

ISSUE 20 - July 2026

LAST POST

Newsletter of the Leicester City, County & Rutland At Risk War Memorials Project

TESTED BY BOMB AND FLAME

LEICESTER VERSUS LUFTWAFFE AIR RAIDS 1939-1945

AUSTIN J. RUDDY



IN ASSOCIATION WITH

Leicester  Mercury





The Leicester City, County & Rutland At Risk War Memorials Project welcomes any information which can help or promote their work. If you have any details of any War Memorial you feel is at risk, or can help in any way, please contact us on:



Or contact the project's directors:

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**The Chancel,
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Highcross Street, LEICESTER
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Welcome

Welcome to the 20th issue of **LAST POST**. Fund raising: A huge thank you to all those generous people who gave to our appeal by Crowd Funding, cheques and bank transfer. This has truly transformed our finances in the short term and we are extremely grateful. I attempted to write personally to each donor, but if I missed you, please accept my apologies



NLHF bid application. We give a particularly warm welcome to Lucy Godfrey, a well recommended professional NLHF bid writer, with whom we have a contract to help us with our bid. Lucy understands the requirements of NLHF with their different emphases. The additional income has also meant that we have sufficient funds in the bank to pay rent for our prolonged stay at All Saints.

On the back page are a few epitaphs which I find particularly moving.

We have a splendidly wide selection of topics for you to peruse. **ENJOY!**

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Denis Kenyon
Project co-founder

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COVER IMAGE:

Courtesy of Austin J. Ruddy. A rare photograph showing personnel of Leicester's Bond Street ARP Mobile First Aid Unit (MFAU).

NEWS

Royal British Legion, Thurmaston Branch Saturday 16th May



We have established an excellent working relationship with this Branch, having supported two events and been the key-note speaker at the RBL County AGM. We are developing plans for a pilot scheme of joint research on some unusual memorials in their possession.

Open Day Saturday 14th March



We were honoured with a formal visit from Deputy Lieutenant Robert Nixon, CBE, QPM, representing the Lord Lieutenant. Mr Nixon stayed a nice long time and showed great interest in our work.

We also had the pleasure of a most interesting talk, given by Peter Kilty about Sir Fabian Ware, the visionary founder of the Imperial War Graves Commission.

A Real Honour, Wednesday 13th May

At Windsor Castle, **Founder Director Denis Kenyon** was invested with the MBE by **HRH The Prince of Wales**. DSK says: *"Seeing that I was not too mobile, he very kindly stepped forward off his red carpet to meet me. Everyone associated with the At Risk War Memorials Project, can take pride in this, because it was for "Services to War Commemoration" and what has been achieved has been by the joint effort of our Group."*



Heritage Hub, Saturday 21st March, Leicester University

In addition to several new subscribers to our newsletter, much useful work was done in strengthening contact with key departments at the University, who are willing to support our NLHF bid and we in return offering hands-on experience to students in the School of Heritage & Culture and Dept. of Museum Studies.

Gift of a Library

Many of you will know Michael Doyle, who with his father created the Leicestershire & Rutland War Memorials website, detailing all the men on all the memorials in the two counties, and produced the well-known five-volume reference book, *Their Names Liveth for Evermore*.

Michael has generously given us his magnificent military reference library of about 600 books. Regimental histories; Divisional and Battalion War Diaries; battle histories; WD Medical reference books; Naval and Air books and many others beside.



Open Day, Saturday 23rd March

On a hot sunny day, Denis Kenyon talked about *"Hallaton Men in the Second Boer War"* an amazing 27 men from a village of under 600 souls. New contacts were made, in particular **Albina Avizen** who offered to promote our Facebook page with one post a week.

Botanic Garden News

A move to Beaumont House on Stoughton Drive South is still very much on the cards. There are a lot of things for the University to consider about its large and sprawling estate. In the end this long consideration may work to our advantage. I think we will be in All Saints until the end of the year.

Open Days

25th July	11:00am - 3:30pm
14th November	11:00am - 3:30pm-

Heritage Open Days

12th September	10:00am - 6:00pm
13th September	11:00am - 3:30pm

Festival of Archaeology Special event - All Saint's Church

25 th July 12:00pm - 12:30pm	Robin Jenkins	<i>"Three before Breakfast": the loss of the armoured cruisers HMS Aboukir, Hogue and Cressy on September 22nd 1914.</i>
25 th July 2:00pm - 2:30pm	Robin Jenkins	Seaman Walter Waudby and his shipmates of the cruiser squadron.

Western Front Association Meeting

21 st September	Major (Rt'd) Phil Watson	Le Cateau: A Reappraisal
19 th October	Mark Gamble	Argentina and The Great War
16 th November	David Humberston	Crowns in Conflict - Queen Victoria, European Royalty and the Tragedy of World War One, 1817-1918
21 st December	David Humberston	On Sticky Wickets - The Life of Hon. Lionel Hallam Tennyson

Council Chamber, Braunstone Town Council, Braunstone Civic Centre, Kingsway,
Braunstone Town, LEICESTER, LE3 2PP

Vertigo Creative and the New Carillion War Memorial Museum

Debbie Taylor recounts the roller-coaster ride that the Carillion War Memorial volunteer team has experienced.

