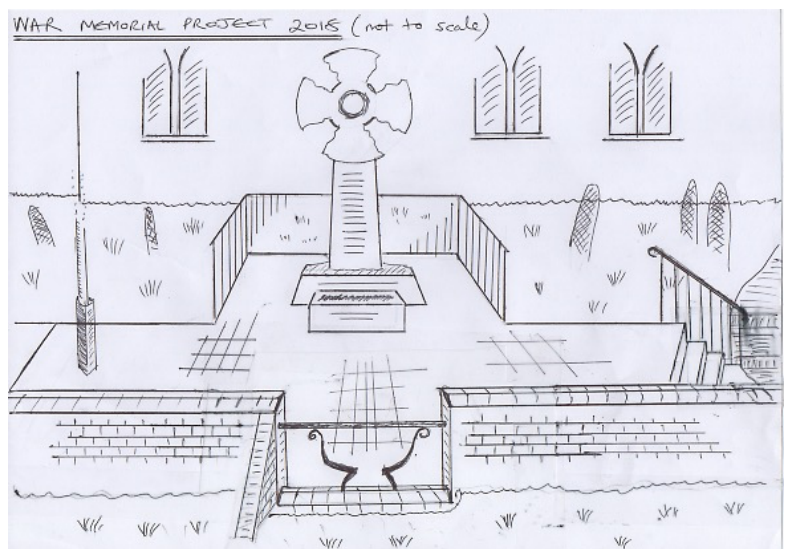
RENOVATING OUR WAR MEMORIAL

By David Breakell

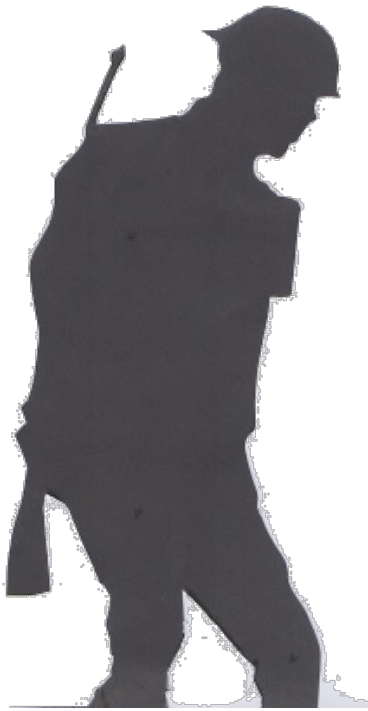
Do you know where the War Memorial is located? This was the (rhetorical) question I put to the audience at the recent Pett AGM. You might be surprised to learn that some residents who have lived here for several decades did not know the answer.

Why should that be? In part, it is simply the passage of time. The Memorial was dedicated in 1920 and the men of the First World War, whose memory it was initially designed to honour, died a century ago. And it is over seventy years since the names of the Fallen in World War II were added to the Memorial. Those wars are slowly but inexorably passing from memory into history. It may be that in this present year and especially on the morning of Remembrance Sunday, the exact centenary to the hour of the 1918 Armistice, our consciousness of these events will be momentarily stirred.

But I believe there are other, simpler, reasons why our Memorial is currently so anonymous. In case you are still wondering, it stands just inside the wall of the churchyard on Pett Road, to



the left of the church door and to the right of the flagpole. It is a fine Celtic cross, of Forest of Dean stone, but it shows the signs of nearly a century of weathering. The inscriptions are slowly becoming illegible. And its immediate surroundings scarcely show it to best advantage. The paving around it is uneven and covered in moss, and too small for any sizeable group to stand on. The steps leading to the Memorial are narrow and in need of repair. The flagpole appears marooned in an area of grass nearby. To the casual observer, it could easily be taken for a typical gravestone in a Victorian churchyard.



The Project Remember team believe that this must change. This is our community's memorial to its own and it should be a recognisable landmark which residents and visitors alike can view at any time and, on appropriate occasions, gather around to pay their respects. Not just in this centenary year, but in years to come. To achieve this, the work we are planning includes professional cleaning of the stone; enlarging the paved area with reclaimed flagstones; widening the steps; and demarcating the Memorial from the rest of the churchyard with sympathetically styled low railings. Our aim is to raise the necessary funds and complete the work this year, in good time for the Remembrance Day commemorations on November 11th.

The project only got going in December, but we have made significant progress since then. Pett Parish Council has endorsed the project and provided a financial grant. They have also opened a dedicated bank account into which all donated funds are to be paid. The Parochial Church Council for St Mary & St Peter's, on whose ground the Memorial stands, has given its blessing to the plans and the necessary legal approvals by the Diocese are being obtained. Rother District Council has recently agreed to provide a community grant. We have pre-qualified for a further grant from the War Memorials Trust: applications to them, and to the Heritage Lottery Fund under their WW1-themed 'Then And Now' scheme, are both under way. So we have a strong foundation for the project, one which entitles us to move forward with confidence. But to make it a reality, we also need the support of the community. By which I mean you, dear reader. More of that below.

