



Coxhoe Commemoration Our World War 1 Legacy



LEST WE FORGET

Coxhoe 1912

Introduction and Explanation



The World War 1 Centenary Commemoration inspired our group and motivated us to look closely at the knowledge we had of WW1 and our community at that time. We have discovered that Coxhoe as a village made an invaluable contribution to the war effort. From the onset of war the community was mobilised to give total commitment to the conflict.

For almost 100 years our War Memorial has stood proud in the centre of the village with 97 men named. From 2005 a book has been available at Coxhoe Village Hall with their basic information.

In 2014 we focussed our research to learn in depth the story of the Great War and our community from 1914 - 18. Using internet sites, Durham County and newspaper archives etc we have uncovered the amazing story of how the community worked together to support the war effort and those affected by it. Regular presentations, articles in the village newsletter, on our website and Facebook have encouraged people to come forward with information and artefacts which are now in our archives.

Our research has uncovered the names of those who enlisted from Coxhoe - a much lengthier list than we anticipated. We feel strongly that all should be named and recognised.

We have also discovered the terrific commitment by individuals, organisations and families at the Home Front raising funds, resources and providing the social back-up as a whole community effort and the increasingly significant role of women in the community. It was a fine example of a strong community when all worked together for a common cause.

We have now a permanent record of the valiant efforts of Coxhoe community and understand how it helped shape our community today.

They left a permanent legacy—Coxhoe Social and Literary Institute and Village Hall—which still provides a centre for health, culture, literacy, education, social and recreational needs.

The Heritage Lottery 'Then and Now' programme and Coxhoe Parish Council have provided financial support to enable us to present, record and make available our research for now and future generations.

The Drama/Music presentation 'Keep the Home Fires Burning' brought alive Home Front and War Front stories.

Our exhibition focussed on maps of Coxhoe 1919 pinpointing individual houses and streets showing what happened to the residents during 1914-18.

The information is recorded in our archives and available on our website

A Digital Touchscreen detailing much of the information we have discovered will be installed in Coxhoe Village Hall for our community, a fitting venue and the legacy left for our community by our community through their fundraising efforts during and after the cessation of the Great War.

This booklet serves to provide a permanent record of the hardships and sacrifices those that went before made during WW1, both at home and overseas.

We have chosen to present the information in a format which will enable you to identify members of your family, people who lived in your house, your street, our community.

The 1911 Census shows the population of Coxhoe and Cornforth Lane was approximately 4,000. In 2017 the estimated number was 4,444.

Imagine how the village would be affected if over 300 men and boys left the village to enlist as they did in 1914-18 with everyone dreading arrival of the post telling of deaths and injuries. Through these pages we will endeavour to paint a picture of life in Coxhoe during those war years.



Visit our website :
www.coxhoehistory.org.uk



Find us on Facebook



Meetings are held monthly on a Tuesday. All welcome.

Contact Jack Turton, Chair : 0191 3770771

Barbara Leo, Secretary : email barbaraleo88@googlemail.com



Information from Kelly's Directory 1914 : Coxhoe and Cornforth Lane are recorded separately.

Coxhoe:

The village of Coxhoe is nearly 1 mile in length and contains some good shops; the houses on the western side of the street or village are in Cornforth civil parish; it is on the high road from Sedgfield, 5 miles south-east from Durham. The Ferryhill and Hartlepool branch of the North Eastern Railway has a station at Coxhoe Bridge, half a mile from the village, and there is another station in the village on a branch line from Ferryhill.

The church of St. Mary, consecrated in 1868, is a building of stone in the Early Decorated style, consisting of chancel, nave, south porch, and has one bell: there are 460 sittings. The register dates from the year 1868. The living is a vicarage, net yearly value £261, with residence, in the gift of the Crown and the Bishop of Durham alternately, and held since 1867 by the Rev. David Fleming B.A. of Glasgow University, and F.R.A.S.

The Wesleyan chapel, erected in 1871, at a cost of £1,100, is of red and white brick, and will seat 500 persons; the Primitive Methodist chapel, built in 1865, has 400 sittings. There is a reading room. In the neighbourhood are extensive collieries, coke ovens, stone quarries and lime works, which give employment to the inhabitants. There is a 9-hole golf course.

Coxhoe Hall, half a mile east from the village, the property and residence of John Wood esq. J.P. is a handsome mansion, erected by J. Burdon esq. in 1725, and occupies an elevated position, approached by a fine avenue of trees; in the park are remains of an ancient encampment. John Wood esq. J.P. is lord of the manor and principal landowner. The soil is loam and clay; subsoil, limestone. The area of Coxhoe is 1,058 acres; rateable value, £10,526; the population of the township in 1911 was 3,833, and of the ecclesiastical parish, 3,188. Parish Clerk and Sexton, Robert Heightley.

Post, M.O., T & Telephonic Express Delivery Office, Coxhoe. Thomas Laws Robinson, postmaster.

Police Station, Robert Stokel, sergeant and 8 constables.

Public Elementary School: Coxhoe (mixed), built in 1871, and enlarged in 1893, for 299 mixed and 166 infants; John Cook, master, Miss Winifred Allison, infants' mistress.

Cornforth Lane:

Cornforth Lane is a village half a mile north of Coxhoe Bridge station on the Ferryhill and Hartlepool branch of the North Eastern railway, one mile north-east of West Cornforth, and comprises that part of Coxhoe village which is in both the civil and ecclesiastical parishes of Cornforth.

Public Elementary School, built in 1909, for 420 mixed and 210 infants: William Henry Smith, master: Mrs Kate Bushby, infants' mistress.

Cornforth Lane—Commercial

Oliver Willie M.B, B.S.Durham Linden Villa. Physician and surgeon, medical officer & public vaccinator Cornforth district of the Sedgfield Union and the Southern district of the Durham Union, & certifying factory surgeon, Turstable Brick & Tile Co.

Teasdale Bros., brick and tile makers.

Herbert Robert, farmer, Bogma House

Robinson Thos, farmer, East Pasture

Wheeler John, Victoria Hotel

Stephenson Jn. Turstable Colliery P.H.

Bell William, builder

Sanderson and Sons, joiners

Wilby Henry, joiner.

