First World War Centenary Commemoration Project

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1. Project summary:
   • Website and resources
   • Sister Project - Recording Remembrance
   • Victoria Cross events

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Why a First World War Centenary Project?

• A National Commemorative Event

• East Sussex has stories to tell

• Meaningful Interaction with the Community
East Sussex WW1 Website

Website: www.eastsussexww1.org.uk
Twitter: @eastsussexww1
Stories, memories and events commemorating East Sussex's role in the First World War

Throughout the First World War, the guns and fighting in France and Belgium could be heard in East Sussex. Help bring our county's rich history to life by sharing your stories, memories and images, which will be kept as a permanent legacy and memorial for the future.

You can also find out about events in the county to mark the centenary of the First World War and help with our survey of local war memorials. Read about our website. Download resources for schools.
Stories
To commemorate 100 years since the First World War, we would like to share your personal stories about family, yourself and your local community. To submit a story or an event, please go to Take part.

The Battle of Petit Wood
Milton 'petit' Wood was the youngest brother of my great, great [...] 

Nelson Victor Carter VC
During the First World War, Nelson Victor Carter exhibited tremendous bravery [...] 

'My Family and the First World War'
This is an overview of the story of my maternal side [...] 

Bonfire Night in the First World War
The celebration of 'Bonfire Night' remained popular in East Sussex during [...] 

East Sussex Suffragettes
Both before and during the First World War, the Suffragette movement [...] 

The Thorntons and East Sussex County Council
During the First World War, whilst Major Robert Thornton served as [...] 

Midwifery and the Sussex County

Friends Ambulance Unit

The Bray Sisters
During the First World
Sussex Stories
Military Stories
Difficult Stories
Untold Stories

[Two images: one of soldiers sitting and another of a man carrying a load over his shoulder]
Untold Stories
Untold Stories

Maurice

E.M. FORSTER
Wider Stories
Newspapers

Historic East Sussex Newspapers

As part of our project to commemorate the centenary of the First World War, we have digitised a variety of historic newspapers from across East Sussex. Between them, these newspapers cover the period of 1914-1919 and allow us to view how life on the south coast proceeded whilst war raged across the Channel.

These newspapers are the culmination of a hugely ambitious digitisation programme by the East Sussex First World War Project. Such an undertaking is normally reserved for organisations and institutions such as the British Library, the National Newspaper Archive, and the National Library of Wales. As a result we are the first organisation of our kind to offer such a large and varied collection of newspapers online.

The published newspapers currently cover the time span up to the end of June 1915. Every month, we will release new editions so that you will be able to follow the war in real time 100 years after the newspapers were first published.

There were far more newspapers being published during the early part of the twentieth century than we have today but, during the war, they were also heavily censored by military authorities to prevent the publication of restricted information. As a result of this, and also because of the distances involved in covering the war, some events are reported in newspapers following a two or three week delay. However, over that intervening period you can begin to see hints and rumours that form into reported fact.

As the war continued, newspapers routinely published news of local men in service as they trained and were deployed overseas. They would also report on those men who were wounded or killed. On the homefront, they would publish calls for food and clothing for men at the front. There would also be appeals to take in refugees from France and Belgium. Beyond this, the general everyday life in East Sussex had to continue and you can see how this transpired within the pages of these newspapers whilst the war lurked forever in the background. If you find any interesting or exciting stories then please contact us with the newspaper name and edition.

Historic newspapers are a fantastic resource for examining the past, particularly during wartime. Over the coming months and years, we will be adding new newspaper titles to our collection here to build a research resource that will exist for the next hundred years and beyond.

To begin exploring the world of East Sussex 100 years ago, simply click on the image of a newspaper below.

Eastbourne Gazette

The Eastbourne Gazette was first published in 1859. A weekly paper, published every Wednesday and it is still in print today. We have digitised every edition of this newspaper from 7 January 1914 to 25 December 1918.

Eastbourne Chronicle
Then and Now Photos
Here you will find educational packs for students and teachers to support learning in the classroom or at home.

All can be printed out or viewed online.

Select from the teacher or student options below to access the themed resources.

**Teachers**
Learning resources for teachers.

**Students**
Learning resources for primary and secondary school children.
Events
To submit a story or an event, please go to Take part.

