



**MALPAS 100 YEARS ON**

**1918**  **COMMEMORATION**  **2018**

## **Malpas Remembers**

**Keeping memories alive to honour the  
sacrifices made during  
The Great War**

**Souvenir Programme**

**9th - 11th November 2018**



## The Poppies of Malpas



Awaken my Child! We must flee  
The enemy approaches, we shall never be free  
But Mama, where shall we go?  
Who will protect us? Who do we know?

In England my Child, new friends we will find.  
To a village called **Malpas**, our ties we will bind.  
But Mama, no English do I speak.  
They will think I am foolish. They will think I am weak!

Courage needs no words my Child  
There is comfort in an embrace.  
There is safety in a smile  
Compassion in a Stranger's face.

Awaken my Child, for we are here  
In **Malpas** we start a life free of fear.  
And when this War has ended we will return Home  
With little to show we were ever known.

Oh no Mama, for I have found,  
In verges and fields, Poppies abound  
They remind me of Flanders, they remind us of Home  
The Poppies of Malpas will be memories, grown.

The Poppies of Malpas now play two special parts,  
To remember the Fallen....  
And keep Belgium in Malpas Hearts

**Rod Brookfield** November 2017

In the spring of 1915, shortly after losing a friend in Ypres, a Canadian doctor Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, was inspired by the sight of poppies growing in battle-scarred fields to write a now famous poem called '*In Flanders Fields*'. After the First World War, the poppy was adopted as a symbol of Remembrance, the story of which can be found at: <https://youtu.be/pAWfiTM2KsA>



The poppy is

- A symbol of Remembrance and hope, not of death nor support for war
- Red because of the natural colour of field poppies, not to reflect the colour of blood

# Introduction

The weekend's events - "Malpas 100 Years On" - are the work of local people.

We wanted to mark one of the most significant moments in history by commemorating the men, women and children on all sides who, in battle or at home, endured life-changing experiences or lost their lives.

Peace is the cause for which wars have been fought throughout history but the number of people killed in World War One is without parallel and countless more suffered injuries to mind or body. Sadly the hopes that this would be the war to end all wars were not enough to achieve a lasting peace.

There is a saying that nations which cannot remember their past are condemned to repeat it - we who live in peace now have a duty to help ensure that future generations never forget what happened a century ago.

The programme of events for the Commemoration Weekend evolved from a conversation between our Rector, Canon Ian Davenport, and our local Cheshire West and Chester Councillor, Chris Whitehurst, over a photograph from 1914 that shows a Belgium flag on the thatched roof property next to the Old Fire Station on the High Street.



This is a record of the welcome and hospitality which two refugee families received from the Malpas community when fleeing from their homes after Germany invaded Belgium at the outbreak of war.

This act of kindness to strangers was also the inspiration for "The Poppies of Malpas" especially written for us by Rod Brookfield.

In 2018, as our village grows, working together as a welcoming community is equally important today, as it was then. It is hoped that the project will help our new arrivals to understand some of our local history.

I hope residents and visitors whatever your age will appreciate and enjoy the various events and that you will, with me, wish to express your gratitude to the many individuals and organisations that have contributed in their different ways to the making of this weekend.

Richard Hoffman  
Organising Committee Chairman







*Malpas Infants School. 1912.*

There was increasing tension between nations in the years before 1914 as international alliances were formed. But without television and radio could the teachers or parents of these children have had any inkling of how life, even in Malpas, was soon to change forever?

## **MALPAS REACTS TO THE OUTBREAK OF WAR IN 1914**

On 28 June 1914 Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated as he was driven through the streets of Sarajevo in Serbia. This was one of history's defining moments, a spark that was to set the world aflame.

Five weeks later, on August 4th, Britain declared war on Germany in response to that country's invasion of neutral Belgium. The news did not reach Malpas until the next day when, according to the *Whitchurch Herald*: *'The men in several instances who had come into the town to hear the news, saw the proclamation posted up on the post office doors, and without a word they jumped on to their cycles, and left to fight for King and country'*.

