

## DAWLISH WORLD WAR ONE GROUP

### **Proposal to mark the centenary of the Armistice with a tribute to the “Forgotten Fallen”**

#### **Summary**

Our project has established that the names of 9 men and 1 woman who died in active service of our country during the war and are missing from the town war memorial.

We propose that an additional tablet be placed in the empty section on the west face of the memorial, to be unveiled on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018 by the Mayor.

We are seeking approval in principle from Dawlish and Teignbridge Councils for this addition to the war memorial.

#### **Background – The Dawlish World War One Project**

Established in 2014 with support from Dawlish Town Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

We are a group of volunteers including interested members of the public, and representatives of local churches, museum, history group and the Royal British Legion.

Our focus has been on researching and telling the stories of the 120 men and 1 woman from the town who died in service of their country. An act of commemoration has taken place on each individual centenary, a scale of remembrance that is unique within the county of Devon for a community of this size.

We have also curated a number of small exhibitions on themes such as the Battles of Jutland and Gallipoli. We have created a website for our project, [Dawlishww1.org.uk](http://Dawlishww1.org.uk)

#### **The Forgotten Fallen**

It is by no means unusual to find that war memorials are missing names of the fallen. We can only speculate on the reasons as searches of the archives have failed to produce any helpful documents. However, one hundred years later we can be sure that these people died in the service of their country, and deserve to be remembered with their fellow servicemen.

We are on surer ground with Nurse Margaret Fortescue, who served with distinction on the western front and hospital ships. She is remembered in the town by a small plaque on her grandfather's grave.

It was not the custom at the time to remember women on war memorials, but in 2018 (The year of the woman) we have an opportunity to say that their sacrifice was equal to the men and should also be honoured.

### **What we propose to do**

With the consent of the civil authorities, we intend to advertise our intention in the local paper to add further names to the war memorial. This will invite people to come forward with names they wish to see included, and allow for objections to be made.

A further paper will be presented to the councils in due course with details of the new tablet, including design and cost. We expect it to be of a similar style to the original world war one tablets.

We have funds on deposit with the town council for grants already made, and would in the first instance seek to meet all costs from this source. We will seek guidance from the council if additional finance is required.

### **Further information on Armistice 2018**

We have discussed this important anniversary at our project volunteer meetings, and will be contributing to a meeting called by the Council Events Committee for March 13<sup>th</sup> 2018.

Our understanding is that the RBL and local churches are coalescing around a diary of events that is likely to look something like this:

(Subject to Confirmation)

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|------------------------------------|--|
| Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> November    | Final event by DWW1 to remember individual casualties of the great war. This will be for William Henry Burch, killed on 9 <sup>th</sup> November 1918.   |
| Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> November | Exhibition in the Strand Centre, bringing together themes of the war from across the period 1914-18<br><br>An afternoon of music and poetry with connection to the Great War. To include remembrance of those who died of their wounds after the hostilities ceased. |
| Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> November   | Gathering on the Lawn for traditional silence at 11am, remembering the exact moment that the guns fell silent<br><br>Parade and Gathering at the War Memorial for 3pm Act of Remembrance, to be followed by Church service   |