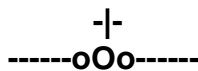
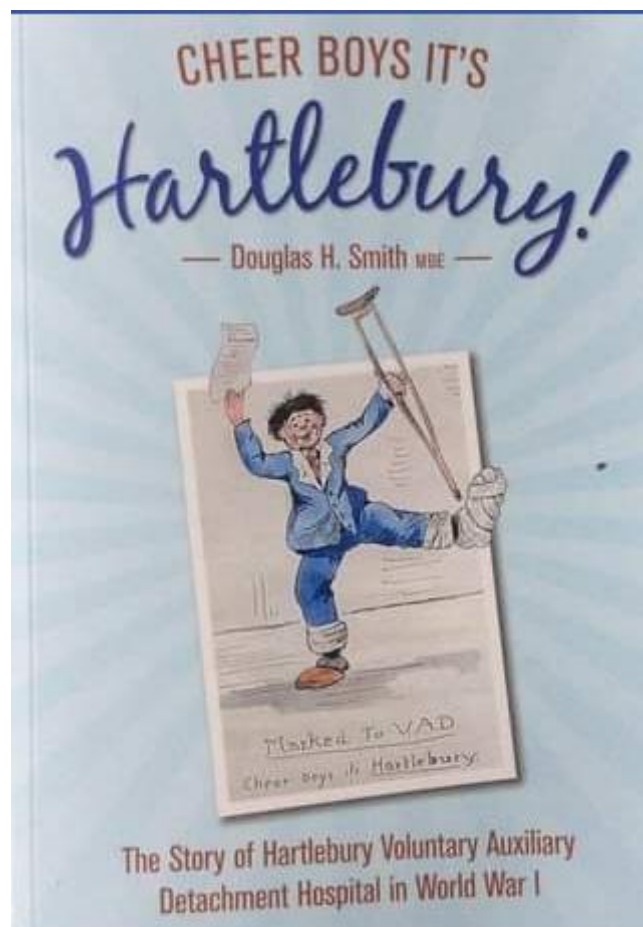


Branch Newsletter – September 2022

Next Meeting:

Will be on Saturday 13th September at St Peter's Collegiate School, Compton Park, Compton Rd. West, Wolverhampton WV3 9DU. 2.00pm for a 2.30 kick-off.

The Speaker this month is Doug Smith: "Cheer boys it's Hartlebury" - Stories from a VAD hospital.



Branch financial position: a statement from the Committee:

Like an awful lot of similar organisations, since we re-started branch meetings our numbers haven't returned to pre-Covid levels. That is understandable, not coming along for so many months generates its own inertia.

The financial position for the first half of the year was shielded by having many fine home-grown speakers which have the significant advantage of being cheap. For the second half of the year, we have external speakers and that is inevitably more expensive.

With a room hire charge of £105 per session (unchanged for 4 years) it takes the first 35 people to give their £3 donation before that is covered – we have probably been getting 45 attendees on average. This means that most meetings going forward will generate a loss.

The Christmas meeting will probably run at a bigger loss as we have booked a quite spectacular event which is a little more expensive than usual, but worth every penny. Details later, you won't be disappointed. We may ask you to dig a little deeper at Christmas, but still voluntary.

The point of this missive:

- 1. An early warning that the branch is likely to have a financial loss of a little over £500 for 2022. This sounds alarming, but don't panic! We have been carefully shepherding our reserves for a number of years, and this is the time they are needed. The rainy day has arrived.*
- 2. Our (polite) request for a voluntary donation of £3 per person at the door is not monitored. Most branches have someone on the door, we have our donations tin. We don't really want to change, so please don't forget the voluntary donation – and if you have an extra coin, well we'd be grateful.*
- 3. We will continue with our current financial 'model' for the moment and monitor and hope that our numbers increase a little. We have reserves but sooner or later we have to pay our way.*

Alan (Chair), Andy (Treasurer) and Bill (Secretary).