The proclamation set off in Malpas a flurry of meetings, parades, and exhortations to all eligible men to enrol for military service. Malpas had not been entirely unprepared. Following concern at a general lack of shooting ability demonstrated by those who had served in the ranks during the South African (Boer) War (1899-1902), many communities had established rifle ranges to encourage their men to improve their skills. The ranges were a twentieth century equivalent of the medieval butts set up in churchyards, to which men were required by law to go for archery practice after morning service in the church. In Malpas permission had been given in 1907 for use of the upper room of the Jubilee Hall as an indoor rifle range *'on the understanding that no damage is done to the property'* and early in 1914 it had been prophesied that the shooting carried on there *'would be valuable to the defence of England'*. (See report of death of John Mercer on page 8)

On September 17<sup>th</sup> 1914 Lord Arthur Grosvenor, a veteran of the South African War, headed a procession of motor cars which conveyed 22 recruits from Malpas to Chester, 16 of whom eventually enrolled. Presumably the remaining 8 proved to be medically unfit for active service. By mid-November about 50 men from the Malpas area had enlisted.

Later, in October 1915, a Volunteer Corps was established in Malpas. It numbered around 25 men, fully equipped with service rifles, who drilled in the Jubilee Hall on Monday evenings and route marched on Saturday afternoons.

Friday 6:00 pm

Jubilee Hall

Saturday 3:30 pm

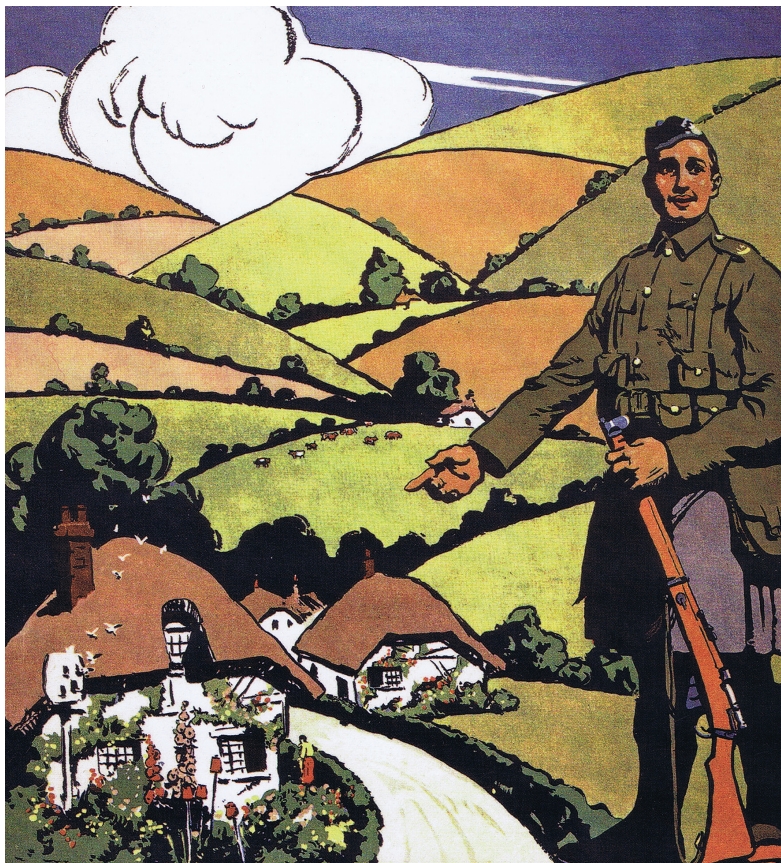
Saturday 7:30 pm

## The Way We Were

Sunday 2:00 pm

Drama, music, poetry and song paint a picture of Malpas at the time of war. There are four opportunities to see this community production, written and directed by Mags Fraser, involving all ages of folk from the local community.

Join the cast in our 19<sup>th</sup> Century Jubilee Hall as they journey back to Malpas 100 years ago to see how the village coped without their young men.



It is intended to pay tribute not only to the men who gave their lives in The Great War, but also to shine a light on those left at home who were determined to support the war effort and “keep the home fires burning brightly.”

Not to be missed!

