

## The initial idea for the project

The original idea for a World War One project came from Mike and Mel Powell. The initial proposal was made during early 2014, with a first commemoration of a soldier planned for 24 August 2014. The project was proposed as a way of stimulating interest in the Luddenden Conservation Society. The original rationale was as follows:

### **“The hero from our house” – a proposal for a WWI community history project for Luddenden Conservation Society**

*“No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main . . . any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.” John Donne, Meditation XVII*

#### Background

The national WWI centenary commemorations offer a unique opportunity for organisations involved in history and heritage to increase awareness and build relationships. Luddenden Conservation Society has already positioned itself as a protector of Luddenden's WWI heritage by its role in saving the Roll of Honour from the former Working Men's Club for the village when it was available for auction on Ebay, and in promoting the annual Remembrance Day event at the Luddenden cenotaph. However, this is currently not likely to be known amongst non-members.

This proposal is for the Society to lead a long-term and cumulative community history project for Luddenden during the full four years of the national commemoration, which will help it to achieve some important longer-term objectives.

#### Project objectives

1. To position Luddenden Conservation Society as a leading authority for the WWI centenary in Luddenden
2. To build awareness of Luddenden Conservation Society as the organisation responsible for conserving 'lived heritage' as well as the built environment in the Luddenden area
3. To attract more active members
4. To encourage local residents to get to know the history of their own homes better
5. To build closer links between lifelong Luddenden residents and more recent arrivals
6. To enable local people to learn new skills, ranging from internet research to media relations

#### Project concept

The overall aim of the project is a very simple one: the idea that, in line with John Donne's words, each one of the 45 men who marched away from Luddenden and Midgley has someone in his own home village to remember him *as an individual* and to demonstrate this remembrance at key points in the local and national commemorations.

Where they have descendants still living in the local area, obviously it is most appropriate that this is done by them, making them first choice. However, experience suggests that not all families will be aware of the full history of their forebears' wartime service, or of how much information has recently become accessible via the internet.

However, as both Luddenden and Midgley are areas which have seen considerable social and population change in the last century, it is likely that at least some of their WWI dead may have no relatives still living in the area. In these cases, the proposal is that each WWI serviceman is 'adopted' by a current Luddenden or Midgley resident who is linked to him in

some way, with the most obvious 'adopter' being the current occupant at the same address. These could then be linked with descendants, who would act as their link to local commemorations. In return, it is envisaged that the descendants could assist their 'twinned' local resident with their research for the project. This is very feasible, as most names and addresses are relatively easy to identify. Luddenden and Midgley War Memorial website at <http://www.roll-of-honour.com/Yorkshire/Luddenden.html> compiled by Martin Edwards which is linked to the Conservation Society site identifies the 45 men who are named on the 1914-18 section of the memorial and gives an exact or approximate address in Luddenden or Midgley for all but 6 of them. It will also be necessary to cross-link with other local war memorials in various different formats to ensure that there are no omissions.

The thinking behind this is that most people's interest in both the history of WWI and in local history and heritage is fuelled from having some personal link to it. Without this, it is unlikely that people will be sufficiently engaged to get involved. However, by making people's homes the link to local history, we stand a much better chance of interesting and involving them.

The history project itself will encourage local people to find out more and to make new links and relationships in the process. In the longer term, if more residents see their address as historically interesting and significant, they may well be more likely to become interested in the cause of conserving the built environment as well as local history.

#### Key target audiences

Living descendants of WW1 dead in Luddenden/Midgley  
Luddenden and Midgley residents at their former addresses (around 50)  
Local news media – Halifax Courier, Yorkshire Post, Issy Shannon, BBC Radio Leeds  
Bankfield Museum – compiling display and interested in local activity  
Calderdale Community Foundation – has pot of £15,000 specifically for community-based WW1 projects in Calderdale

#### Project plan and timescale

The project is designed to be a 'slow burn' and to grow in interest and participation during the four years of the centenary, with particular events to coincide with key dates in the UK commemorative calendar.

##### *Phase 1: initial research and preparation May – July 2014*

- Pre-research – cross check other local war memorials and establish an initial database of WW1 dead from Luddenden/Midgley
- Identify descendants– snowball research starting with Conservation Society members, followed by an appeal through the Conservation Society Newsletter, then initial appeal through wider local news media
- Additional online information/address research on those not fully accounted for so far
- Map/fieldwork research to map website addresses to current locations in Luddenden/Midgley and to trace descendants
- Result: mailing list of individuals ready to contact

Adding a special area or linked website to the Luddenden Conservation Society site to form an online archive for the results of local research

Initial contact with Bankfield Museum and Calderdale Community Foundation

##### *Phase 2: contact and involve targeted participants July – December 2014*

July 2014 – release to local press outlining scheme and alerting 'specially selected participants'

1 August 2014 – centenary of outbreak of war: individual letter to the targeted participants explaining the scheme and inviting them to take part by:

- Planting and growing the packet of B&Q Flanders poppies which will be enclosed in the letter
- Researching the history of ‘their’ WW1 serviceman – descendants through family history sources; residents from war history sources
- Compiling a small poster of him and displaying it in a window on the significant commemoration dates
- Attending the Remembrance Day event at Luddenden War Memorial and planting a named poppy cross for him
- For the small group of men buried or commemorated locally, locating and tending his grave
- Being prepared to compile their research results into a news story in the form of a press release, for publication on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their serviceman’s death, and to respond to requests for follow-up interviews
- Being prepared to represent ‘their’ serviceman by telling his story:
  - ‘live’ in their chosen format at a final Festival of Remembrance local event on the weekend of November 11 2018
  - in a short chapter for publication in “The hero from our house” in print and website form
- Participating in a one-day skills workshop to be held in Luddenden to equip them with the necessary research, design and media relations skills to do this

24 August 2014 – centenary of Luddenden’s first war fatality - follow up letter with invitation to attend historical research training

September 2014 – Local History Research Training Day: one day workshop session to be held on a Saturday with expert local speakers to provide insight and training in how to research ‘their’ serviceman, design and media skills

October 2014 – follow-up letter plus invitation to Remembrance Day event

Remembrance Day November 2014 – first commemorative event and opportunity to gauge engagement with project

*Phase 3: building a record and keeping momentum* January 2015 – November 2018

Keep in regular contact with the participants and ensure that their research is added to the archive page

Share the material discovered with Bankfield Museum and local press contacts as new discoveries are made.

Develop further events for key dates in the national commemoration including Armistice Day, November 11, 2018

Local awareness to be built gradually by commemoration of dates specific to Luddenden, with the date of each individual fatality marked by:

- Church bell or Last Post bugler at war memorial
- Local newspaper coverage based on press release covering research findings so far

*Phase 4: finale and evaluation* – November 2018

Final ‘Festival of Remembrance’ event – a unique commemoration in which each of the ‘representatives’ (family and residents) will be invited to tell the story of their own serviceman in whatever format they wish (presentation, story-telling, poetry, song . . .) It would start and finish with a tribute to ALL of the local people who served in WW1, with both historic and specially-commissioned poetry and music.

This will be followed by a social reception to thank the 'representatives' and other key players, recognise their achievements, and invite them to continuing involvement in Luddenden's lived and built heritage through joining the Conservation Society.

Evaluation measures

- Amount and quality of media coverage
- attendance at Remembrance Day each year
- final survey for participants

## **Funding**

An initial Budget was proposed, and a grant of £1,000 was very generously given to the project by the Community Foundation for Calderdale.

It was envisaged that this would be spent on mailings (including poppy seeds) to residents, licences to Ancestry / FindMyPast for initial research and a training workshop for researchers by experts in the field.



From the left are the Rev Martin Macdonald, assistant minister, St Mary's Church Luddenden, Mrs Gillian Holt, Miss Ruth Greenwood, Mr Tony Hillyard (Luddenden WW1 Project) and Mrs Mel Powell (Luddenden WW1 Project)

# Tribute to 'hero from our home'

By JOHN GREENWOOD  
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**Private Thomas Greenwood, Luddenden's first fatality during the First World War, was commemorated last Sunday in a special ceremony in his home village, exactly a century after he was killed in action.**

His great-niece Gillian Holt of Midgley, a ceramicist whose family history of war and remembrance provides the inspiration for her pottery, laid a poppy cross in his memory at the Luddenden and Midgley War Memorial, at the event organised by the Luddenden WW1 Commemoration Project.

Thomas Greenwood died aged 32 on August 24, 1914, just three weeks after war was declared, after being fatally injured whilst attempting to

safety during a skirmish at the village of Warmes during the Battle of Mons.

