**Hyde Hall – Memorial event**

**Moviola 16 November 2018**

**Introduction**

We have chosen the film tonight to be in keeping with the recent events all over the country to mark the 100th anniversary of the Armistice which ended the WW1, and instead of the usual trailers and short film we have put together a programme of our own to commemorate this event.

In a minute I will tell you some background about the hall itself, and then we will tell you a little about those residents from this parish who gave their lives in the first world war and are recorded on the Roll of Honour in the inner lobby.

The predecessor to this lovely hall actually came into being after the First World War. It was a corrugated iron and timber structure – known as “the Hut” which was retrieved from Tidworth Army Camp in 1920. It was brought here on a horse drawn Foresters Waggon by local villagers – including Mr Sevier & Mr Deacon from Blissford. It was erected just across the crossroads on land leased from the Ringwood Cooperative Society at a rent of £1 per annum.

In 1938 a trust was set up to run the hall, and a deed was recorded with the Charity Commission naming the hall as “The Hyde War Memorial Parish Hall”. The trust went on to say that it was to be “a non-sectarian and non-political place of recreation and social intercourse for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Hyde and the surrounding district”. With adaptions, the hall is managed using that trust deed today.

The decades took their toll on the original hall, which was already “second hand” when it arrived here. An abortive attempt was made to replace it in the 1960s, and some 20 years later the site we are on today was purchased and this hall was built. Significant contributions were made by Hampshire County Council, the NFDC, and other bodies, but 25% of the cost – some £35,000 was raised by local villagers. This was through an intensive fund-raising programme, led by General Billy Barton in whose honour the Barton Room is named. This fund raising included the Frogham Fair which is still a vital means of support for the hall today.

On Remembrance Sunday 1987 – 31 years ago the new hall was dedicated in an ecumenical service as a Memorial to those residents of the parish who gave their lives in the First or Second World Wars.

Each year on November 11th we lay a wreath by the list of names of those who are remembered on the boards in the entrance lobby. But today, - given the centenary of the Armistice we are going to focus on those who gave their lives in the First World War, and let you know some background to the names that have stood there for so long.

There are 17 of them in all – some of them brothers. 12 were killed in action, 4 died of wounds received in action and one was drowned.

Here are their stories:

Hyde War Memorial Hall, Great War 1914-18 Roll of Honour.

**Private Francis Sydney Keith BARTLETT** was born in the cottage called Bartlett's on Frogham Hill. He emigrated to Australia and returned as part of the Australian Infantry. He fought in France and died aged 22 on 4th October 1917 near Ypres during the Battle for Passchendaele. He is listed on the Menin Gate as a man lost without trace.

**Private Clifford Charles COMPTON** was born on Abbotswell Road in a cottage opposite the Witt family. His father 'Tom' moved the family to Winchester to work as a domestic gardener. During the war Clifford was in the Royal Irish Lancers in France. He died aged 20 on 25th May 1915. The Lancers were part of the second Cavalry Division in action at the Second Battle of Ypres. He is remembered on the Menin Gate which lists the men lost without trace. His nephew Maurice Butcher lived next door to the new Memorial Hall where Deerlands is now and was very active in supporting our Memorial Hall throughout his life time.

**Stoker 2nd Class Thomas Edwin DEAR** was born at the old farmhouse, since demolished, on the gravel track down from Abbotswell corner. He died from acute pneumonia on 18th December 1915, his 20th birthday and just 4 weeks into his training, based at 'HMS Victory'. He is buried at Hyde Church and his brother Reginald 'Reg' was a trustee of this Hall until his death.

**Private Sidney Walter DOWNER's** family lived in a cottage near the old vicarage (Now Hyde House). His father worked at the gunpowder factory at Fritham. Sidney was in the Welsh Regiment which fought at Gallipoli and then in Palestine. He died aged 23 on 26th March 1917 and is listed on the Jerusalem Memorial for the 3,000 men of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force with no known grave.