Shields Charles, shopkeeper

Carr William, butcher

Sidgewick Mary (Mrs) shopkeeper

Cawthorne John Robert, grocer

Curlay John, shopkeeper

Cuthbert Thomas, grocer

Swinbank George, shopkeeper

Gibbon Frederick, jeweller

Hudson Thomas, shopkeeper

Johnson Mary (Mrs) shopkeeper

Coxhoe—Private Residents

Bell Mrs. Cumberland House

Greenwell William, Church Street

Bell Nicholas, Avenue House, Black Gate

Heron Robert, Black Gate

Bond William, Black Gate

Jenkin Josiah, Carn Brea House

Clark William, Black Gate

Patterson Frank, Black Gate

Potts Thomas Robinson, Church Street

Robson William

Robinson John George, Witton House

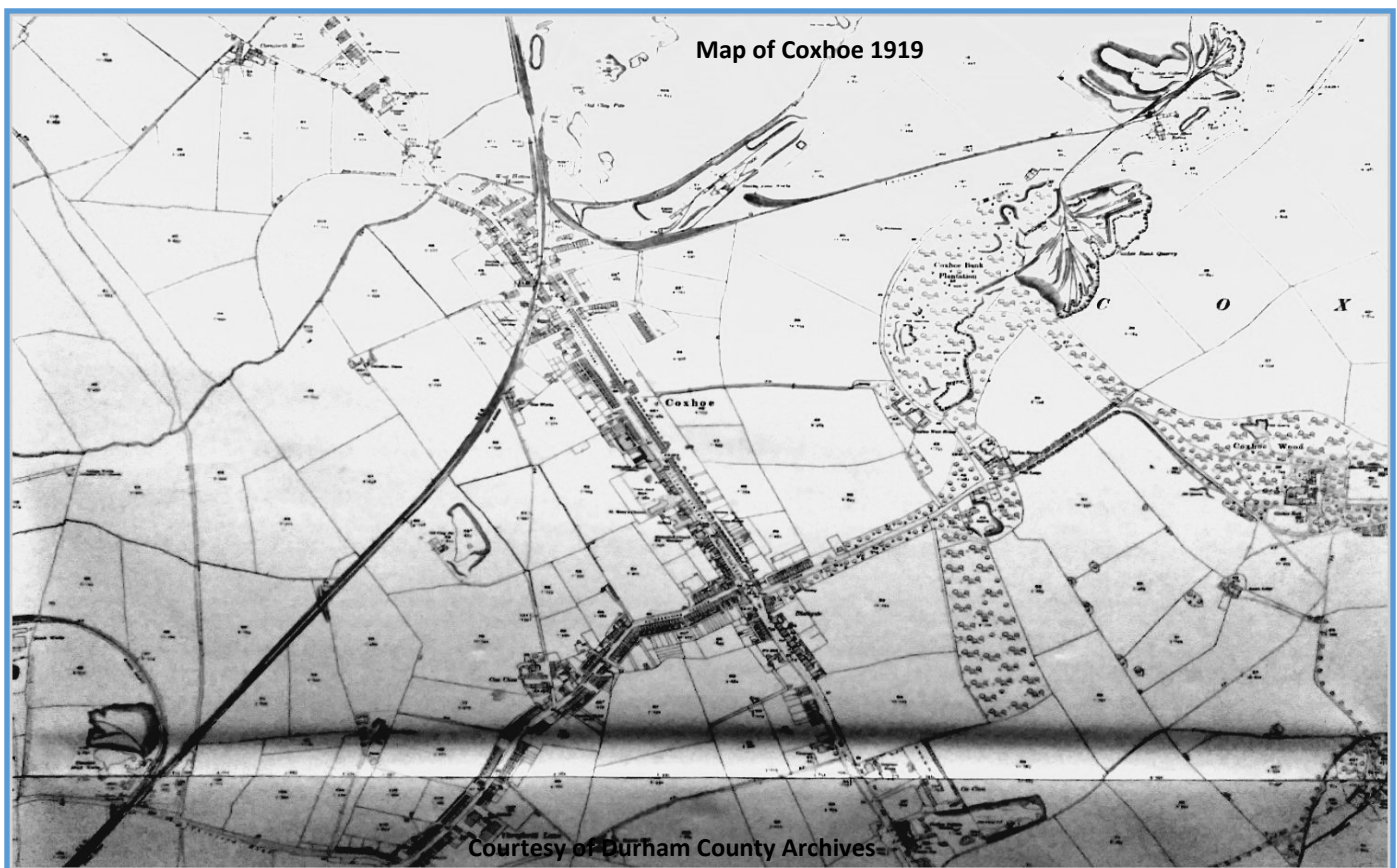
Smith William Henry, Camborne House

Robinson John George, Grange House

Tait Mrs, Belgrave

Coxhoe—Commercial

Brown Alexander L.R.C.P. & S.Edin. Black Gate, physician and surgeon.	New Electric Theatre Gordon Gray, proprietor & manager
Townend Thomas Francis, dentist attends every Wed	Reading Room (William Hy. Smith, hon sec.)
Chapman Rev. Matthew Henry (Primitive Methodist)	Coxhoe Golf Club (Jas. Pallister, sec)
Fleming Rev. David B.A., F.R.A.S. (vicar), Vicarage	Booth Thomas, confectioner and coffee house
Steetley Lime Co. limestone & quarry owners. Albert Brighthouse, manager. Quarry House	North Eastern Banking Co. Ltd, open Mon & Frid 11 am to 2 pm
Coxhoe Gas Co. (L.M. Weldon, sec) Grange House	Best John and Sons, wheelrights
Oddy John, farm bailiff to John Wood esq. J.P.	Nelson Digby & Sons, slate merchants, Black Gate
Turnbull George, miller (water)	Heron Alfred & William, blacksmith
Iseton & Sons, undertakers, Black Gate	Ellerby William, painter
Jackman Charles, plumber, glazier & gasfitter	Robinson Thomas Lewis, wholesale earthenware dealer, Post Office
Bell William, builder and contractor, Victoria Terrace	Wasey William, saddler
Sanderson Thomas & Sons, joiners.	Bell Joseph, Builder
Mahone Nicholas, builder	Bell William, farmer
Robinson Richard, farmer, Bogma	Dresser Thomas, farmer Avenue farm
Turnbull John Wm. Farmer East farm	Henderson Jn Walker, farmer West House
Picken Wm., butcher & farmer Black Gate	Laing Thomas, farmer
Coxhoe and District Club and Institute Ltd. (Thomas Etherington, sec)	Tinkler Arthur, Red Lion P.H. Black Gate
Attley Robert, West Hetton Inn	Scott Isabella (Mrs) Bridge Hotel
Chisholm Wm. Patterson, Tyneside Inn	Storey George, Commercial Inn
Convey Catharine (Mrs) Anchor P.H. Black Gate	Smith Arthur, Three Tuns P.H.
Cruddace Matthew, Red Lion P.H.	Weightman John, Black Horse, P.H.
Egglestone John Tom, Three Tuns P.H.	Robson William E. druggist & wine agent, Front St.
Quickfall Charles, Railway Hotel	Salisbury Thomas, beer retailer
Cornforth & Coxhoe Cooperative Society Ltd. Michael Carr, manager, Store House / Carrick Stokoe, sec	Lingford S.S. & Co. wholesale grocers & prov. dealers
Pallister Jas., grocer, Commercial Road	Carr Thomas, grocer
Pease James, draper, Cooperative Terrace	Catterall Richard, shopkeeper
Robinson Stephen, shopkeeper	Cooper Caroline (Miss) shopkeeper
Seeber Frederick, Pork Butcher	Draper Matthew, butcher
Smith J & Co. draper	Ellerby John W, hair dresser
Smith John James, grocer	Errington William, insur. Asst. supt.
Stitt Maggie Janet (Mrs) hair dresser	Galloway Samuel, confectioner
Swinton Robert, Fruiterer	Gibbon Frederick, watch and clock repairer
Tasker Mary Jane (Miss) tailor & draper	Gornall Isabella (Mrs), drapr & outfitter
Johnson M.J. & N., (The Misses), milliners Black Gate	Hargreaves Lewis, shopkeeper
Thompson Michl. General dealer, Church St.	Harrison Clem, shopkeeper
Trusdale Agatha (Mrs) news agent	Hewison Richard, tailor
Watson, Wm. Bolam, shopkeeper Black Gate	Holmes William H. news agent
Wear Valley Laundries Ltd.,	Hope John, boot maker
Whitehall Mary Ann (Mrs) shopkeeper	Hopper Martin Thomas, grocer
Wilson Thomas Hy. Boot and shoe repair.	Jamieson Alex, watchmaker, Black Gate
Barnes George, shopkeeper	Johnson Allan, cycle agent
Marley Thomas, butcher	Liddle William, shopkeeper
Norfolk Charles, shopkeeper	Kingston Thomas, shopkeeper
Taylor Joseph, Insurance agent Cooperative Terrace	Kerr Robt, insurance agent, Black Gate



World War One was sparked by the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, who was killed in Sarajevo by a Bosnian Serb on 28th July 1914. Austria declared war on Serbia and other countries became involved because of various alliances.

Between 1st-28th August Germany declared war on Russia, France and Belgium. On 3rd August the German Army swept through Belgium. It being a small neutral country there was a feeling that standing by and allowing such a fundamental principle to be ignored might lead to troubling consequences in the longer run.

When reports of German atrocities crossed the channel Britain felt it needed to become involved. On 4th August 1914 Britain declared war on Germany and mobilised its army and reservists.

Coxhoe immediately sprung in action to support the War effort and each other.

August 21st 1914 : Coxhoe Institute as Hospital

Coxhoe Institute Literary Committee have decided to offer the use of the Institute as a hospital for wounded soldiers etc as required and it is suggested that the use of the local Sunday Schools might also be obtained. A number of beds etc. have been offered and arrangements are being made by the ladies in the district to provide articles of clothing, stockings etc. to the troops and others.

Coxhoe Rifle Club

It has been decided to throw Coxhoe Rifle Club Range open to the residents of the surrounding district four nights each week and on Saturday afternoons, when instructions will be given on shooting and how to use a rifle. The club will provide the latter but each party will have to pay a small charge for the ammunition they use.

Coxhoe Clubs Falls into Line

Following on the decision of the magistrates of Durham County Petty Sessions that all public houses in their area should close at 9pm commencing on Friday night last, the committees of West Cornforth, Crow Trees and Coxhoe Clubs voluntarily decided to close their premises in future at 9 pm each night.

August 23rd: 1914 Coxhoe

Arrangements were made to hold a public meeting of residents of Coxhoe district in the Primitive Methodist School Room, Coxhoe last (Thursday) night, to consider the steps to be taken to prevent and alleviate any distress in the district caused by the war.

Coxhoe is in two townships, one side of the main road being in Cornforth township (Sedgefield area) and the other in Coxhoe township (Durham area). It is proposed to suggest names to the two Parish Councils of likely persons to represent Coxhoe on the Distress Committee.

The Home Front

On 7th August 1914, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales made an urgent appeal in *The Times*:

"Buckingham Palace - all must realise that the present time of deep anxiety will be followed by one of considerable distress among the people of this country least able to bear it.

National Fund has been founded, and I am proud to act as its Treasurer. My first duty is to ask for generous and ready support, and I know that I shall not ask in vain.

At such a moment we all stand by one another, and it is to the heart of the British people that I confidently make this earnest appeal. Edward."

The community worked together raising funds for many causes including the St. Dunstan's Home for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors, Soldiers and Sailors Parcel Fund, local war widows and their children and the National Relief Fund, Coxhoe and Cassop War Pensions Committee and War Savings Association. Coxhoe Co-operative Society invested £3,000 of the society's funds be invested in the War Loan.

Volunteer Concert at Coxhoe

In aid of the equipment fund of Coxhoe and District Department of the 3rd battalion of Durham County Volunteer Regiment, a most successful concert was given on Thursday night last in the Electric Theatre, Coxhoe, the use of which, together with the lighting scenic effects etc. were kindly granted free by the proprietor, Mr Gordon Gray, through his local manager Mr James Bailey.

The interior of the hall was decorated with much taste for the occasion, with flags, bunting, foliage plants etc., and presented a pleasing appearance.



'New Electric Theatre'—now the Gem café.

Our churches and community leaders sought involvement in worthwhile activities to keep morale high, catered for social and emotional needs and enhanced community life.

As needs changed activities and fundraising efforts increased.

With the men away the roles and responsibilities of women increased.

Maud Wood of Coxhoe Hall played a leading role.

The Coxhoe Working Party, per Miss Wood, have sent their 5th consignment to Lady Anne Lambton's Mobilisation Stores, Durham, for comforts for the local soldiers and sailors at home and abroad, consisting of 265 garments making a total of 809 garments made and sent to the Durham depot between 8th November 1915 and 17th April 1916.



