

BACK TO THE FRONT

*Abbots Langley, Bedmond, Hunton Bridge,
Langleybury and Leavesden*



Great War Project



Programme of Events
2018

Introduction

Throughout 2018 the “Back to the Front” Great War Project will organise and co-ordinate a programme of events and activities to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the end of the Great War, and the part played by those from the villages of Abbots Langley, Bedmond, Hunton Bridge, Langleybury and Leavesden.

The Project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and many of the events will be free to attend. Many local organisations have partnered with “Back to the Front” and we hope that you will be able to join in and support the many events that are planned for the commemoration period through to the end of 2018.

New events are being added all of the time, and details will be posted on the Project web site at **www.backtothefront.org**.

Please remember those from the local villages that served in the First World War, some never to return, and join with us going “Back to the Front”.

Roger Yapp
Project Leader
Back to the Front Project



LOTTERY FUNDED

Did a Great War Soldier Live at My House?

Tuesday 1 May to Thursday 31 May 2018 Abbots Langley Village and around
Sunday 1 July to Tuesday 31 July 2018 Bedmond Village and around

From the extensive research carried out by the “Back to the Front” Project over 200 houses where local Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen lived at the time of the Great War have been identified by street number or house name.

From mid-May 2018 a window sticker will be distributed to each modern day property together with an Information Pack with the stories of servicemen and women that lived at each individual house. Modern day residents are requested to prominently display the sticker in front windows or on front doors.

If a Soldier lived at your house please take part in this part of the “Back to the Front” Project.

Great War Walks

Abbots Langley – Bank Holiday Monday 28 May 2018 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm

Meet at Causeway Car Park, High Street, Abbots Langley WD5 0AW

Followed by refreshments at the Scout Hall, Langley Road, Abbots Langley WD5 0EH

Bedmond – Bank Holiday Monday 27 August 2018 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm

Meet at Bedmond Village Hall, High Street, Bedmond, WD5 0QP

Followed by refreshments at the “Tin Church”, Church Hill, Bedmond WD5 0RN
 (Car parking behind the Church)

Free event

A two hour walk led by historians from the Abbots Langley Local History Society will use research from the Back to the Front archives, including the stories of over 700 villagers that served, to tell the story of Abbots Langley in the Great War. See where the soldiers from the village lived and learn about the villages at the time of the First World War. Hear their stories and of their exploits in the Great War, and walk in their foot-steps through the villages and the surrounding countryside. Each walk will conclude with refreshments. At Abbots Langley refreshments will be available at the Scout HQ Hall where the Walk will terminate. Whilst enjoying a cup of tea walkers will be able to view an exhibition featuring the stories of the Boy Scouts from Abbots Langley and their role in the Great War. Refreshments at the end of the Bedmond walk will be available at the Tin Church. Both Walks will be held in conjunction with the Hertfordshire Walks and More and Health Walks programme.

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/walksandmore>

Abbots Langley Festival Event “A Boy Called Herbert”

Monday 2 July 2018 7.30 pm

Abbots Langley & District Men’s Club

21 Trowley Rise, Abbots Langley, WD5 0LN

Free event, but donations to the Royal British Legion gratefully accepted (suggested donation £2 per head)

The Abbots Langley Branch of the Royal British Legion present a talk by Tim Wigmore from Garston Manor School, which will provide an insight to the Great War through the life of Herbert Bushby Cave. Tim will tell the story of Herbert’s time in the Territorial Army and his War Service. Herbert was the son of the local Fishmonger and lived in Abbots Langley’s High Street. He has been adopted by Garston Manor School and features prominently in the children’s studies and research of the Great War. Come along and find out why and how a local boy became to be a soldier in the First World War. This event is part of the 2018 Abbots Langley Festival.



Street Displays

Royal British Legion Street Poppies at Abbots Langley

Saturday 27 October 2018

Abbots Langley & Bedmond Village centres

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armistice which ended the Great War on 11th November 1918, Abbots Langley Parish Council and the Abbots Langley Branch of the Royal British Legion will be organising a display of 2,000 giant poppies attached to the lamp-posts in the village centres of Abbots Langley and Bedmond. You can sponsor a giant poppy for either a lamp-post or to take away for use on your property.