Pte Greenwood, who lived at 21 Goit Side, Luddenden, was an experienced reservist who was steward of Midgley Working Men's Club before he was called up again to join the 2nd Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment at the outbreak of war. He left a wife, Annie, and three children, Marion, Dinah and George.

Tragically, the next generation of the family suffered again during the Second World War when both George and Dinah's husband were killed, making up the family history which Mrs Holt commemorates through her ceramics inspired by "memory, memorial, war and loss" at Brier Hey Pottery in Mytholmroyd.

Invited family members and Luddenden residents listened to his story re-told by members of the Luddenden WW1 Commemoration Project and observed two minutes silence;

the Rev Martin Macdonald of St Mary's Church, Luddenden offered a short prayer; and the church bell was tolled once for each year of Mr Greenwood's life.

The event was organised by Luddenden Conservation Society's WW1 Commemoration Project, a part of The Hero from our Home, a new community history project which aims to find either a family member who is still living locally or a current Luddenden resident to remember each one of the 45 First World War servicemen who are commemorated on the Luddenden and Midgley War Memorial. Project team member Mel Powell explained: "The aim of the project is a very simple one: that every single one of the men who marched away from Luddenden and Midgley and did not return has someone in his own home village to remember him as an individual during the four years of the national commemorations."

## The first commemoration

The team found a relative, Gillian Holt, of the first soldier to be commemorated: Private Thomas Greenwood of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. This was held on 24 August 2014, and was reported in the Hebden Bridge Times and Halifax Courier:



# Fitting tribute for Great War hero

BY TOM SCARGILL  
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**Private Thomas Greenwood, Luddenden's first fatality during the First World War, was commemorated in a special ceremony exactly a century after he was killed in action.**

His great-niece Gillian Holt, of Midgley, laid a poppy cross in his memory at the Luddenden and Midgley War Memorial, at the event organised by the Luddenden WW1 Commemoration Project.

Thomas Greenwood died, aged 32, on August 24, 1914, just three weeks after war was declared, after being fatally injured whilst attempting to get his commanding officer to safety during a skirmish at the village of Warmes during the Battle of Mons.

Private Greenwood was an experienced reservist who was steward of Midgley Working Men's Club before he was called up again to join the 2nd Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment at the outbreak of war.

He left a wife, Annie Greenwood, and three children, Marion, Dinah and George.

Project team member Mel Powell explained: "The aim of the project is a very simple one: that every single one of the men who marched away from Luddenden and Midgley and did not return has someone in his own home village to remember him as an individual during the four years of the national commemorations.

"It was a privilege to be able to re-tell Private Greenwood's story based on our initial research, and to meet the descendants of a true local hero.

"Now we plan to do the

**'It was a privilege to be able to re-tell his story'**

same for the other WW1 servicemen who are commemorated in Luddenden and Midgley, and in particular to find either a family member or the person who now lives at his address to represent him."

## The story of Private Thomas Greenwood

- Private Thomas Greenwood of 21 Goit Side Luddenden was an experienced soldier who was called up again after the outbreak of war.
- He was born in Midgley, the son of Harry and Kezia Greenwood of Lane Ends, Midgley.
- His athletic ability and early leadership skills led him to enlist in the 2nd Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment at the age of 18 in 1900 and he was sent to India, returning in 1908.

- He also served in South Africa.
- Thomas married Annie Smith on, April 7, 1902 in Dublin, and they had three children, Marion, Dinah and George.
- When the war began, Thomas was re-called to service. Thomas's regiment was involved in the Battle of Mons on August 23 and 24, 1914.
- He died on August 24, 1914 in hospital in Mons. He is buried at Hautrage Military Cemetery, Saint-Ghislain, Hainault, Belgium.

The commemoration took the same format as those for the other 44 soldiers:

- Introduction by one of the project team (in this case Tony Hillyard) covering the project, the format of the ceremony, and some information about the soldier
- Placing of a poppy cross on the war memorial by a relative or resident (Gillian Holt, great niece, for the first commemoration)
- Exhortation ("They shall grow not old .....") by a former serviceman



- Two minute silence broken by the church bell tolling once for each year of the soldier's life
- Prayer from a church or chapel representative (Rev Martin Macdonald for the first commemoration).

For this first commemoration the poppy cross was a standard wooden one, obtained from the Royal British Legion, marked with the soldier's name and date of death. After a few days, the cross was moved to the garden in front of the memorial. However, after some months, it became apparent that the cross and poppy were disintegrating, so it was replaced with one which had been treated and varnished. Even so we found that it deteriorated and we were very lucky to have found Gillian Holt who offered to make 45 ceramic poppy crosses for us. These have been accumulating in the garden since 2014.

For some of the later commemorations we included "The Last Post" and "Reveille" played from a mobile phone and in a few cases by a bugler.

## Initial communications

The project team gathered basic information from a number of sources and reached out to find descendants of the 45 men using both the Halifax Courier and Valley Life (see article below).

# Do You know Any Descendents of Luddenden's WW1 Heroes?

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**Luddenden Conservation Society has launched a search for relatives of local men who died in or as a result of service in WW1, and is appealing for local people to help them.**

The appeal is the first step in a new community history project which will form the Society's commemoration of the centenary of the First World War in Luddenden.

The Society's new WW1 Commemoration Project would like to hear from anyone who is a descendant of one of the many local men who died in the First World War and who is commemorated on a war memorial or roll in Luddenden or Midgley, or who knows someone who is.

The aim is to link both those who still live in the local area and those who live further away with a planned four-year programme of events, which will start in September 2014.

Project team member Mel Powell explained: "The overall aim of the project is a very simple one: that every single one of the men who marched away from Luddenden and Midgley is linked with someone in his own home village to remember him as an individual during the four years of the national commemorations.

"Ideally, that would be a family member, so our first task is to trace their descendants or relatives. But if no-one can be found, we'll be contacting whoever lives at his old address in the village to ask them to 'adopt' him and to join us in commemorating him at key dates in the next four years.

"We'd like to contact the descendants of the WW1 servicemen who are commemorated locally, so that they can take part in the project if they still live in the local area. If they live too far away for this, we'd still like to ask them to contribute to the research - or simply to let them know that their relative is still known by name and remembered in his home village, one hundred years later."

The project plans to equip participants with the skills and resources they need to research and tell 'their' serviceman's story, contributing to a final Festival of Remembrance in November 2018 and publication in print and a new archive website.

**If you can help the Commemoration Project with their research, please contact Luddenden WW1 Project by email on**

01422

**or phone**

In addition, where the houses still existed, letters were sent to current residents of the homes which the soldiers had left, with an invitation to join in and a pack of poppy seeds. The following is an example:



## Luddenden WW1 Commemoration Project

To the present occupier  
17 Halifax Lane  
Luddenden

November 2014

Dear fellow-resident

**Please join us in remembering the WW1 heroes from your home**

Did you know that your home is a VIP – a Very Important Property, with a significant historic story to tell?

A hundred years ago, 17 Halifax Lane was home to two brothers who marched away to the First World War and did not return. They would have known the view you look at today. Maybe they walked down your road or even through your own garden gate as they set off?

Their names were Edwin and Matthew Ackroyd and we've enclosed the results of the initial research we've carried out about them, which we thought might interest you:

*The Ackroyd brothers were born in Barrow-in-Furness but were both living at 17 Halifax Lane, Luddenden at the time of the outbreak of the First World War. Edwin worked in the cardroom at Watson's Mill, Sowerby Bridge. He enlisted as a Rifleman C/7651 in the 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Kings Royal Rifle Corps in Halifax in February 1915. He was killed in action on 15 September 1916 aged 30. He has no known grave and is commemorated on Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France (Pier and Face 13 A and 13B).*

*Edwin's younger brother Matthew Ackroyd attended St James Methodist Church and worked at Maudes Clog Sole Makers, Hawksclough. He originally enlisted in the Durham Light Infantry but later became a Private in the 27<sup>th</sup> Northumberland Fusiliers. He died on 9 April 1917 aged 25. He has no known grave and is commemorated on Arras Memorial, France.*

You can see both of their names today on the Luddenden and Midgley War Memorial outside St Mary's Church, Luddenden. Edwin was also commemorated by Luddenden Working Men's Club on their Roll of Honour, which can now be seen in the Lord Nelson, Luddenden.

Luddenden Conservation Society has set up a WW1 Commemoration Project to make sure that every one of our WW1 heroes has someone in his own home village to remember him as an individual on the centenary of the First World War.