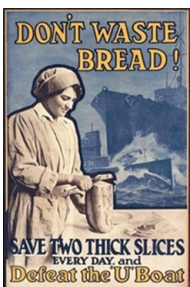
5th Feb. 1915 : Belgian Day at Coxhoe

A most successful Belgian Day was held on Saturday at Coxhoe, resulting in a substantial sum being raised for the Belgian Relief Funds...A number of ladies were kept pretty busy disposing of flags, flowers and dolls, and collecting subscriptions for the fund.

Coxhoe and District Ladies Ambulance Classes :

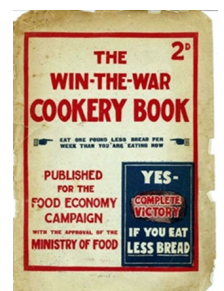
52 candidates presented themselves for examination .. Dr. Jarette, Coxhoe, was lecturer, Dr. Brown, Coxhoe supervised the bandaging work..

On Thursday night last, the members of Coxhoe Men's Ambulance Class were examined in the Assembly Hall, Coxhoe...15 candidates being present..



Two P's Scarce

In Coxhoe and District potatoes were missing at many Sunday dinners. At the Co-operative Stores, Coxhoe, on Saturday morning, members were allowed 4lbs each, but the potatoes available were all disposed of by 11am. Various substitutes were tried on Sunday, one workman remarking during the morning, "No roast for dinner today. We have no potatoes; we're trying pot pie and peas".





Recruitment

Over 400 men of Coxhoe were involved in the war at land and sea and in the air. Very few families would be unaffected and this would leave a huge gap in family and community life.

September 11th 1914 : Recruiting in Coxhoe

On Saturday afternoon a recruiting office was opened in the Literary Institute, Coxhoe, in order to relieve the strain on the offices at Hartlepool and Durham. Sergeant Bean is the military officer in charge, assisted by Police-Sergeant Stokel, with Dr. Brown Coxhoe, as medical examiner; Mr. J. Wood, J.P., Coxhoe Hall being present to attest the recruits.

During that afternoon and evening the officials were kept fairly busy, 11 recruits being accepted. Motor cars and traps were used on Sunday to assist in the work of bringing recruits from the neighbouring villages, of Cassop, QH, and Bowburn. Thirty in all were attested, including some from Coxhoe, Kelloe, and West Cornforth.

The party of 40 left Coxhoe Bridge on Monday morning by train to Sunderland, a large number of spectators assembling to see them off. Earlier on Monday morning about 50 recruits of the 5th DL Infantry, who enlisted from Coxhoe district last week, left by train for Stockton, having been allowed to spend the weekend at their homes. A good few friends assembled at the station to see them off.



John Wood



Close upon 200 recruits (independent of Territorials, reserve men etc.) have been enrolled from Coxhoe and the surrounding villages during the past fortnight, including three members of the scholastic profession in Messrs. Turner, Macpherson and Kirkup, from Coxhoe and Cornforth Lane Schools, railwaymen, a large number of miners and quarrymen, also painters, joiners, tailors, labourers, etc. the district has proved very loyal.

The men left behind on the Home Front were not fit for active service for various reasons eg health or age or in reserve occupations such as coal mining.

Determined to support the war effort they formed themselves into 'Coxhoe and District Volunteer Corps'.

COXHOE DIVISION OF THE 3RD BATTALION DURHAM COUNTY VOLUNTEER REGIMENT.



June 11th 1915

Continued progress is being made in connection with this corps which now has a membership of 50 the members displaying eagerness to become proficient in infantry drill in addition to practising shooting on Coxhoe Rifle Clubs range.

On Thursday night about 30 members marched to Coxhoe Hall where the commandant Mr John Wood presented them with their Brassards or armlets.

They were afterwards put through a series of drills by Instructor Wills finishing up with a tour through the Hall gardens.

On Sunday morning first a parade will take place in Cornforth Parish Church, where the sermon will be preached by the Vicar Rev. TF Fyffe.

21st May 1915 Church Parade at Cassop

Members of Coxhoe and District Volunteer Training Corps held a parade at Cassop Parish Church. 32 members taking part accompanied by the commandant of the corps, Mr. John Wood J.P. and Instructor Jas. Wills.



The War Front

When war was declared there was much patriotic enthusiasm but reality soon set in. Letters and news would begin to arrive regularly that no one wished to hear.

On 21st September 1914 only seven weeks after the declaration of war, news reached Coxhoe of our first casualty. The Durham Chronicle reported the death of Robert Henry Barker who was killed during the Battle of the Marne- only 12 days after landing in France.

Word has been received at Coxhoe that Private Robert Barker, of the 7th Battalion D.L.I., has been killed in action. No particulars were furnished. Deceased, who was a reservist, resided in Front Street, Coxhoe, and was employed at East Hettor Colliery. He leaves a widow and two children.

31st May 1915

News was received yesterday by Mr. and Mrs. W. McIlwain, Coxhoe, that their son, Private William McIlwain, 1st Grenadier Guards, had been killed on June 3rd. He was 24 years age, and for years was a policeman at Stockton. Private T. Hassell, in letter to his parents, says: "Your son was killed the 3rd. He was acting as stretcher-bearer. The company was in the trenches, and the Germans were shelling them, when a call came for bearers, and his squad answered.

There was more than one case, and while some were dressing wounds, one man asked for someone to read the 23rd Psalm. It was known that your son had a Bible, and when heard the request he was only too pleased to be able grant it, and sat near the stretcher, when a shell burst and he was killed instantly."

30th July 1915

Letters from the Front: Trench Blown In

Writing to his parents at Basic Cottages, Coxhoe from the King George Hospital, Stamford Street, London Pte Wm Bateson of 5th Durham Light Infantry writes:

"I am settled down at the hospital in London all right and am going to have my foot x-rayed. It is the big toe on the left foot that pains the most When I wrote to you before I told you it was that old complaint, certainly it is but not that alone. I got buried in the trenches at Ypres and had to be dug out. It was with an explosion. Two shells dropped together just in front of our line of trenches and blew the front in on top of some of us. Some were killed but lucky me I'm still alive and kicking thank God. It was the weight of about 3 or 4 tons of earth that covered us up and I can tell you I've said my prayers not once but dozens of times.

I thought I would never live to see home again but the Lord has spared me this time. It is not the first time either. I reckon a fellow is lucky who goes through all this campaign without a leg or an arm off. I expect my foot will be all right soon. Anyway I hope so.

The nurses here have plenty of work. They are going at it all day and all night.

GERMANS SHOOT PRISONERS.

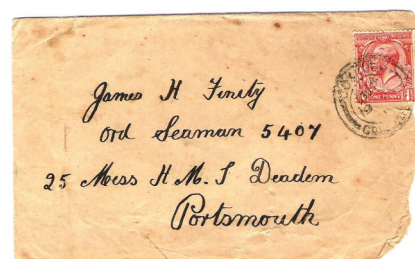
In a letter to a friend at Coxhoe, co. Durham, a non-commissioned officer of the 5th Durham Light Infantry says:—

"Two days ago (Whit-Monday) I expect the majority of people in England would be having a pleasant time, while we went through an ordeal I hope we shall never have to experience again. We thought our first visit to the trenches was a peep into hell, but on Monday it was hell gone mad, nothing less.

"We were resting at the time. The company in the first line trenches had a terrible time with the gas, and to make matters worse when the poor men were half-stupefied the enemy threw hand grenades. Our men worked like demons, and the Germans got a fair taste of hand grenades as well. One of our officers laid Germans out right and left with his revolver, and sent a few more across the border with hand grenades. The ground lost on our left had to be retaken, and we were sent to hold a position, but no sooner had we got there than we were shelled with shrapnel.

"After what we have seen I place no reliance on the shortage of copper in German ammunition factories. I am certain that the deluge of shrapnel that smothered us is a sufficient denial of that. They seem to waste a lot of ammunition at first, but finally they find their target and their fire is accurate and rapid—very rapid.

"Unless a person comes here to see for himself he cannot possibly form an idea of present-day warfare. The sooner people at home realise what is going on the better. We are fighting savages, not Christians, and they will stick at nothing. Some of our men have been taken prisoners and have been shot by the enemy."



26th March 1915 : A Soldier's Reverie

Writing to his wife at Cornforth Lane, West Cornforth, Private Jas Darnboro of the Kings Own Royal Lancasters says:

It's a treat to be away from the shells for a bit, and not hearing them day and night, expecting every minute to be your last, and seeing your mates bowled over.

The first six chums I got when I came out here all got killed, one after the other.

The tears come to my eyes when I write about the children, thinking about men who have fell at my side and left little ones behind.

It is a queer sensation when they are shelling; you can hear the shells whistling overhead, and you lie still waiting to hear whether it will go over, or burst near you.

There have been more prayers said out here than there are ever said at home.

I don't mind rifle bullets, as I have run among them many a time, but these big shells shatter your nerves.

12th July 1916. : Lieut. Hedworth Tait.

Mrs Tait, Belgrave House, Coxhoe, has received official intimation that her youngest son Lieut. Hedworth W. Tait, Durham is in hospital in France having been seriously wounded in one of his feet on July 1st. He received a commission on leaving school shortly after the outbreak of war, and after service in Egypt, went to France eight weeks ago.

Mr Carrick Stokoe, secretary of Coxhoe Co-operative Society, has received a letter from his son Pte Frank Stokoe of the 5th DLI in which he says:

"You may think by now that I have lost or taken prisoner, but not so. I am safe again, and on the way to recovery. It happened as near as I can tell on Whit Monday at about 2 o'clock. We were about to be relieved when the Germans began to send their poisonous gas.

