

Dawlish World War One project

Organisations in Dawlish have joined to commemorate the sacrifice of those who went to war and did not return. The aim is to build a record of the impact of the War on families, the life of the town and, of course, the story of those who went to war, and of the many who did not return. We include the civil parish of Dawlish, so that names of those recorded on memorials at Cofton and Holcombe appear here too, as well as those who are buried in the town cemetery but may not find a place on the town War Memorial.

We have attempted to find the names of all of those who became casualties of war from the civil parish, and we are very keen to make contact with descendants to join us in simple services of Commemoration that will take place on the centenary of each death.

We are gathering, from public sources, information about each person, and this may be of value to those preparing their family histories. We will be very happy to copy photographs to accompany the histories.

We invite you to make contact with the group which comprises:

Dawlish Town Council via bobdawlish@gmail.com
 Churches Together in Dawlish via panneigh@googlemail.com
 Dawlish Library
 Dawlish Local History Group
 Dawlish Museum
 Royal British Legion, Dawlish
 Dawlish Repertory Company – The Shaftesbury Theatre

Events in 2014 included:

An exhibition during this season at Dawlish Museum (now closed until a new display in 2015)

The production of "Oh, What a Lovely War!" at the Shaftesbury Theatre from August 4th-9th.

A vigil at the bandstand to mark the moment of Declaration of War on August 4, 1914.

A service of commemoration for the life of Petty Officer William CRIDDLE on August 6th.

An exhibition of the life of Nurse Margaret Jane FORTESCUE, held at The Manor House.

A service of commemoration for the life of John Frank WILLS on October 24th.

A service of commemoration for the lives of Arthur Henry BEARNE, Frederick Albert DAVIS and Francis RICHARDS on November 1st.

A service of commemoration for the life of Samuel PILLAR on November 8th.



DAWLISH REMEMBERS
1914 - 1918

How the First World War
impacted on a small Devon town

Volume One
1914

A project of the Dawlish World War One Group
Funded by Dawlish Town Council and
Heritage Lottery Fund

In 1914 there was excitement at the outbreak of war, assuming that it would all be over by Christmas. Hopes were soon dashed as reports came of the losses at the battlefront. The Navy was shocked at the loss of 1,600 men at the Battle of Coronel on November 1st, when three sailors from Dawlish were among those lost. Worse was to come in 1915 when nine Dawlish soldiers, members of the Devonshire Regiment, were killed in action on one day, 25th September 1915, at the battle of Loos. The news brought great misery to the families involved. Five sailors from Dawlish died in ships at the Battle of Jutland on 31st May, 1916.

-----*-----

This booklet has been prepared to begin to show the impact of the news of casualties on those left behind in Dawlish. The Dawlish Gazette of the period carried letters from those involved and a careful search of their reports will reveal insights into the experiences at the front, through the letters exchanged between the families at home and those in the field of action.

Visual information will be added from the valuable Dawlish Archive of photographs, being restored and indexed.

The project group will be glad to see any material that local families can bring forward for loan to the project. Any information or material can be brought to Dawlish Library or Dawlish Museum. All items will be handled with great care and returned to the owners.

The project is revealing the absence of names from the town War Memorial and will lead to consideration of whether the War Memorial should have other names added to it. Equally, the Devon Roll of Honour, prepared soon after the end of the War, may have further information added to it as a result of this project's research.

The sections which follow give a brief account of each casualty during the first year of War. Each year, further names will added, until there is a full account of Dawlish's contribution to the War.

Luscombe	Frederick S	A.B.	R.N., HMS MAGIC	10/04/1918
Marks	Walter Robert	Gunner	Royal Field Artillery, 163 Brigade	14/07/1916
Martin	Ernest George	Private	Devonshire Regt, 8th Service Battn	25/09/1915
May	Henry <i>Herbert</i>	Private	Hampshire Regt, 2nd Battn	22/05/1917
Mayne	Bertie	Private	Coldstream Guards, 2nd Battn	01/11/1918
Milward	Etienne G	Captain	Duke of C	02/09/1916
Moore	Arthur John	Private	Coldstream Guards, 2nd Battn	27/08/1918
Morrish	Frank	Chief Armourer	R.N., HMS DEFENCE	31/05/1916
Moss	Allan	Major	Worcestershire Regt	10/10/1916
Mould	Alfred	Seaman	R.N.R., HMS VIVID	17/10/1914
Mudge	Edward	Gunner	Royal Field Artillery, 4th Wessex Brigade	28/04/1915
Mudge		Gunner	Royal Field Artillery	16/11/1917
Mutters	William Henry	Private	R.M.L.I. HMS QUEEN MARY	31/05/1916
Nicholls	Albert A	Sergt	Somerset Light Infantry, 2nd Battn	25/10/1919
Nicholls	John Jeffry	Pte/ Ambul Drvr	5th Canadian Army Medical Corps	12/10/1918
Pessell	George John	Ch Ship's Cook	R.N., HMS DUKE OF EDINBURGH	16/04/1915
Peters	Charles Maurice S	Gunner	Hon Artillery Coy, (Infantry)	22/04/1917
Pike	George	A.B.	R.N., HMS THUNDERER	19/02/1917
Pillar	Samuel	Private	Coldstream Guards, 2nd Battn	08/11/1914
Pitts	William	L/Sergt	Machine Gun Corps (Infantry), 23rd Coy	22/06/1917
Pook	Thomas	Private	Devonshire Regt, 8th Battn	26/10/1917
Pope	Philip Gladstone	Lieut	Royal Field Artillery, 31st Brigade	16/10/1917
Radford	Carl Sergeant	L/Sgt	Gloucs Regiment, 12th Battn	03/09/1916
Rooth	R.A.	Lt Col	1 st Royal Dublin Fusiliers	/05/1915
Ruddell	Richard	Driver	Royal Field Artillery, 443rd Battery	26/07/1919
Rundell	Gerald Easterbrook	Private	Somerset Light Inf, 9th Battn	23/03/1916
Scott	Edward Maurice	Private	The Buffs - East Kent Regt, 1st/5th Battn	24/02/1917
Scott	Harry Reginald	Private	Yorkshire Regt, 5th Battalion	07/12/1918
Scott	Walter Henry	L/Cprl		25/05/1917
Selley	Andrew Alexander	Officer's Stwd	R.N., HMS VIVID	04/04/1918
Smith	Alfred Thomas	Private	Devonshire Regt, 9th Battn	15/01/1917
Snell	Frederick	Driver	Royal Field Artillery, Ammunition Col,	23/10/1915
Snell	Peter	Gunner	Royal Field Artillery	28/03/1918
Stephens	Leonard Reggie	Private	Royal Warwicks Regt, 15th Battn	26/10/1917
Stevens	William Henry	Private	Devonshire Regt, 8th Battn	25/09/1915
Stoyle	Walter	Private	Devonshire Regt, 2nd Battn	13/03/1915
Tapley	William Frank	Private	Devonshire Regt, 1st Battn	04/10/1917
Thornhill	William Edward	Sgt	RAMC, 99th Field Ambulance	21/01/1919
	William Richard	Private	Somerset Light Inf, 7th Battn	14/02/1918
West	Albert Henry	Private	Devonshire Regt, 8th Battn	04/10/1917
West	George Carter	Cpl		15/04/1917
Williams	Wilfred Claude	Gunner	Tank Corps, G Battn	31/07/1917
Wills	John Frank	Private	Devonshire Regt, 1st Battn	24/10/1914
Wills	Samuel Gordon	Ldg Smn	S.S.BELGIC / S.S.BELGENLAND	27/04/1919