**We'd like to invite you to play a very special part in this project – to 'adopt' the heroes from your home and to join us in remembering them for the four years of the national commemoration.**

If you would like to join the project, we'd like you to help us to research and re-tell the story of 'your' WW1 servicemen; or simply to join us in remembering them by taking part in the annual Remembrance Service at the War Memorial and in the longer-term programme of events which are planned in the village up to November 2018.

We are inviting known descendants of the servicemen, where we have been able to trace them, AND the present occupants of their last known address before 1914, usually that of the 1911 census. That is why you have been chosen.

We very much hope that you're willing to adopt the heroes from your home and to take part in the project. Even if you're not able to, we'd be grateful if you would let us know, so that we can look for someone else to do this

**Whether or not you decide to take an active part in the project, please accept the packet of Flanders poppy seeds which is enclosed as a gift, with compliments from Luddenden Conservation Society.**

We'd be delighted if you would commemorate the heroes from your home by planting them in your pots, window box or garden; and we hope that you can join us at this year's Remembrance Service at the Luddenden and Midgley war memorial at 11.00 a.m. on Sunday 9 November 2014 so that we can remember them together.

Yours sincerely

Mel Powell

On behalf of the WW1 Commemoration Project team, Luddenden Conservation Society



## Information gathering

During the period up to the next commemoration in September 2015, we collected base information on all 45 men from the Roll of Honour website, the Calderdale War Dead Book and from the internet and Library Archives (census information, Halifax Courier announcements, service records). We also ran exhibitions in the church, at Mayor Making, and at Remembrance Sunday in November 2014.

Over time, we made contact with relatives of fourteen of the men, attended a conference at Bankfield Museum (October 2014), and trialled a number of genealogical websites to test their usefulness. We spoke to each of the relatives to find out what they knew about their ancestor, discovered memorabilia, and passed on information that we had discovered.

In May 2015, the Conservation Society hosted a talk by Mike Crawford entitled "Attitudes in Calderdale at the beginning of the First World War", and in September 2015 Adam Lowe gave a talk about Richard Bracken Farrer, based on research he'd done after a small ruler had come into his possession.

## Change to approach

In the grant application we had envisaged a training day on historical research to be held in 2014. Some base information had already been collated centrally, and given the limited interest from residents, and complexity of gathering information, it was decided to continue this approach rather than finding and training many volunteers. We discovered that doing the research required considerable structure and effort, along with access to electronic copies of files (Calderdale Book of the War Dead and Halifax Courier) and Ancestry.com subscription. Rather than spending funding on training, it was spent on a longer Ancestry subscription.

## Sample commemorations

In December 2016 we commemorated **Gunner John Corboy** and we were honoured to have 98 year old Mrs Mary Clough, who still lived off Luddenden Lane, to plant the cross for her uncle. In a copy of "Calder Voice", the magazine of the Good Shepherd Catholic Church, Mytholmroyd, she wrote *"Like me, Father Gott was very moved by the ceremony and the care that had been taken by the organisers in remembering the memory of those local men who had fallen during that terrible conflict"*.



Front: Mrs Mary Clough and Father John Gott



In April 2017 we held the first joint commemoration of soldiers named on War Memorial. It was for **Privates Matthew Ackroyd and Tom Summerscales** of Luddenden who both died on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1917, the first day of the First Battle of the Scarpe, the first action of the Battle of Arras. They were both 25 years old and both were serving in the 27<sup>th</sup> Northumberland Fusiliers (Tyneside Irish). They are commemorated on the Arras Memorial in France.

Matthew's great niece, Mrs Diane Harwood, supported by her family, placed a ceramic poppy cross on the war memorial. Sadly, a relative of Tom, Mrs Diane Parker of Luddenden, passed away only a few weeks before the commemoration.

The Exhortation "They shall grow not old ..." was read by Keith Rowe, representing the Royal British Legion, and following a two minute silence, the church bells were tolled once for each year of the soldiers' lives. The commemoration finished with prayers said by Rev Ian Sparks of St Mary's Church.





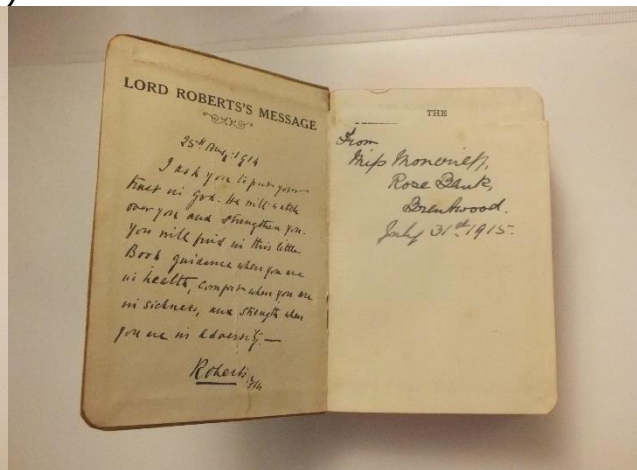
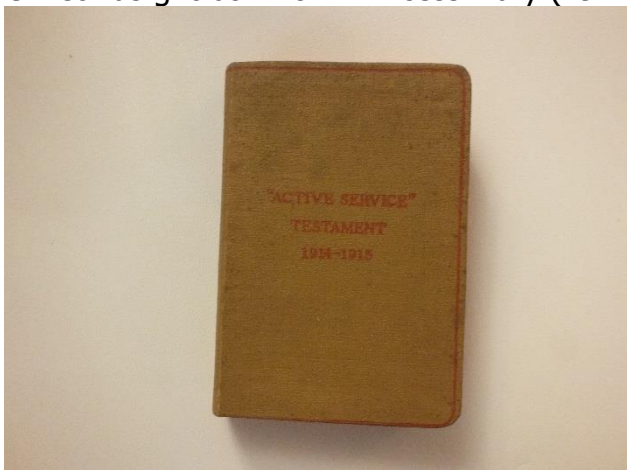
Mrs Diane Harwood (centre), with family (to left), Tony Hillyard (right) and Rev Ian Sparks (far right), with poppy crosses to commemorate Matthew Ackroyd and Tom Summerscales

### Memorabilia afternoon

Following the commemoration at noon on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2017 for Private Leonard Brooksbank, a memorabilia afternoon was held in the Lord Nelson Inn. Rob Hamilton and David Millichope of the Halifax Great War Heritage Society (since retitled the Halifax Military History Society) were on hand to help identify items. Some of the items brought along are shown below:



Christmas gift box from Princess Mary (1914)







Set of medals



Postcard home

## Further commemorations

Commemorations continued, and in July 2018 there were two on successive days. Family members from Durham, Warwickshire and Suffolk, as well as Calderdale, joined the commemorations at the cenotaph. **Gunner George Broadbent** (24) from Scotland, Midgley and the Royal Field Artillery gave his life in France on 20 July 1918 and **Private Sam Binns** (34) from Luddenden and then Mount Tabor and the Duke of Wellington's Regiment died in France on 21 July 1918.

The project had made contact with the Broadbent family in 2017 through High Lee Care Home on Sowerby Lane, where Henry Broadbent was a resident. Sadly Henry passed away earlier in 2018.

Sam Binns left a young widow, Millicent, and seven children ranging in age from 3 months to 10 years. The cross for Sam was placed by one of the youngest members of the Binns family, Evelyn, along with a wreath from the family.



Members of the Broadbent family with the poppy cross, with Karen Page (Mayor of Luddenden), Tony Hillyard (project team) and Margaret Collinge (representing the Methodists)



Evelyn Binns places the poppy cross on and wreath on the memorial



Members of the Binns family with (far right) Keith Rowe (Royal British Legion), Geoff Budd and Gordon Akroyd (both from St Mary's Church)



## Tommy Statue for centenary of the Armistice (November 2018)

The Luddenden Mayor's Fund committee suggested using some of the money raised during the year to provide something for the village that we can all be proud of. One of the members suggested we consider a Tommy statue to commemorate the centenary of the Armistice that ended the Great War on 11th November 1918. For this centenary, Tommy statues were being installed in many towns and villages across the country.



We considered a "There but not There" statue, but felt it would not work in the proposed location, so tried a cardboard prototype of a solid figure.



After consulting with people in the village, through discussion, Facebook and our Newsletter and also with Calderdale Council and the War Memorial Trust, we obtained planning permission to install a Tommy Statue made of corten steel. It is sited in the rockery below the War Memorial and is approximately 6ft high. It was installed on a solid plinth with a plaque inscribed with an explanation of why the statue is there. The words (written by Peter Hayes) were selected from a number of different contributions from villagers. The position of the statue seems as if the soldier has walked up the hill towards the cenotaph and is looking up towards the memorial in contemplation. We believe the siting of the soldier is extremely important and moving and complements and does not detract from the importance of the cenotaph itself.



