

Comet

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NEWS

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Commemorating the day the lights went out across Europe



■ Brian Sherwood with his nephews Kevin and Adrian Sherwood at Letchworth station where Brian's uncle George Sherwood set off to fight in October, 1914

Communities across the area have been paying tribute to those who lost their lives in the First World War – 100 years after Britain entered the conflict.

Monday marked the centenary anniversary of the country's involvement in the Great War, which claimed millions of lives through to Armistice Day on November 11, 1918.

Ceremonies have been taking place to remember the fallen, with Hitchin and Baldock branches of the Royal British Legion both holding church services on Saturday. A similar commemoration organised by the Stevenage RBL and Stevenage Borough Council took place on Sunday.

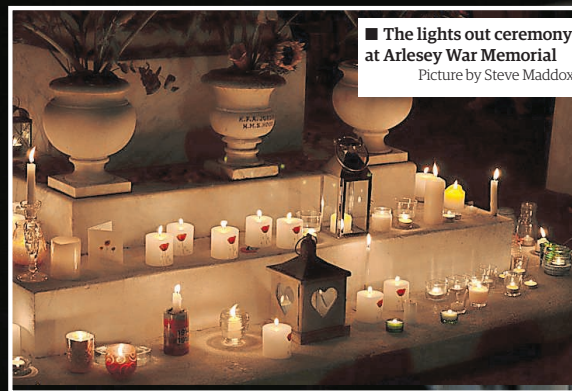
On Monday, flags were lowered by Stevenage Borough Council and Herts County Council, and raised by North Herts District Council, while the Letchworth RBL raised a flag at the war memorial as a mark of respect.

Little Wymondley, Ickleford and Clifton were among villages to mark the centenary with church services, while train operator First Capital Connect was joined by Herts at War chairman Jon Grant and North East Herts MP Sir Oliver Heald at Letchworth railway station to officially open a memorial gardens and unveil plaques dedicated to men who left the town 100 years ago, never to return.

Brian Sherwood was among those invited to the ceremony and returned to the spot where his uncle George Sherwood was pictured prior to leaving to fight in October 1914. Brian was joined by his own nephews, Kevin and Adrian.

There were also a number of Lights Out ceremonies across Herts and Beds – a national event encouraging people to switch off their lights between 10pm and 11pm, and burn one candle to mark the moment the UK entered the war.

→ Year-long exhibition highlights the Great War on two fronts – see page 12.



■ The lights out ceremony at Arlesey War Memorial
Picture by Steve Maddox



Comet Poll VOTE ON OUR WEBSITE

This week's question: Were organisers justified in raising ticket prices for this year's Rhythms of the World?

Last weeks result: Have the series of recent tragedies made you more nervous about long-haul flying?

YES 39% NO 61%

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CAREERS IN JOURNALISM: The Comet offers structured one-week placements with a focus on practical journalism skills but placements are usually only offered to applicants aged 18 or over, who live locally and who are planning a career in the industry, who must first pass an initial aptitude test. To find out more about our scheme, email editor John Francis (john.francis@thecomet.net)

Affected by Stroke, MS or another Neurological Condition?

Free Event: Life-Changing Technology

Talk and demonstrations by TV's Embarrassing Bodies expert Jon Graham from PhysioFunction.

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Thursday 14th August

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Herts MS Therapy Centre, 30 Campus Five, Letchworth, SG6 2JF (along from Sainsbury's)

Booking now! Call Mark or Claire on 01462 684214 or email markboscher@hmstc.net



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