To sponsor a poppy visit the Royal British Legion stall at:

Abbots Langley Carnival – Saturday 9 June 2018

Bedmond Fair – Saturday 14 July 2018

Abbots Langley Transition Market on Saturday 27 October 2018 at the Henderson Hub, High Street, Abbots Langley.

Or contact Liz Burns at belizmik@aol.com or 07527 213921

Best Great War Shop Window Display

Friday 26 October 2018

Abbots Langley High Street

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the Great War shops in Abbots Langley's High Street will compete for the best dressed First World War shop window display. Shop window displays will be on view from **Friday 26 October**.

The judging of the winner will take place on **Saturday/Sunday 27/28 October**.

If you have not already been contacted and would like to enter this competition please get in touch with the project at info@backtothefront.co.uk.



Talks

Abbots Langley Scouts

“What the Scouts of Hertfordshire did in World War One” – a talk by Frank Brittain (Hertfordshire Scouts' Archivist)

Friday 5 October 2018 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm

The Scout HQ Hall

21 Langley Road, Abbots Langley, WD5 0EH

Tickets are £2 (payable at the event) and should be reserved beforehand by emailing 1st.abbos@hotmail.com or telephone Pauline on 01923 445374

Refreshments available (donation to Scout funds)

Frank Brittain, the Hertfordshire Scouts' Archivist will speak about Scouting in Hertfordshire during the Great War. Over 1,000 local Scouts served helping the local authorities throughout the War. Come and find out what they did.

During the evening an exhibition featuring the stories of the Boy Scouts from Abbots Langley and their role in the Great War will be on display.



Abbots Langley Local History Society

“Three Men, Three Ships and A Submarine: 22 September 1914” & “The Bedmond Cowboy” – two short Great War talks by Geoff Cunnington and Roger Yapp

Monday 29 October 2018 8.00 pm

Manor House Sports & Social Centre

Gallows Hill Lane, Abbots Langley WD5 0DD

Free for ALLHS Members

Visitors welcome – £2 donation

Geoff Cunnington (Chairman of the Beds & Herts Branch of the Western Front Association) will present the story of a famous British Naval disaster from September 1914 with Abbots Langley interest, and based on original research, Roger Yapp (Project Leader of the Back to the Front Project) will reveal the previously unknown story of a Bedmond man who fought in the mud of Passchendaele.



Back to the Front (Bedmond)

“Back to the Front”, a talk by Roger Yapp

Tuesday 30 October 2018, Doors open 7.30 pm

The Church of the Ascension (“Tin Church”)

Church Hill, Bedmond WD5 0RN

(Car parking behind the Church)

Suggested donation £2 per person

Refreshments available

Roger Yapp (Project Leader of the “Back to the Front” Project) will tell the story of Walter Owen, a Groom from Abbots Langley, who joined up in September 1914 and how a long weekend in France led to the birth of the “Back to the Front” Project. Before and after the talk please visit the “Back to the Front” exhibition at the Church.



Great War Exhibition

Saturday 27 October to Friday 2 November 2018

10 am to 4 pm Saturday & Sunday; 10 am to 12 noon weekdays

Church of the Ascension (“Tin Church”)

Church Hill, Bedmond WD5 0RN (Car parking behind the Church)

Saturday 3 to Sunday 11 November 2018

St Lawrence Church

High Street, Abbots Langley WD5 0AS

Free event

A “pop-up” exhibition will feature the life and times of the people from the villages of Abbots Langley, Bedmond, Hunton Bridge, Langleybury and Leavesden. From the declaration of War in August 1914 and the arrival of troops



to be billeted in and around the villages, through to the Armistice in November 1918 and beyond. The exhibition will run for two weeks, and will present the research of the Back to the Front Project, re-telling the stories of over 1,000 people from the villages and also background information explaining how the War impacted the lives of those that remained back on the Home Front.

“Only Remembered” – an Evening of Great War songs and Stories

Wednesday 7 November to Saturday 10 November 2018

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 7.45 pm

Saturday Matinee 2.30 pm

Free event

An evening of music and songs from the Great War and stories of local people at the Front and at Home in villages.

Seats must be booked in advance.

For details check at:

www.backtothefront.org from September 2018.



“Spirit, Service & Sacrifice” – Bedmond in World War One

Saturday 3 November 2018 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm

Travel back one hundred years for an evening including an authentic World War One Supper and Concert Party entertainment. An evening of songs, poems and monologues recreating Bedmond of 1918. Guests are encouraged to dress in period costume.