The statue was funded by the Luddenden Mayor's Fund and was unveiled after the planned Remembrance Sunday service on Sunday, 11th November 2018 and is now a permanent reminder of the centenary of the Armistice



As well as the unveiling of the Tommy statue by the Mayor of Luddenden, Tony Hillyard and Phil Radford gave a presentation, with slides, covering the project to date and a selection of the soldiers being commemorated. The text is as follows:

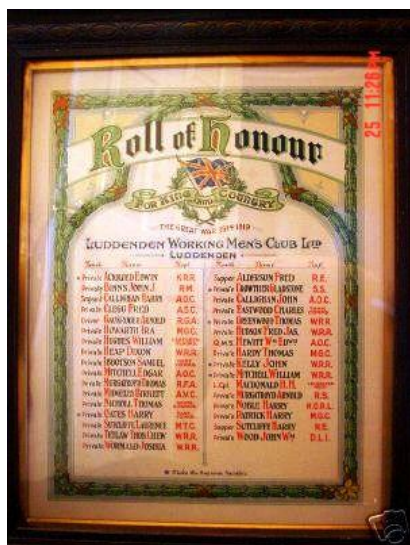
*As two of those involved in the Luddenden & Midgley WW1 Commemoration Project, we were asked to tell the stories of some of the men who are named on the village War Memorial.*

*Today we would like to talk you through a selection of the men named on the memorial from the youngest to the oldest, from the various local Churches and Chapels and from the first to the last to fall. Not of all the 45 were killed in action. Some fell ill or were diagnosed with medical conditions whilst serving their country. We did not have any casualties from the 1918 flu pandemic but did have casualties from TB, Typhus, Malaria and cancer.*



*The first villager to die was Private Thomas Greenwood. As a boy he was quote "a leader in sports and pranks, fleet of foot, he has few equals in racing for his agility was surprising". He had been a regular, enlisting in 1900 and had served in India until 1908. As a reservist, he was called up at the outbreak of war, the 4<sup>th</sup> August 1914 as part of the British Expeditionary Force. The first engagement of the war between British and German troops was at the battle of Mons which started on 21 Aug. Thomas Greenwood died 3 days later after going to the aid of his Colonel. He was one of the first British soldiers to be killed during the war and is buried in Belgium*

*Thomas who lived at Goitside and then Midgley with his wife and three children, worked as the Steward at the Working Mens Club. He was 32 years old.*



*He's one of 6 on the Luddenden Working Mens Club Roll of Honour which is now in the Lord Nelson.*

*Although we are focusing on the 45 men who died in WW1 we must not forget the 18 who were added after WW2. Two of these were related to Thomas. His son George and his son in law, Jack Barker, were both killed in the second world war. George is named on the WW2 plaques behind our memorial.*



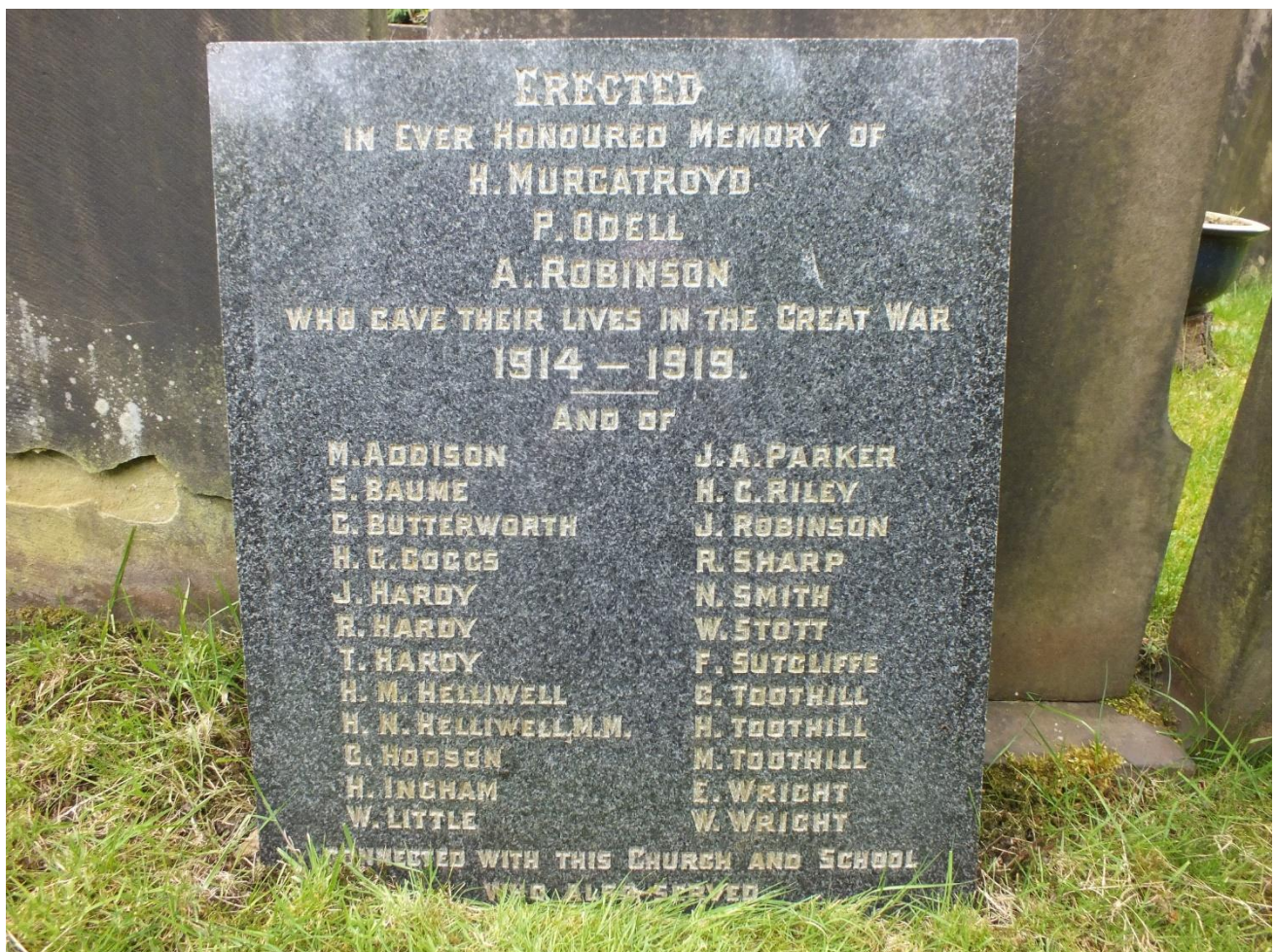








*For me, seeing on the TV three years ago the size of the Thiepval memorial where 72,194 soldiers are commemorated who have no known grave started bringing home to me the magnitude of the sacrifice that was being made.*



*Percy is one of 3 men commemorated on the Roll of Honour in the Ebenezer Chapel graveyard up Halifax Lane. He had been an active member of the Chapel Billiards team.*



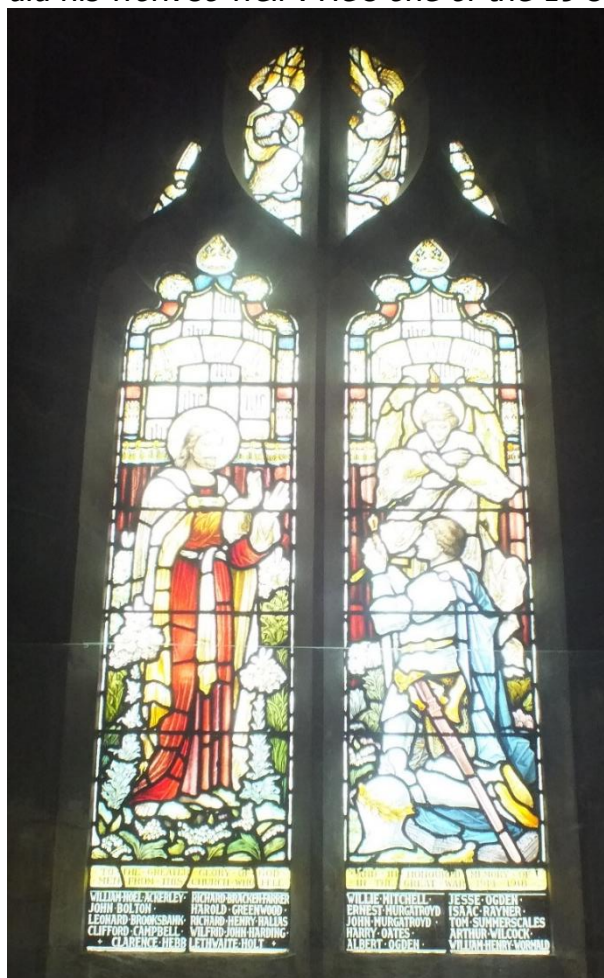
*As we were looking for relatives of the men, we found Mary Clough, now aged 100, who still lives off Luddenden Lane. Gunner John Joseph Corboy was her Uncle Jack and she went to France some years ago to visit his grave.*

