

OX & BUCKS BRANCH

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026



@WFAOxBucks



Ox & Bucks WFA

www.westernfrontassociation.com



COMMENT

Welcome to the September Branch Newsletter, I hope that you have had a good summer. It good to be restarting our monthly talks after the August break. We begin this season with a return visit from Ian Castle to talk about the latter stages of the bombing campaign on Britian which I am very much looking forward to hearing. In place of the usual meeting write up there is one of my occasional series of war memorial photographs, which I hope you will find interesting. We look forward to seeing many of you on 19th.

- David Adamson

Future Meetings 2026

19th Sept.	Ian Castle	"Gotha Terror"
17 th Oct.	Peter Hart	"First World War officers who fought at Omdurman and the Boer war"
21 st Nov.	Chares Fair	"Balkan Purgatory - the 60 th (London) Division in Salonika - December 1916 - June 1917"
	Alan Leakey	"Anti-Tank Gun Hunters"

Serviceman Remembered:

Pte. Henry John Maycock, Stony Stratford, 19th September 1914

Henry John Townsend was born at Old Abingdon or in Chiseldon, Wiltshire in 1894, the only son of Henry John, a wheelwright, and Agnes (née Smith) Townsend. Henry Snr died the following year and Agnes married Alfred George Maycock, a groom, in 1900; Henry Jnr taking his step father's surname. Henry was a house boy in 1911, living with his family in Stoney Stratford, Buckinghamshire. The following year he was working as a labourer when he enlisted in the 2nd Ox & Bucks Light Infantry at



Wolverton. He went to France in 29th August 1914, the OBLI being in 5 Brigade, 2nd Division. On the 19th September, during the Battle of the Aisne, the 2nd battalion was dug in at Le Cour de Soupier. During the afternoon German shelling caused 35 casualties, of which 9, including Henry, were killed. Henry is buried in Vailly British Cemetery, Aisne and is commemorated in the De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour and on the Stoney Stratford War Memorial.

War Memorials Along the Dales High Way

On a recent walking holiday along the Dales High Way from Saltair to Appleby, through the Yorkshire Dales, a number of war memorials were past, of which a selection is shown below.

Saltaire





War memorial

Lieutenant Arthur Basil Lee, 5th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment. Killed in action 2nd July 1916.

Arthur Basil Lee grew up in Ilkley, son of the manager of the Ilkley branch of the Bank of Liverpool. He played rugby for Ilkley RUFC, and was a member of the local Territorial Army. He was commissioned into the 5th West Yorkshire Regiment and fought at the Somme. He was shot by a German officer as he led his platoon along a trench. His company commander wrote to his parents saying that their son had died painlessly, instantaneously and nobly. Arthur Basil Lee has no known grave. His grieving parents placed a brass memorial plaque in All Saints Parish Church in memory of their only son.

2nd lieutenant Kenneth Mallorie Priestman, 105th Field Company Royal Engineers. Killed in action 31st August 1918, aged 25.

The wealthy Priestman family, owners of an enormous worsted mill in Bradford, were committed Quakers and pacifists. Kenneth joined the Friends Ambulance Unit, a non-combative, but still dangerous, role ferrying wounded men from the front to Base Hospitals. But it seems that he decided to reject his previous pacifist stance and enlist, and was immediately accepted into the Royal Engineers. During the Battle of the Somme, Kenneth and his commanding officer were killed by a German shell while engaged in reconnaissance work near the front line at Aveluy. After the war, his grieving parents created a plaque to his memory, and installed electric lighting in the church in the 1920s.