During a major refurbishment of the Carillion War Memorial in Loughborough, the volunteer team had to empty the museum rooms and all the objects went into storage. We saw an opportunity to replace the cabinets on the first and second floors and applied for a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) towards the cost.

This first application failed but two members of the NLHF visited us to explain why we had failed; they encouraged us to make a second application and suggested changes to meet the criteria.

Remembering the time and energy we had spent on the first application and with most of the detail in place we employed a professional, paid for by Museum Development, to complete the application. It was during this time that Charnwood

Borough Council (CBC) received a grant from the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) to support a number of projects in the borough, and we were one of those projects. The original plan was to use the money as matched funding but when the figure of £250,000 was quoted it was apparent that we didn't need the NLHF and our second application was terminated.

Vertigo Creative, a Leicester based company with specialist experience in museum interiors, was commissioned to design and



Above: **German Pickelhauber helmet from the Carillion War Memorial Museum Collection.**

project manage the refurbishment of all three floors of the museum. They showed us their ideas at a presentation held in the Town Hall, which we all attended. We were then tasked to come up with the significant stories and objects from our collection.



Left: **The Carillion War Memorial Museum, Loughborough. Photograph by Lewis Holt.**

Early Setbacks

Unfortunately, during this initial phase, we encountered problems with planning and then building regulations, which meant we could no longer allow the public to access the first and second floors and the viewing balcony.

We had to significantly curtail our plans and re-think the museum as a space on the ground floor only. It is about 20 x 20 feet; not a great deal of room to move. But, not to be discouraged, Vertigo created a new plan and the money from SPF was reduced accordingly.

A New Modern Look

We put together a small and enthusiastic team of volunteers whose skills combined military and local history expertise, research, storytelling, writing and design.

There was much discussion about the form the new museum should take. After a visit to Ashby Museum, an earlier Vertigo project, we saw the advantages of 'telling a story', rather than just displaying cases full of objects. We agreed that our theme would be The Human Cost, showing how the carnage of World War One affected local men, their families and the Loughborough community. Weaponry, medals and uniforms would still be included, but there would be as much emphasis on the personal stories of the men of all ages, services and social backgrounds who gave their lives and are commemorated on the Carillon.

At a series of weekly meetings in Loughborough Library, starting in the autumn of 2024, we refined our themes, and selected the best ways to illustrate The Human Cost.

Vertigo in the meantime had given us a template to work with. Making the most of the limited space, the walls were to be lined with a series of large display panels which would include text, photographs and Perspex display cases for small objects. A set of medal drawers was custom designed for one corner, and a small retail/reception area for another. Using the considerable ceiling height, plinths holding life-sized mannequins in uniform could be incorporated, and semi-translucent hanging banners and a lighting rig suspended. The centrepiece was to be a display cabinet approximately ten feet high.

We had many photographs we wanted to



Left: **Songster the horse memorial cross**. Right: **Photographic portraits enhanced by the team at Vertigo**. Top: **Photograph of the Vertigo designers with the Carillion Memorial Volunteers**.

feature, but being very small and over 100 years old, they were not of great quality. Vertigo however used some ingenious technology to bring these images back to life in startlingly sharp focus.

Over a period of about nine months the volunteers worked closely with Vertigo to create the new museum. This was quite literally a ground-up exercise, starting with the removal of old carpet to reveal the original stone floor, which was cleaned and refurbished, and the walls repainted. It was very satisfying to see the museum take shape as the display panels were installed, the big central cabinet put in place and filled with

objects ranging from machine guns and grenades to items of trench art and identity discs, with a mannequin in German uniform standing guard over it all. This mannequin caused quite a few problems. Not only was it incredibly difficult to assemble his webbing, but during one rather hilarious session we had to saw off his feet to fit the authentic leather knee high boots!

We volunteers all felt that putting our museum together was a labour of love, and the Vertigo team was unfailingly helpful and patient, and a great pleasure to work with. The small space has been transformed into an engaging and fascinating record of the Loughborough men and women who experienced the impact of World War One.

We finally re-opened in August 2025, with a launch ceremony attended by Loughborough's Lord Mayor David Northage. Our first season, short though it was, attracted large numbers of very enthusiastic and interested visitors of all ages. The Carillon War Memorial Museum opened for 2026 at Easter.

Killed By Enemy Action...?

Forgotten Casualties of the Leicester Blitz.