John Scott has been using the CWGC website:

"As you will have seen in the last newsletter C.W.G.C. have produced a new page to let us find out who lived by us and went to war. I was aware of this because I receive the C.W.G.C. newsletter as a volunteer.

Andy gave us his nearest hero. When I checked, it only gave a few in Kinver. I have previously used a website [A street near you](#) as this gives far more men in Kinver. Using this site I found a dozen Kinver men that were not on the War Memorial.

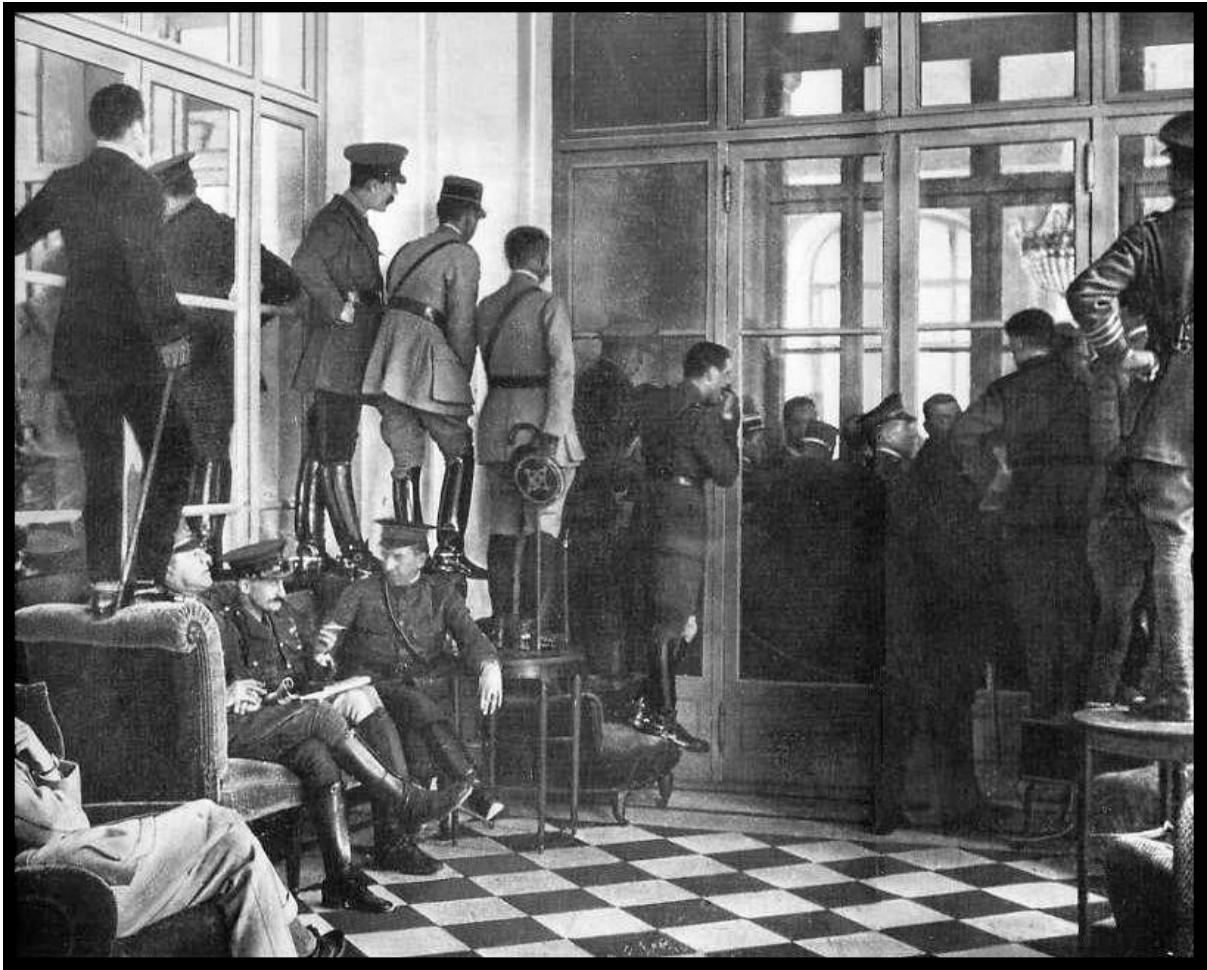
My nearest Man is 31037 private Harry Shingler of 8th Leicestershire Regiment who lived in

