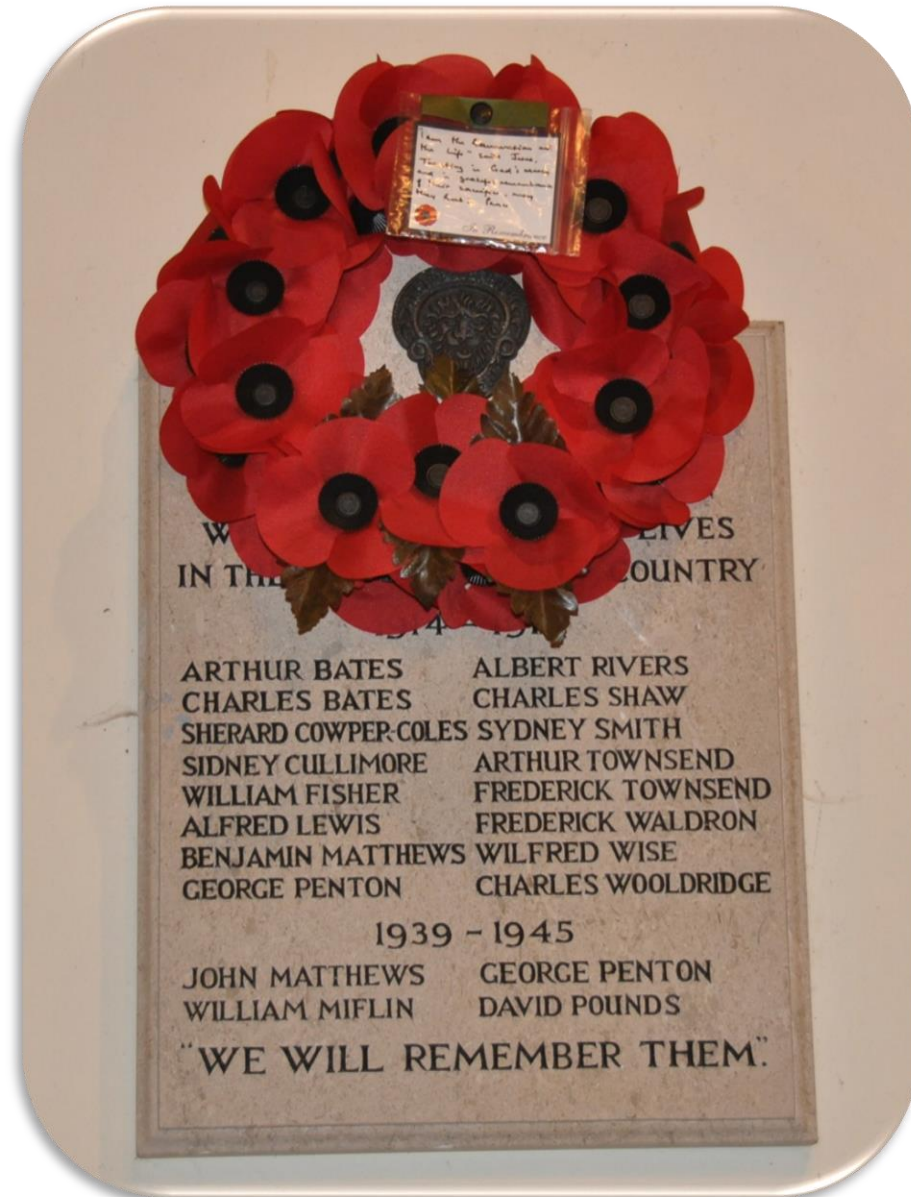


East Garston Remembers 2018

On Saturday 10th November, East Garston remembered those villagers who gave their lives for their country in both World Wars. The commemoration started with a service in All Saints Church followed by the Act of Remembrance at the village war memorial. The war memorial and a plaque in the church list the names of the fallen from both wars. However, on this occasion, 100 years on from the cessation of the first World War, we especially remembered the 16 men from East Garston



who lost their lives in that conflict. To aid the remembrance, Jonathan Hing created 16 silhouettes of soldiers and 100 poppies for the East Garston Local History Society with sponsorship from the East Garston Amenities Committee. The soldiers and poppies were displayed around the churchyard for the weekend although two soldiers were placed temporarily at the war memorial for the Act of Remembrance.



The service was preceded by a half-muffled ring by the East Garston Bellringers. Both sections of the ceremony were conducted by the Venerable Christine Allsopp. The Wantage Academy Brass, conducted by Nikki Jones, started the service by playing "Nimrod" by Edward Elgar and then accompanied the hymns throughout the service.



