

The Comet

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ARCHANT

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■ The procession at the Arlesley Town Council Civic Service on Sunday

Memorial to World War I dead

A community memorial project to remember each of the 87 men from Arlesley who died in World War I was launched at the weekend.

Arlesley Remembers You placed the first 11 poppies on crosses and held a civic service attended by more than 300 people at St John's Church on Sunday.

Each cross contains the men's name, age and where he died and the group plan to place one on each of the 87 graves - including one in Iraq - by Remembrance Sunday on November 9.

The project was the idea of Arlesley Town Council member Duncan Wang as a way the town could mark the centenary of the

outbreak of the Great War.

Resident Jim Bowskill's uncle John was among those honoured, having served for the 5th Bedfordshire infantry regiment.

He died aged 27 in 1923, more than seven years after his kidneys were damaged when he was shot in 1915 during the Battle of Gallipoli.

Mr Bowskill said: "The sacrifice these men made is astonishing and the stories I have heard from my cousin about him are incredible. The whole service at the weekend was astonishing and I felt so proud to take part in it."

Anyone interested in the project can email duang@woodace.co.uk

INSIDE TODAY



**Mum gives
birth in
hospital
car park**

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Six arrested over armed kidnapping

Six people have been arrested and weapons seized after a teenager was allegedly kidnapped at gunpoint.

It is claimed an 18-year-old man was forced into a car and threatened with a handgun before escaping from the vehicle.

The incident is alleged to have taken place in the Roebuck area of Stevenage at about 10.30am last Tuesday.

A number of warrants were carried out last Thursday in Stevenage and Hitchin and six people have been arrested and a number of weapons seized as part of an ongoing police investigation.

Ryan McElligott, 31, of Todds Green in Stevenage, has been

charged with conspiracy to kidnap, possession of a firearm without a certificate, possession of an imitation firearm without a certificate, and possession of a firearm.

Jason Harperstott, 25, of no fixed address, has been charged with kidnap, blackmail, possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply and having a firearm.

Both appeared at Hatfield Remand Court on Saturday and were remanded in custody.

A 19-year-old man, 36-year-old man and 22-year-old woman, all from Stevenage, have been arrested in connection with the investigation and are on police bail.

Police launched a manhunt on

Monday, searching for a 25-year-old Stevenage man in connection with the kidnapping.

He was arrested on suspicion of kidnap on Tuesday afternoon, minutes after being spotted by members of the *Comet* news team.

The man, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was arrested when the car he was travelling in was pulled over by police on Lytton Way in Stevenage, near to Tesco.

Minutes earlier he had been seen by *Comet* staff - who phoned police - going into the BP garage opposite our offices in Primett Road, Stevenage.

He had also been seen by an off-duty police officer in Hitchin about

15 minutes earlier.

The wanted man was in police custody at Stevenage Police Station at the time of going to press.

DI Hannah Mann, from the Local Crime Unit in Stevenage, who is investigating the incident, said: "It is understandable that incidents of this nature may cause concern in the community but I would like to reassure the public that we know this incident was targeted to a specific individual."

Anyone with information is asked to call the Herts police non-emergency number 101 quoting crime reference number E1/14/2466. Alternatively, call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



**Caterpillar
dished up
in kebab
salad**

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