Tickets available on the door - £4 adults, £2 senior citizens, Children under 18 free

Friday 7:30pm - St. Oswald's Church

## The Armed Man

### Nantwich Choral Society



# THE ARMED MAN: A MASS FOR PEACE

Composed by Karl Jenkins  
ALSO FOR THE FALLEN By CB Rootham

Friday 9th November, 7.30pm

## St. Oswald's Church, Malpas

Northern Concordia Ensemble Conductor - John Naylor  
Guest Soloist - Harriett Goodwin



Join the assembly on the evening of Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November to listen to the words and music of three famous British Composers unfolding their thoughts of the Strife, Hardships and Sacrifices our Men and Women suffered during in the First World War.

John Irelands

Greater Love Hath No Man

Cyril Bradley Rootham

For the Fallen

Karl Jenkins

The Armed Man



Saturday 10:30am – Malpas High Street

## Call to Arms and Parade

Memorable scenes of local people signing-up in 1914 will be brought to life by the Whitchurch WWI Re-enactment Group.

The parade will start at 11:15am and the salute will be taken by The Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, Mr David Briggs, MBE, K St J. and The Lord Mayor of Chester, Councillor Alex Black.

### Organisations represented

- |                                |                                   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Air Training Corps             | Beeches Pre-School                |
| Chester City Band              | Malpas Alport School              |
| Malpas Fire and Rescue Service | Malpas Flower Club                |
| Malpas Ladies Choir            | Malpas Scouts                     |
| Malpas Young Farmers           | Wynnstay Mounted Military Cavalry |

Saturday and Sunday 1:00pm – 5:00pm at the High Street Church

## Wartime Roadshow

Images, artefacts and insights from a lost generation - and Malpas a century ago

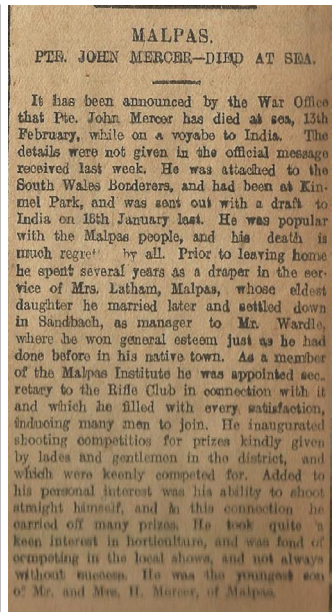


Money to support the Red Cross was raised through the organisation of sales and entertainment events. It was reported that "Our Day" resulted in over £400 being handed over to Red Cross funds - the equivalent of almost £40,000 in today's money!!

Farm worker Sidney Allen from Cross o' th' Hill was killed, aged 20, while acting as a stretcher-bearer carrying wounded comrades.



He had been on the Western Front for only seven months.



How news of the death of shop manager John Mercer was reported.

A year after marrying Lillian Latham at St Oswald's, he had enlisted at the age of 36, but died just months later en route to India after leaving Iraq with his battalion.

## Passing our knowledge to the next generation

One of the activities of the “Malpas 100 Years On” event will be aimed at our children. It is hoped they will learn about what life was like in The Great War. Children who have signed up will take part in the following activities:

### Exercise 1 – Physical Training

Recruits were put through a series of training sessions before heading to the battlefields; part of this training was building up their physical fitness. Our PT instructor will put the children through their paces with a series of games and activities.

### Exercise 2 – Drill

During the initial training recruits had to not only build up their physical fitness, but also had, to have discipline and obedience instilled in them. We will be teaching them the very basics of learning to march but more importantly, listening to orders and doing exactly what they are told.

### Exercise 3 – Campfire Cooking

Children will be informed about what rations a World War 1 soldier had and for those that are brave enough, they will also be offered the opportunity to try these items. We will then fast forward 100 years to see what soldiers get today, and children will be able to cook and eat a present day ration pack meal.

### Exercise 4 – Initiative Exercises



The group of children will all need to work together to achieve an objective. The exercise will be based around the use of mustard gas which killed nearly 100,000 people in World War 1. Children will get a very brief lesson on mustard gas, how it was used and the effects it had, and then will have to lead their ‘blinded’ comrades through a series of obstacles. Further challenges will be introduced, which will debilitate the rescuers and make it more difficult to reach safety.

