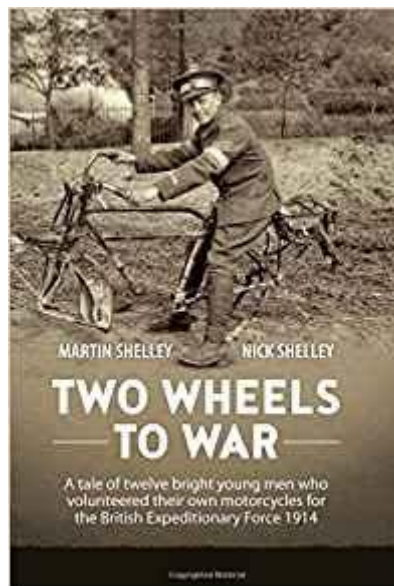


Branch Newsletter – May 2018

Next Meeting:

Saturday 12th May at St Peter's Collegiate School, Compton Park, Compton Rd. West, Wolverhampton WV3 9DU. Doors open at 2.00pm, with proceedings beginning at 2.30pm. If visiting us by car, please approach from the A454 Compton Road West, turn off and follow the Compton Park Road along for about 800 yds or so; the school is on the right, past the Wolverhampton Wanderers FC Training Ground. We park in the Staff Car Park, which is the third entrance onto the site - almost at the end of the road.

This month we have Nick Shelley who will be giving us a talk entitled “Two wheels to war – volunteer motorcyclists in the BEF”



-----oOo-----

Charity Fund raising

The Book Sale at the April meeting raised a splendid £122.90, a big pat on the back to all of us. The sale of 18 WFA calendars (including John White's copies as a contributing master photographer) gave the branch £90 which we donate rather than use for our own funds. Mary and John raised £21 from the sale of knitted poppies at various branch displays they attend. Finally £15 was raised from the sale of a pile of donated WFA 'Stand-To' magazines. I have sent personal payments of £125 to both BLESMA and SSAFA, and I will have the acknowledgements available at the next meeting.

Andy

Wolverhampton's plans for the Centenary:

"The City of Wolverhampton will come together to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War with a series of commemorative events over the coming months.

The guns fell silent after 4 years of bloody battle with the signing of the Armistice on 11 November 1918 and the City of Wolverhampton Council is working with partner organisations across the City to commemorate the centenary of this pivotal event in world history.

A programme of activities is currently being developed, and will include a series of exhibitions and displays of memorabilia and art at Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Wolverhampton Archives and Local Studies. Other activities planned include, pupils from local schools making poppies, writing competitions, walking map detailing war memorials across the city, the installation of special First World War metal benches and much more.

More details of the programme will be announced in due course, while the City of Wolverhampton Council is developing a website which will detail events taking place across to mark the 100th anniversary, and enable organisations and individuals to share what they will be doing to commemorate the end of the First World War."

More from English Heritage:

[7 places with First World War connections to the Commonwealth | Heritage Calling](#)

Extreme endurance:

"20 April 1918 The crew of Naval Airship NS.3 took off on convoy escort duties, and from 20–22 April they completed a flight of fifty-five hours, supporting various convoys – this was, unsurprisingly, the longest of non-rigid airship flight to date."



I hope they took enough sandwiches.... And did the ratings get their Tot?

Bilston's war memorial needs YOU:

“Saddle up for Le Tour de Bilston cycling fundraiser

People are being urged to saddle up for Le Tour de Bilston and help raise money for the refurbishment of the town's war memorial.

WV Active Bilston-Bert Williams is working with the Rotary Club of Bilston & Wolverhampton West and Discover Bilston to hold the cycling fundraiser – and organisers are looking for local residents to take part.

Le Tour de Bilston will take place from 8am to 3pm on Saturday 12 May 2018 at Bilston Market, with participants asked to ride one of the stationary exercise bikes which will be supplied by WV Active for 30 minutes each.

Bob Stolz, President of the Rotary Club of Bilston & Wolverhampton West, said: “The Rotary Club is part of the Bilston Remembers community group which has been working to commemorate the centenary of the First World War for the last four years.

“At the heart of our plan is the costly refurbishment of the war memorial in Bilston which has suffered wear and tear from weather over the years.

“Le Tour de Bilston is a fantastic way for us to raise money towards this, and we have chosen to use exercise bikes from WV Active and hold the event at Bilston Market as both places are popular with residents in the area.



“We hope that as many people as possible will help us make this a success by jumping on a bike and taking part or by sponsoring our cycling efforts.”

Sean McBurney from WV Active Bilston-Bert Williams, which is operated by the City of Wolverhampton Council, said: “We are delighted to be involved in Le Tour De Bilston and hope to raise as much money as possible to help restore Bilston war memorial to its former glory.”

