



**Reigate and
Banstead
Remembers**

World War I

1914 - 1918

**Commemorative
Centenary programme
2015**

Get in touch

If you have a story to tell, want to help with our Adopt a grave scheme or tell us about your events, please contact leisure.services@reigate-banstead.gov.uk or call 01737 276103.



Introduction from the Leader

Reigate & Banstead Borough Council is very proud of the part that local residents played in the First World War and is determined that their bravery is remembered.

This commemorative brochure aims to give an overview of the key events of 1915, along with local stories about what the Great War meant to the soldiers fighting, those left at home and how things changed in the borough as a result of the war, so they can be remembered by future generations.

I am pleased that last year's successful programme of commemorative activities and events will continue throughout this year to give people of all ages the

opportunity to learn more and to come together to remember those who lived, fought and died in the conflict.

I would like to thank our local historians, history societies and residents for their valuable contributions without whom this publication would not be possible.

We want to hear your families' First World War stories too, so if you've got a story to tell please get in touch so that we may consider it for our future publications.

**Cllr Victor Broad,
Council Leader**



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With thanks

Our grateful thanks to our contributors for their time, knowledge, pictures and input in collating this programme:

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Reigate and Redhill experts

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World War I locally

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Surrey Heritage Project



Would you like to learn more about life in Surrey during the First World War, or help capture some of the stories from this time? You could be part of a Surrey Heritage project to preserve the legacy of wartime Surrey for future generations.

The project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and spanning four years, will build a digital archive of Surrey's First World War story and will also include events and roadshows. As a volunteer, you will have the chance to explore original records, letters and newspaper coverage, contribute stories that have been passed down through your own family and update the website, creating a lasting record of how the war shaped Surrey.



Visit www.surreyinthegreatwar.org.uk or call 03456 009 009 to find out how you can get involved.

In Merstham, Mrs Stevenson and Mrs Burtenshaw both received letters of congratulation from the King. Seven of Mrs Stevenson's sons, and all of Mrs Burtenshaw's five sons, were away fighting for their country.

Glow worms were used in WWI as an aid for map reading.

Introduction to the events of 1915

1915 was the second year of the First World War. There were major battles on land and at sea, with submarines and airships used for the first time to attack the Allies abroad and on the Home Front. The fighting continued and spread with major offensives in France, the Dardenelles and on the Russian front.



At home, important campaigns were run to get men to enlist, to increase the number of shells produced and escalate food production, as cargo shipping came under fire. On 7 May 1915, a German submarine torpedoed the luxury cruise liner Lusitania killing 1,198 civilian passengers and crew, of whom 128 were US citizens, changing the course of the war.

Last year, Reigate & Banstead Borough Council worked with local residents and schools to commemorate the start of Britain's involvement in World War I hostilities, refurbishing war memorials, adopting war graves, revamping Redhill's Memorial Park and opening books of remembrance. We also held a range of events around the borough including a 'show and tell' event at the

Harlequin Theatre, historical talks and Armistice Day services. These events continue in 2015.



Representatives from each of the local schools taking part in the 'adopt a grave' scheme.

This programme aims to record some of the key events, local stories and poems by local school children, written for Armistice Day services on 11 November in 2014.



2Lt Rupert Price Hallows VC

Born in Redhill, Rupert Price Hallows was awarded the Victoria Cross (VC) for his 'most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty' during the fighting at Hooge in Belgium between 25 September and 1 October 1915.

The Victoria Cross is the highest military decoration awarded for valour in the face of the enemy.

Throughout, 2Lt Hallows displayed great bravery and untiring energy and set a magnificent example to his men during four heavy and prolonged bombardments.



He made daring reconnaissances of the German positions in our lines. When the supply of bombs was running short he went back under very heavy shell fire and brought up a fresh supply. On more than one occasion he climbed up on to the parapet, utterly regardless of the danger, to put fresh heart into his men.

Even after he was mortally wounded, he continued to cheer those around him and to inspire them with fresh courage.



Poems by local school children



Dear soldier
Joel Aston & Roen Hewitt-Browne, Warwick School, Redhill

Dear soldier,
Thank you, for putting your life on the line.
Thank you, for using your weapon and knowing every bullet will be a step forward to victory.
Thank you, for putting your country before yourself.
Thank you, for keeping the memory of us even in your last moments.
Thank you, for waiting under grave circumstances - in the trenches - keeping your nerves at bay.