You should soon notice, if you haven't already, signs of Project Remember appearing around the village. In particular, the silhouettes of our Silent Soldiers guarding various locations. Their image, recently developed by the Royal British Legion, says more than a thousand of my words ever could, about the huge sacrifices made by those earlier generations. Sacrifices which are part of the reason why each of us is free to enjoy Pett and Pett Level today.

That these soldiers are 'silent' is worthy of comment. Silence is, of course, built into each Remembrance Day ceremonial: two minutes at 11 o'clock when all is still. The Royal British Legion sees these new figures as representing the 'silence' which greeted the men's return from war. Not for them the tickertape parades through New York that greeted returning US servicemen in 1918 and 1945. A

trickle of returning figures, demobilised in small groups, coming home to town or village without fanfare. Not even a pint of beer in 1918 Pett, because the local pubs were shut.

And I sense another kind of silence. Those of us with grandfathers who fought in that war will know that the men of 1918 rarely if ever spoke about what they had endured. No doubt it was just too hard for them to put into words or perhaps they felt, in the words of Jerome Kern's hit song of the time to which the soldiers put their own satirical words, "They'll Never Believe Me." And just perhaps, they felt that saying nothing was a way of keeping faith with their silent comrades, the ones that hadn't returned.

We owe these silent men. Surely it isn't too much to ask that once in a hundred years we spend a little of our time and money to ensure that their memory is properly preserved? This is not to glorify war in any way, nor is it nostalgia, it is a simple matter of respect for what two previous generations did for us.

If you want to know more, printed pamphlets are being hand-delivered to each household and are also available at various local outlets. There is yet more detail on PettNet.org.uk (see our dedicated page "War Memorial Fund"). And there will be a small exhibition inside Pett Church - do take a look at the Memorial itself, if you visit. Our PettNet webpage also contains articles and materials, researched and written by members of the team, about the individuals honoured on our Memorial. And about our ongoing research into the stories of other men with connections to the parish, men whose names don't appear on the Memorial and probably should be added.

There are several ways you can make a donation: just consult our pamphlet or look on the PettNet page. There are also contact details there for each of the Project Remember team, should you have any questions or useful suggestions. I urge you to support our project.

Thank you in anticipation.

***[THIS ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE APRIL 2018 EDITION OF THE VILLAGE
MAGAZINE]***

SPECIFICATIONS, PLAN AND SKETCH OF PETT WAR MEMORIAL AS RENOVATED

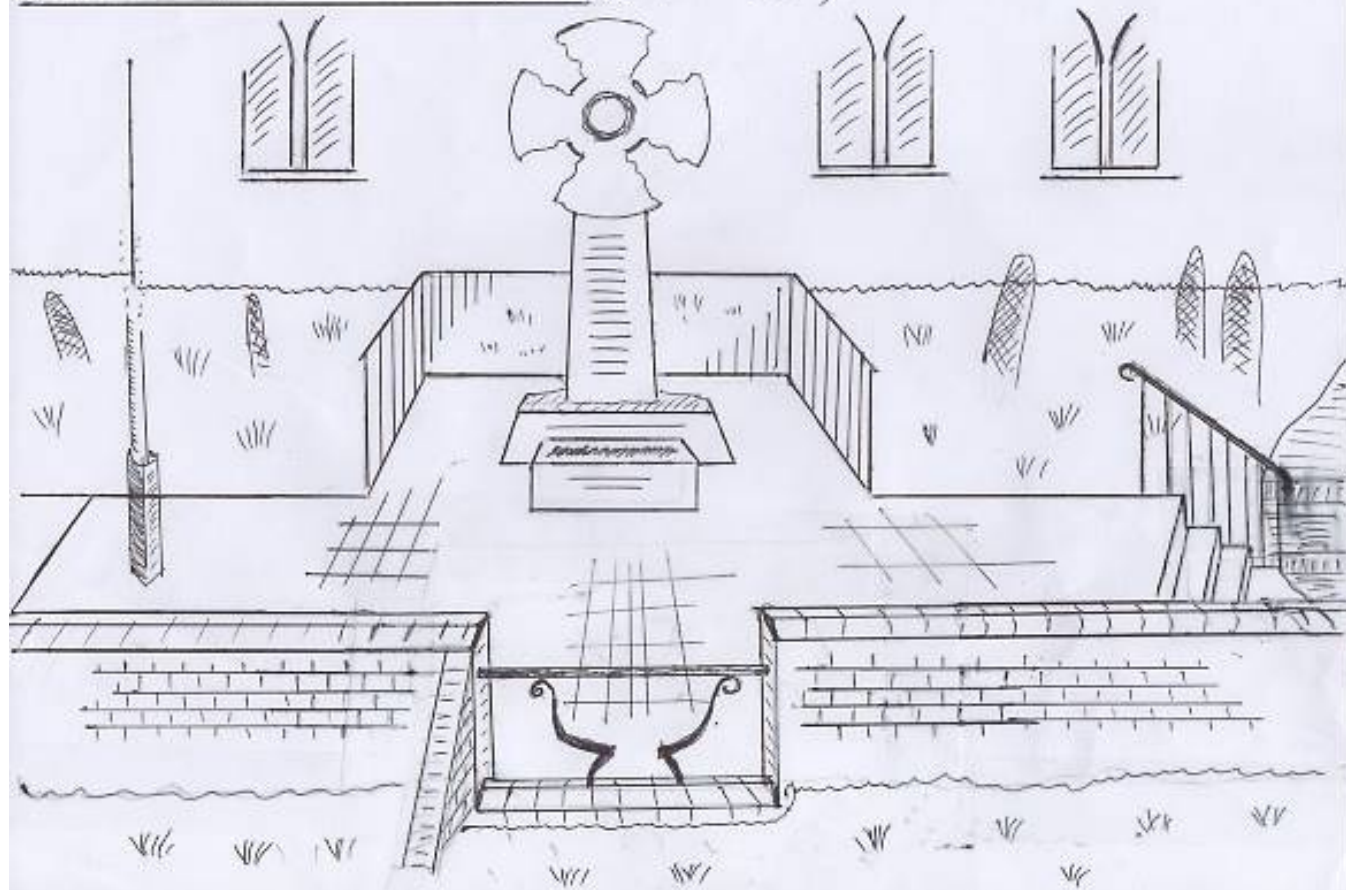
The plan for renovating the War Memorial comprises two main elements: work to restore and enhance its immediate surroundings and work on the Memorial itself.