The trenches were only about 150 yards apart in places. So you can imagine what it was like, fumes of gas coming over into our trenches, suffocating us; men were dropping in heaps all round.

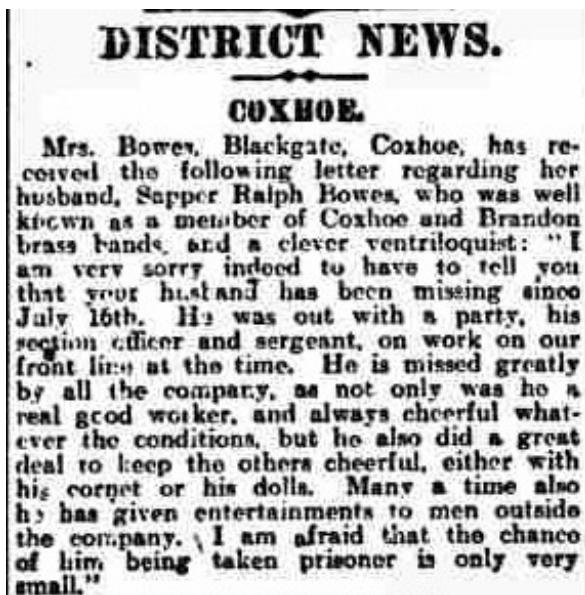
Some were coughing, others gasping for breath, and worse still the Germans started to shell us with gas shells.

My own experience was somewhat strange, after having done my watch for two hours I told J. Steel to take my place. I had only dozed off when I heard him wakening me, "Come on lad they're using the gas". That was the last I saw of poor Steel, I hope he is safe.

I cut out of my dugout, awoke all the chaps I could see and then prepared to face the gas. We stuck as long as we could, and then retired. I will never forget that morning all the days of my life.

What sights; people in England have no idea. Nevertheless we will get through it and be as bad again."

Friday August 18th 1916



The Bowes family

24th November 1916

Coxhoe Bandsman's Death: A Decent German Officer

Information has now been received by Mrs Bowes, Blackgate, Coxhoe, that her husband, Sapper Ralph Bowes, of the Royal Engineers, formerly a well-known musician in Mid Durham, attached for some time to Coxhoe and Brandon Colliery Brass Bands, who was previously reported as missing, was killed on July 15th.

The information has been received through the British Red Cross Society, who received a letter from a German officer stating that a British soldier was shot on the date named, and afterwards on searching the body had discovered some photos, and a will form filled up, on which the deceased soldier's wife's name and address was written, the photos being those of his wife and children. Mrs Bowes has received a letter as follows, enclosing her husband's will, a group photo of deceased, his wife, and family, and three midget photos of deceased's children:

British Red Cross Society, central prisoners of war committee, 4, Thurloe Place, London, SW, November 15th 1916.

Dear Madam, the enclosed will and photographs were taken from the body of a dead English soldier, Pt. Bowes, 1301, RE., Durham Field Company, killed in action on the 15th July, 1916 by a rifle bullet, by a German officer. They were sent by him to the Red Cross at Frankfurt, who have asked us to forward them to you with the expression of sympathy. We are also informing the War Office. With sincere sympathy. Yours faithfully, JD for the Secretary.

War events were at times very close to home ...

At Hartlepool over 100 people died as more than 1,000 shells rained down on the town for about 40 minutes from the three heavy cruisers Blucher, Seydlitz and Moltke which emerged from the mist shortly after 8am on December 16 1914. The ships came as close as four thousand yards.

The battery continued for about three quarters of an hour killing 112 and wounding over 200.

The Gun Batteries were silenced, the gas works set on fire and a military camp was hit.



Coxhoe Co-operative Society

19th February 1915 : The Price of Food

Mr Reed said they were living in sterling times and since the last meeting they had heard the guns of the enemy thundering off our shores.

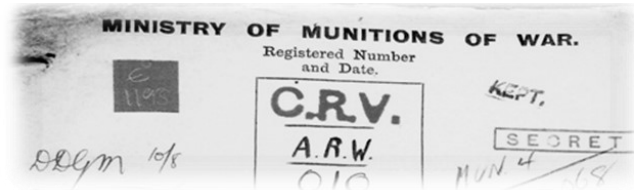
One of the results of the war was to raise the price of goods. The committee proposed to sell flour to customers at the lowest possible price, only adding working expenses. Butter was also going up by leaps and bounds.



Documents found at the National Archives, Kew uncovered details of a Zeppelin attack on Coxhoe Steetley Works on 18th August 1916

“THE STEETLEY LIME CO.

On Tuesday evening, during the Zeppelin raid, the works of the Steetley Lime Co., at Coxhoe, Co. Durham, making basic material, were attacked and 20 bombs were dropped all round the works – some within about 200 yards of the actual buildings, showing that the Germans had an accurate knowledge of their position.



In connection with this, the Management point out that they purchased, before the War, their Electrical machinery from The A.E.G. and their representative, who was a German, was frequently at the Works. Several months before War broke out, this man disappeared and he was said to have gone to British Columbia but nothing has been heard of him since and it seems not improbable that he may be giving a great deal of information to the Germans as to the position of different works.

Two Zeppelins are said to have flown very low and they appeared so low that their apparent length was from 40 to 50 feet. They made one mistake by attacking the works Quarry which contained a kiln and they dropped bombs within 40 yards of this; fortunately, the works are a short distance from the Quarry and so escaped damage.

In view of the fact that the German War Office appear to have accurate information as to the exact position of the Coxhoe works, and the very serious consequences which would follow should these works be seriously damaged, the Management of the Steetley Co. urgently request that the War Office may give special consideration as to the best means of affording protection against raids in the future, either by Anti-Aircraft guns or by such other methods as they may deem best.

“Apart from the plant owned by this company there is only one other works in Great Britain making Basic material and if anything were to happen to either of these two works a very large proportion of our supplies of basic material, which is absolutely essential to our steel works, would be cut off”





Recognising Our Heroes

Men were returning home suffering from a range of medical problems and injuries including trench foot caused by standing in water for days, the effects of gas, shellshock and limbs badly injured or missing.

24th August 1917 : At Last Soldiers and Sailors to be Recognised

On Wednesday night a public meeting of residents of Coxhoe district was held for the purpose of making arrangements to suitably recognise all men and lads belonging Coxhoe who have gone to assist their country, and also all those who have been awarded honours. There was a good attendance, and much enthusiasm shown. Previous to the meeting Coxhoe Brass Band paraded through the streets. The meeting was presided over by Mr WH Denison, QH, chairman of CRC, who drew attention to the hardships undergone by the soldiers and sailors while fighting for their country, and the great need for their services to be recognised by those living in comfort at home.

Mr J McNally pointed out that Coxhoe had an enviable record so far as honours were concerned, three men having won the DCM and nine the MM. Nine of the twelve were formerly miners (applause).

Mr Wm Harrod, chairman of Coxhoe and District Workmen's Club, and other speakers favoured something being done in recognition of the local soldiers and eventually it was decided to form a Welcome Home Fund for the purpose of recognising all local soldiers and sailors who come home, and also those who have been and may be awarded honours. The area was arranged to cover part of Cornforth Lane, Coxhoe Bridge, Coxhoe Square, etc., all Coxhoe, West Hetton Lodge and Bell's Houses.

The community focussed their fundraising efforts on The Welcome Home Fund.

Presentation events were held weekly in various locations—the Institute, Electric Theatre, Chapels, Schools, the Assembly Hall. They were social events with Brass Bands and crowded attendances with up to 300 people.

Gifts included wrist watches, clocks, oak timepieces, canteens of cutlery, shaving sets, cigarette cases, walking sticks, cases of carvers, pipes in cases with tobacco, New Testament bibles and clocks.

21st June 1918 : Welcome Home Fund Gala

A procession and gala organised in aid of Coxhoe Soldiers and Sailors Welcome Home Fund takes place in that village tomorrow (Saturday). An attractive programme has been arranged. A procession of horses, decorated vehicles, cycles, tableaux, and other novelties is arranged to leave Blackgate at 2 pm, and after parading through the village, headed by Coxhoe Brass Band, will proceed to the flower show field, where good prizes will be awarded for the best features, and a series of sports, dancing, and entertainment take place in addition to presentations to some local soldiers at home on leave. Only a fine day is needed to ensure a success.

9th August 1918 :

Children's Successful Effort

A successful sale for work, etc. promoted by four little girls, Maggie and Jane Bowes, Blackgate, Coxhoe, daughters of the late Sapper R Bowes, RE, killed in action; and Hilda and Vera Bell, daughters of Corporal John Bell DCM, RFA, Cornforth Lane, and held in a cart shed at Blackgate, realised £2 7s, in aid of the local Soldiers and Sailors Welcome Home Fund.

8th November 1918

About 400 persons attended the memorial service held in the Parish Church, Coxhoe, on Thursday night in memory of Coxhoe men who have fallen in the war. The Rev. AG Griffin, curate, took the service, which was very impressive.

Previously Coxhoe Brass Band paraded through the village to the church. As the congregation entered "O Rest in the Lord" was played as a voluntary by Mr JG Robinson. The lesson was read by Mr J Cook. The preacher was the Rev. RE Tolliday, MA St. Cuthberts, Durham, who gave an eloquent and inspiring address from the text, "Called to the Saints."

Subsequently the names of the deceased soldiers, numbering about 60, were called over and "The Last Post" sounded by Mr W Bell. The collections were for a permanent war memorial, consisting of a stained glass window, which it is proposed to place in the church, along with a brass tablet containing the names of the deceased soldiers. The cost is to be raised by voluntary subscriptions.



