

Luddenden WW1 Project ("The Hero from our House") – November 2015

What have we achieved so far?

- Collected base information on all 45 men from the Roll of Honour website, the Calderdale Book of the War Dead and from the internet (census information, Halifax Courier announcements, service records)
- Run exhibitions in St Mary's Church (Remembrance Sunday) and at Mayor Making
- Publicised the project in the Halifax Courier, Hebden Bridge Times and Valley Life magazine
- Made contact with relatives of eight of the men
- Found addresses for nearly all the 45 men and delivered a personal letter and poppy seeds to current residents of the 1911 addresses
- Held a commemoration for Thomas Greenwood on 24 August 2014
- Held a commemoration for Cyril Wormald Thomas (aged 18) on 21 September 2015
- Planted poppy crosses in the rockery by the War Memorial for Thomas Greenwood, Remembrance Sunday 2014 and Cyril Wormald Thomas
- Attended a conference at Halifax Bankfield Museum
- Tried a number of genealogical websites to test their usefulness
- Interviewed three of the relatives and obtained their memorabilia
- Discussed the project with the School Council at Luddenden CE School
- Hosted a talk by Mike Crawford entitled "Attitudes in Calderdale at the beginning of the First World War" (May 2015)
- Hosted a talk by Adam on Richard Bracken Farrar (who died on 8 June 1917), prior to the Luddenden Conservation Society AGM (September 2015)
- Visited the Duke of Wellington's Regiment Museum to identify what is available for the 10 men from the regiment
- Treated the replacement poppy crosses with preservative and varnish, so that they last through to 2018
- Spent approx. £400 (from a grant from the Calderdale Community Foundation) to cover poppy seeds, subscription to Ancestry.com, poppy crosses, reference books and stationery

What are the next key dates?

- Sunday 8 November – Remembrance Sunday
- Tuesday 24 November – Richard Henry Hallas commemoration
- Thursday 16 June 2016 – James C Morris Breeze commemoration
- Saturday 2 July 2016 – Percy Odell commemoration
- Thursday 15 September 2016 – Edwin Ackroyd commemoration
- Thursday 15 December 2016 – John Joseph Corboy commemoration

What do we plan to do next?

- Follow up the letters with personal visits to residents to encourage participation
- Interview the other known relatives – showing them the information we've already gathered
- Organise a visit for Mary Clough to the memorial to her uncle John Joseph Corboy
- Try to find other relatives through ancestry.co.uk
- Try to find out more about the 45 men
- Structure a publication (possibly similar to the Clifton book)