*At his commemoration on 15 December 2016 she placed the poppy cross for us with prayers led by Fr Gott from the Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Mytholmroyd. John lived at Solomon Hill and like many of our men was a textile worker before enlisted into Royal Garrison Artillery in 1904 at 18. He was 27 when he made the supreme sacrifice and is also buried on the Somme. Two of his brothers, including Mary's father, thankfully, survived the war.*



*Lt Richard Bracken Farrer was one of two officers commemorated on the memorial. He was a Director at Jonathan Bracken & Sons Ltd, Dean paper Mills, as well as being a Barrister in London.*

*He joined the Leicestershire Regiment in 1914, after being in the Inns of Court OTC, and had been wounded in 1915. He married a 23 year old actress whilst on home leave in July 1915, lived at The Hollins and only returned to the front in May 1917. He died on 8 June 1917 aged 37 and is buried a few miles north of Arras. His OC said he "died gallantly leading men in face of heavy machine gun fire. He was always such a thorough man and did his work so well". He's one of the 19 soldiers named in the Church Window.*



*Our most decorated soldier to die was Captain Wilfred John Harding, the other officer. He was the Asst Curate here at St Mary's from 1912 to 1914 and is also commemorated on the Church Window. He was married to Annie Riley of Luddenden in May 1916, had been a*

*Private in the Royal Medical Corps but offered to go to the front as chaplain in May 1917. He died at Passchendaele on 31 October 1917 aged 31. He's one of the 34,887 men with no known grave commemorated on the Tyne Cot memorial in Belgium.*

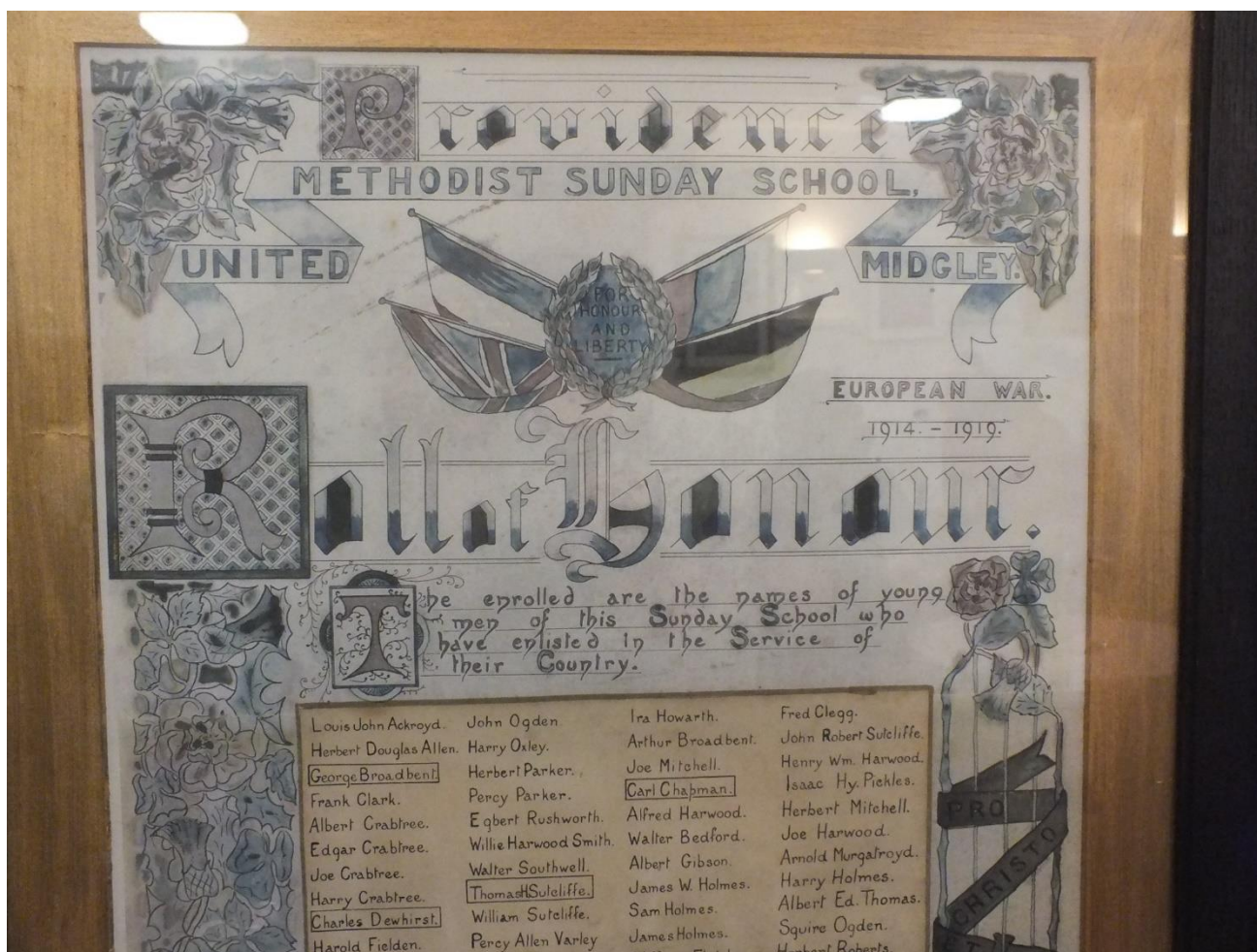


*A letter to his wife about his Military Cross reads '*

*Your husband insisted on going out into 'No Man's Land' with the stretcher-bearers in search of the wounded men under the most intense fire and in broad daylight...without cover of any kind, regardless of his own safety so long as he could be a comfort or of use to any of the wounded. Everyone was loud in his praises. ....No man could have done his duty more nobly than he has done since joining the battalion.....He was a great favourite among all ranks, always cheerful and self-denying under all conditions and his devotion to duty was an example to us all. No M.C. was ever more thoroughly earned."*

*Driver George Broadbent was born in Holmfirth but the family moved to Midgley when he was a small boy, He was a driver at Dawson's Quarry Trimmingham, before he volunteered in February 1916 in Royal Field Artillery. He was killed by a shell on 20 July 1918 – age 24 and is buried near Reims in France. A colleague wrote "George was a good lad, and his cheerful willing nature made him popular and loved by all of us; unselfish and always eager to do a kindness to anyone. The loss was painful to all of us and we feel as though we have lost a brother".*





*He is also one of 6 of our men remembered on the Providence (United Methodist) Chapel Roll of Honour (now in Midgley Community Room). 3 older brothers survived the war, and several members of the family joined us at the recent commemoration.*

*The Ackerley family were new to the village as the war broke out, coming from Liverpool, but lost both a father and a son. Private William Noel Ackerley was the eldest son and one of 8 siblings, the family lived at Providence Place. He worked at Jonathan Bracken & Sons Paper Mill before he enlisted in Liverpool in February 1918. He was posted to France in August 1918 and gave his life on 26 October 1918. The tragedy for him and his family is that two days after he died, his regiment was relieved from the front line and went on rest leave until after the war had ended. He was one of 13 soldiers from his regiment to die in this their final engagement of the war. He's buried in France and was commemorated just a fortnight ago at the cenotaph. Again we had family members present, including reuniting two parts of the family. He is another of the men commemorated in the Church Window.*

*So far, since 2014, we've commemorated 38 of the 45 men on the war memorial. Unfortunately, the Armistice did not bring the end to death, and more men died before the memorial was unveiled on 23 April 1923. We will be carrying on with the commemorations, with two more in December, 3 next year, one on 2020 and one in 2022.*





*The one in two years' time will be for William Noel Ackerley's father, William. He is the Oldest of our men, and died aged 48. He had served with the Royal Engineers and Labour Corps and saw his first action in France in September 1915. He was demobilised in June 1919 and after a long illness died of liver cancer on 15 July 1920 at home with his wife by his side. He is buried in the graveyard here in Luddenden.*