### Exercise 5 – An interactive lesson on World War 1

Children will learn some key facts of World War 1 from our recruiting sergeant as well as have the opportunity to try on some of the uniform items and learn some first aid.

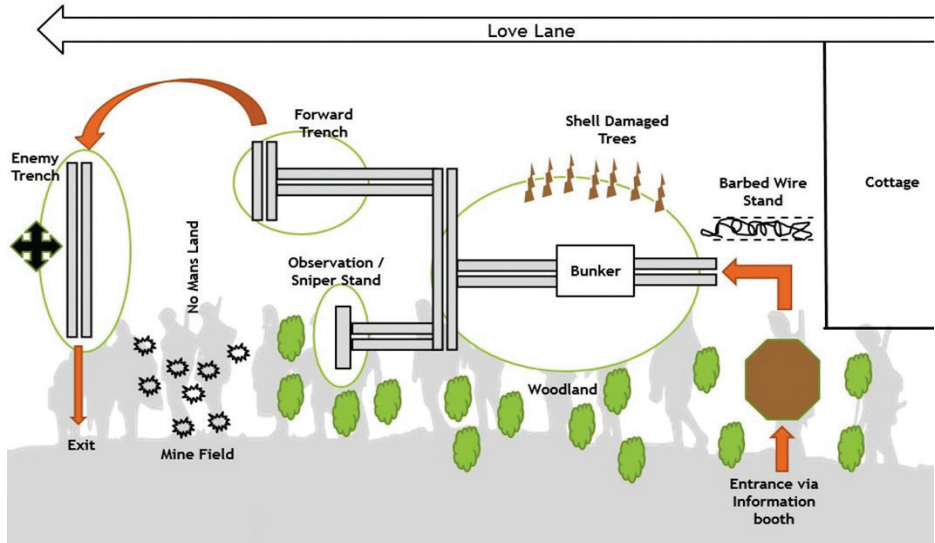
### Exercise 6 – Tour of the Trenches

A tour of our representative trench network will help the children to gain a better understanding of what conditions were like for World War 1 soldiers.

To end the afternoon of activities, all children will use their newly learnt drill skills to form up together for a ‘pay parade’, where they will be presented with a bespoke commemorative pin in recognition of their efforts.

## The Trench Network

This is not a replica of actual trenches but has been created to give an impression of the conditions under which soldiers had to live and fight.



In the early weeks of the First World War, the German Army moved quickly through Belgium and into France hoping to reach Paris. Their advance was halted by the Allies at the hard fought battles of Marne and Aisne in September 1914, and as a result both sides began to dig themselves into defensible positions. They began to dig trenches.

At the same time in a series of manoeuvres which became known as the “Race to the Sea”, both German and Allied troops extended their lines towards the coast. Germany wanted control of a coastal port and the Allies wanted to ensure they did not achieve this.

These manoeuvres were also an attempt to outflank each other in order to break the stalemate. This stalemate was inevitable as soon as the trenches had been dug, because it proved murderous, and almost impossible, to cross the land between safely. This stretch of land soon became known as “No Man’s Land.”

By November 1914 the Western Front, as it was known, stretched all the way from Switzerland to the North Sea. The zigzag trench lines, often separated by no more than a few metres, remained relatively unchanged for the duration of the war – despite the great battles that were supposed to break the deadlock but, instead, resulted in huge losses of life with little or no change in location on the ground.

Sunday 10:45 am - St. Oswald's Church

## Malpas Service of Remembrance

Churches Together in association with The Royal British Legion  
(Hampton and District Branch)

**Remembrance Preparation** 10:00am

Parade assembles and marches to St Oswald's Church

**Remembrance Service starts** 10:45am

Message from the Parish Council Chairman

**The Last Post**

**Two Minutes Silence** 11:00am

**The Reveille**

**Laying of the Wreaths** 12:00pm

At the War Memorial in St Oswald's Churchyard - to honour the dead in all wars

**Formal Remembrance Parade** 12:15pm

March to the Jubilee Hall.