In relation to the former, we intend to: raise the existing 'crazy paving' slabs and set them aside for possible re-use within the churchyard; take up the existing turf from the area between the Memorial and the church wall on Pett Road, extending laterally to reach the steps from the church path on the western side and to encompass the flagpole on the eastern side; level the exposed ground and lay a concrete sub-base; lay reclaimed York flagstones over the base; rebuild the steps from the church path so that they are doubled in width and install a handrail; install low relief decorative wrought iron railings around three sides of the perimeter of the War Memorial, leaving the northern side open. The plan and not-to-scale sketch below show how this would be done.

In relation to the latter, the plan is to have the Memorial itself and the stone trough in front of it professionally cleaned to remove weathering, moss, lichens and other material which obscures its design and the inscriptions on it; secondly, to have carved into the stone (in matching font) the names of any other serving men or women who fell in either World War and are demonstrated to have sufficient personal connection with Pett or Pett Level.

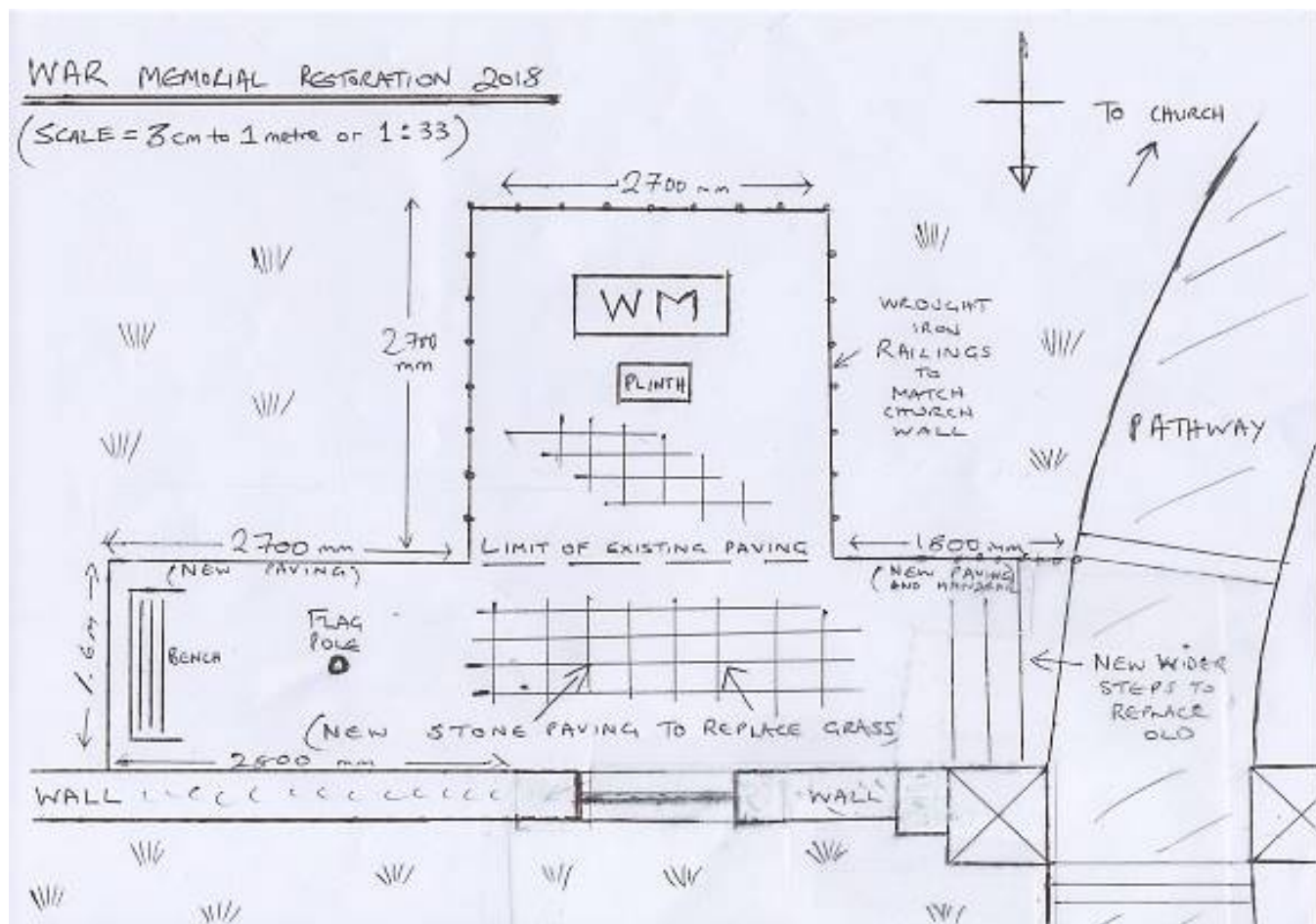
These works are to take place on church land and require their consent. We already have the formal approval of the local Parochial Church Council for our plans. Because the Diocese of Chichester has ultimate jurisdiction in these matters, we have also made a formal application for their consent. The scheme has just received a positive recommendation from their Diocesan Advisory Committee. There are planning fees applicable to such consent, but we hope that the Pett Parochial Church Council will be able to assist us with the cost.

