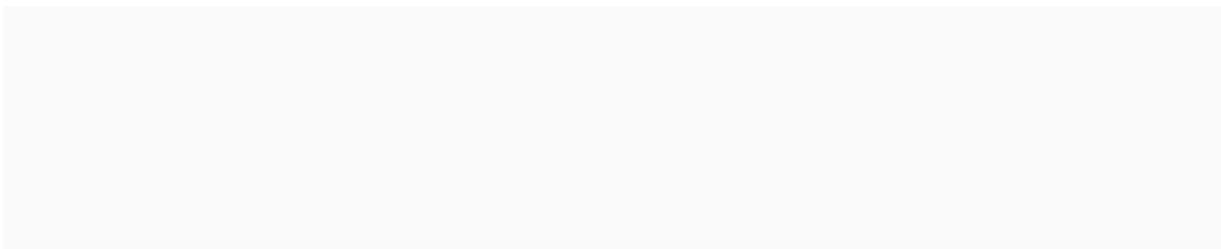


**LASTING
PEACE?**



Lasting Peace?

This November we commemorate the centenary of Armistice Day, the end of the First World War. But what do we mean by commemorate? Even before the war ended the people of St Albans were remembering soldiers through personal souvenirs, public notices in the Herts Advertiser and early memorials.

Lasting Peace? explores the different ways we remember the First World War as individuals and as a city. As we look back to the end of “the war to end all wars” a hundred years ago, we consider the memorials that still form part of our city today as well as those from later wars.

During the First World War temporary street shrines appeared in many places across the country. These shrines listed the local men serving in the armed forces. When a man died, a mark would be made against his name.

We know that some of these shrines were put up in St Albans. One of the 18 dedicated in the St Albans Abbey parish can be seen in this painting of the Clock Tower.

These temporary shrines were removed at the end of the war, and in the St Albans Abbey parish ten permanent street memorials were installed which can still be seen today.

There are memorials to the First World War across St Albans. Some are large and distinctive such as the crosses in St Peter's Street and St Albans School. Some are small and personal - the Nat West memorial at 10 St Peter's Street lists only one name.

The St Albans Roll of Honour which was originally dedicated in this building when it was a Town Hall now stands in the Civic Centre in the Council Chamber, close to the civic heart of the city as it was intended.

Below is a list of all the local memorials including some which have been moved or are no longer on display.

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| May 1919 | Tablet - Salvation Army, Victoria Street |
| Mar 1920 | Street Memorial - Albert Street |
| May 1920 | Tablet - Spicer Street Chapel & Trinity URC |
| Jun 1920 | Tablet - St Stephens Church |
| Jun 1920 | Tablet - Vyse Sons & Co., Ridgmont Road |
| Jun 1920 | Street Memorial - Bardwell Road |
| Jun 1920 | Street Memorial - Pageant Road |
| Jun 1920 | Street Memorial - Sopwell Lane |
| Jul 1920 | Roll of Honour - Hatfield Road Boys School |
| Oct 1920 | Tablet - St Pauls, Hatfield Road |
| Oct 1920 | Cross of Sacrifice - Hatfield Road Cemetery |
| Oct 1920 | Street Memorial - Holywell Hill |
| Nov 1920 | Tablet - Old Town Hall (now in the Council Chamber in the Civic Centre) |
| Apr 1921 | City Memorial Cross - St Peters Green |
| Apr 1921 | Street Memorial - Fishpool Street |
| Apr 1921 | Street Memorial - High Street |

| | |
|----------|--|
| Apr 1921 | Street Memorial - Lower Dagnall Street |
| Apr 1921 | Street Memorial - Verulam Road |
| May 1921 | Tablet - St Peters Church |
| May 1921 | Tablet - Campfield Press (moved to the Salvation Army HQ, Victoria Street) |
| Jun 1921 | Memorial Cross - St Saviours Church |
| Jul 1921 | Hertfordshire Yeomanry tablet – St Albans Cathedral |
| | Hospital Bed – Mid Herts Hospital (bought with the surplus from the Herts Yeomanry fund) |
| Sep 1921 | Memorial Hall - St Johns Church Hall, Old London Road (Memorial Hall no longer there) |
| Oct 1921 | Tablet - Tabernacle Baptists, formerly Victoria Street now Marshalswick |
| Oct 1922 | Tablet - Adult School (no longer exists) |
| Nov 1922 | Tablet - Dagnall Street Baptist Church, Lower Dagnall Street |
| Apr 1924 | Tablet - St Michaels Church |
| Feb 1925 | Cross - St Albans School |
| Jun 1925 | Window – the West Window, designed by Ninian Comper, St Albans Cathedral |