Bedmond Village Hall
High Street, Bedmond WD5 0QP

Free event

Tickets must be booked in advance. Available from the Back to the Front stall at:
Bedmond Fair, Saturday 14 July 2018
Bedmond Church Fete, Saturday 22 September 2018
Email bedmondvillagetaskforce@gmail.com
Phone Bedmond Village Hall – 07401 331302



Remembrance Sunday



Sunday 11 November 2018 marks one hundred years to the day when the guns fell silent, and the Great War came to an end. This year’s **Remembrance Sunday Service at St Lawrence Church at Abbots Langley** will be a very special event, to commemorate the end of the conflict and also those who served and gave their lives. The Service will also remember all those from throughout the world that have lost their lives in conflict.

Please gather at **10.30 am** at St Lawrence Church to await the arrival of the Official Procession and join in the Service of Remembrance. The Bell Ringers of St Lawrence will mark the one hundredth anniversary of the Armistice, by joining with Bell Ringers across the country in a “Ring for Peace” peal.

The Church of the Ascension (“Tin Church”) at Bedmond will also be holding a special **Remembrance Sunday Service** at **3.00 pm** this year and its bell will be used to join in with the peal.



Remembrance Sunday Services will be held at:

9.30 am St Paul’s Church Langleybury

10.30 am St Lawrence Church, Abbots Langley

11.00 am Leavesden War Memorial, Leavesden High Road

3.00 pm The Church of the Ascension (“Tin Church”), Bedmond (Car parking behind the Church)

“Now that the Guns have stopped”

8.00 pm Church of the Ascension (“Tin Church”), Church Hill, Bedmond, WD5 0RN

“Now that the guns have stopped” will comprise an anthology of music, poetry, readings and imagery. It will be a reflective presentation, much of the material having been written by writers, composers and poets themselves involved in the First World War. Although prayerful in nature it will be suitable for people of any faith or none.



Mud & Memorials

The Great War ended one hundred years ago, and soon War Memorials were built in all of the local villages to commemorate and remember those that did not return. One hundred years on the “Mud & Memorials” workshops organised by the “Back to the Front” Project will create modern War Memorials at Abbots Langley and Bedmond, made from two hundred clay tiles individually crafted by students from local schools, and erected a century on, in 2018.

Each clay workshop will enable students to work with a material directly related to the conditions suffered by soldiers during the War. With every student producing unique work, it is hoped that this will be a reflection of the many, many individual stories of those who perished.

June to November 2018

Watch the progress of the project at www.backtothefront.org.



“Just a List of Names” – a book telling the stories of over 700 men and women from Abbots Langley and Bedmond that served in the Great War

The War Memorial at St Lawrence Church lists 81 men from the villages of Abbots Langley and Bedmond that died during the Great War.

So what about those that served, but survived the First World War? Where are they remembered?

Some can be found in the Parish Magazine records at St Lawrence Church, Abbots Langley: names, ranks and units listed each month throughout the four years of the War. One hundred years on these are just lists of names.

In a brand new book, Local Historian and “Back to the Front” Project Leader, Roger Yapp, has traced over seven hundred men and women from the villages, researched each and every one of them, and has written their stories. Many of these men are not recorded in the Parish Magazines and are not on the local War Memorials. The family and service records of each of the seven hundred men and women have been researched. Stories have been pieced together from many sources to create a modern record of those from the villages that served in the Great War, which is much more than just a list of names.


“Just A List of Names” will be published and available for purchase from October 2018 as a limited edition of just one hundred copies. Publication has been supported by grant aid by Abbots Langley Parish Council.


To pre-order your copy please email info@backtothefront.org.