*The last of our 45 men to be remembered will be Harry (or Henry) Patrick. He lived at 7 Box House, his father was a joiner and cabinet maker. Harry had been a stone mason and enlisted in 1916 with Royal Garrison Artillery. He was discharged in 1917 after suffering paralysis down one side of his body, possibly caused by a stroke. He died in February 1922 from a brain Haemorrhage, aged 39. He is another of the men on the WMC Roll of Honour and is also included on the Roll Of Honour from St James Chapel which is now housed in the Mount Zion Chapel in Ogden.*



*In the graveyard here, there are a few war graves for men not named on our cenotaph such as the Ward brothers Patrick and Joseph. The brothers are buried in the same grave which is very unusual for a war grave. The family were living on Duke Street in 1911. Patrick contracted TB and died in February 1918 and Joseph died the following year, both are commemorated on the Luddendenfoot War memorial.*

*Also in the graveyard, there are more than 20 family graves which bear dedications to soldiers lost in both the wars even though these soldiers are buried abroad.*

*As a mark of respect, a wooden poppy cross has been placed on each of the graves that we have identified (both WW1 and WW2) and for those interested we can provide a guide to where to find them. [Note: see Annex A for the guide to the graves]*

*Before I finish, I'd like to give a word of thanks to the twenty or so volunteers who have helped to make this project happen, by researching the men and by helping with the commemorations.*

## **The centenary of the War Memorial**

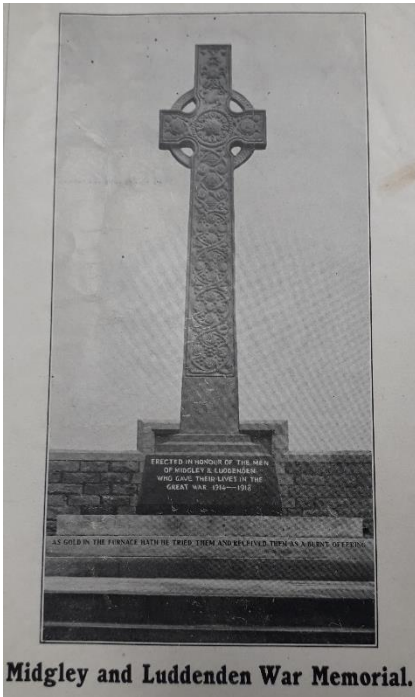
To mark the centenary of the unveiling of the War Memorial on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April 1923, as the final event of the project, we held a short ceremony after the 10am service in St Mary's Church on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

The service in the Church included two of the hymns sung at the unveiling: "O God our help in ages past" and "For all the saints who from their labours rest" and a talk by Phil Radford about the memorial and local Rolls of Honour. The existing Rolls of Honour were brought together for the event and displayed in the Church (*see Annex D for larger photos of the Rolls of Honour*). The text of the talk is as follows:



*Good Morning*

*Today, one hundred years and one day after the unveiling of the war memorial, I would like to tell you something about it's history.*



**Midgley and Luddenden War Memorial.**

*I would like to talk about the Rolls of Honour, some are on display at the back of the church so please take a few minutes to look at them. This is probably the first time they have been brought together.*



*These show the names of the men from Luddenden and Midgley who signed up to fight in the great war and they help us to imagine the huge impact that the war had on our small community.*

*This talk, the Service here today and the Ceremony at the Memorial that follows will conclude the Conservation Society's Commemoration project.*



*The Conservation Society have been commemorating the 45 soldiers, on the centenary of their death, inviting the descendants and village residents to attend a short ceremony at the cenotaph.*



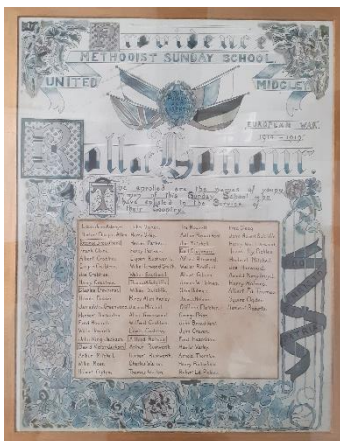
*The first one was held in August 2014 and the last soldier was remembered in February 2022.*



*I will briefly mention one of our fallen soldiers, John Bolton who lived at Buttress. He was killed on this day, the 30<sup>th</sup> April 1918.*

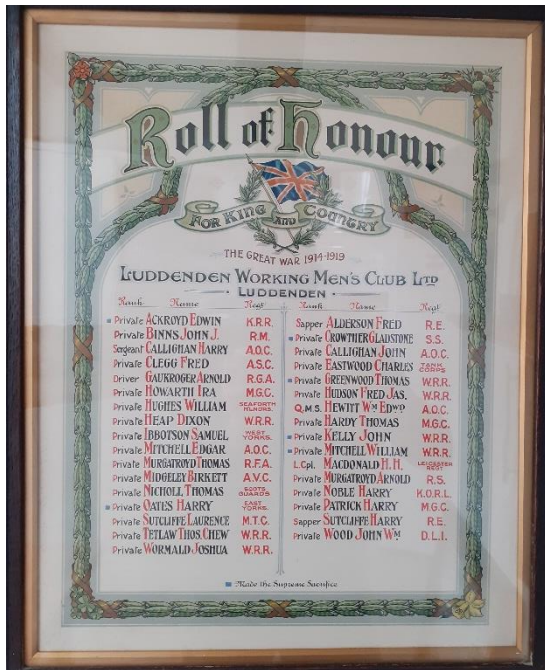


*But let's start today by talking about the Rolls of Honour. At the outbreak of war, and as an incentive to join up, many Rolls of honour were started by local churches, chapels, clubs and societies. These were handwritten lists, showing the names of the men in the order that they enrolled, like this one from Booth Congregational Church.*



*This one from the Providence Methodist Church in Midgley now hangs in the Midgley Community Room. It too is in date order, a black box has been added around the names of the fallen soldiers. This one is signed by Mary H Allen and has a border motif of shamrock, roses and thistles, perhaps I can see daffodils there as well.*





After the fighting had finished, many Rolls of honour were rewritten and embellished, like this one, now in the Lord Nelson Inn. Here, the names have been put in alphabetical order and the regiment's initials have been included to the right of each name.

On this one, a blue square was put against the names of the soldiers who lost their lives.

Harry Patrick who died in February 1922 is not marked down as one of the fallen on this list so we know that it was rewritten before that date.

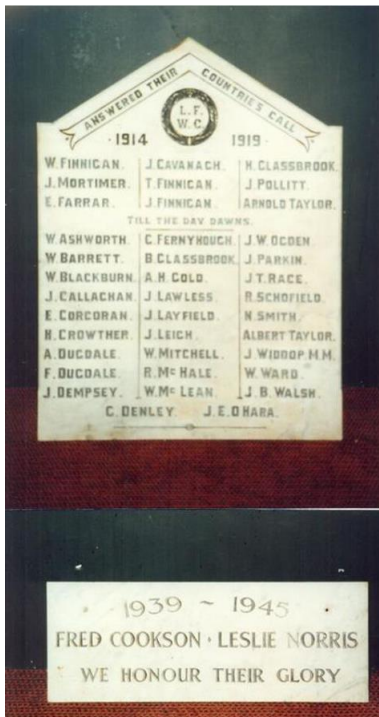
This too has the symbols for the four home nations at the corners, a Rose top left and going round clockwise, a thistle, a daffodil and shamrock

This Roll of Honour had been lost but in 2007, was found for sale ON E BAY.

It was bought for the village for £323 by the Conservation Society and Mayor's Fund.



And this one from Luddenden Dean Chapel was penned by the same person. This one has been lost and the photo from the Imperial War Museum's archive isn't great. This is in order of enrolment and has a small cross next to the names of the fallen.