Salute to be taken by Colonel David Brooks, DL.



**Vigil in Words and Music** 6:00pm

Prayers and readings, St Oswald's Church Choir and Malpas Ladies Choir.

**Last cannon / gunshot commemoration** 6:55pm

Bugler sounds the last post

**The lighting of the signal beacon** 7:00pm

By Rector, Canon Ian Davenport, and the "Malpas 100 Years On" committee members

**St Oswald's Church Bell Peal** 7:05pm

Led by Bell Captain Ben Kellet



# The Home Front

## THE RED CROSS HOSPITAL AT THE BOLLING

As the casualties of action on such battlefields as Mons, the Marne and Ypres began to arrive back in England, it soon became obvious that existing hospitals would be unable to cope. In December 1914 Mrs Ethelston, whose husband Captain Ethelston had died the previous May, opened up her house 'The Bolling' (the former Lower Rectory) in Church Street as a voluntarily run Red Cross hospital.

Similar hospitals were being opened across the country, including one just off the A49 at Higginsfield House at Cholmondeley, which had begun operating in November.

Local people enrolled as VAD (Voluntary Aid Detachment) nurses and members of the Malpas Men's Ambulance Detachment worked as orderlies.



The hospital received many generous gifts in kind, ranging from vegetables, fruit and eggs to pyjamas, gramophone records and cigarettes.

The first group of soldiers began to leave the hospital in February 1915 but they were soon followed by new arrivals from France, probably casualties of the Battle of Neuve-Chapel in March, which took such a heavy toll of British forces.

With a massive increase in the number of wounded in April and May, victims of the second Battle of Ypres, the hospital had to be extended. Further rooms were adapted as wards and a tent was erected in the grounds to provide extra accommodation.

### The Belgian Refugees

Even before the first wounded soldiers had arrived at The Bolling, another group of war victims had fled to this country. Following Germany's invasion of Belgium in August 1914, the event which precipitated Britain's entry into the war, over a million Belgians sought refuge in other countries. Around 100,000 of them embarked for Britain and between 600 and 700 of these came to Cheshire.

A hastily formed Malpas reception committee agreed to take 2 Belgium refugee families. One came to live at the bungalow now called 'Hilbre' in Tilston Road, belonging to Mr Greenshields of 'The Beeches', and the other went to a house made available at Sunnyside, by Malpas Rural District Council. The two families were still in Malpas in June 1915, but it is not known how long they stayed after that.



**Left:** Isabel Wycherley in her VAD (Voluntary Aid Detachment) uniform when nursing at The Bolling.  
**Right:** Wounded soldiers and nursing staff at the Malpas Red Cross Hospital.

Opened on 1st January 1915, the hospital eventually closed on 20<sup>th</sup> March 1919. A list of the Nurses that served at the Bolling Hospital demonstrate how many women dedicated many hours of their own time to looking after the wounded.

If you recognise one of these nurses as a relative, then we would be very pleased to find out more about the role they played during their appointment.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date of Engagement</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date of Engagement</b>
Mrs Mary Armitstead	May-17	Mrs Sarah Joinson	Jan-15
Miss Martha Baker	Jan-15	Miss Johanna Mendels	Apr-18
Mrs Mary Blake	Jan-15	Mrs Gertrude Mercer	Oct-18
Mrs Elizabeth Bussey	Jan-15	Mrs Constance Murless	Jan-15
Mr Joseph Bussey	29/01/1915	Miss Muriel Norton	16/08/1916
Miss Emma Carpenter	Jan-15	Miss Muriel Norton	May-17
Mr George Chesworth	28/01/1915	Miss Annie Parry	Jan-15
Miss Ellen Corlett	Jan-15	Miss Elizabeth Parsonage	Jan-15
Miss Mary Dorothy Cox	May-17	Mrs Juliet Rebecca Raobotham	Jan-15
Mr Herbert Andrew Crowther	29/01/1915	Miss Mary Richards	Jan-15
Mrs Amy Dawson	Jan-15	Mrs Mary Richardson	Oct-18
Miss Mary Dawson	May-17	Miss Mary Robinson	Jan-15
Miss Alice Edge	Jan-15	Mrs Grace Royds	May-17
Mrs Ruth Ethelston	01/08/1918	Miss Constance Sandbach	Jan-15
Mrs Ruth Frances Ethelston	29/01/1915	Miss Eva Sandbach	Jan-15
Miss Phyllis Greenshields	Jan-15	Miss Hester Sandbach	Jan-15
Miss Margaret Hanmer	Mar-16	Mrs Kate Thomas	Oct-18
Miss Lizzie Hough	30/03/1918	Miss Josephine Walker	Jan-15
Mrs Margaret Johnson Houghton	Mar-16	Miss Mary Wall	Oct-15
Miss Elizabeth Howard	Jan-15	Miss Gladys Weaver	Mar-16
Miss Mary Howard	Jan-15	Mrs Margaret Welsh	29-01-15
Miss Ida Hughes	Jan-15	Miss Isobel Wycherley	Jan-15