By Austin J. Ruddy

Post-war, the story of Leicester's Second World War air raids was largely overlooked, if not ignored, for 70 years. True, Leicester suffered a tenth of Coventry's air raid fatalities and a twentieth of Birmingham's. Nevertheless, that does not diminish the suffering caused: around 120 Leicester residents were killed by Luftwaffe attacks on the city in 1940-41. Compared to other cities, no formal memorial stands to mourn their loss. Whilst researching my book *Tested By Bomb And Flame: Leicester Versus Luftwaffe Air Raids 1939-1945*, it soon became clear their story deserved to be told. Perhaps even more so, I discovered that at least a further 27 Leicester citizens had died whilst serving in the city's Air Raid Precautions (ARP), later termed Civil Defence services, during the course of their duties protecting their fellow citizens.

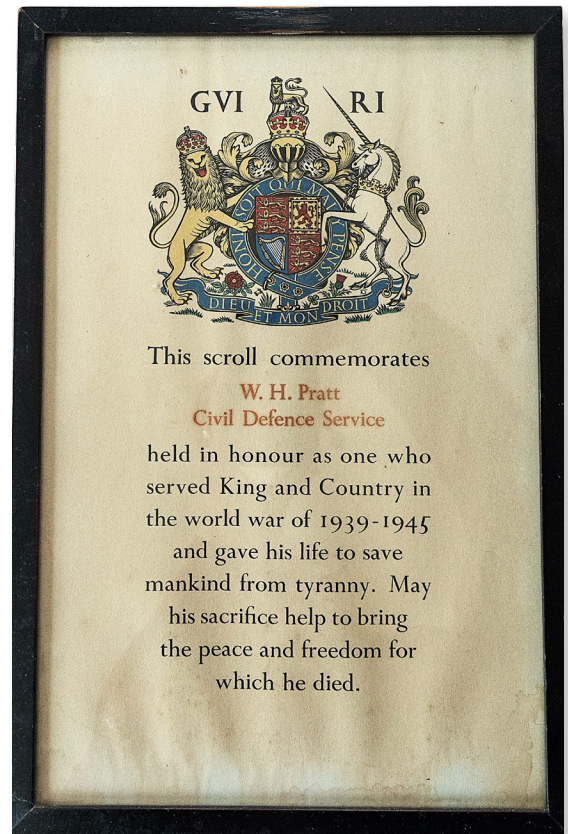
Leicester's main Blitz Night occurred on 19th November 1940. But before a single bomb had even fallen, the city's ARP services suffered its first fatality of the night. In the black-out, ARP warden George Ainsworth, 56, of MacDonald Road, collided with a van at the corner of Belgrave Road and Law Street, after seeing his wife safely across the road.

Shortly after, at 7.40pm, the first incendiary bombs started to fall on the city centre, turning the landmark Freeman, Hardy and Willis warehouse on the corner of Humberstone Gate and Rutland Street, into a blazing inferno. There was one fatality. Post-war histories simply mention an un-named 'nightwatchman', however, he deserves naming, as he was a very brave man. Fred Coe, 59, of Rendell Street, was the head caretaker and fire watcher that night. Although he had just evacuated the building, he re-entered to assist firemen dealing with fires on the roof. His 'badly burned and unrecognisable' body was recovered from under a great pile of debris, nine months later.

At 8.14pm, two bombs fell on Holmfield Avenue, Stoneygate. Whilst rushing to his post, Warden Bernard Alderson, 33, of Aber

Road, was sandwiched between the two explosions as he crossed the road, taking the full blast and a bomb splinter. He died the next day, a large puddle on the pavement, stained red with blood, remaining.

Two hours later, a large parachute mine fell on Grove Road, Highfields, killing four and injuring 14. Warden William Pratt, 65, of Sherrard Road, was killed patrolling this sector. His body was not recovered for 13 days under the rubble. Amongst his ARP kit, a lucky charm was found. A pair of elegant painted wooden candlesticks in his memory were donated by his fellow wardens to St Saviour's Church. One candlestick now resides at St John The Baptist Church at Cold Overton, the other is in the safe-keeping of the At Risk Memorials Project at All Saints.



Top right: The official commemorative service scroll of ARP Warden William Pratt, who was killed by a parachute mine on Grove Road, Leicester, on 19th November 1940. Such Second World War scrolls are far rarer compared to those of the First World War, as relatives had to apply for them. Courtesy Andrew Dally. Bottom left: A fine pair of painted memorial oak candlesticks were made in Warden Pratt's memory. Fortunately, they have survived, despite the desecration of St Saviour's Church. Bottom right: A small memorial stone to Warden Pratt remains in Leicester's Welford Road Cemetery. Private memorials mentioning ARP wardens are rare.

Forgotten Casualties of the Leicester Blitz



Below: Detective Sergeant Norman's funeral service was held at St Hilda's Church, Melbourne Road, Leicester. Six CID colleagues carried his coffin.