*This memorial from Luddendenfoot Working Men's club has also been lost. This photo is also from the Imperial War Museum archive.*

*Here, you can see the fallen are listed separately at the top.*



*Similarly here. This is from the Ebenezer chapel on Halifax Lane. The engraved granite tile was originally mounted in a wooden frame that hung on the wall of the chapel. It resides in the chapel graveyard, which is now a private garden.*



*You can see some water damage on this one from St James' chapel on High Street. This is now in safekeeping at the Mount Zion Methodist Heritage Chapel at Ogden.*

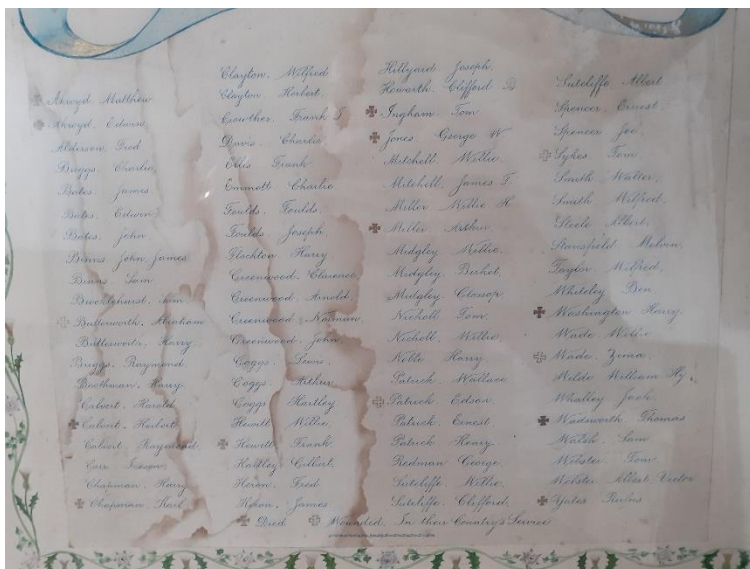




The designer has written 1914 to 19 leaving a space for the final two digits of the year when the war finally ended but for some reason didn't get round to it.



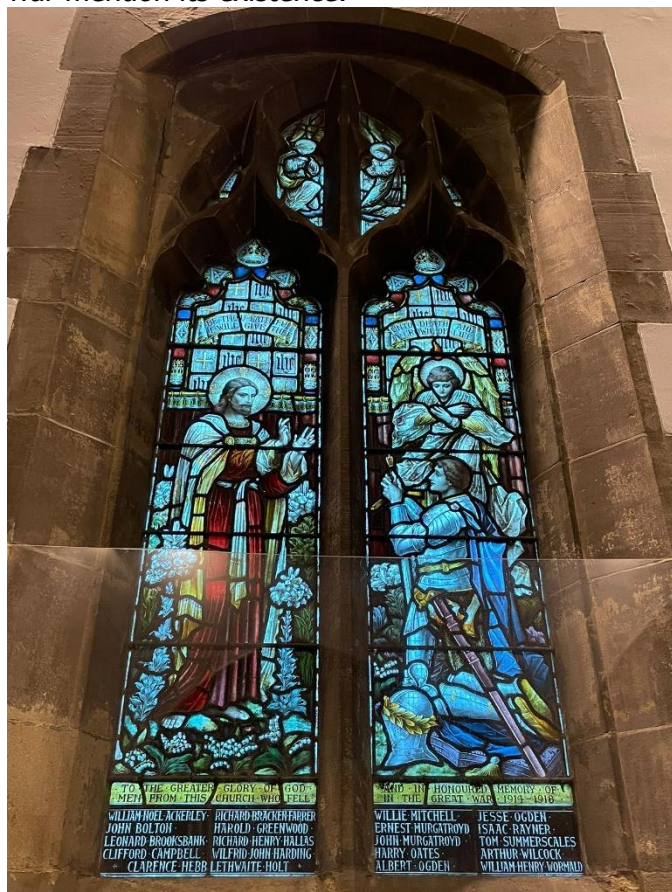
The original was started in 1916 the artist, A Greenwood has signed and dated it in the bottom right hand corner. The motif around the edge is again like roses, thistles and shamrock but I can't see any daffodils, perhaps because the colours have faded.



I think the original list was in order of enrolment but has been replaced by one in alphabetical order. It has been glued in place over the top of the original list. You can see the join line on this slide.

And a black cross indicates the soldiers who died and an outline of a cross indicates the ones who were wounded.

*And of course, we have the church window here in St Mary's Church which commemorates eighteen fallen soldiers. No roll of honour for the church can be found although some press releases from the war mention its existence.*



*So we have seven lists of names, how many soldiers have we got in total?  
You might be surprised, there are 317 men recorded on these Rolls of Honour.*

*The actual total would have been higher as not all soldiers names would have been recorded and some rolls of honour did not survive.*



ABSTRACT OF TOTALS OF THE FOREGOING PAGES.									
Page	Total	Deaths or Disappearances			Population	Males	Females	Total	Notes
		Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Building					
1	3				5	11	16		
2	25	1			21	40	56	77	
3	23	1			1	36	25	61	
4	23	1			1	26	23	49	
5	22				2	36	24	60	
6	23	5			18	40	49	89	
7	23	0			19	28	47	75	
8	24	2			1	40	60	100	
9	23	2			27	33	60	93	
10	24				23	40	63	103	
11	23	1			3	36	23	59	
12	21	1			3	23	43	66	
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We can use Census returns to estimate how many men would have been eligible to serve and this approach gives a figure approaching 400 men.

This is out of a population of approximately 1,500 people.  
And for Luddendenfoot, there would have been at least another 150 men.

Interestingly, there are 11 fallen soldiers listed on these Rolls of Honour whose names do not appear on our war memorial, nor do they appear on the Luddendenfoot memorial.



We have 6 war graves in the village Cemetery with only one named on our memorial.

Furthermore, there are 13 dedications to fallen soldiers on gravestones in this cemetery, and more still in the methodist cemeteries, the majority of which are not named on either memorial.



For example, Ernest Murgatroyd was christened here at St Mary's in 1893, at the time of his death in May 1915, the family were still living here. He is remembered on the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres. He is remembered on the gravestone of his parents, he's remembered on the church window behind me, but not on the War Memorial. One wonders why?

Well Some soldiers may have already been named on other war memorials, Luddendenfoot unveiled theirs in July 1921, Mytholmroyd, in July 1922.

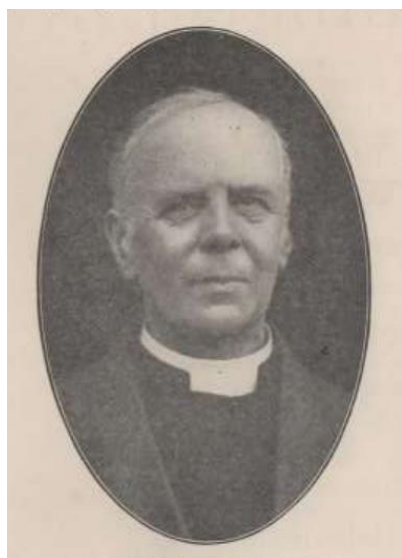
For others, their families might have moved to other towns, should they be included on our memorial or were they named on memorials in their new location.

Possibly some families may not have wanted to be reminded of their bereavement and chose not to have their loved ones remembered in this way.

*So when it was decided to install a war memorial, the committee had to draw up a list of names, it had to be inclusive, avoid duplication and not to offend or upset anyone. They had an impossible task. The 45 names on the memorial could potentially have been as many as 75.*

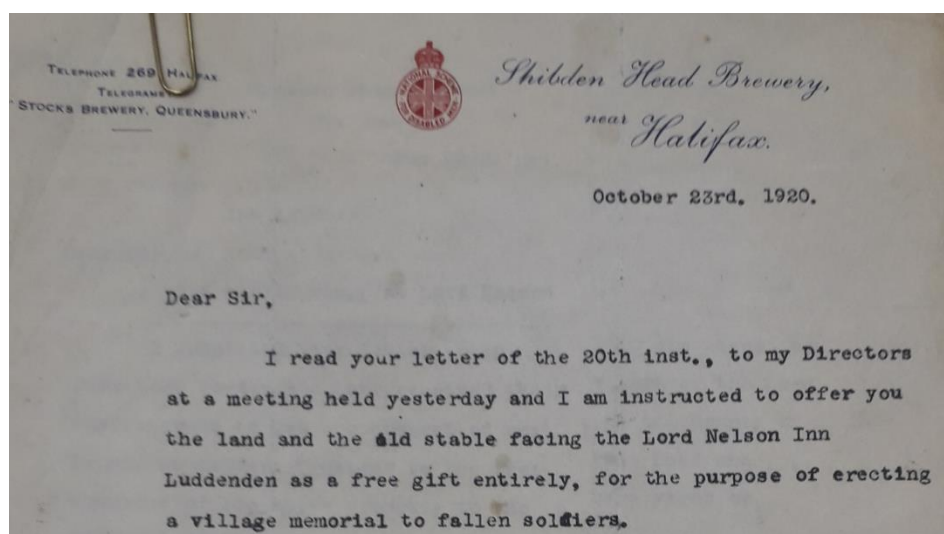
*Moving on to the memorial, the first problem, was to find a suitable plot of land.*

*Fortunately, I've been able to find correspondence in the Calderdale archive.*



*The Reverend Bartlam, who was the vicar at St Mary's at the time, entered into correspondence with the owners of the Lord Nelson inn, The Shibden Head Brewery Company.*

*They owned the plot of land opposite the pub including the old Smithy. The committee wondered if they could site the memorial here.*



*The letter from the brewery offers:*

*"the land and the old stable facing the Lord Nelson Inn, Luddenden as a free gift, entirely for the purpose of erecting a village memorial to fallen soldiers.*

*Next slide*

*We only ask that the road be considerably widened, as at this particular corner, it is very narrow and dangerous"*



They only ask that the road be considerably widened,  
as at this particular corner, it is very narrow and dangerous.  
The approach to the Church can be considerably improved at  
the same time. Of course the above is subject to the  
approval and consent of our Debenture Holders Trustees and  
we have reason to believe this will be willingly given.