Hyde Cottage very near me. He died on the 8th May 1917. According to the casualty record he died of wounds "at home" so I foolishly thought that meant that he died in Hyde Cottage. Wrong!! He died in a Hospital in Liverpool so "at home" apparently means Blighty as opposed to a theatre of war. He was returned to Kinver and rests with his wife who died 27th September 1932 in St Peter's churchyard.

To expand on this the Kinver man who occupies the corner of a foreign field furthest from home is 7603150 private Edward Bragger. He was in the R.A.O.C. attached to 18th Division. He died 30th August 1943 in a prisoner in a prisoner of war camp and now rests in Kanchanaburi War cemetery Thailand.

John Scott"

Such undignified behaviour:



Spectators trying to get a glimpse of the Treaty of Versailles being signed, 1919.
Does anyone recognise the chaps sitting on the couch?

We will remember them – such brotherly love:

This is the grave of Thomas Hogg, ex Royal Engineers, in Ockbrook Churchyard, who died on 27 September 1937 aged 57 from injuries received in the Great War



(Photo by Chris Preston, lifted from the Derby & Derbyshire War Memorials Project FaceBook page)

Man's best friend:

Colourised photo stolen from the WW1 Buffs FaceBook page:



A German dog hospital "Hunde Lazarett", treating wounded messenger dogs coming from the front. Photograph taken in 1918.

A new statue for Norton:

"Norton was the ancestral home of the Worcestershire Regiment. As you enter Norton near St Helena Court, you are now met by a brand new, life sized bronze statue paying tribute to the men who served in the Regiment. 'The Sentry' sculpture, was unveiled by the Worcestershire Regiment Project Group last month. This group was formed in 2015 and is mainly made up of Norton residents. Their aim is to ensure their local history and their local Regiment is never forgotten. The group had already put up information boards, built a commemorative garden at St Peters Garden Centre and erected several road signs. It was made by local sculptor John McKenna who has created lots of art, including pieces in Worcestershire. These include the Salt Workers statue in Droitwich and the brilliant brick relief showing musical instruments in Crowngate, next to Huntingdon Hall.

The statue is inspired by the small version on display in the Regimental Museum in Foregate

Street. This small statue was made by the famous sculpture Charles Sergeant Jagger, who had served in the Worcestershire Regiment in the Gallipoli campaign during the Great War. He was wounded three times and went on to receive the Military Cross. After the war, he created a number of fine war memorials such as the Royal Artillery Memorial on Hyde Park Corner and the memorial in Paddington station. It's a fantastic addition to the area and an iconic reminder of the thousands of men who were trained at Norton Barracks. Have you visited the statue? Maybe take a trip to Norton and learn about our proud local Regiment or visit the Regimental Museum and see the small version."



Last month's Caption Competition entries:



Andy Johnson - *"and I thought Lloyd George was the biggest Welsh ram"*

Lisa Hale - *Fighting off competition for illustrious position of regimental goat.*

"Thank goodness we won't have to go up Great Orme this year".

Alan Angell - *Billy the kid and gang strike again.*

Germans launch operation Goaterdammerung.

You can try milking the bloody thing next time Major.