View events near East Sussex too

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**Bridge Cottage Heritage Centre - WW1 & 2 Exhibition**
East Sussex County Council First World War Commemorations
Uckfield, East Sussex, England

Type: Event / Exhibition (temporary)
Date: 20 February 2017 - 03 March 2017

**First World War Lewes Music Hall**
East Sussex County Council First World War Commemorations
Lewes, East Sussex, England

Type: Event / Concert
Date: 25 February 2017

**East Sussex Women and the First World War**
East Sussex County Council First World War Commemorations
Brighton, East Sussex, England

Type: Event / Lecture, talk or reading
Date: 07 March 2017

**Textiles workshop - The Orange Lilies project**

**East Sussex: Then and Now**

**Suffragettes**

**Did you know?**

**Twitter**

Tweets by @EastSussexWW1

And as a result, 100 yrs ago today, America severed diplomatic relations with Germany
twitter.com/EastSussexWW1...
Why memorials are important

The armistice of November 1918 brought to an end the First World War, the so-called ‘war to end all wars’. The war had continued on for four years. Many nations including Great Britain saw loss of life on a massive scale.

Commemorating those without graves at home

From 1916 that loss of life was so immense and so unremitting that the bodies of dead soldiers were rarely brought home to their grieving relatives, and were, if indeed there was a body, buried in a military grave in France or any of the other countries where fighting took place. These graves are still tended by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission today. However, across all sides of the First World War there were over five million soldiers who had died without any known grave. All that was left as a physical memorial were their names, which took on a symbolic significance in attempts to remember and commemorate.

War memorials take many forms

In response to the victory attained in 1918, cities across the United Kingdom erected memorials to commemorate the missing and the dead. These included the large war memorials such as the Cenotaph in Whitehall, Central London, the memorial at Hyde Park and countless others. Smaller memorials were erected in towns and villages across the country listing the names of each local soldier who had been killed in action or who was missing.

War memorials ranged from grand and elaborate sculptures, and were often designed by leading architects such as the memorial in Steine Gardens, Brighton, which takes the form of a Roman water garden, to simple stone crosses on a plinth. This type of memorial can be seen today on village greens across East and West Sussex. Others types of memorial included simple rolls of honour found in village halls and churches, such as Ashburnham Church in East Sussex, and stained glass windows. Many schools also established rolls of honour in school halls to commemorate former pupils who had fallen.

These memorials were commissioned and paid for in a variety of ways, and the years immediately following the armistice saw many different fundraising schemes in action, designed to support a local memorial. Commissioning committees were established to plan the fundraising campaign including village events and knocking on doors. Many of those involved in these were women.

Remembrance

Local war memorials provided a tangible focus for the grief that was experienced after the First World War. The memorialisation process was a fundamental combination of the emotional needs of the community and the political necessity of the evocation and promotion of a specific memory of the war that directed the conversion of grief into pride. Community involvement in the construction of memorials and the ownership of memory, was essential in the success of memorials as beacons of commemoration.

Today, there are over 100,000 war memorials across the United Kingdom.

References

Brittain, Vera, Testament of Youth (Victor Gollancz, 1933)
Sheffield, Gary, Forgotten Victory: The First World War: Myths and Realities (Headline, 2001)
Winter, Jay, Sites of Memory, Sites of Mourning (Cambridge, 1992)
War Memorials Trust
IWM’s War Memorials Archive (formerly UK National Inventory of War Memorials)
Roll of Honour – war memorials and rolls of honour covering a variety of regiments, airfields and air bases as well as the memorials and cemeteries in the countries overseas where the men fell.
The website so far:

• Over 198 Stories & Events listed
• 63% submitted or contributed to by public
• Just under 155,000 visitors since 4 August 2014 launch
• Viewed on every continent (not Antarctica)
Victoria Cross Paving Stones
Sidney Woodroffe

30th July 2015
Lewes Library
Cuthbert Bromley

16th August 2015
Seaford War Memorial
Nelson Carter

2nd July 2016
Eastbourne
Redoubt
Project Legacy

• Archives

• Education

• Partnerships

• Community links
How you can get involved

- Your projects, events, and stories
- Spread the word
- Ask friends or family
- Look around you
How you can get involved

Take part

There are three ways to take part and get involved in the creation of this website:

Stories

We want everyone to add their personal stories, anecdotes and images from this period in East Sussex’s history.

These stories will then be made available at the county record office at The Keep as a lasting memory of how WW1 affected the people of East Sussex.

Events

You can post information about current local events due to occur during the centenary period, 2014 to 2018.

We add all our events to the national website, Culture24, thus linking us with the other commemorative projects happening around the UK.

Recording Remembrance – Sussex War Memorials Project

We are also supporting this separate project to compile information about all war memorials across the counties of both East and West Sussex, including Brighton and Hove.

You can help the project by entering data such as the location, condition and names listed on Sussex’s war memorials.
Any Questions?

Website: [www.eastsussexww1.org.uk](http://www.eastsussexww1.org.uk)
Twitter: [@eastsussexww1](https://twitter.com/eastsussexww1)