



A community project to commemorate the 87 servicemen from one village who died in the First World War is well on the way to achieving its ambitious aims.

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 including 32 in France, 21 in Belgium, 14 in England and five in Israel.

After the idea was floated by Arlesey Town Council it was quickly taken up by the community as a whole.

The simple memorial crosses have been crafted by pupils at the village's Gothic Mede Academy, and then taken to the gravesides by volunteers.

The project's Jodie Chillery said: "The Arlesey Remembers You team has been overwhelmed with the response to the project and we're really pleased that the community are getting involved."

"About half of the crosses have already been laid with volunteers attached to most of the remaining ones.

Villagers have travelled as far afield as Israel to pay their respects, and the British embassy in Baghdad has agreed to do the honours for one grave in Iraq.

Among those who have taken part is Hayley Robinson, a member of the Letchworth City Chorus which sang at the launch of the Arlesey Remembers You project in April.

Painstaking village project to honour the fallen backed by whole community



Youngsters from Gothic Mede Academy carefully creating the crosses.

She used the opportunity of a chorus trip to the battlefields to lay a cross at the Pernois British Cemetery in the Somme.

Among the most recent crosses to be laid were delivered by Rachel Williams and her family, who also visited the Somme area.

She was able to place two crosses

and said: "It was a really moving experience. The Somme is the most fascinating place, so many stories to be told, and we learned so much about my lost soldiers."

To get involved in the project, contact Duncan Wang at dwang@woodace.vo.uk or Chris Gravett on 07710 525221.

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