Yours faithfully,

JOSEPH STOKES & CO., LTD.

*A. Parker*  
MANAGER

The Rev. W. E. Bartlam,  
The Vicarage,  
LUDDENDEN



DEMOLISHED 1922

BUILT ABOUT 1580

PAST — LUDDENDEN

PRESENT



LUDDENDEN & MIDGLEY WAR MEMORIAL

UNVEILED - APRIL 29 - 1923

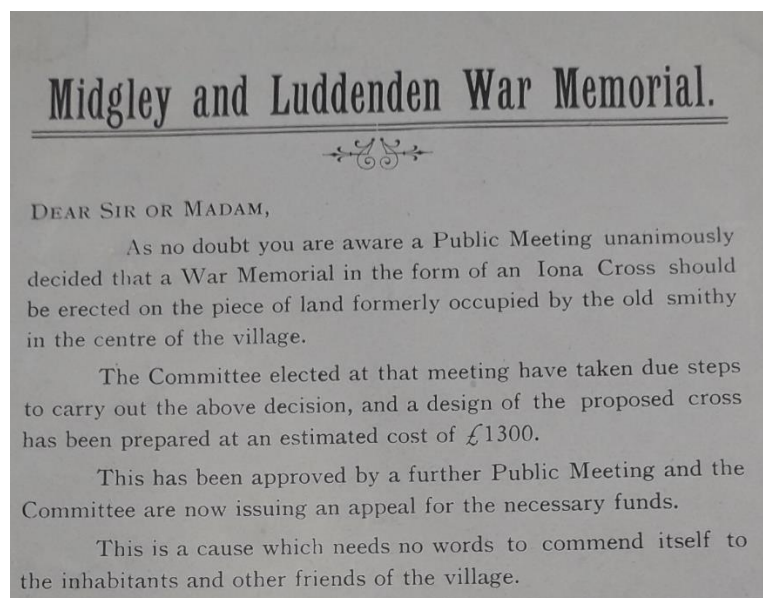
*And here IS that dangerous corner by the old Smithy on a postcard from the 20's and below is recently unveiled memorial still with all the wreathes from ceremony at the foot of the cross.*



*The Committee discussed and selected the form of the memorial,*

*And settled on the cross of Iona also known as a Celtic cross, an ancient Christian symbol.*

*Here, we have the flyer that was printed asking for donations. The estimated cost of the project was £1,300 to be raised by public subscription. This equates to about £75,000 in today's money.*





The Memorial will be a Permanent and Visible Expression of our Gratitude to the Men who laid down their Lives in the Cause of Freedom.

Any Contribution you may be able to make towards this worthy object may be sent or handed to any of the following members of the Committee :—

Mr. H. THOMAS, Booth.  
Miss EASTWOOD, Lane Ends, Midgley.  
Mrs. SCHOFIELD, Scotland, Midgley.  
Mrs. WHITELEY, Scotland, Midgley.  
Coun. T. N. HELLIWELL, Laurel Bank, Luddenden.  
Coun. A. SMITH, High Street, Luddenden.  
Mr. P. WORMALD, Thorn View, Luddenden.  
Mr. G. PATRICK, Dene Cottage, Booth.  
Mr. J. P. FARRAR, Mill House, Midgley.  
Mr. H. C. RILEY, Thorn View, Luddenden.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,

Yours faithfully,

HERBERT THOMAS, *Chairman.*  
HENRY C. RILEY, *Secretary.*

*At the bottom of the flyer we see the names of the members of the committee. At least four of them had lost family in the war. On the right is a photo of Patchett Wormald, a committee member, a church warden and the brother of William Henry Wormald who died in July 1918 and is buried near Rouen in France*



*The memorial was unveiled by Lt Col Sir Edward Whitley, a local man and a Senior Officer in the Royal Field Artillery.*

## Brigadier-Genl. Whitley

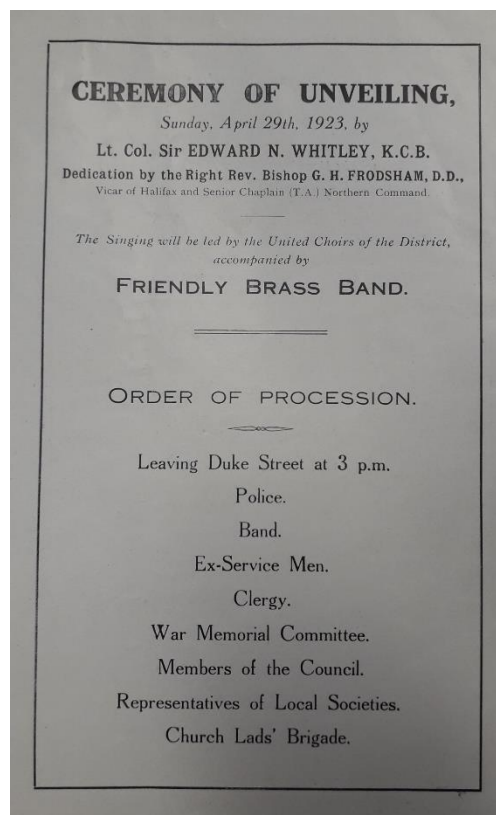
### AGAIN MENTIONED IN DISPATCHES.

#### Local War News of the Week.

Lt.-Col. (temporary Brigadier General) E. N. Whitley, O.M.G., is among the local officers mentioned by Sir Douglas Haig in his dispatch this week. This is the third time during the war that he has been honoured by mention, and on June, 1916, he received the decoration of Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. He joined the 2nd West Yorkshire Volunteer Artillery as second lieutenant, in 1886, and in 1903, when the Territorials were brought into being, he was advanced to Major. It was in that capacity that he went out with the 2nd West Yorkshire Brigade of the Territorial Artillery to France. He possesses the distinction of being the first divisional commander of the Royal Artillery to be chosen from the Territorial forces. Brigadier-General Whitley is a son of the late Mr. N. Whitley, and a partner in the local firm of Messrs. Hirst, Whitley and Akeroyd, solicitors. He attained his 44th birthday on the 3rd of this month. Halifax people are proud, and deservedly so, of the honour which he has brought on his native town.

*This a press release reporting that General Haig had mentioned him in dispatches for the third time, here he has a temporary promotion to Brigadier General. So he was obviously a very Senior and important Officer.*

*After the war he returned to his profession of Solicitor and eventually became a Director at The Halifax Building Society.*



*On the day of the unveiling, the committee planned a procession leaving Duke Street at 3pm. It was led by the Friendly Brass Band followed by Ex Service men, Clergy from the various churches and chapels, the War Memorial Committee, local councillors and representatives from local societies. The procession walked down New Road onto High Street and on then to the Memorial where Sir Edward Whitley was invited to unveil it. And Bishop Frodsham on the right who was a military chaplain during the war and a local clergyman was asked to dedicated the memorial*







*Here's the crowd gathered around the memorial*

*You can just about see Edward Whitely in this close up as he pulls at the Union Flag to unveil the memorial.*





*I hadn't seen this photo before, it was only given to me by one of the soldier's relatives this week. It shows the rest of the crowd watching the ceremony.*

*I'm sure it was a very emotional day for all the people involved.*

*A lot of the men we are remembering today had only lived in the village for a short time, they and their families came to the area to work in the textile mills, many of the families moved to new towns after the war.*



*But their deaths have woven these soldiers names into the fabric of our village for ever.*



*Today we still have a few local families who come to the remembrance ceremonies. But the area has lots of new residents like me from all over the country.*

*Our War memorial gives them, gives me the opportunity to remember the people from our own families who died serving their country.*

*Of the other soldiers who are buried in the village cemetery and the ones named on headstones, most have now been researched and their stories can be told on another day.*

*I hope that you all can join us for the short ceremony at the memorial that follows this service. Thank you.*

The event then moved to the war memorial itself, where (to be completed)