On the 11th November 1918 David Lloyd George, the British Prime Minister, announced that an Armistice had been signed.

The World and Nation celebrated and there were scenes of jubilation.

15th November 1918

On Sunday afternoon there was a large attendance at a United Thanksgiving Service in Coxhoe Parish Church.

The Rev. AG Griffin conducted the service. The lessons were read by Mr GS Watson (Wesleyan) and the address given by the Rev. R Laidler, Primitive Methodist, Bishop Auckland.

15th November 1918

Mr WH Denison presided over a large and representative attendance at a public meeting held at Coxhoe on Wednesday night for the purpose of considering the best means of celebrating peace and the victory achieved.

It was resolved that a committee make arrangements for a day of public rejoicing in the village to celebrate the victory, and also take steps to raise funds for the purpose of erecting a permanent memorial in the village in memory of the many men and lads who have fallen. .

The community were consulted on what type of memorial - including the children

9th May 1919 : Coxhoe War Memorial

Mr W Knowles presided over a fair attendance at a public meeting held in the Wesleyan School, Coxhoe, when the prizes given by Mr AW Creed, Coxhoe, for the best essays on suitable war memorials and the reason for such written by children attending Cornforth Lane Council and Coxhoe CE Schools were presented by Mr TS Allison, Blackgate House, Coxhoe, who also judged the papers sent in.

The prizes were watches for the boys and workbags and necklaces for the girls. Thirty-five boys and thirty-one girls from Cornforth Lane Schools competed. Also two boys and 11 girls from Coxhoe CE Schools. The prize-winners were:

Cornforth Lane Boys: Thos. Coatman, Coxhoe Square (Library)

Girls: Nella Thompson, Cornforth Lane (Baths)

Coxhoe School: Boys: Thomas Downes, Long Row ; Girls: Florrie Turnbull, Coxhoe Mill.

3rd January 1919 :

School Girls Useful Effort

A very successful sale of work organised and carried out by five Coxhoe girls Barbara and Phyllis Pallister, Woodside; Elsie Twedde, Clarence Villa; Doris Ingham, Blackgate, and Annie McIlwain, Cooperative Terrace, who were assisted by kind friends, and held in the Assembly Hall, Coxhoe, over £13 has been realised, which they propose to distribute as follows: £5 to the British Red Cross Fund, £5 to Durham County Hospital, and the balance, above £3, to Coxhoe Permanent War Memorial Fund.

21st May 1919

Mr John Ramsay presided over a meeting at Coxhoe to receive suggestions and decide upon a memorial to local men who have fallen in the war. After an interesting discussion it was resolved that a hall and institute, with baths, be erected, and a tablet or monument recording the names of those who have fallen.

Durham County Advertiser: 29th August 1919

The Co-operative Field Coxhoe, was the scene of a happy gathering on Saturday, when the committee of Coxhoe Soldiers' and Sailors' Welcome Home Fund entertained the men and lads belonging to their district who enlisted in the Army or Navy, and some who are still in the Forces, to a substantial knife and fork tea, and also an attractive programme of sports, for which about £42 was offered as prize money.

The tea was provided for about four hundred guests in a marquee erected in the field, the widows, or nearest relative of those who have fallen, being also invited. .. The excellent tea was well appreciated, the ladies of the Welcome Home Committee attending to the wants of the guests, who were also presented with either cigarettes, tobacco, or chocolates. Selections of music were rendered during the tea by Mr JW Brighthouse's orchestral band Mr James Bailey, manager of the Electric Theatre, Coxhoe also entertaining the guests with songs and musical selections, which were well enjoyed and applauded.

After the Armistice news continued to filter through from the war front and men were demobbed gradually over the following 2 years— for some there was no celebration-

24th January 1919 :

Local Honours

Capt. Hedworth W Tait RAF, youngest son of the late Mr James Tait, Coxhoe has been awarded the DFC (Distinguished Flying Corps). He was awarded the French Croix de Guerre in March 1918 for good work and gallant conduct. Capt. Tait who had one of his legs amputated as the result of wounds received in the Somme battles joined the RAF on recovering.

Sentenced to be Shot

Corp. John Taylor, Yorks Regt., son of Mr & Mrs Charles Taylor, Back Coronation Terrace, Coxhoe, who has been a POW in Germany since April 1917 has returned home. Corp. Taylor who was in Minchinburg Camp was sentenced by the Germans to be shot because he refused to furnish them with any information and was kept in a dark cell and guarded by two soldiers for five days, the sentence being afterwards remitted.

Tuesday January 8th 1918

COXHOE.
Mr. Thomas Morley, Co-operative-cottages, Coxhoe, has received news that his son, Cnr. John Morley, R.F.A., is missing. A lieutenant writes: "I deeply regret to inform you he has been missing since November 30, when many of the battery were captured. There is every reason for believing him to be still safe and sound, but a prisoner in Germany with others of his comrades."

18th July 1919

Mr & Mrs Henry Wilby, Cornforth Lane, West Cornforth, have now received official news that their son Pte John Wilby, DLI, attached to the Royal Fusiliers, who was reported missing on Sept. 21st last, may now be presumed to be dead. Deceased joined up in April last year, and is the second son Mr & Mrs Wilby have lost during the war.

4th August 1919

Last night (Sunday) a memorial service was held in the Wesleyan Church, Coxhoe in memory of Pte. Thomas Roxby, Wiltshire Regiment, son of Mr & Mrs H. Roxby, Long Row, Coxhoe, who died in a German hospital whilst a prisoner of war. The deceased soldier was formerly a member of Coxhoe Brass Band which paraded through the village to the church last evening, and also took part in the service which was conducted by Mr Peter Harle, Tursdale Colliery, who referred in feeling terms to the late soldiers life. Appropriate hymns were sung, the "Last Post" was sounded. There was a large attendance.

15th November 1918

Sapper Ben Kay, RE, well-known player with Cornforth United and a member of Coxhoe Rifle Club, severely wounded.

Mrs W Santon, formerly of Coxhoe, has been notified that her son, Private JW Santon, has been killed.

Official news has been received by Mr & Mrs M Fleetham, Coronation Terrace, that their son, Pte W Fleetham, DLI, has been wounded.

Official news has been received by Mrs Walker, Co-operative Cottages, Coxhoe, that her son, Pte Fred Walker, Gloucester Regt. is missing.

Mr & Mrs T Barron, Bells Houses, Coxhoe, have received news that their son, Pte R Barron, DLI has been wounded.

Private Robert Grint, DLI, Cornforth Lane, killed in action

Lieutenant William Ramsay of West Hetton Lodge was commissioned into the Royal Welsh Fusiliers before attaching to the Royal Flying Corps. He died in an air crash on the Somme when the plane he was in burst into flames on landing after a bombing raid.

The Northern Daily Mail reported his death on the 8th of April 1918.

COXHOE.
News has been received by Mr. John Ramsay, West Hetton Lodge, Coxhoe, manager of Tursdale Colliery, that his son, Second-Lieut. William Ramsay, Welsh Fusiliers, recently attached to the R.F.C., was killed in action on the 27th ult. Second-Lieut. Ramsay was formerly a mining engineer at Tursdale Colliery. He was wounded in France last summer, and, after rejoining, was attached to the R.F.C.

13th June 1919

Mr & Mrs George Grint, Cornforth Lane, West Cornforth, have received official intimation that their son, Pte Fred Grint, A. Coy, 22nd DLI, formerly reported missing on March 26th 1918, may now be presumed to have been killed on that date.

6th July 1920

Coxhoe.
Ex-Private Richard Morgan, 15, Long row, Coxhoe, formerly of the 6th Batt. Yorkshire Regiment, recently received a certificate stating that he was mentioned in a dispatch from Sir Douglas Haig, dated April 9th, 1917, for gallant and distinguished services in the field.



Thomas Ainsley



G Allen



George Allison



R D Ayton



George Banner



C Bartlett



William Bateson



George Henry Bell



John T Bell



T Bell



G Bostock



Ralph Bowes



Thomas Brandon



Fred Broom



Norman Wrightson
Brown



Robert Brown



James Burnell



W Burnell



Anthony Carr



John Chinnery



Thomas Patterson



J Cooper



George Cowley



William Crabtree



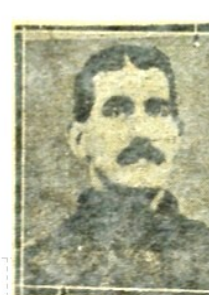
James Cranson



C Crowe



H Davies



A Dixon



W Dobson



Robert Henry
Dobinson



F Donnelly



John Earls



William Earls



Ben Etherington



J W Fairlamb



Thomas Fenton



W Garnett



W Galloway



J Gavin



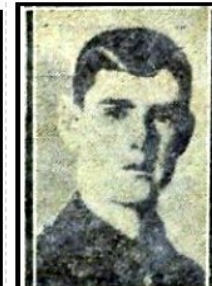
William
Glendenning



WR Gower



Thomas Graham



Richard Gratton



Fred Grint



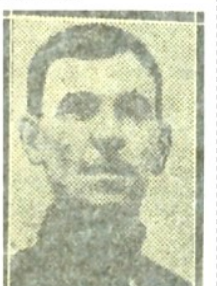
Robert Grint



Charles Hall



JT Hallimond



E Hanson



Thomas William
Hargreaves



Isaac Harrod



Robert Verner
Heron



John Heron



Fred Hobson



James Hopper



Albert Ernest
Iseton



Fred Iseton



Ralph Jackson



John William
Johnson



Joseph Edward
Johnson



George Keith



Edward Kilgallon



Parker
Kitchingman



James Laing



John Robert
William Layton



Charles Liddle



John Liddle



D Lightfoot



William Mayo



Alexander
McCallum



James McGowan



B McIlwain



William McIlwain



George McPherson



Thomas Horsley
Moyle



John Thomas
Murray



George Napier



Fred Newby



A Parkin



JR Parkin



George Vernon
Patterson



William Peverley



William Porter



George Robinson



Thomas Robinson



Fred Robson



Thomas Henry
Roxby



William Rowcroft



James Skaife



Martin James
Seeber



John Sewell



Edward Singleton



F Smith



John Steel



F Stephenson



George Stoker



Frank Suttill



H W Tait



George Thompson



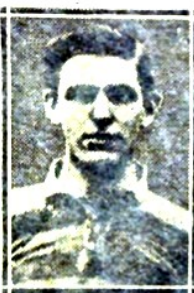
Robert Thubron



Thomas Thubron



Edward Turley



A Turner?