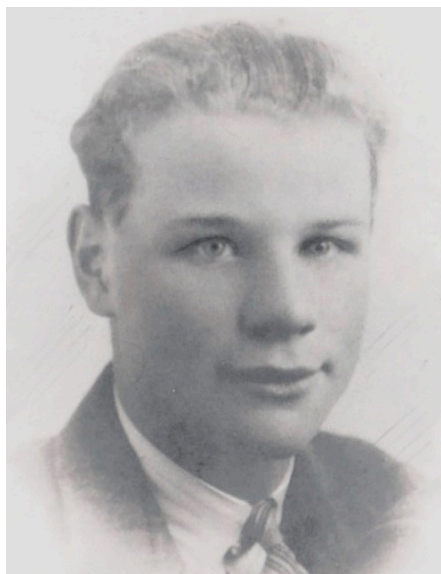
The most infamous incident of the night occurred at 10.40pm, at the epicentre of the raid. Detective Sergeant Leonard Norman, 34, of Upper Kent Street and Detective Constables Brian Hawkes, 26, of Mickleton Drive and Edwin Trump, 26, of Copeland Road, Birstall, were manning an incident post at the junction of Sparkenhoe Street and Saxby Street, Highfields, when a bomb exploded on the crossroads. Several ARP staff were awarded for their bravery here, but sadly, all three police officers were killed.

However, tragic though these air raid casualties were, research reveals that the vast majority of Leicester's ARP fatalities were not actually caused by enemy action, but through non-raid-related service accidents. Using various sources, I have found at least 21 occurrences.

The largest amount occurred amongst ARP fire watchers. Wartime legislation decreed that adults had to perform overnight fire protection duties on their street or workplace. On 11th January 1941, during his first night fire-watching at ventilating engineers Dallow, Lambert & Co. Ltd, Spalding Street, Home

Guard Fred Hanley, 21, of Cambridge Street, accidentally died when the gas supply to a cooker was switched on in a neighbouring premise – the taps on the stove had been left on.

His colleague, William Siddel, 22, narrowly survived. Fire watcher William Lonslow, 53, of Carlton Street, was also fatally gassed on 1st June, 1941, at Messrs Burton's store,



Gallowtree Gate, as was William Booth, 48, of Eaton Street, in a firewatchers' hut, at Messrs Fergussons builders' yard, Campbell Street, in February 1944. So too was Warden Harry Booth, 28, of Coventry Street, at his wardens' post in Leamington Street on 4th October 1942.

More macabre fates befell others. On 3 April 1944, whilst firewatching at Messrs A. Kirkland & Co's Works, on Western Road, Ernest Bown, 70, knocked over an electric fire whilst dozing in a chair and suffered burns from which he never recovered, dying 15 days later, whilst Charles Goodby, 42, of Asylum Street, told a fellow fire watcher that it was 'safe as houses', as he slid down a glass roof at Messrs J.E. Pickard & Sons Dyeworks, on Grasmere Street,



Left: Home Guard Frederick Hanley, aged 21, was accidentally killed on his first night firewatching in Leicester on 11th January 1941. Courtesy Roy Hanley.

Above In 2008, a new headstone was provided on Detective Constable Hawkes's grave in St Deny's churchyard, Evington, by Leicestershire Police Federation. Courtesy Leicestershire Police.

through which he fell to his death on 8th July 1941. He had survived the whole First World War, having enlisted at 15.

Ill health also took its toll, with two fire watchers dying at Leicester Town Hall, William Penn, of Percy Road, taking ill on 15th November 1941 and Harry Hulls, 61, of Leicester Road, Anstey, collapsing on 11th November 1943. Firewatcher Herbert Wallis, 46, of Guthlaxton Street, similarly collapsed and died at the neighbouring Theatre Royal, on Horsefair Street, on 8th January 1942, as did Special Constable William Levers, 56, of Fosse Road South, whilst patrolling in the blackout on 29th March 1943.

Forgotten Casualties of the Leicester Blitz

Accidents relating to the blackout took two young lives. On 16th December 1942, whilst trying to fix a blackout in a ventilator shaft at Messrs Willson's printing works, on King Street, ARP Messenger Alan Osborne, 17, of Melton Road, became entangled in the spinning fan and was 'terribly injured', whilst in June 1940, ARP worker Raymond Smith, 20, collided with a car as he cycled to his post during an air raid warning. ARP dispatch rider Fred Lock, 44, of Bembridge Close, was also killed on 7th October 1940, when he was thrown from his motorcycle into the path of a lorry at Kegworth. The coroner stated: *'The public's verdict would be that Lock had given his life in the service of the country.'*

Leicester's ARP Rescue Service also suffered traffic fatalities. Whilst on their way to an ARP service at Leicester Cathedral on 11th May 1941, two Rescue lorries collided near the junction of Aylestone Road with Saffron Lane, leaving nine injured, fatal in the cases of William Jelly, 44, of Wigston Lane and Archibald Mayes, 52, of Conaglen Road. The 19-year-old driver denied he was racing the other lorry, but was convicted of driving without due care and attention. Also whilst on duty, on 10th June 1943, Ernest Mason, 51, of Hill Rise, Birstall, fell alighting from a lorry on Melton Road and died from his injuries.