Thank you, for walking through the mine fields, knowing every step could end you.
Thank you, for knowing every time you take a breath - you could choke to your demise.
Though your name will never be known, through happiness and sadness, through laughter and through tears you will always be remembered in our hearts.
You saved our country with your life.
For every Unknown Soldier there is a memory of what once was and what is.
You will be forever remembered.



Rest in Peace
William Gale,
St. Matthew's School, Redhill

Faces contorted with sadness,
lifeless bodies sleep amongst the red quilt of hope, rest in peace my friends.

As I sit by the graves, that joyful memory strikes my heart of all the loving times,
rest in peace my friends.

When I stand with that perfect poppy, I remember the tragic sacrifices that they made, to lie in the poppy that I wear, rest in peace my friends.

Every day I wonder, is this where I belong, all my loved ones are gone,
rest in peace my friends.

So when you wear a poppy, remember how they died, because joining the war is suicide, so rest in peace my friends.



Poems by local school children



We remember them
Amy Shuttleworth,
St Matthew's School, Redhill

We remember them for what they did,
sacrificed their lives for us,
so we remember them.

Down in the trenches all is quiet,
apart from the gentle breathing,
we remember them.

Until a bomb explodes, men crying in
pain, while I hide in the shadows,
we remember them.

All I see is a river of blood, I well up
with tears.

For the ones who were innocent, we
remember them.

I look up and see, the crystal clear
moon.

But I am
alone, so I
remember
them.

I will not
cry, I am bold and brave
For the poppies and men, we
remember them.

I stand up, but ice hits my hair.
I fall down in the trench, but I
remember them.

So to this day on, I kneel and pray.
Wear poppies and we all remember
them.



The letter
Lydia Bearne, Banstead Junior School

An old piece of parchment flew through our rusty
letterbox,

"A letter from Fred!" exclaimed daughter Pox

She ripped off the seal and read aloud,

"To present you this letter, I am not proud"

"He is just hurt!" I thought, "He must have tried hard
when he fought!"

I clenched my fists and listened hard: "Fred
Butterworth died in action today,
He's gone to heaven, We ask you to pray".

I fell to the floor, trying to hide, he had tried hard,
I should have felt pride

I ran upstairs leaving Pox to cry: He had died.

He had died with hope. He had died for you.



It was the custom to
offer a captured German
gun to the home town
of Victoria Cross
recipients. As Rupert
Price Hallowes was born
in Redhill, a Howitzer
artillery gun captured in
1918, was presented to
the town.



The photo (above) shows the gun position in front of the Moat
House in April 1919. These guns were recalled in 1940 for the 'war
effort' for the Second World War.



*Image of the memorial stone to be
laid in Memorial Park, Redhill*

A special memorial stone to
honour 2Lt Hallowes will be
laid in Memorial Park, Redhill,
on 25 September 2015, the
centenary of the battle in which
he lost his life. Victoria Cross
commemorative paving stones
are being laid in the birthplace of
each First World War soldier who
was awarded one, as a lasting
legacy to these local heroes.

Memorial Park Centenary Field

Memorial Park in Redhill is to be dedicated a Centenary Field to honour the memory of the millions of people who lost their lives in the First World War.

The park reopened in autumn 2014 following a £1.5 million refurbishment project by the Borough Council.



The timing of the project, which coincided with the First World War centenary, is particularly fitting as the park was originally bought with funds raised to commemorate the 'gallant deeds and sacrifices' of those who fought in the Great War.

A dove carrying a poppy features on the park's restored iron memorial gates, providing a lasting tribute to the borough's fallen. The design, by local school girl Rebecca Mote, was the winning entry in a competition run by Reigate & Banstead Youth Council as part of the park refurbishment project.

Reigate Circular War Walk

A new self-guided walk around Reigate has been created, showing points of interest from the First and Second World Wars. The 5km walk* starts from Reigate Priory Park.

Pick up a leaflet from Priory Park Pavilion or download a copy from our website:

www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/ww1

(*allow 1 hour 30 mins)



I can remember if I want to
Tamzin Elliott, Oakwood School, Horley

I can remember the incessant noise, the rain made of tears and the wire drenched in blood.

I can remember how the merry singing faded as the battlefield was glimpsed, how the nights never ended and how the sound of the canons seemed to mirror our thumping hearts.

I can remember holding a gun up to an innocent man's face, and not knowing or understanding why.

