



WFA Wolverhampton Branch Newsletter - January 2012

Next Meeting: 2012 Annual General Meeting Saturday 14th January at St Peters Collegiate School, Compton Park, Compton Rd West, Wolverhampton WV3 9DU. Doors will open at 2.00, with proceedings beginning at 2.30pm. If visiting us by car, please approach from the A454 Compton Road West, and follow the road along for about 800 yds; the school is on the right, past the Wolverhampton Wanderers FC Training Ground.

As this is our AGM we do not have a formal Speaker this month. However, after formalities are concluded our Chairman, Geoff Longmore, will give us a talk on the history of the Wolverhampton Branch of the WFA. This talk will be of particular interest to myself, as I am only a newcomer with less than three year's membership of the Branch.

Unfortunately there will not be a schools essay prizegiving at the AGM as an insufficient number of essay entries have been received.

December Meeting: Our Xmas Social was a memorable meeting for many reasons. The day began well when our Chairman received a call from our Speaker, advising that he would not be able to come to speak to us that afternoon due to an attack of 'flu. This completed a hat-trick of speaker cancellations for 2011.

However, I am sure I am not alone in having thoroughly enjoyed the two ad hoc talks given by Chris Twiggs and Andy Johnson on the topics of Capt. Sankey and the War Memorials of Tipton respectively. For enthusiasm and knowledge of their subject they could not be bettered by many of our "professional" speakers.

Thanks are also due to all involved in the organisation of our Xmas Buffet. It was excellent.

Mavis Bennett brought a selection of David's WW1 books at the December meeting, looking for a donation in return. £93 was raised for Macmillan Nurses in memory of David.

Captain Sankey: A contribution from our esteemed Treasurer, Andy Johnson.

Captain Sydney John Sankey of the 1/6th South Staffs seems to be getting a lot of recent coverage thanks to our member Chris Twiggs. Most of you will have heard Chris's excellent talk delivered at such short notice at the December meeting. The current edition of the Black Country Society Magazine has a 3 page article on 'Sydney John' - written by no other than Chris Twiggs. Chris must now be the world-expert about 'Sydney John'.

If anyone wishes to see a copy, get in touch with Andy.

Faces of The Great War: Thank you to Geoff Longmore and John White for bringing this to our attention:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/imperialwarmuseum/sets/72157627910530369/>

These images are amongst the first items collected by [IWM](#) when it was founded in 1917 to record everybody's experiences of the First World War.

In some cases, bereaved families donated their only photograph. Some have only a name, rank and unit.

First World War Centenary at IWM

We will be uploading new images to Faces of the First World War every weekday between now and the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the war in August 2014.

Find out more about this First World War Centenary project at www.1914.org/faces.

All of these photos tell a story. The men shown in them fought and often died for Britain and the Commonwealth.

BMSGH Trip: From Geoff Longmore. BMSGH will be running a coach trip to the "Who do you think you are?" event at London Olympia on Saturday 25th February 2012. The coach will pick-up at Margaret Street in Birmingham City centre at 07-30 prompt and return from Olympia at 5pm. Total

cost per person will be £31. £21 for the coach and, with group ticketing, £10 entrance ticket which will include two free workshop tickets per person, a free February edition of WDYTYA magazine and also a show guide.

All seats must be prebooked and pre-paid, payment cannot be accepted on the coach. Seat reservations with cheques by post to - P J Lamb [BMSGH Coaches], 27 Goodrest Avenue, Hales Owen, West Midlands, B62 0HP. or reservations at coachtrips@bmsggh.org with a cheque to quickly follow by post. The coach is available to all comers. Phil Lamb will also be running a coach on 4 Saturdays in 2012 to The National Archives - a facility that I and a number of other members have used in the past. Please mention you are from Wolverhampton WFA Branch if you book.

Branch Subscriptions: 2012 subscriptions are now due, so our esteemed Treasurer, Andy Johnson, will be harassing you for your money. Membership has been pegged at £15.00 again for 2012. Where you have signed a Gift Aid form, we reclaim £3.75 from the tax man on your £15 subscription. We have to confirm with you that you still pay income tax sufficient to cover the £3.75 we reclaim; if your tax position has changed, please let Andy know so that we can be seen to be following the Gift Aid rules to the letter. The basic Personal Allowance increased from £6,475 to £7,475 for the year 2011-12. Similarly if your contact details have changed in 2011, please let us know.

W Startin: At the Christmas buffet, a member asked Andy Johnson about a Wolverhampton WW1 Casualty named W. Startin, killed in action 28th October 1915. Things were a little hectic on the day, and Andy has forgotten who asked the question. If that person would like to contact Andy on Andrew_R_Johnson@msn.com he will answer your query.

Dates for your Diary:

i. 18th - 22nd May 2012 - Branch Tour to the Somme

ii. Saturday 24th March 2012 – the 3rd Annual Great War Forum Conference, Tally Ho Centre, Pershore Road, Birmingham (a venue well-known to one of our members, I'm sure)
Speakers confirmed are:

Gary Sheffield - "Douglas Haig in 1915: Commander of First Army"

Richard Van Emden - "The Quick and the Dead: Fallen Soldiers and Their Families in the Great War"

Andy Robertshaw - "Arms and the Man: The development of British infantry weapons and small unit tactics 1914-18"

Chris Baker - "The Battle for Flanders: German defeat on the Lys, 1918"

Chris Pugsley - "Ashmead-Bartlett's Gallipoli Film - the first filmed amphibious landing in history"

The cost will be £26 per person, covering the conference, lunch and tea and coffee.

Details may be found here:

<http://1914-1918.invisionzone.com/forums/index.php?showtopic=162143>

Future Newsletters:

Please send any items you would like to be included to me at my official e-mail address: wfawtoneditor@gmail.com

John Hale
Branch Newsletter Editor