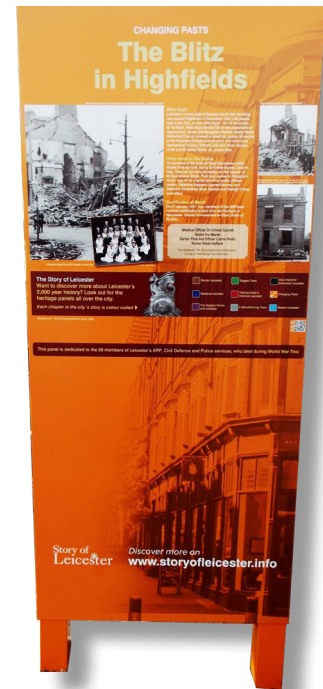
Although Leicester's fire service received no fatalities through enemy action in the city, they also suffered. Tragically, in August 1940, before Leicester's raids started, Auxiliary Fire Service (AFS) fireman Leonard Martin, 35, of Camville Road, committed suicide, fearing 'he would not be able to work as a fireman if the real test came in an air raid.' Fireman Ernest Morris, of Church Gate AFS sub-station was thrown from his bicycle in a road accident whilst returning to his station on 14th July 1942 and the following year, on 15th December 1943, fireman Joseph Price, 39, of Gaul Street, was injured at Nuneaton, dying over a year later on 30th January 1945. And, whilst providing support in East Sussex, fireman Ernest Hurst, 31, of Leicester Road, Wigston, was fatally injured at Uckfield Road, Lewes, on 2nd March 1944, though his cause of death is unclear.

Rightly, we commemorate those who were killed fighting in foreign fields during the Second World War. However, those who died serving closer to home - whatever the circumstances - also should not be forgotten. They too stepped up and made the ultimate sacrifice: in the case, of the 27 mentioned here, whilst serving their city as well as their country - they also deserve to be remembered.

The full stories behind these casualties, the city's ARP/Civil Defence Services and the Blitz, is told in my book ***Tested By Bomb And Flame: Leicester Versus Luftwaffe Air Raids 1939-1945*** by Austin J. Ruddy, Halsgrove (2014). Available online. I would be interested to hear of any further Leicester Civil Defence casualties via:

austinjruddy@virginmedia.com

Right: **A Leicester City Council Heritage Information Panel** commemorating the heroism of Leicester's ARP services in Highfields, now stands at the junction of Saxby Street and Sparkenhoe Street. Below: **Book cover for *Tested by Bomb and Flame: Leicester Versus Luftwaffe Air Raids 1939-1945*, by Austin J. Ruddy.**



Able Seaman Horace Edward Wormleighton

Sylvia Whitworth recounts the story of a new Commonwealth War Grave at Burbages.

Little did I know, when I helped establish the Burbage Heritage Group, what a profound journey lay ahead. Before long, the group would begin uncovering the stories and lives behind the names of the First World War.

The journey began in 2011, when the Group commemorated the 90th anniversary of the unveiling of the Burbage Cenotaph.

We were fortunate that, Greg Drozd, had undertaken research into the First World War fallen. His work provided an excellent foundation for all that followed.

Building on this, we prepared biographies for each of the men named on the Burbage memorial, searching contemporary editions of the *Hinckley Times*, which yielded not only detailed reports but also photographs. In

addition, we were privileged to receive family stories and treasured mementoes.

Little by little, we transformed a list of sixty names into real people with families and histories. We traced where they had gone to school, their occupations, whom they married, and any children.

In some cases, we were fortunate enough to uncover excellent photographs and rich family details; in others, only the barest facts of life and death could be found.

Patience proved essential, as information often emerged from the most unexpected

sources. A particularly poignant example came when I received a large

commemorative card from the 1921 unveiling of the war memorial, listing the specific varieties of roses planted in memory of each of the fallen. Remarkably, this card had been discovered by chance at a local car boot sale.

Our research culminated in the centenary commemorations marking the end of the war in 2018. By then, we felt certain we had exhausted every possible source and uncovered all there was to know about our brave soldiers.

Yet one unresolved sorrow remained: one soldier still had no Commonwealth War Grave, as we had been unable to identify his final



Left: The Burbage War Memorial, unveiled on 26th February, 1921. Image courtesy of Burbage Parish Council & Burbage Heritage Group, *A Village Pays Tribute Booklet*, 11th November, 2018.

resting place.

Here again, fate intervened one April afternoon in 2021. Between COVID lockdowns, a small group of us took the opportunity to cross-reference a churchyard survey carried out by the Women's Institute in 1982 with the gravedigger's working book, focusing on an area he had described as the "new ground."

At each plot, Martin Mellor a member of St Catherines Church read aloud the name and date of the person buried there. These details were checked against the Women's Institute 1982 monument records. In many cases, the graves were unmarked.