Arthur Turner



J Tyreman



Frank Waters



Thomas Watson



George Weir



Thomas Henry
Weir



John Brankston
Wilby



William Henry
Wilby



Robert White



James Wilson



William Wilson



Our Gallant Medal Recipients

Distinguished Conduct Medal



Instituted in 1854 to recognise "distinguished, gallant and good conduct" by troops in the Crimea.

All DCMs are issued named to the recipient, usually with impressed details around the medal's rim.

Inscribed **"For Distinguished Conduct in the Field"**
Nearly 25,000 DCMs were issued during World War I,

The majority of World War I DCMs have citations in the London Gazette

This medal was, for NCOs and other ranks, second only to the Victoria Cross.

Coxhoe Recipients

William Wilson. DCM & Bar
19th Battalion Durham Light Infantry

Thomas Iseton. DCM
Royal Field Artillery

James Duffy. DCM
25th Battalion
Northumberland Fusiliers

William Peverley. DCM
2nd Battalion Durham Light Infantry

John T Bell. DCM
Royal Field Artillery

The Military Medal

Instituted in March 1916.

The Military medal was created as an award for warrant officers, NCO's and other ranks.

The award was also available to women.

The medal is inscribed

"For Bravery in The Field"

Over 115,000 awards were made during WW1



Coxhoe recipients

William Dobson. MM + Bar

Matthew Robson. MM

Thomas Gray. MM

John Robert Gray. MM

Arthur Oliver. MM

John George Brown. MM

Walter Kenning. MM

George Napier. MM

Walter Boal. MM

George Keith. MM

Robert William Crow. MM

Fred Iseton. MM

Bertram McIlwain. MM

Joseph Vickers Peart. MM

James Young. MM

George Rose. MM

Edward Naitby. MM

John Applegarth. MM

The Military Cross



Instituted 1st January 1915 as a reward for gallantry or meritorious service performed by officers of the rank of Captain and below, and warrant officers.

Including Bars over 40,000 MC's were awarded during WW1

Coxhoe recipient

Capt. Alexander Tait
Royal Engineers

Mentioned in Despatches



A member of the armed forces mentioned in despatches is one whose name appears in an official report written by a superior officer and sent to the high command, in which his or her gallant or meritorious action in the face of the enemy is described.

The award is signified by the wearing of an oak leaf cluster on the ribbon of a medal.

Coxhoe man Mentioned in Despatches

Richard Morgan
3rd Battalion Yorkshire
Regiment

William Dobson
5th Durham Light Infantry

Croix De Guerre France and Belgium



The World War I Croix de Guerre was established by royal decree on 25 October 1915 as an award for bravery or other military virtue on the battlefield. It was only awarded to individuals.

The *Croix de guerre* was not only awarded for bravery but also for three years or more of service on the front line, or for good conduct on the battlefield.

Coxhoe Recipients

John Wood
Royal Garrison Artillery

Bertram McIlwain
Royal Engineers

Robert William Crow
Royal Engineers

Village War Memorials



Coxhoe & District War Memorial

The memorial most familiar to everyone who lives in Coxhoe. Situated outside Coxhoe Village Hall, the memorial lists the names of 97 men of Coxhoe and District who laid down their lives during the Great War 1914-18. The memorial was unveiled on Saturday June 17th 1922 by Sgt William Wilson DCM & Bar, a local man who distinguished himself during the conflict.

The granite plinth with lead lettering was originally placed in the outer wall of the Village Hall and by 1934 plans were being laid to establish a permanent memorial garden to surround the plinth.

The Memorial Garden we know today was further enhanced in 2009.

St Mary's Church, Coxhoe

The Parish Church of St Mary's contains a brass plaque which remembers 85 men of Coxhoe who gave their lives during World War 1. Situated below the west window as you enter the church, a book of honour also list those men who died.

The Church also contains a number of other personal memorials dedicated to individual soldiers who were also active participants in church life.



There is the WD Carr Staff, McIlwain ewer, The Ramsay altar vases, the WO Reed prayer desk and the East Window which depicts a fallen soldier at the feet of Christ on the cross.



St Andrews Methodist Church (Left)

In the schoolroom of the church mounted on the wall is a brass plaque which remembers eight men of the church who died during WW1

Coxhoe Primary School (Right)

Situated inside the corridor of the school building is a memorial to 22 former pupils of the school who were killed during the Great War.



Coxhoe Co-operative Society

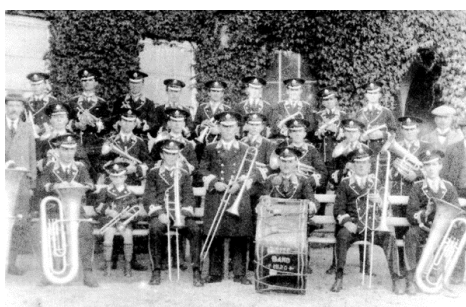
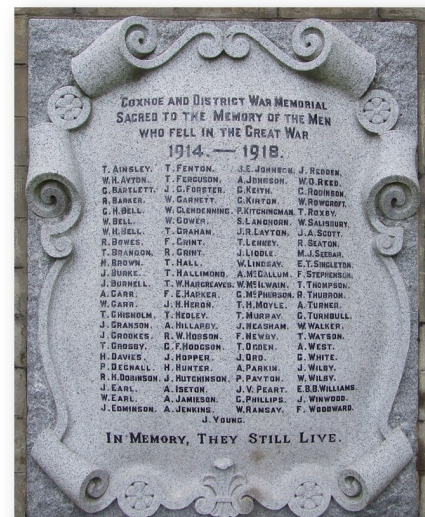
The Co-operative Society buildings once contained a Roll of Honour listing the 49 men who served, including six employees who fell during the war. Unveiled on the 11th December 1920 by Mr Brown of the management committee, it's whereabouts are currently unknown.

The Durham Advertiser, Friday, June 23, 1922

COXHOE WAR MEMORIAL THE GALLANT NINETYSEVEN

The public memorial placed in the outer wall of the Literary Institute, Coxhoe, in honour of the ninety seven men, belonging to Coxhoe and Cornforth Lane who fell during the war was unveiled on Saturday evening in the presence of a large and representative company, including many ex-servicemen and relatives of the deceased heroes. The memorial is a large granite slab, tastefully designed, and containing in lead letters, the names of the men, was supplied and erected by A.H. Borrowdale, sculptor, Worksop, Notts.

Coxhoe Silver Band conducted by Mr J. Shotton, headed a procession of ex-servicemen and others formed at Low Coxhoe and subsequently took part in the ceremony which was presided over by Mr. J McNally, Coxhoe. The hymn "O God Our Help", announced by the Vicar of Coxhoe, Rev. R.D. Evans, was sung, followed by prayer offered by the Rev. H Paynter, Board Wesleyan Superintendent Minister, Durham.



Coxhoe Silver Band

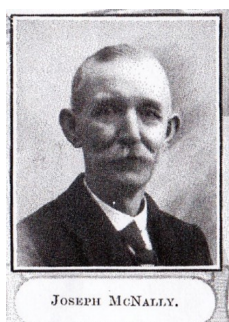
The Chairman in opening, expressed the honour conferred upon him, in presiding on such an occasion, and the pleasure he felt in knowing that the noble band of men belonging to the district, who gave up their lives, were being honoured. They had every right to feel proud of the doings of the men of Coxhoe and Cornforth Lane. It was not the intention that the memorial should remain permanently in it's present position. They hoped that within a few years a larger Institution and Hall would be erected in Coxhoe, to which it would be transferred.

Mr. T.A. Saint, C.C. Garmondsway, in a brief address, stated that he felt honoured in being allowed to participate. They honoured their dead, respected and esteemed them, but could they honour them enough considering what they had done in giving their lives for their fellow men and saving their country? As one of the "Durhams" who took part in the war, he felt proud of them and the work they had done. They were honoured, and their honour remained unblemished to the end. The memorial was only a small token of the esteem they felt for the men who had died.

Ald. T. Foster, Kelloe, remarked that if anything gave him pleasure it was to honour those who fell in the fray and show their esteem and respect for them. He advised the young men and women to keep in the best of company and pay more homage to their homeland. In was no use trying to think that our country was in an exalted condition. We were going through a terrible crisis, but it was nothing to what it would have been if the Kaiser had come. If they could do a kind action in life let them do it; let them pay more respect to the living. A rosebud in life was better than a wreath in death. They should not only scan the names on the memorial, but also lend a helping hand along the journey of life to those who were left behind.