# Acknowledgements

These firms, organisations and individuals have made generous donations to enable this interesting and informative programme of events to be staged for the whole community.

## Sponsors

**Adam and Russell Coffee Roasters**  
**Blue Loos**  
**Cheshire Record Office**  
**Cheshire West and Chester Council**  
**Cottons Electrical Limited**  
**Coverall Marquees**  
**High Street Church**  
**JPCS Limited**  
**Malpas Bowling Club**  
**Malpas Fair Committee**  
**Malpas Farmers Club**  
**Malpas Parish Council**  
**Malpas Recreation Ground Trust**  
**Malpas Tractors**  
**Malpas and Whitchurch Lions**  
**Nantwich Choral Society and Friends**  
**Prism Lighting**  
**Prospect House**  
**Pyramid Nirvana Technology Solutions**

**Royal British Legion**  
**St Oswald's Church**  
**The Co-Operative**  
**The Jubilee Hall Management Committee**  
**Whitchurch Heritage Centre**  
**Whitchurch WW1 Re-enactment Group**  
**WitterOn Marketing**

**Dave Adams**  
**John Bartlett**  
**Lady Christine Bibby**  
**Jerry Brunning**  
**Lord Daresbury**  
**Richard Hoffman**  
**John Huxley**  
**Nigel & Joanne Owen**  
**Les Rich**  
**Mike Rowen**  
**Chris & Christine Whitehurst**

## Key Roles

Judy Anderson	Re-enactment Drama Assistant / Parade Control
Janet Blake	Festival of 1000 Poppies Director
Jackie Clegg	Recreation Ground Co-ordinator
David Brooks DL	The Lord Lieutenancy
Ian Davenport (The Rector)	St Oswald's Church Services
Mags Fraser	Author and Director of the Re-enactment Drama
Terry Fry	Historical Research
David Hayns	Village Historian
Richard Hoffman	Group Chairman
Tony Ord	Village Life Photography
John Proudlove	Trench Network
Edward Reeves	Trench Network
Rachael Reeves	Concert, Parade, Shop and Street decoration
Cathy Reynolds	Group Treasurer
Gerald Tilston	Welsh Guards Artefacts
Adrian Waddelove	Information Co-ordinator
Chris Whitehurst (Ward Councillor)	Group Secretary / Parade Control
Angela Witter	Publicity and Communications

**Special thanks are due to local people for the loan of their memorabilia and artefacts, and to Malpas Alport Primary and Bishop Heber High schools for their support of the project.**

The difficulty with making acknowledgments is that there might be omissions. If so the Malpas "100 Years On" committee extends sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to Malpas Centenary Commemorations in any way.

# The Roll of Honour

A century ago Lawrence Armitstead, the Rector and Chairman of the Parish Council, called a public meeting to discuss the idea of a War Memorial to the Malpas men who had not survived.