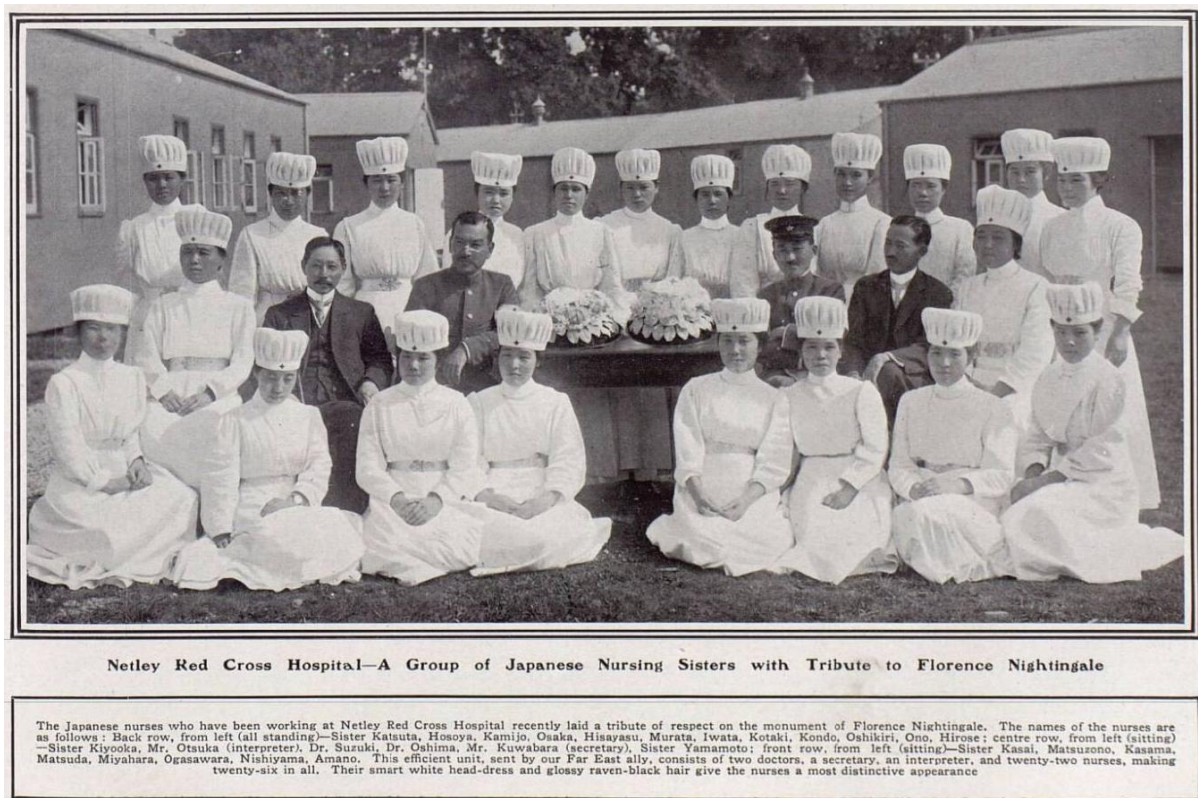
The most unusual war memorial you'll ever see:

These hay bales are lined up as a memorial on a rural property in Mologa, Victoria, Australia.

They are all named and have Battalion colour patches, which look to be regularly maintained as these have been here for quite some time.