The lesson was read by Hon Rowland Cobbold, formerly a Lieutenant in the Kent & County of London Yeomanry (TA). The church service concluded by Marcus Coombs, formerly a Colonel in the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, reading the poems "In Flanders Fields" written by Lt Col John McCrae and "We shall keep the faith", written in response by Prof Moina Michael, who conceived the idea of using poppies as a symbol of remembrance for those who served in the first World War.

At the end of the church service the band formed up outside the lych gate to lead the Ven Allsopp, the wreath bearers and over 90 villagers to the war memorial to the march "True and Trusty" by J.A. Greenwood. Another group of villagers were waiting at the war memorial to join in the Act of Remembrance.





At the war memorial, Laurence Binyon's Lines were spoken by Christopher Hill formerly a Captain in the Royal Green Jackets.



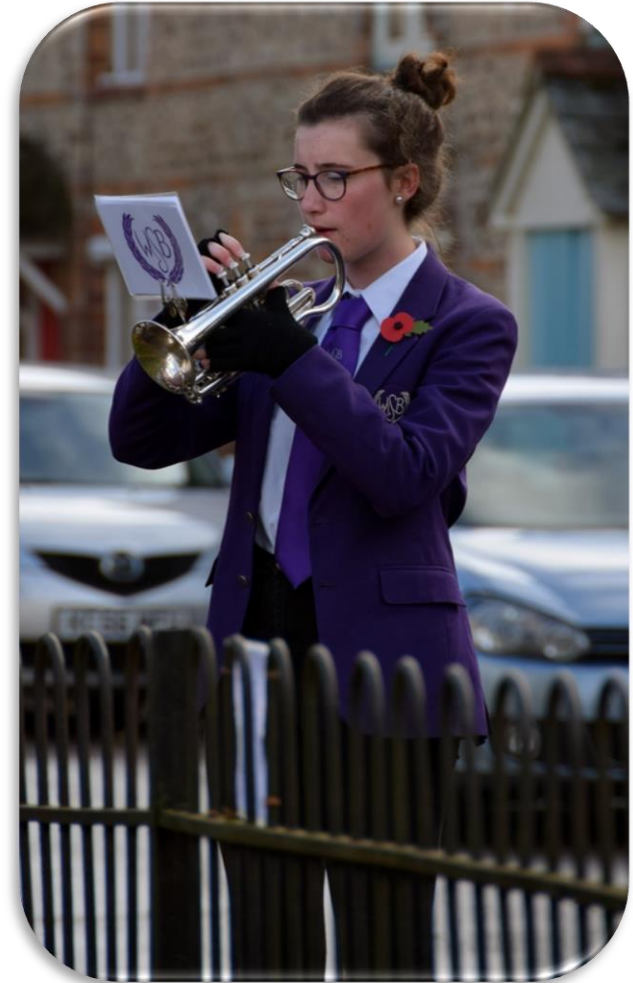
The Last Post, played by Jamie Cockburn, signalled the start of the two minutes Silence and it ended when Jamie played the Reveille.

Wreaths were laid by Marcus Coombs on behalf of the Royal British Legion, by Bob Briant, Churchwarden, on behalf of the Churchwardens and East Garston Parochial Church Council and by Jonathan Rabbitts, Chairman, on behalf of East Garston Parish Council.



Marcus Coombs spoke the Kohima Epitaph and the Ven Allsopp led the final prayers.

The ceremony was concluded by the band playing “In Flanders Fields” by Gavin Somerset; the soloists were Charlotte Hemsley and Jamie Cockburn. The band then marched back to the church to “Sure and Steadfast” by Eric Ball.





Coffee, tea and a superb selection of biscuits were served in the church's Seymour Chapel and many of those present spent time studying the many items of memorabilia from the period around the first World War which were exhibited around the church. The church was also beautifully decorated with red flowers and poppies. The Exhibition, which was organised on behalf of the East Garston Local History Society by Dawn Tonge and Karen Sperrey, remained open for the rest of the day and opened again on the following day after the Remembrance Sunday service. This service was made

special on this 100th anniversary of the end of the first World War by the congregation gathering outside at the beginning of the service and as Dawn Tonge called the roll of those who gave their lives in that war, poppies were placed at the feet of each of the soldier silhouettes.



Many thanks to everyone who contributed to make the weekend a success.

Photography by Josie Taylor