The War Memorial which stands in St Oswald's Churchyard was unveiled and dedicated by the Bishop of Chester on 3rd March 1920. The names of the fallen soldiers listed are:

Name	Date of death	Age	Name	Date of death	Age
Sidney Alsop Allen	19/02/1916	20	Joseph Groom	07/04/1919	23
George Allman	24/08/2014	28	Joseph Hewitt	14/10/1918	22
Robert Ankers	07/10/1916	34	John Hopley	17/04/1917	23
Alfred Ashley	06/03/1919	27	John Johnson	09/11/1916	36
John Alfred Bailey	05/01/1918	25	Thomas Ivan Jones	13/04/1919	28
Sydney Barlow	30/10/1914	29	John Owen Jones	13/05/1917	20
Frederick Bateman	21/05/1916	29	Harry Lamb	22/10/1918	27
Charles Bebbington	16/01/1917	21	Frank Leek	17/12/1917	23
James Albert Benyon	09/05/1918	34	Samuel Marsh	21/03/1918	38
William Birchall	31/03/1918	32	Archibald Maltman McIntyre	04/07/1918	30
George Boycott	21/09/1919	20	John McMichael	10/05/1918	31
Thomas Boycott	14/07/1916	22	John Mercer	13/02/1917	36
William John Brellisford	16/11/1918	36	George Parker	11/04/1918	33
John Henry Burns	01/05/1920	25	Arthur Phillips	01/07/1916	35
James Caughan *	15/07/1916	32	John Powell	24/08/1916	18
Ambrose Chetwood	02/11/1915	22	Charles John Richardson	28/08/1916	23
Edgar Henry Clutton	03/03/1917	20	Hugh Handley Sandbach	03/11/1914	36
James Crump	08/10/1918	21	Richard Simpson	22/08/1918	20
Arthur Davies	02/07/1918	27	Edward Stevenson	18/10/1917	33
David Davies	17/04/1917	29	Joseph Stevenson	12/10/1915	21
Leonard Edge	06/03/1916	36	John Richard Taylor	20/11/1918	20
James Evans	23/05/1915	29	Alfred Walley	14/11/1916	25
John Evans	22/04/1916	33	Leonard Wasse	19/08/1917	33
Edgar Fleet	09/04/1917	23	George Williamson	18/09/1918	22
Wilfred Fleet	10/05/1920	25	Richard Williamson	20/12/1916	26
Patrick Gavin **	Autumn 1918		Douglas Kirk Wolley Dod	25/09/1915	18
Stephen Gibbons	23/03/1918	40	Frederic Hova Wolley Dod	24/07/1919	47
George Glover	31/05/1918	24	George Albert Woodfield	24/11/1918	29
Jack Glover	07/10/1916	26	Alfred Wragg	03/03/1919	36

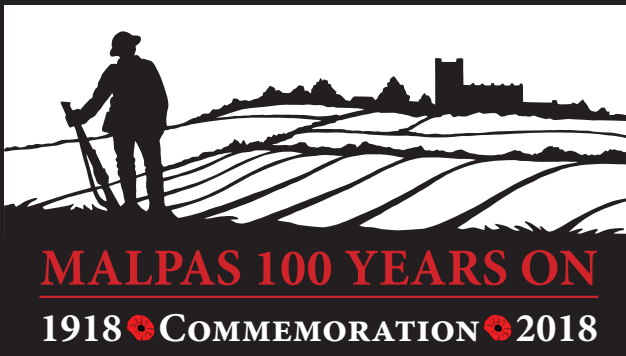
\* this individual is identified as James Gaughan

\*\* this individual in some records appears as Patrick Gavien

## The Forgotten Few

Research for the “Malpas 100 Years On” project has identified a number of Malpas men who appear not to have been recorded on any UK Memorial. It is the Committee’s intention to use any proceeds resulting from the weekend to update our War Memorial to honour them as is right to do so.

# Lest We Forget



During the project many facts have been gathered about the individuals who lived and died during The Great War.

It is intended to publish this information on the Malpas Community Website at <https://www.malpascheshire.org/historic-archive.html>

If you have any additional details about the men who died, or those who survived, and their families, please add them to our archives by e-mailing [editor@malpascheshire.org](mailto:editor@malpascheshire.org) or phoning 01948 860333.