WAR MEMORIAL PROJECT 2018 (not to scale)



WAR MEMORIAL RESTORATION 2018

(SCALE = 3 cm to 1 metre or 1:33)



HOW PROJECT REMEMBER WILL BE FUNDED

At the time of writing, we have identified an approximate figure for the total cost of the project work, but we are still going through the details of the tender process with stonemasons and contractors. One particular variable in terms of cost will be the extent of any letter carving of additional names on the Memorial, because our research into the names is ongoing. However, we will have a per letter indication of that cost from tendering stonemasons.

The total cost is not small, but even though the project only kicked off in December 2017, we already have a solid foundation.

Firstly, we have the backing of Pett Parish Council who have provided us with a very useful lump sum and equally importantly, have opened a dedicated bank account into which public donations can be paid, giving confidence to donors that their money will be safely held and prudently spent.

Secondly, Rother District Council have approved us for a substantial community grant. At the time of writing we await the written terms, but do not anticipate any conditions we cannot readily meet. It is likely to be subject to our seeking donations from residents, which we intend to do in any event.

Thirdly, we have had confirmation that our project is pre-qualified for a grant application to the War Memorials Trust. For information on this Government-supported fund see **warmemorials.org**. We are therefore very hopeful of a significant contribution from them towards the repairs and cleaning aspects of the project, as well as name inscriptions potentially. (They do not fund aspects of the work they regard as 'new', only the restorative parts).

Fourthly, we are eligible to apply for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, under their World War One centenary-themed programme entitled "Then And Now". We intend to apply very shortly, as soon as we have sufficiently detailed pricing information from contractors.

Finally, via donations from and purchases by members of the Project Remember team and from other local donors, we have already received contributions worth over £1000 even before our public campaign has begun.

The above mix of public sector and private funding gives us a great foundation for this appeal to readers to help us reach our final target. The outcome of our applications to the War Memorials Trust and the Heritage Lottery Fund, will obviously affect how much we will need to raise from the general public. But we know that we need **your support** to achieve our goal. There is information elsewhere on these pages as to how you can make a donation.

We are confident that we can get to our financial target in good time. If we are fortunate enough to generate a small surplus above the final cost, it would be our intention to donate it to appropriate military veterans' charities.

THE MEN ON THE MEMORIAL

On the front (northern) face of the Memorial cross itself are carved the names of seventeen men who came from this parish and who fell in the 1914-18 War. On the reverse side of the cross are the names of another seven men who did not return from the 1939-45 War. These are the names.

