



Supporting Our Community

PRESS RELEASE

GODALMING REMEMBERED

Immediate release

After 100 years Godalming has finally honoured all those from the town who fell during 20th century conflicts. Strange as it might seem Godalming did not have a central war memorial that honoured all those from the town that had died in the service of the country. However, On Sunday, 11 November 2018, that omission was finally rectified.

Godalming's Remembrance Day started with the Town Mayor, Councillor Nick Williams, alongside Councillors and other dignitaries, joining with representatives of the armed forces, service veterans, the emergency services, cadet forces, scouts, guides and other the youth organisations in a solemn procession, led by Godalming Band, through Godalming to the Parish Church for a Service of Remembrance to mark the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice. As part of the service Captain Chris Cook Royal Navy extinguished the Godalming vigil light, which was lit in a WW1 trench lantern on 4 August 2014 and had been kept alight in the Parish Church for the 51 months since as a mark of respect to those from Godalming who served in the Great War. On completion of the church service over 1,500 residents gathered at the War Memorial in the Phillips Memorial Ground where the Rector of Godalming, the Reverend Jane Vlach led the Act of Remembrance to the fallen of the town.

During the service, four new memorial plaques, which commemorate the names of 281 Godhelmians who died during the First World War along with one Godhelmian who died in during the Korean War, were dedicated to their everlasting memory. The new plaques were installed next to the existing plaque naming those from the town who died during WW2. This means that, for the first time ever, Godalming's War Memorial records the names of all those from the town who died serving their country during 20th century conflicts. The plaques were funded by the kind generosity of The Peter Caudle Memorial Trust. Mrs Zadie Caudle, widow of the late Peter Caudle said "Although born just a few years after the First World War, my late husband Peter, a lifelong Godhelmian, grew up surrounded by many of the Godalming families who lost fathers and sons during that terrible war. There are now very few of us left who still remember grandfathers who served during the First World War, not that it was called that then, and even fewer left whose fathers served in that war. We are the last generation who have a living memory to link us with those young men who served and died and I know that Peter would be extremely pleased that at long last we will have a fitting memorial to their memory located in the Phillips Memorial Park near his beloved Church Street."

As well as the Remembrance Parade, as part of the commemorations of the end of the First World War, members of the Godalming Joint Burial Committee, who are responsible for looking after the war graves located in Nightingale and Eashing Cemeteries, were joined by the Mayor of Godalming and Mr Simon Crowther, Chairman of the Godalming Association and Members of the Association's Godalming in Bloom Committee to open the newly created Memorial Garden in the Victorian Nightingale Road Cemetery.

Ends

Notes to editors:

Since 2014 Godalming Town Council and Godalming Museum have researched and recorded as accurately as possible the list of the 281 Godalming Names who fell during World War 1.

In addition to the new memorial plaques and as part of this special 100-year commemoration of the end of the First World War, Godalming Town Council has gifted a commemorative badge to every child member of youth organisations who participated in the annual Godalming Remembrance Parade.

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