The memorial was unveiled by ex Sergt. Wm. Wilson D.C.M. and bar, Coxhoe, who, in doing so, expressed the honour he felt in unveiling such a memory to his dead comrades.

Capt. Veitch M.C. Adjutant 8th Durham L.I., referred to the bright and happy times they had through friendships formed while in France. They took more pleasure in simple things while out there, things they did not notice while at home. Then there was the gladness they felt in the thought they were doing something. It helped to be cheerful. He had met more cheeriness and friends out there than before.



JOSEPH McNALLY.



Mr Saint



Coxhoe Institute Bungalow Hall

WAR MEMORIALS OF THE WESTERN FRONT



Thiepval Memorial to the Missing

Situated near to the village of Thiepval in the Picardy region of Northern France, the Thiepval memorial lists the names of 72,337 British and South African Soldiers who died at the Battle of the Somme and have no known grave.

Designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens the architect responsible for the Cenotaph in Whitehall, the memorial contains the names of 24 soldiers from Coxhoe & District killed in action and are "known only unto God"

The Menin Gate

Located in the town of Ypres, Belgium the memorial commemorates 54,896 soldiers of Great Britain and the Commonwealth killed in action whose graves are unknown. Situated on the Menin Road the Last Post ceremony takes place each evening at 8:00pm.

Five Coxhoe men are remembered on the memorial including the Earls brothers, John and William both of who died on the same day 24 May 1915.



The Arras Memorial

Situated in the town of Arras site of a major battle of WW1. Commemorates 35,000, British and Commonwealth soldiers with no known grave.

Three Coxhoe soldiers are remembered on the memorial.

Pozières Memorial and Cemetery

Situated in the heart of the Somme battlefield the Pozières Memorial commemorates 14,657 British and South African soldiers who died during the German spring offensive of 1918.



Tyne Cot Cemetery & Memorial to the Missing

The largest Commonwealth cemetery in the world contains 11,965 burials, over 8,000 unknown and 34,959 British and New Zealand soldiers on the memorial wall.

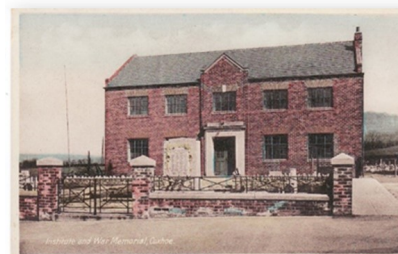
Situated near the infamous Passchendaele battlefield in Belgium.

The Prominent Permanent War Memorial - Coxhoe Social and Literary Institute and Village Hall

The Money-Raising Way.

A programme of various ways of raising money has been drawn up, including concerts, whist drives, and other popular events. The scheme has the support of all classes, Mr TA Saint, manager of Raisby Limestone Quarries, being chairman of the committee, which comprises many working men and their wives, with Mr JW Brighouse, manager of Steetley Lime and Basic Works, as vice-chairman, and Mr. M Lilley, as secretary. Much of the success already recorded in connection with the fresh movement is due to the initiative of the latter. Miss Wood, Coxhoe Hall, who worked energetically in connection with the original scheme, is president.

Each of the neighbouring villages have institutes and public halls erected in connection with the Miners Welfare scheme, but Coxhoe, although the majority of the men and boys work at either one or the other of the collieries in the surrounding area, are apparently not eligible for a grant from the Miners Welfare funds towards the cost of erecting a suitable building of their own.



1932 :Coxhoe's New Institute

The New Social and Literary Institute, which has been erected at Coxhoe will be opened on Saturday by Miss Wood, Coxhoe Hall, president of the Women's Working Committee. . The cost, exclusive of furnishings, is about £1750, towards which £1400 has been raised, preparations having been going on since 1913.

The building comprises a large meeting room for women's meetings etc. on the ground floor, a reading room divisible into two rooms when required, by means of a folding partition, crush hall, and cloak room accommodation. A side entrance and staircase leads to the first floor, where the accommodation comprises a billiard room with two tables, games room, cloakrooms



Tribute to Women Workers

Mr Saint paid a tribute to the work done by Miss Wood and the many other women workers who had assisted so greatly towards raising the money for the institute. They were disappointed at not being able to build the hall, but were determined to go on with the scheme.

The need for a Women's Institute in the village was expressed by Miss Wood, who said that when the new institute was opened there would be accommodation for women's meetings.

Plans for the Future

The new institute is only part of the complete scheme which includes the erection of an assembly hall, with stage, anterooms, supper room and kitchen.



In 1938 Maud Wood donated funds for the Assembly Hall.

The Bungalow Hall was demolished and the War Memorial Garden built in its place.



2009

The lovely building they left as a legacy is as important now as it has been for the last 80 years with space for activities for all the community.

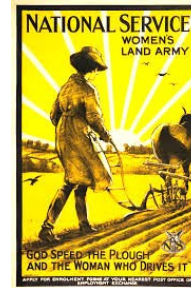
Coxhoe's Home Front was undoubtedly a team effort and a credit to all.

Changed Lives



The Bungalow Hall was for men only and the new Institute would need to cater for the ladies as their roles changed drastically over the years.

Their life of domesticity had been quickly left behind when they were needed to fill the jobs vacated by men



6th July 1915 : Cricket: Coxhoe Ladies Ambulance Class, Coxhoe v V.T. Corps.

On Coxhoe ground on Wednesday night, before a large attendance on behalf of the Ambulance Class and Voluntary Training Corps funds. Coxhoe Brass Band offered selections of music. The gentlemen, who batted with shafts, were confined to the use of left hands only.

Score: Ladies:

Miss Allison run out 1
Miss Guthrie bowled Robson 0
Miss Breen bowled Fawell 1
Miss Parke hit wicket 2
Miss Robinson bowled Robson 8
Miss Bell caught Weddel bowled Fawell 1
Miss W Allison bowled Fawell 0
Miss Heron caught Fawell bowled Bell 2
Miss Fawell caught Robson bowled Jackman 4
Miss Brown caught Fawell bowled Bell 1
Miss L. Heron caught Widdar bowled Jackman 0
Miss Stokel caught Smart bowled Jackman 0
Miss Stoves caught Widdar bowled Smart 1
Miss Weightman run out 1
Miss Curry not out 1
Extras 2 **Total 25**

Voluntary Training Corps

W.F. Robson bowled Miss Bell 1
N.G. Bell bowled Miss Robinson 9
F Widdas caught and bowled Miss Bell 0
C. Jackman bowled Miss Robinson 0
J Ramsay bowled Miss Robinson 2
T. Smart not out 6
Jas. Bailey bowled Miss Robinson 0
G. Fawell stumped Miss Robinson 3
J. Heron run out
J. Wood bowled Miss Fawell 1
Extras 4 **Total 26**

12th December 1919

On Wednesday afternoon a three day bazaar, organised by Miss Wood, Coxhoe Hall, and the members of Coxhoe Ladies Working Party, was opened in the CE Schools, Coxhoe, for the purpose of raising funds to provide a new institute and hall in Coxhoe.

For some time the present institute, formerly four small cottages, converted nine years ago, has been found to be inadequate, and the lack of accommodation has been increased owing to the large number of young men belonging to the village who have returned from Army life, and naturally wish for some pleasanter way of spending their spare time than wandering up and down the village streets.

The need of a hall in which concerts, meetings and other functions of a social character can be held is also felt very much, such buildings being a necessity in every village.

12th July 1918

In connection with the recently formed Women's Institute at Coxhoe, an enjoyable garden party was held at Belgrave, Coxhoe the residence of Mrs Tait, a good company being present. About fifty members were enrolled.

18th October 1918

On Saturday a flag and flower day, organised by Miss Wood, Coxhoe Hall, and a strong committee of ladies, was held in Coxhoe district in aid of Durham County Sailors Fund. It proved very successful, the young ladies who sold flags, flowers, brooches etc. in the streets being well supported. Valued assistance was rendered by Coxhoe Brass Band and Bowburn Scouts. A quantity of garden produce given by residents and friends, was disposed of by public auction by Mr A Gillett, Quarrington Hill, the proceeds being for the fund.

The Flag and Flower Day held at Coxhoe on Saturday, organised by Miss Wood, Coxhoe Hall, in aid of Durham County Sailors Fund, realised £25 13s. A cheque for £25 4s 6d has been forwarded to the treasurer of the fund. Miss Wood tenders thanks to all who assisted in any way.

For the War Orphans

On Wednesday night a successful concert, promoted by the members of Coxhoe Parish Church Girls Guide, was held in the CE Schools, Mrs Oliver, Linden Villa, presiding over a fair attendance. The programme, which was contributed by the members of the Guild, consisted of songs, trios, duets, choruses, and a sketch, was well rendered and much appreciated.....During an interval Mrs Oliver, on behalf of the members of the Guild, presented money and gifts to over 70 war orphans belonging to Coxhoe parish.



Keep the Home Fires Burning,
While your hearts are yearning,
Though your lads are far away
They dream of home.
There's a silver lining
Through the dark clouds shining,
Turn the dark cloud inside out
'Til the boys come home.
(repeat)

The Personal Price of War.

Soldiers who returned from the Western Front often paid a terrible price both physically and mentally for their involvement in the four year conflict. Some would never recover and for many it would lead to a lifetime of pain and suffer-



Shellshock:

Symptoms include hysteria and anxiety, paralysis, limping and muscle contractions, blindness and deafness, nightmares and insomnia, heart palpitations, depression, dizziness and disorientation and loss of appetite. Today we would diagnose shellshock as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder



Trench Foot;- Conditions on the Western Front, particularly during periods of wet weather posed a threat to soldiers in the form of trench foot, a condition brought about by having their feet immersed in water for long periods of time. This eventually cause the skin to break down and fall away thus exposing muscles and tendons underneath.