First World War

Henry Batehup
Henry Charles Beeching
John Beeching
William Brooman
Frederick James Cooke
George Frederick Cooke
Albert Cox
Preston Dennett
Owen Fellows
Arthur James Fleet
Sydney Edward Fleet
Bernard Foster
Henry Percival Griffen
John Hutchison
George Reginald Jenner
Frederick Ernest Osborne
George Edward Weston



Second World War

Douglas Victor Barden
John Barden
Henry Lewis Barnes
Preston John Ebbutt
George Edward Glazier
Gilbert Arthur Newton
Jack Warnes



As well as being named on the Memorial, the above men are named on the Roll of Honour inside Pett Church. In addition, there is a Roll of Honour inside the Methodist Chapel which honours the men of Pett who fell in the First World War

Short biographies of the men from the First World War and their military service have been written by Martin King, a Pett Level resident and member of the Project Remember team. They have been published as an occasional series over the last four years in the village magazine. We attach one of these stories below. To read more of these stories, follow the link to the Village News

THE PETT FALLEN

An occasional series to commemorate the men of Pett who died in the Great War 1914 - 1918

Fred Osborne



Frederick Ernest Osborne, son of Anthony and Matilda Osborne, was born in Ewhurst in 1881. He lived in Guestling, Fairlight and Pett, and was employed on a farm and then as a bricklayers labourer. In 1903 he married Alice Cooke, and they had 6 children. When war broke out, they were living at 3 Old Coastguard Cottages, Pett Level.

In January 1915 Fred enlisted as a Private, SD/3643 in the 13th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment, in Hastings, becoming one of "Lowther's Lambs", (see below). They sailed for France in March 1916.

The first major battle in which the battalion was involved was a diversionary attack at Richebourg, which took place on 30th June 1916, the day before the start of the battle of the Somme.

During this battle Fred Osborne was wounded. He was evacuated to a hospital in St Omer, where he died of his wounds on 14th July 1916. He was buried in Longuenesse (St. Omer) Souvenir Cemetery



Lowther's Lambs

In September 1914, Colonel Claude Lowther, of Herstmonceux Castle in Sussex, received permission from the War Office to raise a Battalion of local men. He recruited all over Sussex, but mainly in Hastings, Bexhill, Eastbourne, Brighton, Worthing and Bognor, starting on September 9th. Within two days 1100 men had volunteered, and by December three battalions had been raised.

They became known as "Lowther's Lambs"

After training at Cooden, Detling, Kent and Witley Camp in Surrey, they sailed for France on March 4th 1916, landed at Le Havre, and proceeded to Fleurbaix, a front line sector, for instruction and further training.

The battle at Ferme du Bois near Richebourg has largely passed out of popular memory. The men of the 11th, 12th, and 13th Southdowns Battalions that would lead the fighting there were unaware that their assault was a diversionary raid. Their objective was the nearby salient, a bulge in the line, known as 'The Boar's Head' and it was to be "bitten out".

At 3:05am on 30th June 1916, the Southdowns went over the top.

The Germans had anticipated the attack and, as would be discovered in 24 hours at the Somme, the artillery bombardment at Richebourg had had little effect on the German wire.

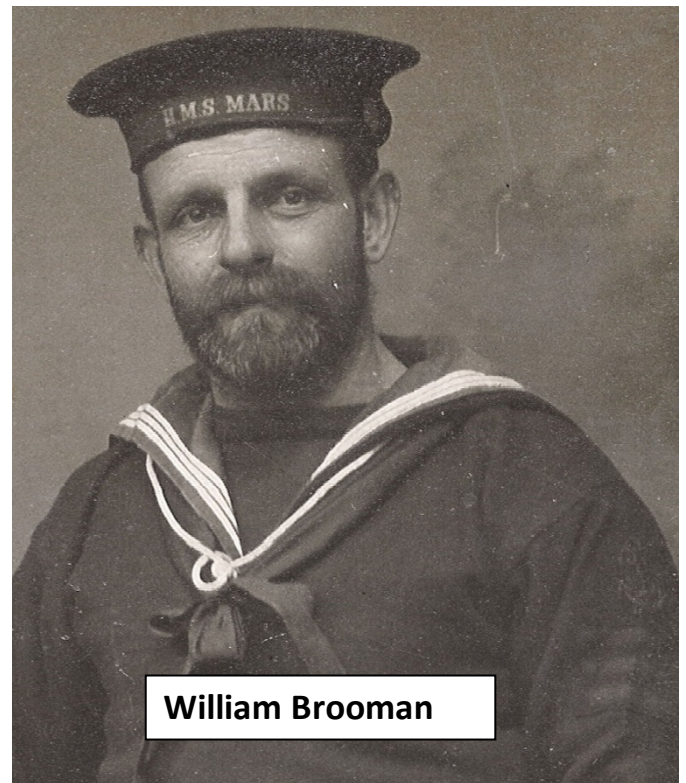
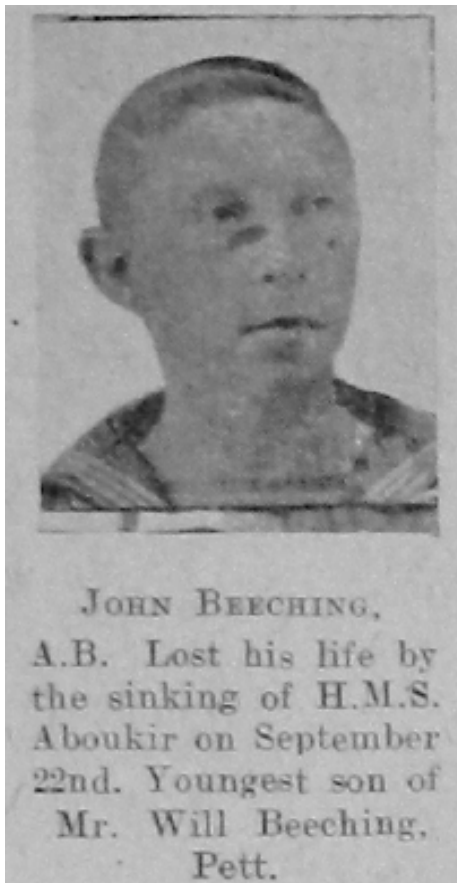
As a result, the attack was a disaster.

