

## THE CHILD OKEFORD NEW ROLL OF HONOUR

By Katherine Seymour, Memorials Officer

At the June 2010 Branch meeting Pat and Maureen Soward, from the village of Child Okeford in Dorset, were welcomed as guests to a presentation which was devoted to the recently completed new Roll of Honour to be hung in the church of St. Nicholas, Child Okeford.



*Inside Child Okeford Church*

Branch member Helen Kerridge had realised that there were inaccuracies and omissions on the original Roll of Honour, which was commissioned by the village branch of the RBL in about 1954. Helen was researching the names on the Roll in order, as she said, "to make them people as opposed to just a list of names read out at Remembrance Sunday services each November." Of these 32 names, 28 are from the First World War, including William George Thorne, RFA, whose name does not appear on the War Memorial erected in the centre of the village in 1919. His connection with the village remains a mystery. Ernest William Beddow's name was inexplicably omitted from the original Roll of Honour as well as the War Memorial, even though he had lived in Child Okeford since 1916, he is buried in St Nicholas' graveyard and his widow continued to live in the village for many years after his death.

The majority of those killed from Child Okeford served in the army, including Arthur Elias Cobbold who was killed in Dublin during the Easter Rising in 1916, Guardsman Walter Fudge who had already fought with the Scots Guards in the Boer War and who was killed in the First Battle of Ypres in October 1914, Phillip Clifford Knight who was killed on 1st July 1916 during the Battle of the Somme and Albert William Shephard who was killed with the 1st Battalion the Dorset Regiment during what became known as "The Advance to Victory" on the Western Front in August 1918.



*New Roll Of Honour*

Several men from Child Okeford lost their lives in the Gallipoli campaign. These include Archibald William Elsworth who was recorded on 10th October 1915 as "wounded and missing, Gallipoli". A private in the Dorset Yeomanry, he had taken part in the attack on Hill 70 (Scimitar Hill) on 21st August 1915. Evidence suggests that he had been a member of C Squadron. This squadron was exposed to heavy machine gun fire when it veered off course during the battle. Captain and Adjutant Nigel James Christian Livingstone-Learmonth of the 15th (King's) Hussars attached the Dorset Yeomanry, a regular officer who had been mentioned in despatches during his service on the North-West Frontier, was killed as he attempted to re-direct the squadron. He and Archibald Elsworth may thus have been quite close together when they died. They are both remembered on the Child Okeford Roll of Honour and the Dorset Yeomanry Roll of Honour.

The Roll also records two men who died serving with the Australian Imperial Force. Born in Child Okeford in 1888, Charles Major Cluett had emigrated to Australia in about 1907 to work as a farm-hand. He enlisted into the AIF in January 1916 and after training at Larkhill had arrived on the Western Front on 27th November. Having recovered from wounds in the General Hospital in Boulogne, Charles had only been back with his unit for ten days when he was

killed in action on 15th July 1917. Oliver William Woolfrey was born and raised in Brisbane, Australia. He enlisted on 20th August 1914 and became a driver in the Australian Army Service Corps, seeing service in France and Gallipoli before dying as a result of multiple shell wounds to his face and thigh on 25th August 1917. The son of a Child Okeford man who had emigrated to Australia and married there in the late 1880s, driver Woolfrey is buried in the Menin Road South Military Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium.



*Presentation of the new roll of honour*

Hearing of Helen's research and of her determination to raise the £350 needed for a new Roll of Honour, Pat and Maureen Soward offered to contribute half the cost in memory of their son, Duncan, who died as a result of illness contracted during his service with REME in the First Gulf War in 1991. He is now remembered along with those from the First and Second World Wars on the new Roll, reproduced by local calligrapher Lisa South from the original design, which hangs under the RBL standards in St. Nicholas' Church, Child Okeford. The Dorset and South Wilts Branch of the WFA contributed the remaining £175 needed for the work to be completed. At the June meeting Helen and our guests Pat and Maureen presented the Branch with a photo of the new Roll and a copy of Helen's file of research to add to the Branch collection.

[www.child-okeford.org.uk/](http://www.child-okeford.org.uk/)

[www.roll-of-honour.com/Dorset/ChildOkeford.html](http://www.roll-of-honour.com/Dorset/ChildOkeford.html)



*Dedication Service at St. Nicholas Church*

*World War 1 (1914 - 1919)*

*Ernest William Beddow, Royal Field Artillery / Labour Corps  
Died of disease 31 October 1918 aged 36. Buried in St Nicholas Churchyard.*

*Henry Raymond Syndercombe Bower, 1st Battalion South Staffordshire Regt  
Killed in action 19 December 1914 aged 20. Commemorated on Ploegsteert  
Memorial, Belgium*

*Maurice Syndercombe Bower, Royal Army Service Corps  
Died of emphysema 13 January 1919 aged 43. Buried at Sophia Military  
Cemetery, Bulgaria*

*Charles Major Cluett, 33rd Infantry Battalion, Australian Imperial Force  
Killed in action 15 July 1917 aged 29. Buried at Bethleem Farm West  
Cemetery, Belgium*