I can remember and I will remember, because they died as forgotten heroes.

I will remember because they died in the face of the unknown, and I will remember because they deserve to be remembered.

Soldiers in heaven
Amy Henwood, Banstead Junior School



Poppies billowed wildly to recognise the suffering of the troops.

Continuous visits from heartbroken families nearly crumbled me to the ground.

Memories flowing through my mind like water running through a river.

The rotten trenches looking like dirty sewers.

The burning past ringing in my ears like a church bell.

Time creeps up on you, so remember 100 years since World War One: whatever faith, colour or background, it leaves a huge hole in history.

As I look down upon the graves while I lay peacefully in Heaven, my fight is no more.



Remember
Eve Endacott, Banstead Junior School

Remember those who fought and fell, striving for our country, for our freedom.

The wind roared in their ears, Fear lurked in their minds, as grenades exploded in all directions.

And booms rung throughout no man's land. No-one could escape reality, lives were put at great risk, Tears flooding down the soldiers' grime stricken faces.

So remember those who fought and fell.



Youngest British soldier in World War I

The youngest authenticated British soldier in World War I was twelve year old Sidney Lewis, who enlisted in the East Surrey Regiment in August 1915. He fought in several battles but was sent home after his mother sent his birth certificate to the War Office and demanded his return.



Sidney Lewis by unknown, Daily Mirror, Sept 1916

Lewis was awarded the Victory Medal and the British War Medal. He re-enlisted in 1918 and served with the army of occupation in Austria.



Sergeant Alfred Birley was the gymnastics teacher at the Philanthropic Farm School in Redhill. He was captured at Ypres in October 1914 and was being moved between Prisoner of War camps in Germany when he managed to copy a map at a train station (supposedly his guard was distracted by a pretty girl). In 1915 Sergeant Birley and Private Sidney Haworth escaped by crawling under the wire and set out for the border using the copied map. They moved by night, eating apples stolen from orchards, and eventually made it safely back to England, where they were invited to Buckingham Palace to meet the King.



Mrs Boorman of Hooley Lane, Redhill, saw her husband and two sons leave to fight in the war. She was awarded the Badge of Sacrifice, which was given to women who had most or all of their families on active service.



It took two days for a letter from Britain to reach the front in France. The journey began at a purpose-built sorting depot in Regent's Park before being shipped to the trenches. By the end of the war, two billion letters and 114 million parcels had been delivered.



Key events in 1915

- 19 January** First Zeppelin raid on England.

- 4 February** Germany declares a "war zone" around Great Britain, essentially effecting a submarine blockade where even neutral merchant vessels were to be potential targets.

- 19 February** The Dardanelles Campaign begins.

- 11 March** Britain announces a blockade of German ports.

- 22 April** The Second Battle of Ypres begins. It is during this battle that the Germans first use poison gas.

- 25 April** The Battle of Gallipoli begins.

- 7 May** The British ocean liner RMS Lusitania is sunk by German U-boat, U-20. 1,198 civilian lives are lost.

- 23 May** Italy joins the Allies by declaring war on Germany and Austria.

- 25 May** Prime Minister Herbert Asquith reorganises his Liberal government as a coalition of all parties.

- 5 September** Tsar Nicholas II takes personal control over Russia's armies.

- 25 September** The Battle of Loos begins.

- October** Lord Derby's Scheme is introduced. Registers are drawn up and men canvassed as a last effort to encourage voluntary enlistment. 1,400 men from the Borough of Reigate are recruited into the West Surrey division.

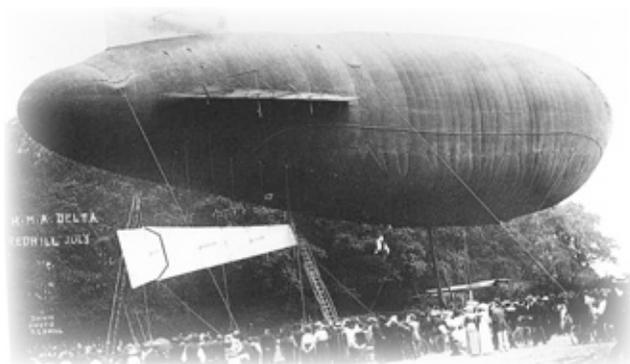
- 12 October** English nurse Edith Cavell is executed by the Germans for helping over 200 Allied soldiers escape from German-occupied Belgium. Huge crowds gather for a memorial service at St Paul's on 29 October.