The discovery of a hidden dyke meant that crossing this obstacle made men an easy target for opposing guns. Those men who managed to clear No Man's Land soon found themselves caught in a smokescreen that was supposed to blind the Germans and were unable to see where they were going.

The 13th Battalion was almost entirely destroyed with over 800 men being killed, wounded or captured. In total, the three Battalions suffered 366 killed and over 1000 wounded or taken prisoner.

This became known as "The Day That Sussex Died".

OUR PHOTO ALBUM (please submit your own pictures)

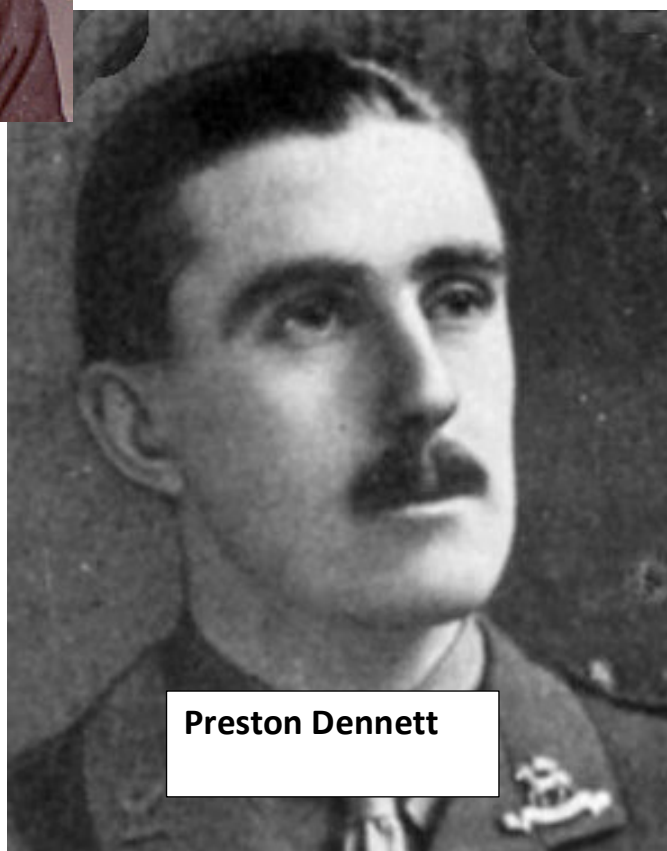




Frederick Cooke



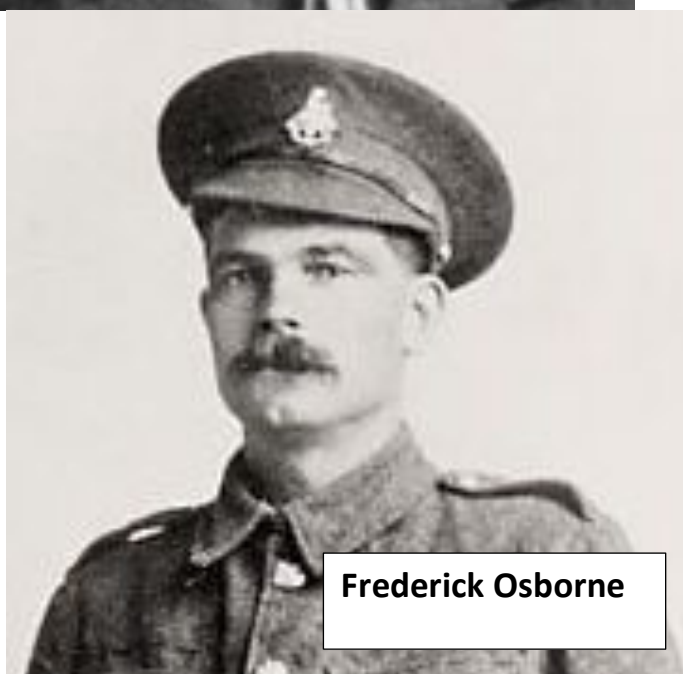
George Jenner



Preston Dennett



Bernard Foster



Frederick Osborne



PTE. H. BEECHING,
2nd Royal Sussex.