- Oct 1925 Memorial Hall - St Michael's Parish
 Memorial Hall, Branch Road
- Tablet - Boundary Road Primitive
 Methodists Now at Methodist Church,
 Hatfield Rd
- Tablet - Christ Church
- Tablet - Napsbury Hospital, now in
 London Colney library
- Tablet - Edwin Lee & Sons Ltd, Grosvenor
 Road
- Tablet - Post Office (now at Ashley Road
 Sorting Office
- Tablet - Nat West Bank, St Peters
 Street
- Street Memorial - Orchard St
- 1950s Window - St Albans Hospital Chapel (no
 longer hospital chapel)
- 1976 Verdun Tree – Grown from a conker from
 the battlefield of Verdun, close to Vintry
 Garden
- June 1995 War Memorial Chapel (containing
 Diocesan Book of Remembrance) – St
 Albans Cathedral
- 2015 Commemorative Stone for Edward
 Warner, Victoria Cross – In front of the St
 Peters Street Memorial

Case 1

These two handkerchiefs were gifts between soldiers and their loved ones back home in St Albans.

Souvenir handkerchief of Egypt featuring sphynx, military sailing ship with 'The Allies' pennant, sent by donor to her boyfriend during the First World War. Silk. Maker probably RM de Giorguy. Donated by Ede Deamer.

Commemorative handkerchief from the First World War. It has been made by sewing embroidery, similar to the popular embroidered postcards of the time, to the corner of the handkerchief.

Three brothers from the Bell family went to war. Herbert and Frederick returned, but their middle brother Walter was killed in 1916. These are Herbert and Walter's medals.

These three brothers lived at 10 Dolphin Yard, St Albans. Herbert, the oldest brother, was born in 1893, followed by his brother William, known to his family as Walter, in 1896 there was also a third brother, Frederick in 1900. All three played a part in the fighting during the First World War but only two of them survived. Walter was killed on July 30th 1916, having taken part in some of the most severe fighting on the Western Front.

Campaign medals were awarded to all army, navy and air force servicemen - as well as to some women and

civilians - for active wartime service. Displayed here are the 1914/15 Star and the Allied Victory medals.

1914-15 Star and Victory medal awarded to William Robert Walter Bell for his involvement in the First World War alongside a photographic postcard of Walter Bell.

1914-15 Star and Victory medal awarded to Herbert Edward Bell for his involvement in the First World War alongside a photographic postcard of Herbert Bell.

Second Lieutenant “Eric” Freeman was killed in 1916, whilst fighting in the Battle of the Somme. The cigarette case displayed here was in his pocket at the time. He was 22.

Nickel cigarette case with bullet hole

Second Lieutenant Frederick John Freeman, known to his family as Eric, was training to be a chartered accountant when he was called up for active service in the war. In 1916, whilst fighting in the Battle of the Somme, he died at the age of 22.

The cigarette case displayed here was in his pocket at the time.

Eric’s family, living in Harpenden, decided to commission a painting of him and asked local artist Frank Salisbury to paint it from a photograph they had of him.

Eric was buried in a small military cemetery at Puchevillers, near Amiens, France.

These items relate to Private William Fairy who died during the First World War. His family kept objects from his life as well as his “dead man’s penny” and a photograph of his grave.

The letter was sent to him by his wife when he was at the front and his Service New Testament was with his belongings when he died. The embroidered postcards were made by women in France and Belgium and Fairy sent them to his wife and daughters.

Large framed official studio photograph of WJ Fairy in First World War British Army Battledress with a studio background of fields and trees.

Photograph of WJ Fairy's gravestone situated in Ypres, Western France close to French Belgian border. Official photograph of standard gravestone in British Military Cemetery.

Certificate commemorating death of Private William John Fairy during First World War. This is the standard type of certificate given to families of the deceased given along with posthumous medals.

Heavy round metal medal known officially as a memorial plaque and more commonly called a dead man's penny. Medals were given to the families of all those killed in the First World War whilst serving in the British Army.

Small pocket sized New Testament bound in brown cardboard, embossed on front and spine "Active Service Testament"

Letter sent to Private Fairy whilst on active service in France during First World War by his wife.

Collection of embroidered postcards. Popular type of card sent home by troops on active service during First World War. Silk embroidered postcards were incredibly popular during the First World War. They were made by women in France and Belgium to sell to soldiers as mementoes.

George Butlin kept not only his medals but also the original packaging they arrived in. He also kept this memorandum talking about his service.

First World War Army Form relating to employment of George Butlin. The form was completed by Staff Captain of Harwich Garrison.

First World War Regiment badge with the coat of arms for Essex Regiment (with box)

British War Medal

Original parcel the Victory medal arrived in

Sergeant George Gray's medals show that he was already a soldier before the First World War. His medals were given for service in South Africa and India and the First and Second World Wars.