Matthew Johnson a WW1 veteran and former employee of Coxhoe Co-operative, described the long term effect of contracting trench foot as "like walking on broken glass"



Gas Gangrene:- When we think about gas and WW1 we conjure up images of green clouds of vapour rolling towards trenches in an attempt to poison and kill soldiers. We may also think it is linked to gas gangrene but it isn't connected.

Gas Gangrene occurs because wounds become infected because of soil borne bacteria which rapidly infiltrated the wound producing tissue gas and ultimately leading to gangrene in the affected limb Consequently limbs were amputated in order that the person survived.

During WW1 some 100,000 German soldiers lost their lives as a result of gas gangrene.



Trench Fever :- Living in close proximity to one another in the trenches allowed body lice to be transmitted from person to person. Lice also transmit a disease known as trench fever which causes fever, headaches, muscle soreness. Usually lasting five to six days, it could occasionally last for a few weeks.



Soldiers would try to destroy the lice by running a lighted candle along the seams of their clothing. It wasn't very effective as a remedy, with body heat hatching lice eggs within hours of clothes being



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Chemical Weapons in WW1

When we hear of chemical weapons we often think of the conflicts in Iraq and Syria and such hideous weapons being new. Chemical weapons have been used throughout history and were banned by international treaty in 1907, most Western nations signing up to it. However chemical weapons in the form of gases became common place during the early stages of the Great War with the German army carrying out the first gas attack using Chlorine on 22nd April 1915 near the Belgian city of Ypres, directing the attack at French and Algerian trenches. Within minutes 5,000 soldiers were dead and 10,000 injured.

The issuing of gas masks largely negated the effect of chlorine but the use of phosgene and mustard gas burned the skin as well as the lungs.

Phosgene, Chlorine and mustard gas was employed by both sides despite the ban. Following the end of WW1 the use of chemical weapons was banned.

At the end of WW1 gas attacks accounted for 1.3 million casualties with deaths estimated at 90,000 to 100,000 primarily because of phosgene gas.



Durham County Advertiser: June 4th 1915

What Gas Does

In a letter to a friend at Coxhoe, Private John Lowe of the 5th DLI describes the effects of the gas used by the enemy; "It was just before daybreak on Monday that the gasses came and we were half stupefied before we could get our gags on. Our company had to be relieved but we, the MAX gun section, had to stay. When they used the gas we had to leave the trenches, I was nearly done but managed to crawl to a hospital where I rested and came round a little. In the meantime our company had to rush into the trenches again, they got them back; and drove the Germans back, but at what a cost.

I am still a bit shaky and find it hard to breathe, otherwise I am all right. I could not eat anything. The gasses are a yellowish colour and put a thick coating of mould, on your buttons etc. that will give you an idea what it does to the human system. I had a close call.

PS. We gave the Germans some stick, and we are not down hearted yet".

Jack Dorgan, of the Northumberland Fusiliers, suffered from the poison gas. He explained how he and the other British soldiers were affected.

Our eyes were streaming with water and with pain. Luckily again for me I was one of those who could still see. But we had no protection, no gas masks or anything of that kind. All we had was roll of bandages from our first aid kit which we carried in the corner of our tunic. So we had very little protection for our eyes. And then you had to be sent back. Anyone who could see, like I was, would go in front. And half a dozen or 10 or 12 men each with their hand on the shoulder of the man in front of them and lines - you could see lines and lines and lines of British soldiers going back with rolls of bandages round their eyes going back towards Ypres. (From Imperial War Museum archives)

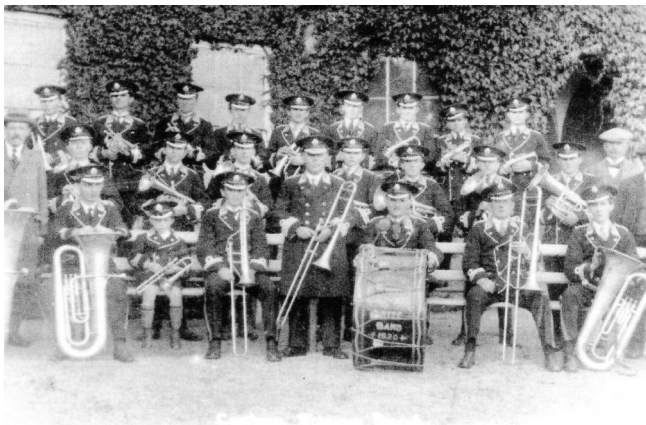
Their Legacy

The Wood Family of Coxhoe Hall

At the time of World War 1 Coxhoe Hall and estate was an important village landmark. The estate covered a huge area around Coxhoe reaching the outskirts of Kelloe and Quarrington Hill. It included three farms and a mill and provided employment—gardeners, chauffeurs, housekeepers etc and four lodges were homes for their staff. Residents and 'local gentry' were the Wood family—father William—a Mining Engineer, mother Esther, son John and daughters Maud, Clara and Beatrice. John Wood was director of a number of company's including Trimdon Coal Co. and Weardale Steel, Coal and Coke Co., He was High Sheriff of Durham and a JP for many years. They were involved in village activities and sporting clubs, holding events and welcoming visits by local groups.



John Wood (3rd right 2nd row) at Coxhoe Hall at the presentation of retiring postmaster Thomas Kingston with his wife (centre of 2nd row)



Coxhoe Silver Band outside of Coxhoe Hall

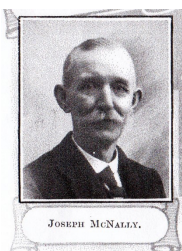
Albert Brighthouse, manager of Steetley Limestone Co. was a village stalwart. A native of Derbyshire, Albert came to Coxhoe to manage the quarry works. The family lived at Quarry House, The Avenue.

Albert and his wife were active involved in village life with the Church, Institute, Cricket, Football and the Rifle Club playing a major part in daily life.

Albert Brighthouse (left) with Coxhoe Rifle Club 1910



Joseph McNally lived at 2 West Parade, Coxhoe and was our local press reporter.



He had his finger on the Coxhoe pulse and wrote articles prolifically for the Durham County Advertiser, Auckland Chronicle, Hartlepool Mail etc. Undoubtedly he would be approached by many families to record details of events during the war, many of which were tragic.

Coxhoe details during the war were well recorded perhaps more than anywhere else. His writings were the result of the many positions he held in the village as a committee man for Coxhoe Co-operative and secretary of numerous groups including the Rifle Club where he worked closely with Albert Brighthouse.

Hartlepool Mail - Thursday 18 July 1935: Coxhoe Tablet Unveiled.

A tablet in memory of the late Mr. Joseph McNally, of Coxhoe was unveiled by Mr. Brown at a special service in the Central Methodist Church Coxhoe, last night. Mr. McNally, who was the Coxhoe district journalist for 43 years, was connected with the Central Methodist Church for over 25 years.

From Past to Present 100 years on

" People in communities help each other. They come together as a group to solve problems that are too big for one person to tackle on their own. "

Nothing could be closer to that statement than the difficulties that communities like Coxhoe and every other in the country faced during the Great War from 1914 to 1918. Confronted with the prospect of war, the loss of husbands and sons to the military effort, and the stark reality that some may never return, communities came together to help each other and to support the war effort.

Once it was realised that the war would not be over by Christmas, that young men would not be returning or where they did they may have injuries and illness, the community swung into action with the establishment of various local groups to support them. Churches and schools, clubs and associations some established, some that grew out of adversity all played their part

We have read of these groups in these pages and of the people involved. Community leaders such as John Wood of Coxhoe Hall, who along with his sister Maud Wood made a priceless contribution to the cohesion of the community during hard times. Albert Brighthouse, Joseph McNally, William Denison and John Beamson all of them leading important groups. The glue that held it all together and propagated the values of working together for the good of the community.



It was from the generations that have gone before that we have inherited what we have in Coxhoe today. Central to it all is 'Coxhoe Literary and Social Institute and Village Hall'. Raised by public funds to provide a permanent war memorial, remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice. At the head was Maud Wood, whose connections in society along with public involvement helped raise the funds to build it.

Opening in 1932 the Village Hall remains as important to the community today as it was then. For the past 87 years community

members have ensured that the Village Hall has survived and continued to thrive and provide for the needs of the local community. The many and varied local groups that use the facility today are evidence of the importance of the legacy that was gifted to the community by the community for the community. They set the example for the "Do it Ourselves" community approach which has continued to this day.



We look to the initiatives that village groups have played a major part in developing. The Active Life Centre, meeting children's needs through the play area and skate park, improving the war memorial garden and developing a heritage churchyard, walking and cycling routes.

We see that the future looks bright and that the legacy of community spirit and team we have inherited continues into the future for the next generation to build upon and enjoy.



The compilation of this booklet was conceived as part of the Great War Commemorations which started in 1914 and formed part of the Coxhoe Local History Group's 4 year long project to document the impact the Great War had on the local community.

Countless hours have been spent preparing exhibitions, starting in September 2014 as events began to mark the start of the centenary and culminating in 2018 with the national event Battles Over and the beacon lighting on the village green.

"Keep the Home Fires Burning in Coxhoe", written and produced by members of the history group and local volunteers who took part, told the story of our community, how it pulled together and how it came through a difficult time in history.

This booklet brings to a close the Centenary events that have demonstrated how Coxhoe people have worked together for the community. Long may they continue to do so.



At the going down of the sun
And in the morning
We will remember them



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