

Report To Beeston Regis Parish Council 14th November 2018

Re Parish Commemoration of Centenary of the signing the Armistice ending the Great War
Signed up to 'Battles Over' in 2017

Publicised event in Programme of Diamond Jubilee of Parish Council in July 2017

Publicised in and requesting stories in Parish newsletters

Attended WW1 Network meetings at NNDC

A draft programme was formulated.

Arranged clearance of debris and vegetation from the World War 1 Pillbox in Britons Lane. The pillbox is part of the North Norfolk Council Pillbox trail.



Applied in May 2018 to Norfolk World War One Fund via Norfolk Community Foundation for grant towards costs – awarded the maximum £500

Applied to Army Covenant Fund for and were awarded 2 seated



Silhouettes as part of the 'There But not There' programme – The silhouettes placed in All Saints Church end of September with explanatory signage. Church open to the public every day and regular services every week. Silhouettes subsequently placed at table at Tea Party and afterwards placed in the Beeston Hall Chapel.

Accepted a hand painted picture based on our Village sign from parishioner Polly Millington entitled 'Beeston Regis Remembers' This was used on all publicity, signage on village sign and A149 Also front cover of Commemorative booklet and 'Battle's Over' Programme



Meetings were held with representatives of Upper Sheringham, Sheringham Town Council and The Mo Museum to discuss mutual plans. The War Memorial in Sheringham is for the fallen of 'Sheringham and Beeston Regis' Our events were listed in the 'Sheringham at War- 100 Years On' publication.

Researched, and put together and published a 40 page Commemorative Booklet distributed free to every home in Parish. Copies also to other appropriate persons and organisations in the area. No advertising revenue was sought. Original plan was for a 20 page booklet. Booklet and invitations printed by Cheverton and Son Ltd

All 40 pages of Booklet printed in house separately on card and put up on exhibition board in All Saints Church by Bob Wilkinson



The programme of events was published in the EDP and NN News

Commissioned a new 'Dead Mans Penny' plaque to replace the original which had been stolen from the CWGC WW1 grave of Rifleman Pegg in Beeston Regis All Saints Church. This was placed

on the grave on 11th November together with a personalized wreath of poppies. Plaque permanently fixed on 13th November with appropriate signage.

A personalized wreath of poppies placed on Sunday 11th November 2018 on the CWGC WW1 grave of Captain Bert James an Australian Pilot whose next of kin was his Aunt who lived in Beeston Regis The Parish are in touch with his family in Australia. A contribution from a family member living in Australia was published in the booklet. Copies were sent to Australia to be followed by photographs taken at the laying of the wreath.

The Chairman, Vice Chairman and other members of the Parish Council attended the Service of Remembrance at All Saints Beeston Regis at 10.30am on 11th November 2018 A wreath of poppies was laid in St George's Chapel by the Chairman

Following several meetings with Beeston Hall School organised a tea party at the School for late afternoon on Sunday 11th November 2018 as a prelude to the 'Battles Over' event. Invitations to this free event were delivered with the booklet to every home in Beeston Regis. and other appropriate persons and organisations.

170 acceptances were received excluding School staff and pupils

Parishioners	123
Invited guests	15
Scout Group	20
Parish Council	12



During the tea party cheese, egg. and corned beef sandwiches, sausages alongside trench and poor man's cake made to recipes of the time. Music of the time was played.

The local Scout Group attended following their duties at West Runton War Memorial. and pupils from the school joined the tea party

This was followed by the sounds of battle being created inside and outside with fireworks and whistles. After which the national 'Battle's Over' programme commenced.

The names of the Fallen of Beeston Regis were read by Edward Long grandson of Serjeant Long one of the fallen .of the Parish. 11 members of the Long family were in attendance.

"For the Fallen " by Laurence Binyon was read by Elisabeth McCosh Head Girl of Beeston Hall School

A short period of silence was observed

"The Last Post" was sounded by George Gurney a pupil of Beeston Hall School

"The Soldier' by Rupert Brooke was read by Albert Williams Head Boy of Beeston Hall School

A Beacon of Light was lit in the gardens of the School

The Bell of the Chapel of Beeston Hall School was rung by George Sanderson Chapel Monitor. The Bell of All Saints was also rung by John Meikle.

"In Flanders Fields" by John McCrae was read by the school Chaplain Mrs. Christina Rees CBE. Reveille was sounded by George Gurney to bring the event to an end.

During the tea party £310 was raised for the ABF The Soldiers Charity No 1146420 (Formerly known as The Army Benevolent Fund.)

Note

Following an approach to the Vice Chairman The Guardian newspaper in their edition of 10th November wrote about the Beeston Regis event under the headline “ **Communities round the world mark Armistice**”

“In Beeston Regis, a small village near Sheringham in Norfolk, the parish council has printed and distributed a booklet about the village’s wartime connections, ahead of services, a beacon lighting and a tea party

The village had signed up to take part in the commemorations, “but to be honest with you that was just last post, light a beacon, ring the church bell,” says Roy Beckley, the council’s vice-chairman. “I just said, I don’t think we’re going to get many people out on a dark night in November. We need something to attract them. So we’ll have a tea party’.”

With a population of 1,700, they are expecting 170 at the party, among them families of all ages. The fare, says Beckley, “will be very simple and based on **1914** stuff. I suspect there will be egg sandwiches, tomato sandwiches. For a little parish, we try to do things properly.”

Note population of Beeston Regis about 1100

G W Roy Beckley Vice Chairman
Beeston Regis PC