

In Memoriam



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Remembrance Day Service

Saturday November 11th, 2017

OCs and representatives of Brookfield School including the Headmaster and four Sixth Formers met at the appointed time outside the old Headmaster's Study at Sheffield Road to remember the fallen.

The service was led by Rev. Ron Smith with readings by Frank Gorman and Philip Riden. The Brookfield School students were also involved in the service.

Tony Hine gave a short presentation on Tom Bamford, Private 5198, 1st/10th Battalion The King's (Liverpool Regiment), who died on Wednesday 9th August 1916, aged 25. His name appears on the WWI Roll of Honour.

Two minutes silence was observed and the service concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.



Experiences were exchanged over tea and coffee afterwards.

Chesterfield College have very kindly agreed to open the building next year, when Remembrance Day falls on a Sunday.

Photographs courtesy of Gordon Reddish & Tony Hine, report by Tony Hine

Remembrance Day Service

Friday November 11th, 2016

Some thirty OCs and others came together at 11am on Friday 11 November to take part in the third Armistice Day service to honour the memory of Old Cestrefeldians killed in both World Wars.

Special guests were two female descendents of George Exford who was killed on the first day of the Battle of Jutland in 1916.

The service took place at Sheffield Road (by arrangement with Chesterfield College, who now occupy the site), and was conducted by the Rev. Ron Smith with the assistance of some members of the congregation including four pupils from Brookfield School. A two minutes silence was observed and the service concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.



Those present noted the fact that, after efforts by the Old Cestrefeldians' Trust, the WW1 plaque had also been cleaned up since last year, making the names far more visible.

*Group photographs courtesy of Tony Hine
Report courtesy of Frank Gorman*

Remembrance Day Service

and

Unveiling of Blue Plaque

Wednesday November 11th, 2015

Around thirty O.C.s and others came together at 11am on Wednesday 11th November to take part in the second Remembrance Day service to honour the memory of Old Cestrefeldians killed in both World Wars. The service took place at Sheffield Road (by arrangement with Chesterfield College, who now occupy the site), and was conducted by Past-President The Rev. Canon Peter Downham assisted by the Rev. Ron Smith and some members of the congregation. A two minute silence was observed at 11am and the service concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.



Those present noted the fact that, after efforts by the Old Cestrefeldians' Trust, seventy years of grime had been removed from the WW2 plaque by professional cleaning and polishing, leaving the same work to be carried out on the WW1 memorial before next year's event

To add further interest to the day, those present went on to witness the formal unveiling of an official Blue Plaque by Frank Gorman, O.C. and Secretary of Chesterfield Civic Society. Secured to the Sheffield Road facade, it commemorates the existence of the Grammar School on the site from 1594-1967 and that its distinguished alumni included Erasmus Darwin and Sir Robert Robinson, Nobel Prize winner.



Photographed after the unveiling are (left to right):

Canon Peter Downham,

Frank Gorman,

Stuart Cutforth (College Principal),

Dave Simmonds (Asst. Principal),

Mike Thackery (Facilities Manager),

Bryan Thompson (Chairman of Civic Society) and

Hugh Quigley (Executive Member Civic Society)

*Article courtesy of Frank Gorman,
photographs courtesy of Roger Barnes.*

Remembrance Day Service and War Memorial Rededication

Tuesday November 11th, 2014

The School's World War Memorial boards have been returned to the old Grammar School site on Sheffield Road, from where they were removed in 1967 when the School relocated to new premises at Brookside.

They were left there in 1991 when the School closed after nearly 400 years of history and the site became Brookfield Community School, with the latter having been their guardians in the interim. They have now been placed in the School entrance hall opposite the old Head's study.



Around about thirty people, including OCs and the Brookfield School Head and some of his Sixth Form students, attended a short service of remembrance and re-dedication at 11am on Tuesday 11 November, at Sheffield Road, which was conducted by The Rev. Canon Peter Downham, current President of the Old Cestrefeldian Society.

This move has been made possible by the generous co-operation of the Brookfield School Governors and the active support of Chesterfield College (the current occupants of the Sheffield Road site) in allowing them to be returned to their spiritual home.



Anyone who missed the service but who would like to inspect the boards is welcome to do so on Monday to Friday from 9 - 4pm, and should make themselves known to Ms Sharlaine Fincham (whose office is the old Head's study) on arrival.

The OC's Memorial Bungalow

The story begins in 1954 when the 'OC Notes' section of the Cestrefeldian magazine recorded that *"The most important outcome of this year's AGM was what appears to be a very satisfying solution of the long-standing problem as to what form the permanent OC's War Memorial should take. The members present adopted a scheme put forward by H.C.Day, under which the cost of one of several bungalows to be erected by the Borough Authority for the use of disabled ex-servicemen should be met from the accumulated War Memorial Fund of the Society. The bungalow in question would be recognised as the Society's War Memorial and would carry a suitable inscribed memorial tablet. It is understood that a suitable site has been selected in the locality of Upper Newbold, and that the work is now proceeding."*



The eagle-eyed Wilf (Bud) Nightingale spotted the original report and drew it to my attention. As a Newbold resident I had a recollection of some Council bungalows on Newbold Road, roughly opposite the entrance to St Mary's High School, and decided to take a closer look. As a result, I was able to identify number 425, Newbold Road as the property in question. It is the right-hand one of a pair of semi-detached bungalows, of which the other was paid for by the British Legion and other local ex-servicemen's organisations. Both properties are still under the control of Chesterfield BC and are empty at the moment, undergoing refurbishment by the authority.

Report by Frank Gorman. Photos courtesy of Roger Barnes.