To find out more about the fundraising event and get involved or make a donation, please visit [Charity DM » WV Active](#)”

Here’s an odd one for you – basketwork and weaving in the Great War:

[Weaving the history of First World War aeroplanes / BEYOND THE TRENCHES](#)

Nine fewer “Known unto God” at Fromelles:

[Nine Australian soldiers identified 102 years after WWI battle](#)

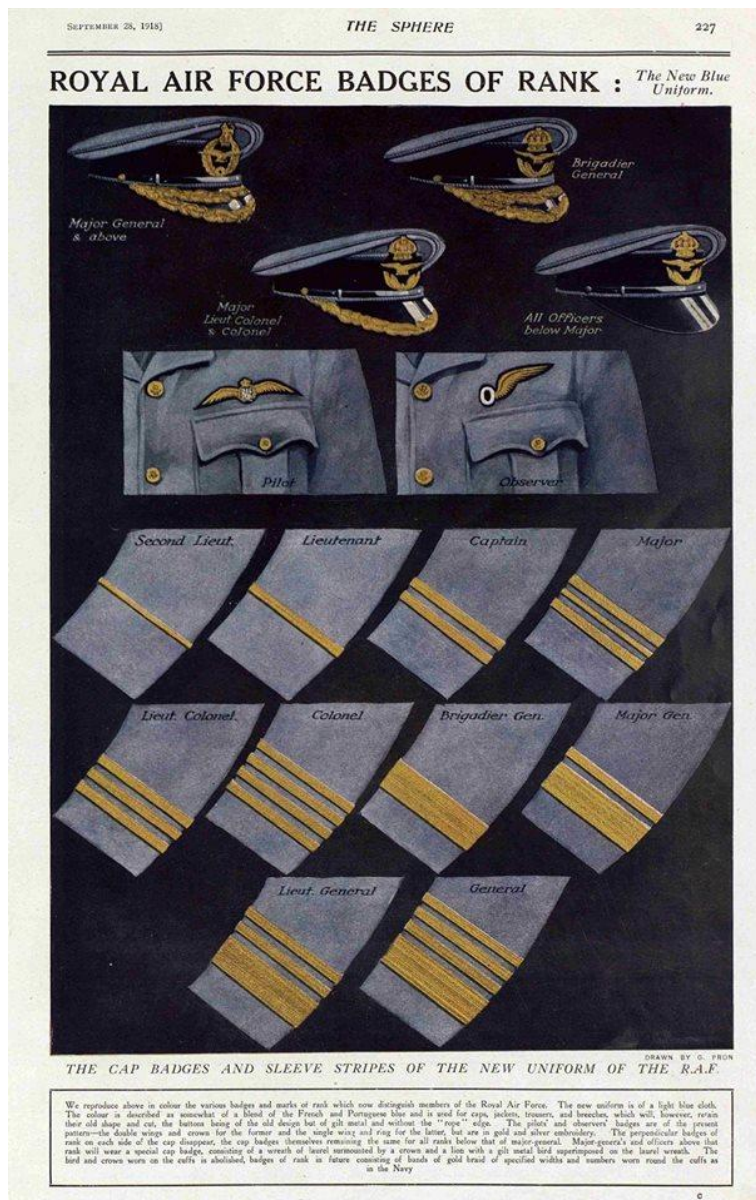
Something for nothing – (thanks to Richard Pursehouse for the information):

“Been having a root around for info on a submarine VC at Zeebrugge and came across the below - you can download free versions of Britain at War mag from 2017 Richard”

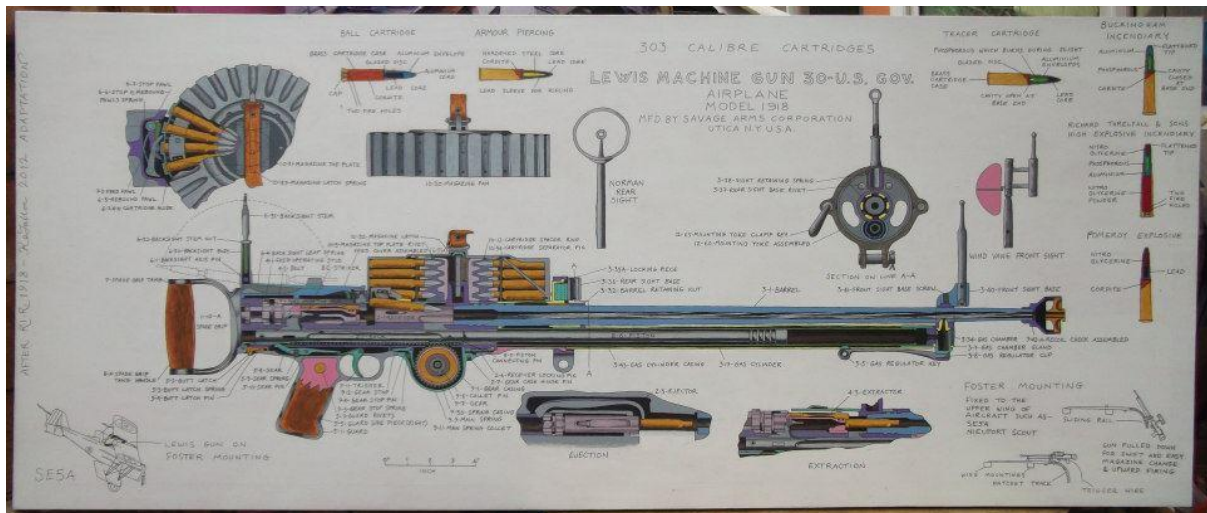
[Britain at War Magazine 2017-05 - PDF Free Download](#)

Other issues are available.