Progress had been good and by the time we reached plot 56, of this first row, the name John Asbury was read out, buried July 1916, a World War One fallen with a well-known, well-tended grave. Plot 57, John Whitmore buried Oct 1916, unmarked grave, Plot 58, vacant plot, Plot 59, Horace Edward Wormleighton, buried Dec 1916, the name was unexpected at first, but then the penny dropped, here lay our final casualty of World War One.

From that day, it became the Heritage Groups mission to have Horace's grave marked with the Commonwealth War Gravestone, to which he was entitled.

In the summer of 2021, the Heritage Group with the support of St Catherine's Church and Rector Andrew Hall we applied to CWGC doing the necessary paperwork and sending proof in the form of Birth and Death Certificates, Burial records and biographical documentation.

We were accepted quite quickly that a stone was eligible however, after which it took much enquiring and chasing along to see where we were getting with a final erection date.

After the appointment of a new area manager Vicky Endersby, in the Summer of 2025 things started to

move and she personally kept us updated at every stage.

In October 2025 we were told the stone was being made at the French workshops of CWGC. A touching link to Burbage was told when Vicki heard the Mason engraving the stone had been born and baptised in Burbage. He was very familiar with the Wormleighton name!

Although Wormleighton is a well-known name in the village, appeals for descendants drew a blank, however eventually three second cousins were traced after much genealogical research was undertaken by Paul Williams of the Heritage Group. The cousins and their descendants were present at the unveiling.



Above: Royal Navy Recruitment Poster from WW2. Image courtesy of Imperial War Museum (Art.IWM PST 0820)

Another link to Burbage was found when a former choir boy now a serving Royal Naval Chaplain, Rev Simon d'Albertanson attended evensong on the very evening that Rector Andrew announced that the stone was to be erected that following week. Rev Simon promptly volunteered to take part and the unveiling which he kindly was able to do.

Finally, after delays with the weather the stone was finally erected on the 18th February. Two masons Lee and Andy from the CWGC workshops at Newark did a brilliant and professional job. Their enthusiasm and interest were very clear to see.

After which they did an inspection of the other six CWGC stones in the Churchyard. This will now be a five yearly job.

At St Catherines we have a total of 33 Fallen and Military Memorial Graves. The Heritage Group have published a booklet on these and periodically do guided walks around the Churchyard. We are undergoing a project to seek funding for the restoration of some of these memorials.

Horace Wormleighton was the eldest child of Alfred and Elizabeth, born on the 16th April 1898 at 16 Derby Road Hinckley. Both parents were born and raised in Burbage.

Horace Edward Wormleighton

Most of Horace's early life was lived in various homes in Hinckley. By the time he was school age, the family lived on Alma Road, Hinckley, opposite the Hinckley Board School, where he and his four siblings attended. The school with over 500 pupils was the largest in the town and many students came from poor families. It was surrounded by Hosiery and Boot & Shoe factories.

At the age of 13, Horace left school and found employment at a nearby Boot factory, possibly Harris and Co. on Factory Road. Horace would have worked in the industry for his short working life and by the time he was 17 he had become a 'Clicker'. A boot and shoe clicker is the person who cuts the uppers for footwear from the skins of leather. This was a skilled job, as it was the clickers responsibility to maximise the number of uppers that can be cut from a skin.

In August 1915, the National Registration Survey was undertaken to record all those over the age of fifteen who were capable of contributing to the war effort. The register shows Alfred and Elizabeth Wormleighton living in Burbage with their son, Horace now residing at 21 Lutterworth Road.

This group of houses, known as Loomes Square, stood beside the Liberal Club, on what is now the site of the Spar car park. The family worshipped at the nearby Congregational Church, where Alfred and Elizabeth had probably attended as children themselves. It is likely that Horace was closely involved in chapel life, perhaps joining one of the various sports teams associated with it.

Only one week after the registration survey, on the 24th August 1915, Horace, age 17 enlisted.

His physical description of a 5ft 5in male with a 31-inch chest gives the impression he was physically quite small and probably malnourished. However, the forces accepted him and by the end of August he was attached to the 4th Battalion of the Royal Naval Division.

A pension record shows Horace assigned to HMS Victory. It seems these assignments of this ship was an administrative assignment for many of the recruits on land-based camps.

It's interesting to question, how did a lad from Burbage in the middle of the country, enlist in the Royal Naval Division? Or did he enlist in the forces and was posted to the Navy?

By his 18th Birthday in April 1916, he was stationed at Blandford Camp as part of the



Above: Group at the newly installed CWGC headstone.

RND 5th Battalion.

From his records, we see that in June 1916, he was taken ill, such that he was sent to Portland Hospital and this saw the end of his naval service. This was the time when many thousands were being mobilised for the first battle of the Somme in July.

By the 15th September, his records show he was finally assessed as unfit to continue in service due to Multiple Chronic Conditions including heart tachycardia.

