

Look back **in time**

Town's plan to mark the final resting places of World War I fallen

A community-driven project has been launched to remember a town's fallen servicemen during the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War I.

Arlesey Town Council aims to commemorate the 87 servicemen who died in the Great War between 1914-18 and are named on the town's war memorial by placing crosses on each of their graves.

Anyone in the village is invited to place a cross with the words 'Arlesey Remembers You', the soldier's name, age and date of death on one of the graves, which span six countries and two continents.

There are 32 graves in France, 21

in Belgium, 14 in England, five in Israel, two in Turkey and one in Iraq, while the location of a further 12 remain unknown.

For the serviceman's grave located in Iraq, the British Embassy in Baghdad has agreed to place a cross on the council's behalf due to the security situation preventing anyone visiting.

For those whose bodies were never found, a cross will be placed at an unnamed grave in the cemetery where they have been commemorated.

A cross will also be placed at the base of the Arlesey War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday this year for servicemen for which no record

of their grave or a commemoration can be found.

Town councillor Duncan Wang, who came up with the idea in November last year and put it to the council the following month, said: "It will be quite a challenge as we want to do more than simply place a cross on each grave. We want as many people involved as possible and it will be a volunteer-driven project.

"The research we undertake will require a lot of depth. For example we have 12 people with absolutely no information at all – it's there somewhere but we need to find it.

"We have had a lot of responses already from families, schools and



■ A project has been launched to place crosses on the graves of the 87 fallen World war I servicemen named on the Arlesey war memorial

youth groups who want to get involved and I think this project could be very significant for the town. Little is known about these people on an alphabetical list and we want to bring it all together and remember them."

Those visiting the graves will also be asked to hold a brief remembrance ceremony and take photographs.

It is hoped the first crosses will be placed in the cemetery at St Peter's Church in Arlesey – where there are the graves of 10 servicemen – in

April as part of this year's Arlesey Town Council Civic Service, with the last placed at Arlesey War Memorial during the Remembrance Sunday ceremony in November.

The council also hopes to create a website dedicated to the fallen and produce a television documentary about the project.

Anyone who has information or is interested in being part of the project can email Duncan Wang at dwang@woodace.co.uk or call fellow councillor Chris Gravett on 07710 525221.

Setting the Budget and Council Tax

The next meeting of your Council will take place on

Wednesday 26 February 2014

in the Council Chamber, Daneshill House at 7pm

Main debate:

Setting the Council Tax and Budget for 2014/2015

Questions must be submitted by 12 noon on Friday 14 February

Tea and coffee will be available beforehand, from 6.30pm.

For further information telephone: 01438 242992

or textphone: 01438 242555

Email: committees@stevenage.gov.uk

Website: stevenage.gov.uk



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