 **Colour Sergeant Major Walter John HAYWARD (MM)** was born at Green Farm on Gorley Green where the Hayward family still live. He was working on the farm before joining the Rifle Brigade before the war. He died on 26th August 1916 aged 31 and is buried in Heilly Station Cemetery, which was a casualty clearing station behind the Somme lines in France. When he came home on leave during the war he told the family that *'he was given the opportunity to return to England to be a trainer'* but he refused as he did not want *to 'leave his men'* and then said *'he would not be coming back'*

**Private William 'Willie' INGS** was born in a cob cottage in the Forest between Blissford and Pittswood which is no longer there. It is recorded that both his parents were also born in Blissford. The family moved to Poole before the war. He was in the 2nd Battalion Devonshire Regiment and died on 21st August 1917 aged 22. The Devonshire Regiment was part of the battle for Passchendaele which coincided with the heaviest rains for 30 years turning the battlefield into a quagmire and drowning men and horses. He is memorialised on the Tyne Cot memorial which records 35,000 whose graves are unknown.

 **Boy 1st Class Charles Albert JUPE** was born in Southampton in 1897 and his mother's maiden name was Gouge and when he enlisted he was living with his Gouge grandparents in a cottage on Hyde Common which may have been 'Forest Cottage' or 'Winnie's Cottage'. He died in the Mediterranean on 25th May 1915 aged 17. HMS 'Triumph' was in support of the fighting at Gallipoli and was torpedoed by the German submarine 'U21' He was one of 75 men who died; his body was not recovered and his name is on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial.

 **Private Percy LOCKYER** was born on Frogham Hill in the cottage now called Heathfield. In the 1911 census he was 12 years old and still at school. He was in the Warwickshire Regiment and died in France aged 19 on 5th April 1918. He died during the German Spring Offensive and is buried in St Sever Cemetery near Rouen which was used by the hospitals behind the front line.

**Captain Frederick Edward LONG (MC)** was born in Windsor (Berks) and was a captain in the 11th Battalion Kings Regiment. His family lived in Norfolk and his mother moved to Hyde to 'Moorlands' (the first house on the right as you go down Hern Lane). He died on 24th August 1917 aged 25 during the 1917 Allied advance. He is buried at Huts Cemetery in Belgium next to a field ambulance position.

***The 2 Morgan brothers*** listed were born in Hungerford at the cottage now called 'Greenways' and they were Colin Morgan's uncles.

 **Corporal Francis George MORGAN** emigrated to Australia and returned as part of their infantry. He died 19th October 1917 aged 27 during the battle for Passchendaele. He has a grave and it is at Menin Road South Military Cemetery.

 **Private Sidney Thomas MORGAN** the younger brother of Francis was in the Lincolnshire Regiment, He was 20 years old when he died on 19th September 1918. The Lincolns were part of the 17th Division that successfully stormed the heavily fortified Hindenburg Line in September 1918. He has no known grave and is listed on the Vis-En-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais.

**Private Herbert NOBLE** was working as a bricklayer and was living with his wife and 2 daughters in one of the Fernside Cottages at Hyde. He was in the Devonshire Regiment and was on the transport ship 'Arcadian' on his way to Egypt when it was torpedoed in the Mediterranean and his name is with the other sailors, men and nurses whose 'grave is the sea' on the Mikra Memorial, Greece.

***Three of four Witt brothers*** were lost in 3 months and are listed by date of death. They were all born in the 'old cottage' in the garden of Windy Ridge on Abbotswell Road where their nephew still lives.

 **Private Reginald WITT** of the Hampshire Regiment died aged 34 on 8th August 1916 on the Somme and is buried in Essex Farm Cemetery near a 'dressing station'.

 **Private Herbert WITT** of the Hampshire Regiment died on 6th September 1916 on the Somme and has no know grave and is listed on the Theipval Memorial.

 **Private Robert William WITT** of the Hampshire Regiment died aged 36 on 28th October 1916 on the Somme and is buried in Grove Town Cemetery at casualty clearing station.

 **Private Alfred WITT** emigrated to Canada and returned in the Canadian Mounted Rifles and died aged 32 in France and is buried in the Canadian part of the Aubigny Cemetery Extension,

***At the end of the war – their mother Sarah was sent their medals but she sent them back.***

 **Private Edward John WORT** was was raised by his Wort grandparents in Blissford and then later in Stuckton. He was in the Gloucestershire Regiment and was another one to die in the 3rd Battle of Ypres also known as the Battle for Passchendaele. He was 21 and died on 16th August 1917 and he is buried in Tyne Cot Cemetery.

**Acknowledgement:**

Thanks to Ann Sevier , Chair of the Fordingbridge World War Commemoration Committee, for sharing her research.