- 15 December** General Sir Douglas Haig takes over as Commander-in-Chief of the British and Canadian forces in France.



Airships in World War I

Airship HMA Delta (No.1 Squadron Royal Flying Corps (RFC)) made an unexpected descent into a hay field near Masons Bridge, Earlswood, Redhill in July 1913.

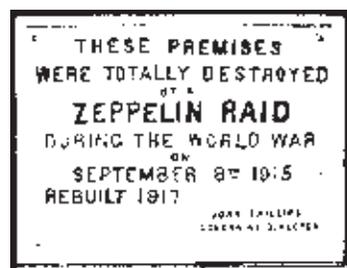


The Delta had left Farnborough at 9.45am for a cruise to the south east coast. At Shoeburyness in Kent she turned for the homeward journey but developed engine trouble at 1pm and descended near Faversham. She subsequently continued her journey but at 9pm descended near Hazelhurst Farm, Earlswood. Approaching darkness, a shortage of gas and a damaged rudder rendered the descent necessary. A number of civilians aided the RFC men to haul her over the hedge into the next field where she was moored for the night. She finally left at 6.45pm the next evening.

Both the British and German military went on to use airships in their air campaigns during the First World War.

The first successful Zeppelin raids on England took place on the night of 19-20 January 1915. Four people were killed and 16 injured. Monetary damage was estimated at £7,740 (£180,000 in 2015).

Crews in the first airships had to drop their bombs over the side of the gondola by hand.



A plaque commemorating a First World War Zeppelin raid in London.

The flaming cross is used to indicate the suffering endured by men in the wars: 'Flames consume the flesh. The spirit is unconquerable'.

Shaw's Corner war memorial is Grade II listed.

In 2010, a memorial stone to L/Cpl James Hill who died in the Afghanistan conflict was laid alongside of the Memorial and unveiled.



In Flanders Fields - John McCrae



Lt Col John McCrae (30 November 1872 - 28 January 1918), a Canadian doctor, began the draft of his famous poem 'In Flanders Fields' on the evening of the 2 May 1915 in the second week of fighting during the Second Battle of Ypres following the death of his close friend, Alexis Helmer.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep,
though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



Shaw's Corner war memorial

Shaw's Corner war memorial was unveiled on 5 August 1923 by Rt Hon Earl Beatty, who was Admiral of the Fleet and lived at Reigate Priory. It is a private memorial and was erected by the War Memorials Committee of the time.

After many debates about location and style, it was finally decided to position it at the border of Reigate and Redhill. The site had previously been the location for a drinking trough and water fountain, both of which were relocated.

Standing at the convergence of three roads (the junction known as Shaw's Corner), the memorial takes the form of a bronze figure on a square-set tapering stone plinth and base and was sculptured by Richard Reginald Goulden (1877-1932). The figure of a man, carrying a child in one arm, is holding a flaming torch aloft with the other. At the top of the plinth is the inscription: **'In memory of the men of Reigate and Redhill who fought and gave their lives in the Great War 1914-1919'**.



The dates of the Second World War were later added to the memorial.

On the other three faces of the plinth are the words: **Courage, Honour and Self-sacrifice.**

The plaque at the base of the statue reads: 'The bronze represents the triumphant struggle of mankind against the difficulties that beset him in the path of life. Shielding and bearing the child, the figure holds aloft the symbol of self-sacrifice to light the way'.



Horses in World War I

When war began in 1914, the British army possessed just 25,000 horses. The War Office was given the urgent task of sourcing half a million more to go into battle. Between 1914-18 millions were eventually requisitioned and over 750,000 were killed during the war.

They were essential to pull heavy guns, to transport weapons and supplies, to carry the wounded and dying to hospital and to mount cavalry charges.



Tadworth station



In the first year of war, the countryside was emptied of shire horses and riding ponies, a heartbreaking prospect for farming families who saw their finest and most beloved horses requisitioned by the government.

Sangers Circus wintered in the fields that now form part of the Court Lodge estate in Horley. Their elephants were used to plough fields and as a means of transporting agricultural bundles from one farm to another due to the shortage of horses.



To feed all its horses, Britain shipped 5,919,427 tons of oats and hay to France during the First World War compared to 5,269,302 tons of ammunition.



