



Redearth Road Methodist Chapel

Did you attend Redearth Rd Methodist Chapel and remember this War Memorial?

The WWI war memorial has been found in the Western Cemetery but only Part of it has survived. Despite many of the names being incomplete. Tony Foster has recovered all of them on the stone.

However we are certain that a third column of names is still missing, they all attended Redearth Road Chapel.

The names are: Thomas Ainsworth, Nicholas V Bennetts, Joseph R Briggs, Ralph Briggs, John C Brindle, Hubert Bury, Wallace Duckworth, Harry Eccles, Edward Harwood, Samuel Harwood, William Henry Harwood, Hubert Haworth, Benjamin Jackson, Hubert Ashton Jepson, Samuel Jepson, Harold Kay, William Thomas Kirkham, John Richard Lomax, John Neville, John Scully, Ralph Shorrock.

We have been informed that someone saw the memorial between the two lodges in the 1980's and at that time it was intact. He has informed us that one of the missing names was that of his uncle "James Irving WHALLEY".



The Friends are interested in restoring the stone but would like to include all the names still missing.

Can you help?

Back to its best



The once-elegant marble memorial stone to the Rev. Philip Graham, first vicar of St John's, is now back to its white, shining best after a generous gesture from one of his relatives, Alastair Graham who lives in Kelvedon, near Colchester. The Rev. Graham was his great, great grandfather. Mr Graham saw an article by Harold Heys and Bill Taylor on the cemetery web site last summer and contacted Rosemary Jackson. Harold gave him a rough idea of what the cost might be and put him on to Brent Stevenson and the result is a wonderful addition to the north west edge of the cemetery.

Friends' chairman John East has telephoned Mr Graham to thank him for his gesture.

Harold Hays March 2012

Our Australian soldier and Anzac Day 25th April

The Australians commemorate their war dead on two days throughout the year. Like us they have a Remembrance Day on November 11 and last year I was privileged to attend the ceremony in Sydney at the Anzac Memorial. The remembrance poppies in Australia are quite different to the ones we have in The UK We were able to throw one of our British poppies into the memorial in remembrance of the Australian soldier, A E Ward, who has a Commonwealth War Grave in Darwen Cemetery.



While in Australia we had a trip to Canberra and visited the Australian War Memorial which is also a museum (www.awm.gov.au) where there is a wall of all Australians who have died in conflict around the world. We located the name of A E Ward and placed a poppy by his name.

Australia and New Zealand also celebrate Anzac (Australia and New Zealand Army Corps) Day. In Australia it is their most important national day and a public holiday. It was started to commemorate the WW1 battle at Gallipoli in Turkey but now is for all Australians who have died in other military operations. The day starts with a Dawn Service as there was a dawn landing at Gallipoli and there are marches by the Armed forces, Veterans and other uniformed organisations. Wreaths are placed on memorials and people wear sprigs of rosemary in their lapel.

Since the Friends of Darwen Cemetery started the Adopt a War Grave scheme in 2010, our Australian soldier's grave has been tidied up ready to place poppies and rosemary on his grave on Anzac Day. A E Ward (known as Ernest), who had been fighting in France, came on leave to visit relatives the Leach family in Darwen. Sadly he caught the Spanish flu here and died and was buried with full military honours. Although we have researched his life, so far we have been unable to find out how he was related to the Leach family. You can read his story on our website.



www.darwencemetery.org.uk/doc/Our_Australian_Soldier.pdf.

Rosemary Jackson March 2012

Visit: www.darwencemetery.org.uk