*Arthur Elias Cobbold, Royal Army Service Corps  
Killed in action 29 April 1916 aged 23. Buried at Grangegorman Cemetery,  
Dublin*

*George Richard Ford Davies, 1st Battalion, the Middlesex Regiment  
Died 2 December 1915 aged 19. Buried at Le Touret Military Cemetery,  
France*

*Archibald William Elsworth, Dorset Yeomanry (Queen's Own)  
Killed in action 21 August 1915 aged 24. Commemorated on the Hells  
Memorial, Gallipoli*

*Walter Fudge, 2nd Battalion the Scots Guards  
Killed in action 7 October 1914 aged 36. Commemorated on the Menin Gate,  
Ypres, Belgium*

*Charles Edward Gillingham, 5th Battalion, the Dorsetshire Regiment  
Died of dysentery 6 October 1915 aged 25. Buried at Alexandria Military  
Cemetery, Egypt*

*Edward Ernest Hall, 6th Battalion (Queen's Own) Royal West Kent Regt  
Died of wounds 30 March 1917 aged 32. Buried Duisans British  
Cemetery, Etrun, France*

*Thomas George Hatcher, 1st (King's) Dragoon Guards  
Killed in action 2 June 1915 aged 25. Commemorated on the Menin Gate,  
Ypres, Belgium*

*Robert Holdway, Mercantile Marine  
Killed in a fall on board ship 8 August 1917 aged 39. Buried in St  
Nicholas Churchyard*

*Frederick Kingsbury, 5th Battalion, the Dorsetshire Regiment  
Died 1 December 1915 aged 25. Buried at Hill 10 Cemetery, Gallipoli,  
Turkey*

*Philip Clifford Knight, 1st Battalion Somerset Light Infantry  
Killed in action 1 July 1916 aged 24. Commemorated on the Thiepval  
Memorial, Somme*

*Nigel James Christian Livingstone-Learmonth, 15th (King's) Hussars att  
Dorset Yeomanry  
Killed in action 15 August 1915 aged 37. Buried at Green Hill Cemetery,  
Gallipoli, Turkey*

*William Lynes, Royal Navy (HMS Bulwark)  
Killed in explosion 26 November 1914 aged 19. Commemorated on  
Portsmouth Naval Memorial*

*Charles Tom Moore, 5th Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment  
Killed in action 25 May 1918 aged 19. Buried at Mailly Wood Cemetery,  
Somme*

*Clarence Edward Moore, 1st Battalion Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry  
Died of wounds 12 October 1917 aged 24. Buried at Godeswaersvelde British  
Cemetery*

*Gerald Humphrey Moore, 6th Battalion Royal Irish Regiment  
Killed in action 6 June 1917 aged 31. Commemorated on the Menin Gate,  
Ypres*

*Albert Alexander Quick, West Somerset Yeomanry  
Died 25 November 1915, cause unknown, aged 22. Commemorated on Hells  
Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey*

*Tom Hallett Walter Rawlings, Army Service Corps  
Died of disease 20 July 1916 aged 20. Buried at Sherborne Cemetery*

*James Read, 9th Battalion the Devonshire Regiment  
Killed in action 10 October 1917 aged 26. Buried at Hooge Crater Cemetery,  
Belgium*

*Herbert Levi Savory, 2nd Battalion Monmouthshire Regiment  
Killed in action 14 April 1918 aged 31. Commemorated on Ploegsteert  
Memorial, Belgium*

*Albert William Shephard, 1st Battalion Dorsetshire Regiment  
Killed in action 11 August 1918 aged 25. Buried at Bouchoir New British  
Cemetery, Somme*

*Harold Leslie Smith, 6th Battalion Dorsetshire Regiment  
Killed in action 18 August 1918 aged 19. Commemorated on Vis en Artois  
Memorial, France*

*William George Thorne, Royal Field Artillery  
Killed in action 21 June 1917 aged 27. Buried at Ecoivres Military Cemetery,  
France*

*Charles Wareham, 1st Battalion Dorsetshire Regiment  
Killed in action 1 July 1916 aged 26. Buried at Blighty Valley Cemetery,  
Somme*

*Oliver William Woolfrey, Australian Imperial Forces  
Died of wounds 25 August 1917 aged 27. Buried at Menin Road South  
Military Cemetery, Ypres*

#### *World War 2 (1939 - 1945)*

*Douglas P Arnold, Royal Artillery  
Died 4 December 1942 aged 22. Buried at Ancona War Cemetery, Italy*

*Robert Rennard Stradling Delahay, 15th Punjab Regiment  
Died 23 March 1944 aged 23. Buried at Imphal War Cemetery, Burma*

*Edward Maurice Fudge, 2nd Battalion Dorsetshire Regiment  
Died 17 August 1941 aged 34. Buried at Leeds (Harehills) Cemetery*

#### *1991*

*Duncan John Soward, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers (REME)  
Died of disease 3 November 1991 aged 22. Buried in St Nicholas Churchyard,*