Sergeant George Gray's Medals in order:

Queen's South Africa War Medal (South Africa 1902, South Africa 1901, Transvaal, Orange Free State & Cape Colony clasps)

India General Service Medal (1909) (with North West Frontier 1908 clasp)

1914 star (with bar for being within distance of enemy artillery)

British War Medal

Victory medal

Defence medal (WW2)

Special Constabulary Long Service Medal

Case 2

When a soldier died his family were sent a “dead man’s penny” along with a message from the King. This penny is in memory of Herbert Melbourne Cooper.

Dead man’s penny in original packet complete with Kings message of memorial from Buckingham Palace.

The inscription on the penny reads:
"He died for Freedom and Honour"
Herbert Melbourne Cooper WW1

In October 1914, George V's 17-year-old daughter Mary, Princess Royal launched an appeal to send every member of the armed forces a Christmas gift. Many families still keep the tins and cards that were sent out throughout the war.

Princess Mary tin and card with message printed inside:
“With best wished for a Victorious New Year from the Princess Mary and friends at home”

Over 426,000 of these tins were distributed and those sent out after Christmas were inscribed with a New Year message for 1915. If you would like more information about these tins there is a short article at the end of this folder.

These windows were placed in Folly Chapel in Wheathampstead in 1928. They show the names of men from the Folly who died in the First World War.

When the chapel was demolished in 2006, these windows were removed. They were later rescued from a salvage yard and donated to the museum.

Set of two large memorial windows from Folly Chapel, Wheathampstead. The windows commemorate 12 men who lost their lives fighting in the First World War (WW1). When the chapel was demolished, the windows were recovered and sold.

The windows were later spotted in a salvage yard and donated to the museum.

The need a lot of work to fully conserve them. If you would be interested in helping to fund this conservation work please get in touch with the Museums team.

This scrapbook belonged to Frederick and Amy Dearbergh who supported the war effort on the Home Front. The letter is from a returned prisoner of war thanking them for their support and a tea they hosted for 39 returning POWs.

This scrapbook has been loaned to us by Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies, DE/X1030/2)

Dearbergh album – Frederick and Amy Dearbergh lived in Osterhills and during the war they set up a military recreation room called “The Trumpet” in Union Lane (now Normandy Road).

IN February 1919 they hosted a tea for 39 returned prisoners of war at which Amy declared:

“For all you have done and suffered for us, we cannot thank you enough but we do thank you warmly and always shall, over and over again.”

The box of chocolates is from Emil Ernst, a German prisoner of war, who worked at Sopwell and Hill End Farm during the war. Emil made friends with Frederick Quick, a local boy, and they stayed in touch. Emil sent this present in 1965.

Small gift box containing chocolates and nuts

Some prisoners of war were held in St Albans during and immediately after the war. They worked on local farms doing agricultural work. One of the prisoners held here, Emil Ernst, befriended a local boy called Frederick Quick, who was 14 when the war ended. Their friendship continued beyond the war and they continued to write letters to each other even when Emil returned home.

Almost 50 years later, in 1965, a parcel arrived from Germany. It contained chocolates and nuts and a message written in German in the lid:

“My dear Fred, to remind you of Emil Ernst from Germany and the times we spent together at Sopwell and Hill End Farms, 1919”

Memories of the Home Front during the First World War also include this War Savings Medallion. It was given to thank those who invested their money in war bonds.

War Savings Medallion, 1916-1918.

The government introduced a savings scheme which encouraged people to invest their money in war bonds and savings certificates. This helped to raise much needed funds for the war effort, at the same time as offering a good return on people's investment after the war. Adverts for war savings appeared regularly in the Herts Advertiser and local companies sometimes accepted war bonds as payment for their goods.

Are our memories always real? In 1915 more than a thousand people were killed when the RMS Lusitania was sunk by a German U-Boat. Karl Goetz created a satirical medallion criticising Cunard for allowing the Lusitania to sail. This medallion however is a British copy created as propaganda to suggest the Germans were celebrating the civilian deaths.

There is an article written for the Imperials War Museum about the Lusitania medals at the end of these labels.

Case 3

Since 2014, the UK Government have placed special paving stones in the birthplaces of all the men who received the Victoria Cross. The engraved dedications mark the 100th anniversary of their award.

In 2015, a plaque for Edward Warner was placed in front of the St Albans War Memorial. Warner defended a trench alone against attack. He died of his wounds and gas poisoning soon after. The photograph shows his mother receiving his Victoria Cross.

Framed picture of Charlotte Warner, mother of Edward Warner, receiving his posthumously-awarded Victoria Cross medal for his services during the First World War. This photograph was given to the museum by Edward Warner's family in 2015 when a plaque commemorating his Victoria Cross was placed in front of the town War Memorial

Book titled *St Albans Roll of Honour* detailing names of those from the First World War commemorated on the St Albans War Memorial.