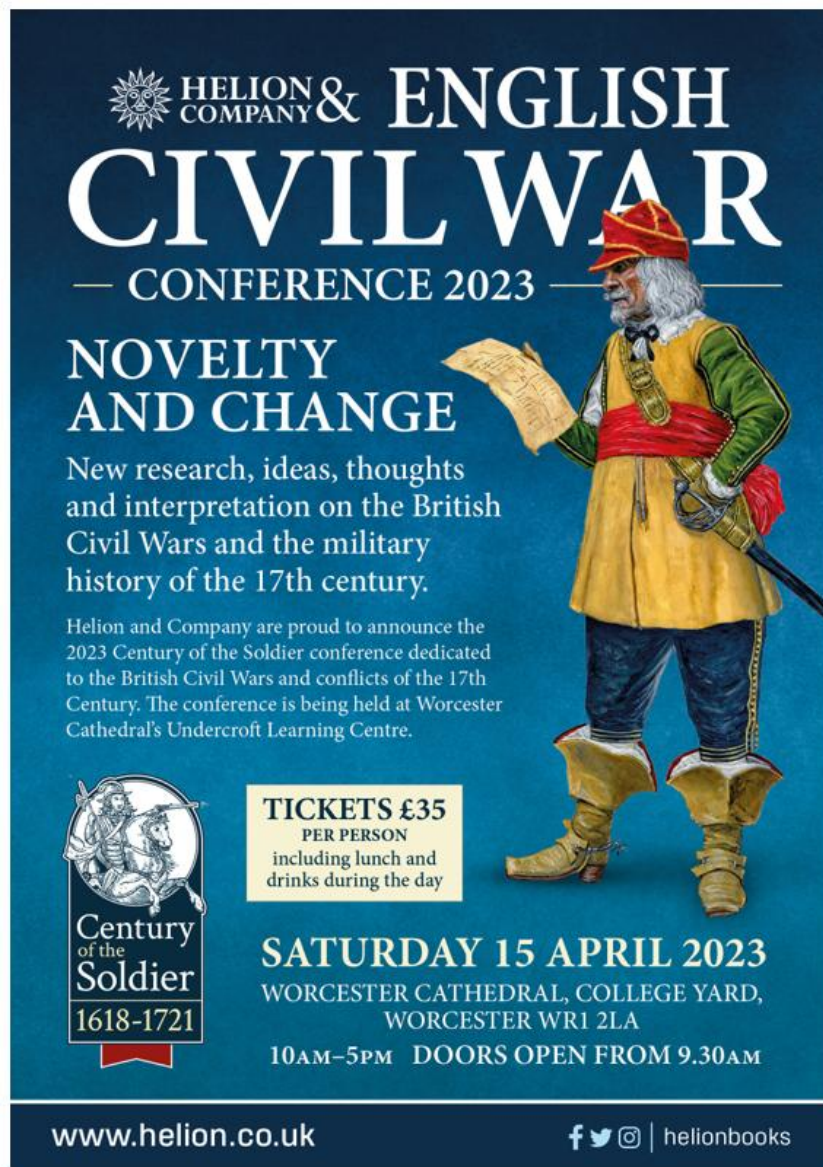
Japanese Nurses at Netley:



A picture from the Sphere newspaper dated 15th January 1916 showing the group of Japanese nurses who came and helped in the Red Cross hospital at Netley. (Photo via Steve Kallaste)

Dates for your Diary

- i. **Saturday 8th October – Perton Library History Day.** 10.00 – 15.00hrs
John, Mary and Evelyn will be there with the Branch Stand.
- ii. **Wednesday 9th November - How the Great War Began in South Staffordshire and the Black Country"** by Quintin Watt. Venue: Museum of Wolverhampton & South Staffordshire, at Penn United Reformed Church, Wolverhampton. 19.30hrs
- iii. **Saturday 15th April 2023 – English Civil War Conference 2023** by Helion Books.



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— CONFERENCE 2023 —

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TICKETS £35 PER PERSON
including lunch and drinks during the day

SATURDAY 15 APRIL 2023
WORCESTER CATHEDRAL, COLLEGE YARD,
WORCESTER WR1 2LA
10AM–5PM DOORS OPEN FROM 9.30AM

Century of the Soldier 1618-1721

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If you know of any other relevant events that our members may be interested in, don't be shy – let me know and I'll put it in the Newsletter.

Future Newsletters:

Please send any items you would like to be included to me at my official e-mail address: wfawtoneditor@gmail.com

Many, many thanks to those members who have provided items for the Newsletter; you know who you are, and your reward shall be in Heaven...

**John Hale
Branch Newsletter Editor**