Priestman plaque





A Centenary memorial to those who survived to return to Ilkley



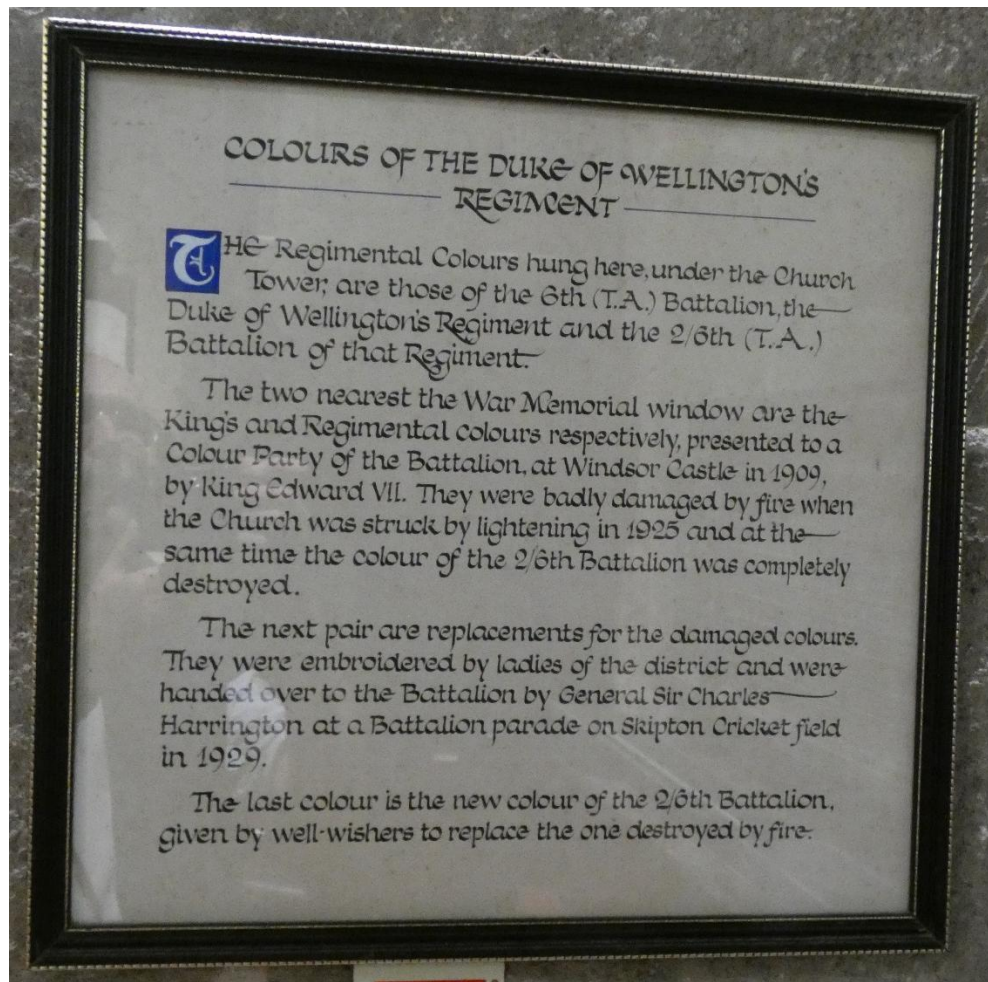
The VC stone commemorating 2nd Lt Maufe who was awarded the decoration for repairing telephone line to his battery and also for extinguishing a fire at an ammunition dump.



Skipton



Colours of the 2nd / 6th Duke of Wellington's Regiment



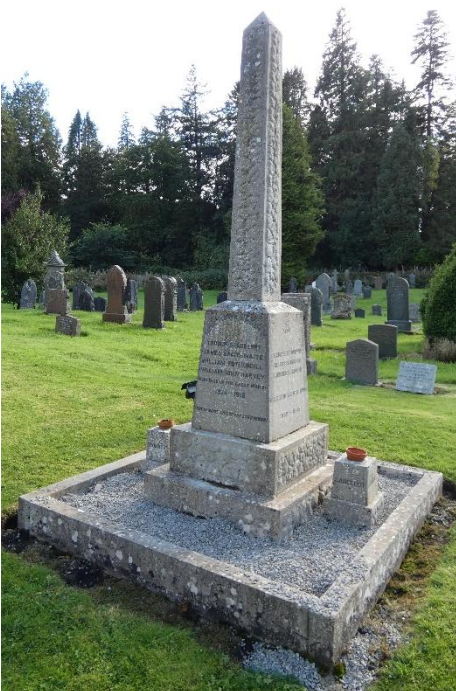
Dent



Pte William Bentham, commemorated on the war memorial and pictured inside the church



Ravenstonedale





Message from the Chalfont St Giles Guides

We have received the following message about the Guide Hut:

“To all users and their attendees/guests,

As you know we closed the hall for a week to carry out essential works to the fire escape and to redecorate the hall. Hopefully you will find it much brighter and welcoming. The fire escape steps have all been repaired and coping stones put on the side wall which should stop the rain damaging the rendering. The hook for the door is back in place.

We also took the opportunity to repair parts of the car park walls which had been damaged after being hit by vehicles. We will be placing bollards to protect the walls in



the coming weeks. In the meantime, however I would be grateful if you could ask all your attendees to take care when parking – the repairs have cost several thousands of pounds and is not something we are in a position to do on a regular basis.

Many thanks and kind regards
Debbie
On behalf of
Josephine (Chair, Friends of Guides)”

Committee

Chairman & Newsletter Editor - David Adamson (adtm@btinternet.com)

**Deputy Chairman - Nigel Crompton, Treasurer – Lance Hale, Speaker Liaison – Bob Swayne,
Simon Cains, Paul Bennett**

Meetings: The Guide Centre, School Lane, **Chalfont St. Giles.** HP8 4JJ
Usually on the third Saturday of the month, starting at 2:30