Once belonged to Victor Stanton, uncle of the donor. Open to the page recording medals awarded to local men. This booklet lists the names of those men from St Albans who were killed in the First World War.

It can be difficult for children to understand what happened. Helping them explore what their great-great-grandparents went through has been an important part of this centenary.

These badges are from local Scouts and Guides who take part in parades and commemorations across the District each year. Local teenagers have also taken part in the *St Albans Legacy* project and their work will be display in the museum from the end of October.

Scout badge 'Lest we forget', made in 2014 to commemorate 100 years since the start of the First World War.

Two Girlguiding badges made by Girlguiding St Albans. These badges were made for girls who took part in a commemoration on Remembrance Sunday. These badges are made every year and the designs come from adult and child members of Girlguiding St Albans.

Between 17 July and 11 November 2014 888,246 ceramic poppies were placed in the Tower of London's moat as part of *Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red*. Each poppy represented a British military fatality during the First World War.

The installation was created by artists Paul Cummins and Tom Piper and the poppies were later sold, raising money for six service charities. This poppy was bought by a St Albans resident.

The major art installation Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red at the Tower of London, marked one hundred years since the first full day of Britain's involvement in the First World War. Created by artists Paul Cummins and Tom Piper, 888,246 ceramic poppies progressively filled the Tower's famous moat between 17 July and 11 November 2014. Each poppy represented a British military fatality during the war.

The poppies encircled the iconic landmark, creating not only a spectacular display visible from all around the Tower but also a location for personal reflection. The scale of the installation was intended to reflect the magnitude of such an important centenary and create a powerful visual commemoration.

Each day in the moat at sunset, names of 180 Commonwealth troops killed during the war were read out as part of a Roll of Honour, followed by the Last Post. Members of the public nominated names for the Roll of Honour using a weekly 'first come, first served' nomination system to be read the following week in this nightly ceremony.

The Wave and Weeping Window sections have been on tour around the country since 2015 and the remaining poppies were sold, raising millions of pounds which were shared equally amongst six service charities.

The title of the installation comes from a poem written by an unknown soldier:

*Where angels dare to tread,
As I put my hand to reach,
As God cried a tear of pain as the angels fell,
Again and again.*

*As the tears of mine fell to the ground
To sleep with the flowers of red
As any be dead*

My children see and work through fields of my

*Own with corn and wheat,
Blessed by love so far from pain of my resting
Fields so far from my love.*

*It be time to put my hand up and end this pain
Of living hell, to see the people around me
Fall someone angel as the mist falls around
And the rain so thick with black thunder I hear
Over the clouds, to sleep forever and kiss
The flower of my people gone before time
To sleep and cry no more*

*I put my hand up and see the land of red,
This is my time to go over,
I may not come back
So sleep, kiss the boys for me*

Remembrance Sunday on 11 November looks back to the day the First World War ended. Today it is an important event in cities, towns and villages across the country.

Poppies have been sold for Remembrance Sunday since 1921. Today you can buy a whole range of poppy themed objects and all the proceeds go to the British Legion.

This selection of objects comes from the British Legion's shop:

A Wreath with the British Legion's 2018 campaign to say "thank you" to the First World War generation.

Pencil pot with pen & pencil

Phone charm

Felt badge

Bracelet

Travel card holder

During the First World War (1914–1918) much of the fighting took place in Western Europe. Previously beautiful countryside was blasted, bombed and fought over, again and again. The landscape swiftly turned to fields of mud: bleak and barren scenes where little or nothing could grow.

Bright red Flanders poppies (*Papaver rhoeas*) however, were delicate but resilient flowers and grew in their thousands, flourishing even in the middle of chaos and destruction. In early May 1915, shortly after losing a friend in Ypres, a Canadian doctor, Lt Col John McCrae was inspired by the sight of poppies to write a now famous poem called 'In Flanders Fields'.

McCrae's poem inspired an American academic, Moina Michael, to make and sell red silk poppies which were brought to England by a French woman, Anna Guérin. The (Royal) British Legion, formed in 1921, ordered 9 million of these poppies and sold them on 11 November that year. The poppies sold out almost immediately and that first ever 'Poppy Appeal' raised over £106,000; a considerable amount of money at the time. This was used to help WW1 veterans with employment and housing.

The following year, Major George Howson set up the Poppy Factory to employ disabled ex-Servicemen. Today, the factory and the Legion's warehouse in Aylesford produces millions of poppies each year.

The demand for poppies in England was so high that few were reaching Scotland. Earl Haig's wife established the 'Lady Haig Poppy Factory' in Edinburgh in 1926 to produce poppies exclusively for Scotland. Over 5 million Scottish poppies (which have four petals and no leaf unlike poppies in the rest of the UK) are still made by hand by disabled ex-Servicemen at Lady Haig's Poppy Factory each year and distributed by Poppyscotland.

Additional information