On his return home, he was cared for by his family, in Lutterworth Road. It was at home on the 11th December attended by Dr Passmore and his mother that he passed away aged 18 years and 8 months. In a later family memorial, they say "we saw him fading like a flower, but could not make him stay". His death is recorded as Tuberculosis and an underlying heart condition.

Tuberculosis was a common and life-threatening disease for centuries. Perhaps he caught it whilst working in the close proximity to others in the factories or it could have been a family illness as two of his siblings would die in their early thirties, but it was his military training and perhaps harsh camp conditions which brought it to the fore and hastened the end of his life.

Horace was laid to rest on the 15th December 1916. The service was conducted by the Curate in charge, The Reverend

Stephen Griffiths, interred into a churchyard where he would lie alongside other fallen of World War One.

It is likely that Horace did not see active service, although the rigours of training alone must have been immensely challenging - particularly given his physical condition. Nevertheless, he showed remarkable courage, enlisting underage and before conscription was introduced.

After a 45 min peal of bells, 150 people attended the service of Remembrance at St Catherine's conducted by Rector Andrew Hall. Prayers and readings were given by The Mayor of Hinckley Richard Flemming, Pam Barnbrook, and Rev Simon d'Albertanson RN Chaplain at HMS Raleigh.

An address on Horace Wormleighton's life was given by Paul Williams, Greg Drodzdz BEM and Sylvia Whitworth.

In attendance were the RBL and Naval Cadets, who processed with the family and to the graveside for a further service of dedication.

Finally, 110 years after his death he stood in honour of the bravery of Horace Wormleighton, now finally recognised with a Commonwealth War Grave.

Classical Symbolism on Leicester's War Memorials

William O'Grady, recently graduated from Leicester University, looks at classical symbolism shaped Leicester's Arch of Remembrance.

World War One memorials are full of classical references: Leicester's own war memorial, designed by Edwin Lutyens, draws inspiration from ancient triumphal arches. War memorials, by necessity, aim to reconcile death and war so as to ease grief and aid remembrance. Classicism was an aesthetic which also carried significant meaning to accomplish this requirement. From ARWMP's own collection there are numerous examples of classical references. Most prominently is the Leicester Boy Scouts Association Roll of Honour which features

several types of ancient symbolism. Prefixing the roll of honour is the line "*Dulce et decorum est*," commonly used on war memorials (the beautiful Roll of Honour from the Parish of Wigston also features this line), establishing the deaths of the soldiers as one of sacrifice, set in the ancient words of Horace. In recent times "*Dulce et decorum est*" has more of a connection to Wilfred Owen's poem which laments the use of patriotic zeal to encourage young men to die for an unclear purpose.

This is the cause for so many memorials, especially those created after World War One whereby the scale of destruction and the lack of a clear war goal meant memorials had to fully resolve the reason why they didn't die in vain. The rest of the classical symbolism on the Roll of Honour furthers this aim. The pleasant countryside in the background is demonstrative of an Arcadian scene, a classical trope in which simplicity and peace was found in rural, pastoral settings. This idea was particularly popular in England where the strong gardening tradition meant that the Arcadian ideal became a popular metaphor. The English connection to the garden during the war is explored by Paul Fussell and can be seen in the numerous analogies to gardens made by authors: "*hedges of wire*" ran across battlefields in Chapman's *A Passionate Prodigality*. The famous Brooke poem, *The*

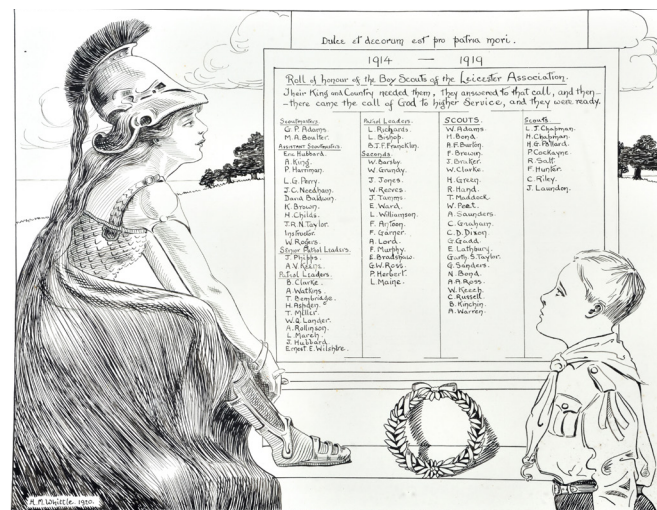


Above: Arch of Remembrance, Victoria Park, Leicester, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens. Image courtesy of Visit Leicester Facebook page.

Classical Symbolism in Memorialisations



Above: Roll of Honour for the Parish of Wigston.



Above: Leicester Boy Scouts Association Roll of Honour.