William Barnes, Herts Territorials.	George William Filby, R.A.M.C.
Frederick William Barnes, Herts R.F.A.	W. W. Hutchings, A.S.C.
William Buckoke, Herts Territorials.	Herbert Higgins, Australian Imp. Force.
Frederick Whittaker, Herts Territorials.	George Buckoke, R.N.D.
George David Woodott, A.S.C.	Sidney Edward Halsey, A.S.C.M.T.
Arthur Manners Courtney, Victoria Rifles.	Herbert William Syer, R.G.A.
Harry Albert Courteen, Victoria Rifles.	William George Hook, Remounts.
Ernest Swallow, 4th Beds. Regt.	James Martin, R.F.A.
George Simmonds, Canadian Contingent.	Charles Masters Parker, 8th Royal West Kent.
Frank Simmonds, Canadian Contingent.	Cecil Baldry, Yorks Regt.
Clifford Hook, 2nd Beds. Regt.	Frederick George Lee, A.S.C.
Clifton Bourne, Cyclists' Corps.	Alfred Dowse, Herts Territorials.
Charles Edward Glover, Army Vet. Corps.	William Laurie Blues, R.A.M.C.
Charles William Young, 19th City of London Regt.	George Edward Taylor, R.A.M.C.
George Young, A.S.C.	Hubert Norman Mansors Courteen, Royal Flying Corps.
Joseph Dell, Remount Department.	Frank Hedges, 3rd Beds. Regt.
William James Day, R.M.L.I.	George Muskett, R.G.A.
George Lay, 18th King's Royal Rifles.	John Windmill, Notts and Derbys.
Frederick Harris, R.F.A.	Cyril Buckoke, Royal Fusiliers.
Stanley Austin, Civil Service Rifles.	Douglas Inett Ward, New Zealand Contingent.
Harry Filby, Herts R.F.A.	Lewis Ashby, 3rd Beds. Regt.
Ernest Higgs, A.S.C.	Leonard Atkins, 3rd Beds. Regt.
Robert Dunn, Herts Territorials.	Arthur Botwright, 9th Beds. Regt.
Charles Kidgway, Army Vet. Corps.	Benjamin Botwright, 9th Beds. Regt.
William Griggs, R.N. Air Service.	Horace Dicker, A.S.C.
H. J. West, A.S.C.	Percy Hedges, 11th Gloucesters.
Reginald Dickinson, R.N.R.	John Owen, Canadian Contingent.
William Henry Bassil, H.M.S. Zinnia.	John Terry, Royal Engineers.
Frank William Thatcher, M.T., A.S.C.	Charles Hart, Royal Engineers.
Charles Barton Thatcher, Herts R.F.A.	Edward Botwright, 4th Beds. Regt.
Albert Edward Wedgerfield, A.S.C.	Ralph Welland, Seaforth Highlanders.
John England, Herts R.F.A.	William Harris, Grenadier Guards.
Charles Jackson, 5th Middlesex Regt.	Frank Burgess, R.F.A.
Septimus Simmonds, Machine Gun Service.	Leonard Healing.
Edward George Slade, A.S.C.	Harry Munt, D.C.L.I.
Robert Stevens, R.N.A.S.	Frederick William Puddiphatt, A.V.C.
Arthur Cox, Royal Engineers.	Jesse Whittaker, 9th Beds. Regt.
Frederick Brown, Royal Bucks Hussars.	
Richard Coombes, R.N.A.S.	

Summary of Events

Dates 2018	Event
Tuesday 1 May to Thursday 31 May	Did a Great War Soldier Live at My House?
Monday 28 May	Great War Walk
Saturday 9 June	Stall at Abbots Langley Carnival
June to November	“Mud & Memorials” – new War Memorial creation
Sunday 1 July to Tuesday 31 July	Did a Great War Soldier Live at My House?
Monday 2 July	“A Boy Called Herbert” – Talk
Saturday 14 July	Stall at Bedmond Fair
Monday 27 August	Great War Walk
Friday 5 October	Scouting in Hertfordshire During the Great War – Talk
Friday 26 October to Sunday 11 November	Best Great War Shop Window Display
Saturday 27 October	Street Poppies & Stall at Abbots Langley Transition Market
Saturday 27 October to Friday 2 November	Great War Exhibition
Monday 29 October	Two Great War Talks (Abbots Langley Local History Society)
Tuesday 30 October	“Back to the Front” – Talk
Saturday 3 November to Sunday 11 November	Great War Exhibition
Saturday 3 November	“Spirit, Service & Sacrifice” WW1 Supper & Concert Party
Wednesday 7 November to Saturday 10 November	“Only Remembered” Production
Sunday 11 November	100th Anniversary Special Remembrance Services
Sunday 11 November	“Now that the Guns have stopped” – reflection

 Abbots Langley

 Bedmond

 Abbots Langley & Bedmond