Belated happy birthday to the RAF:



Nice cutaway drawing of a Lewis Gun:



(Copyright Broody Designs Ltd) [Broody Designs Ltd - Home](http://www.broodydesigns.com)

Trips to Kew by Midland Ancestors – (thanks to Mark Cooper for the information):

“A gentle reminder about the next Midland Ancestors trip to the National Archives at Kew. Just about 6 weeks away, the date is 12th May at which time I have also arranged for a talk by the London Family History Centre there. The subject matter will be English Burial Records on Family Search, the speaker Sharon Hintze. I'm sure that most of you will already know Sharon, she was until about a year or so ago the Director of the London Family History centre. She is knowledgeable and an excellent speaker. An American, she has carried out extensive research into her Brummie roots.

All trips information can be seen on the Midland Ancestors website - <https://midland-ancestors.uk/events-info/coach-trips/>

Bookings forms can be found in the journal or had from me by email in pdf format for you to print.

If you prefer, use the outing as an opportunity for coach seat only and visit Kew Gardens, it will be most colourful in early May.

Thankyou to those who have already booked.

During the summer I will be sending out an email inviting you to tell me again if you want to receive occasional memory joggers such as this. Don't tell me now though, please wait till you get the invitation.

Thanks v. much, Phil”

Dates for your Diary

- i. **Wednesday 2nd May (and subsequent events): “Consequence of War” lecture series at Lichfield Cathedral. (Thanks to John Yarnall for the information)’ Details here: [May Lecture Series - Lichfield Cathedral](#)**

Consequence of War is a poignant, moving and revealing exhibition which draws attention to the effect of World War One, featuring internationally renowned artists Henry Moore, Paul Nash, Graham Sutherland and Henri Gaudier-Brzeska. [Read more](#)

To mark this special exhibition, we invite you to a series of lectures on the consequences of World War One on music, art, society and religion.

Tickets are £5 to each lecture, or choose 'Season pass' for a discounted rate to all four. There will be an opportunity to view the exhibition from 18.30.



- ii. **Saturday May 5th – Wolverhampton University Study Day: “Stories, Myths and Legends of the War”:**

*Prof. Stephen Badsey on “The myth of the German Corpse Factory
De David Clarke on The Myth of the Angel at Mons
Harry Richards on the German Spy Scare 1914/15
Prof Gary Sheffield on John Terraine – Mythbuster*

£20, NOT including lunch

Book HERE: [First World War Research Group "Stories, Myths and Legends of the First World War" | University of Wolverhampton](#)

- iii. **Saturday 12th May – “Midland Ancestors trip to Kew”.** See above.
- iv. **Thursday 15th May – “The King’s Shropshire Light Infantry” by Wendy Palin**
Venue: Wellington History Group, Wellington Library, Larkin Way, TF1 1LX @ 19.00hrs
[Wellington History Group](#)
- v. **Saturday 2nd June – “The 7th WFA President’s Conference”**
Venue: Where else, but the Tally Ho! Centre... Further details here:
[7th Western Front Association President’s Conference 2018 - 2 June 2018 / The Western Front Association](#)
I’ve got my ticket – anyone else going?
- vi. **Wednesday 13th July – “The Home Front 1914-18: the view from Finchfield House” by Chris Twiggs**
Venue: Wolverhampton City Archives, Molyneux Hotel. £2 admission.
17.30hrs
- vii. **13th – 15th July – “Tracks to the Trenches 2018”**
Venue: Apedale Valley Light Railway, off the A34 near Chesterton
[Tracks to the Trenches / WWI event 13-15th July / Narrow Gauge Railway & Horses / Family day out / Staffordshire](#)
- viii. **Thursday 19th July – another chance to see Adrian Faber’s talk on the Express & Star in the Great War**
Venue: Wombourne Scientific & Historical Society, 19.30hrs.
Alas, they don’t appear to have a web-page, just a FaceBook page which gives only details of the next meeting.

- ix. **6th – 8th September 2018 – International Conference on the First World War 'The End of War & Reshaping of a Century'**
Venue: Wolverhampton University
Booking HERE: [International Conference 1918 – 2018: The End of the War & The Reshaping of a Century | University of Wolverhampton](#)

Future Newsletters:

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

Don't force me to write all this – all contributions gratefully received.

John Hale
Branch Newsletter Editor