Soldier, emphasises the natural beauty of England and the ties between an Englishman and the ground: *"That there's some corner of a foreign field / That is forever England."* Nature and gardens were therefore seen as an appropriate symbol to affix to war memorials, expressing the inherent beauty and value of England which further emphasises the noble sacrifice of the soldiers. The grieving, yet beautiful, depiction of Britannia compounds the feeling of sacrifice for the cause of feminine salvation adding to the justification of the losses

The Leicester Dyers & Scourers Trade Society Roll of Honour, in the safe hands of the ARWMP, also features Britannia. She is framed by the impressive pediment and supporting pillars of a classical temple. Such architecture had become commonplace in Britain, especially for important and powerful organisations, and thus the utmost respect was conveyed to the names between the columns. Moreover, usage of ancient symbolism in this context aimed to honour the soldiers' memory by harking back to a more fantastical and visually appealing arena of combat, far from the mechanised destruction of the First World War. The technological advances that allowed for the mass bombardment and the scale of the war, requiring masses of soldiers, made the First World War unique in British history. This made it impractical for the repatriation of all bodies and so local war memorials and Rolls of Honour were especially important as sites of collective grief and remembrance. The lack of a body, either through the decision to not return bodies to their families or through the loss of a body altogether, meant that war memorials served as communal sites and thus had to be representative of

all. Classicism served as a suitable option for war memorials in British society, not in opposition to Christianity but where there were peoples of different denominations and beliefs. Besides this, the ancient architectural form, accompanied by the Union Jack, links

the ideals of the past with topical ideals of the time. Freedom was commonly presented as being under threat during WW1 and memorials make frequent references to the sacrifice required of soldiers in order to preserve freedom.



Above: The Leicester Dyers & Scourers Trade Society Roll of Honour.



The ancient Greek origins of democracy offered a valuable parallel, both in their values and in the historical record of being under threat from foreign powers (such as Persia and Rome). This link, which evoked images of a more visually appealing form of combat, is seen on the T. H. Downing & Co. Ltd. Roll of Honour and the North Evington Constitutional Club Roll of Honour.

Ancient Greece and Rome were not the only historical motifs found on memorials either, medieval figures such as Saint George were used to represent England in a manner similar to Britannia, as seen in the Humberstone Road Congregational Church Roll of Honour

Medievalism provided a romantic vision of the conflict though could more easily be linked to Christianity which was in demand by some after the war. This is not unique to WW1 either, in St Saviour's Road Church Roll of Honour commemorating the dead from the Second World War, a knight stands mournfully on the front cover, drawing a comparison between Tommy and knight.

Significantly, there is a martial component to both the classical Britannia and the steel-covered knight as they both feature armour or weaponry, indicating the continuity of warfare and attempting to ease grief by approaching war as a constant in history. Consequently, by looking back to periods of exceptional and strong values, contemporary soldiers gained the attributes of their predecessors like classical honour and pietas and medieval chivalry and piety. There was also the consideration that the men lost to the war were the best of the nation: young, dutiful and morally and physically strong. Laurel wreaths present on war memorials like the North Evington Constitutional Club liken

the names on them to ancient victors – virile, powerful ancient athletes: the dead became exalted and the mythic, patriotic sacrifice of death during service was reconfirmed.

As we have seen, Leicester's war memorials feature several interesting forms of classical symbolism, highlighting the significance of war memorials as items of public art and the importance of preserving them. Classical forms and ideas largely justified the losses suffered, highlighting their duty and virtues but also the ideals and values important to Britain. Additionally, it is worth noting the visibility of war memorials, both at the time, even being distributed in postcard form (as with the Dyers & Scourers' Roll of Honour), and in the modern day where they still receive attention and their meanings and styles are appreciated.



Top Left: **The T. H. Downing & Co. Ltd. Roll of Honour.** Top Right: **The N. Evington Constitutional Club Roll of Honour.** Middle Right: **The Humberstone Rd. Congregational Church & School Roll of Honour.** Bottom Right: **The Church of the Holy Saviour Roll of Honour for the fallen during WWII.**

Epitaphs

WOULD SOME THOUGHTFUL HAND
IN THIS DISTANT LAND
PLEASE SCATTER
SOME FLOWERS FOR ME

Private. Edwin Grant
Canadian Infantry
26th October 1917
Aged 33
Tyne Cot Cemetery

SO HE PASSED OVER
AND ALL THE TRUMPETS SOUNDED
FOR HIM ON THE OTHERSIDE

Private. Ernest Davison
Cheshire Regiment
23rd October 1918
Aged 23
Amerval Communal Cemetery

HIS LAST WORDS WERE
AS HE FELL WERE
"GO ON 'C' COMPANY"

Capt. William McCarthy
Braithwaite MC
Australian Infantry
3rd October 1918
Aged 25
Prospect Hill Cemetery

HERE LIES A FATHER'S HOPE;
A MOTHER'S PRIDE;
A WIFE'S DEPENDENCE

Private. John Prentice
Scottish Rifles
23rd August 1916
Bécourt Military Cemetery