Killed in action
August 27th, 1915. Son
of Mr. and Mrs. Beech-
ing, Pett-road, Fair-
light.



PTE. H. BATEHUP,
Royal Sussex. At the
Front. Sent by his
wife, 16, Grove-road,
Hastings.

PETT.

UNVEILING OF PARISH WAR MEMORIAL.

On Sunday afternoon a large congregation of the villagers, including many ex-Service men, assembled at Pett Parish Church to pay homage to the lads of the village who fell in the War, the occasion was the dedication and unveiling of the parish war memorial, erected by the parishioners. The memorial, a lovely grey Runic cross of Forest of Dean stone, standing on a large rough base, is about seven feet high, and bears the following inscription on the base: "In memory of the men from the village who fell in the Great War, 1914-1918."

The column of the cross rising from the base bears the names of the men as follows: J. Beeching, A. J. Fleet, F. J. Cooke, H. Beeching, W. Brooman, G. F. Cooke, F. Osborne, G. R. Jenner, P. T. F. T. Dennett, P. H. Griffen, A. Cox, H. S. Batehup, J. Hinchison, B. Foster, O. Fellows, G. E. Weston, S. E. Fleet.

The cross is situated in the churchyard on the north side of the entrances, and is visible from the highway. It was intended to have an open-air service, but owing to inclemency of the weather a portion was held in the church. A special short form of service was used. Mr. F. W. Maggs, of Christ Church, Blacklands, was the organist, and played the organ after the brief service. The Rector, the Rev. F. C. A. Young, the choir, ex-Service men and the congregation proceeded to the cross, which was draped with a Union Jack; there the Pastor, Mr. W. T. Down, of the United Methodist Chapel (Pett) read the lesson. Mrs. W. Beeching, an old villager, next unveiled the cross, and the Rector read the prayer of dedication. He next placed the villagers' wreath at the foot of the cross, and ex-Sergeant R. Cooke a wreath from the ex-Service men. The "Last Post" and the "Reveille" brought a touching service to a close.

Many beautiful floral tributes were placed around the cross by parents and relatives.

Out of a population of nearly three hundred, forty-five answered the call, seventeen gave their lives. The place of honour for the unveiling ceremony was bestowed upon Mrs. W. Beeching, an old and highly respected villager. Her son "Jack" (as he was known by all) was a Naval Reserve man and was called at the outbreak of War, and had not been away many weeks before the sad news arrived that he was lost with H.M.S. "Aboukir." September 22nd, 1914. He was the first to leave the village and the first to give all.

CH.

PETT WAR MEMORIAL.



Above is a photograph of the village War Memorial unveiled in Pett Churchyard as reported in our last issue.

Officers' the Street via Ports ne. This g athletics



Mrs. W. Berching, an old and much respected villager, who performed the unveiling ceremony.

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UNVEILING WAR MEMORIAL.—On Tuesday evening a memorial tablet, draped with the Union Jack, was unveiled by Miss F. Lucas-Shadwell (Woodcote) in the United Methodist Chapel in memory of those from Pett who had fallen. The tablet, made of very old oak, is in the form of a canopy supported by two pillars, between which is inscribed in gilt letters the names of fourteen men. The canopy bears the words, "The Great Sacrifice." All of these men, with the exception of four, had been members of the Chapel Sunday School during their lives. The tablet is erected by their relatives and friends of the parish, and is the work of an ex-Service man, Mr. J. Barden, to whom was accorded great credit for its excellence of design and finish. The service was simple but impressive, and was attended by a very large congregation, which included Mrs. Dennett, Mrs. Bayliffe, Mrs. Jenner, Mrs. Hubert, Mrs. G. H. Colegate, Mrs. R. Davies, Mr. T. P. Dunlop, and Mr. R. Griffen. Several ex-Service men included Messrs. W. G. Colegate, T. Barden, J. Barden, and T. Osborne. The Rev. E. Elliott, Vicar of Fairlight, was unable to be present through illness. The Pastor, Mr. E. Pratt, assisted by Mr. C. Foster, gave an impressive address. Special hymns, prayers, and lessons were used. The concluding hymn, "Forever with the Lord" and the sounding of the "Last Post" brought the service to a close.

ROLL OF HONOUR IN PETT METHODIST CHAPEL



THE MISSING NINE NAMES?

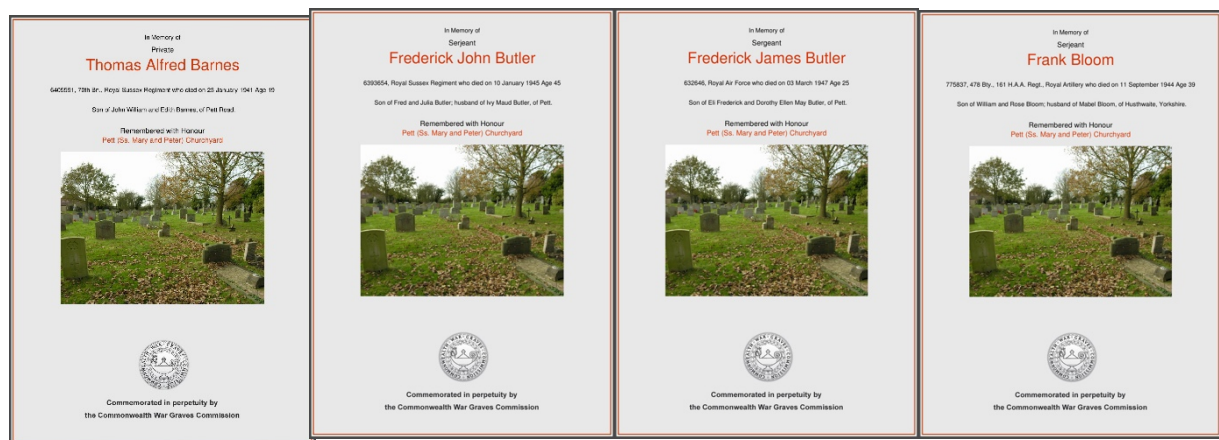
Four other servicemen not named on the Memorial, who fell in World War Two, are buried in Pett Churchyard. Each grave has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) headstone as the certificate below confirms. Their names also appear on the Roll of Honour inside Pett Church. We have yet to determine any reason why their names do not appear with the other seven men from that war inscribed on the Memorial.

Thomas Alfred Barnes

Frank Bloom

Frederick James Butler

Frederick John Butler



As it stands, we see no reason why, funds permitting, these names should not be added to the Memorial. If anyone reading this has further information, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Additionally, the CWGC has on its files the names of a further five men, one from World War One and four from World War Two, whose families are stated as having come from Pett or Pett Level. Currently, we do not have sufficient evidence to determine whether there is a significant personal connection between each of these men and this community. It is possible they were accidentally omitted from inclusion on the Memorial. Equally, it is possible that the relevant next of kin moved here after the man's death and therefore a sufficient connection is not there. Either way, we need to know.

WW1: **William Lloyd-Worth**



WW2: **Evart William Batchelor**
John Wynne Blower
George Edward Milham
Philip David Redhead

In Memory of
Private

William Guy Lloyd-Worth

53633, Middlesex Regiment who died on 09 February 1921 Age 20
Son of John Francis and Mabel A. E. Lloyd-Worth, of French Court, Pett, Hastings.

Remembered with Honour
Netley Military Cemetery

Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Once again, we are in need of further evidence about these men and their families. If you have any relevant information, please get in touch with us as soon as possible.

In Memory of
Able Seaman

Ewart William Batchelor

M.V. Opawa (Plymouth), Merchant Navy who died on 06 February 1942 Age 38
Son of William and Edith Eleanor Batchelor, of Pett Level, Sussex.

Remembered with Honour
Tower Hill Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

In Memory of
Lieutenant

John Wynne Howe Blower

271123, 2 Airlanding Anti-Tank Bty., Royal Artillery who died on 10 June 1944 Age 30
Son of John and Edith Blower, of Pett, Sussex.

Remembered with Honour
Ranville Churchyard



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

In Memory of
Gunner

George Edward Milham

14253879, 142 (The Royal North Devon Yeomanry) Field Regt., Royal Artillery who died on 15 January 1944 Age 28
Son of Sidney and Alice Grace Milham; husband of Jeanne Kathleen Milham, of Pett Level, Sussex.

Remembered with Honour
Minturno War Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

In Memory of
Captain

Philip David Redhead

M.C.
76422, 4th, Royal Tank Regiment, R.A.C. who died on 02 December 1941 Age 22
Son of Daniel Albert and Gwendoline Redhead, of Pett Level, Sussex.

Remembered with Honour
Tobruk War Cemetery

Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

**[PAGES FOR (1) YOUR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS AND (2) LATEST PROJECT
NEWS TO BE INSERTED HERE]**

WAYS OF GIVING TO PROJECT REMEMBER 2018

1. Bank Transfer (BACS) direct to

Pett Parish Council
Ref "Pett PC Project Remember"
Sort Code: 30-97-66
Account Number: 53331968

2. Donation Boxes

Available around the village at our

- Churches
- Public Houses, and
- Shops

Just look for the '***Silent Soldier***'

3. Call one of the Project Team

We will collect

OR

4. Cheque made payable to

"Pett Parish Council"

Write on back "Project Remember"

Post or hand-deliver to:

Cllr. Chris Saint
Southlands
Pett Road
Pett
TN35 4HA



REMEMBER US?