Women's role on the Home Front

With many of the borough's men away fighting the war, it was up to the women to maintain the war effort at home. This was often a liberating experience as it gave women the freedom and the wages that only men had enjoyed before the war.

Approximately 1.6 million women joined the country's workforce between 1914 and 1918 in government departments, public transport, the Post Office, as clerks in business, as land workers and in factories, including in the dangerous munitions factories, which were employing 950,000 women by Armistice Day (compared to 700,000 in Germany).



The Monotype factory, based on the Perrywood Industrial Estate in Salfords, changed production and increased staff to meet the demand for war work. They asked The London, Brighton and South Coast Railway to construct a halt exclusively for its workers. Salfords Halt was opened on 8 October 1915.

Female bus conductors can be seen in the photograph (above) of the Reigate and Redhill bus.

The Women's Institute (WI) was formed in 1915 to revitalise rural communities and encourage women to become more involved in producing food during the First World War.



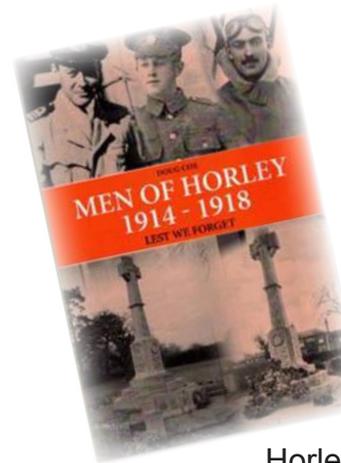
Adopt a grave scheme

Following our project to restore the borough's private war graves last year, local schools, uniform groups, organisations and residents have stepped forward to help us look after them. By weeding plots, cutting the grass and keeping headstones and surrounds clean they are ensuring the graves of the borough's fallen are kept neat and tidy over the coming years.



*William Boniface
St Peter's,
Walton on the Hill*

Volunteers are still needed to help care for war graves at certain sites, so if you'd like to get involved, please call 01737 276103 or email leisure.services@reigate-banstead.gov.uk to find out more.



Men of Horley 1914-18 Lest we forget

Horley Local History Society (HLHS) has published 'Men of Horley 1914-1918 Lest We Forget', which tells the story of each of the 122 men named on the town's war memorial, along with many other local men who died but whose names were not included. It also tells readers about

Horley during World War I and the struggle to raise funds to erect the war memorial.

The book is available from HLHS who are present in Horley Library on Tuesday afternoons (3-5pm) and Saturday mornings (10.30am-12.30pm).



Commonwealth War Graves



T. G. Cox
All Saints,
Banstead

Commonwealth War Graves are located at over 23,000 sites in 153 different countries and commemorate the lives of 1.7 million men and women of the Commonwealth forces who died in the First and Second World Wars.

Of the 700 war graves in the borough, some 200 are Commonwealth War Graves.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) is responsible for the upkeep of all Commonwealth War Graves. To meet the current high demand for new and replacement headstones for the First World War

Centenary, their workshop in Arras, France, has increased its production from 6,000 stones per year to 22,000, running five days a week, in three shifts per day.

A recent survey of 470,000 headstones by the CWGC revealed that some 70,000 headstones of the fallen from the First and Second World Wars are in need of replacement. The unique lettering is cut at an angle of 60 degrees so that the letters create a shadow and can be read from any angle and at a distance of six feet.

The body of William Glynne Charles Gladstone (grandson of former Prime Minister William Ewart Gladstone) was the last to be officially repatriated during World War I, after he was killed in action in France in April 1915.

The same year, the Army declared that:

- in death all men are equal
- as not all men could go home, no man would go home and that they would take responsibility for the burial of those killed as near to where they fell as possible
- they would create cemeteries that would be suitable resting places for visiting family members.

Based on these principles, the Imperial War Graves Commission was established by Royal Charter in May 1917, later becoming the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in 1960.

Local hospitals in World War I

A number of new hospitals were set up within the borough to look after wounded soldiers. Some, such as the Ward Hospital on Reigate Hill, were established in private houses.

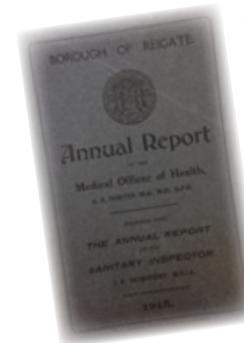


The Ward Hospital was set up by Mrs John Ward, and in December 1914 it was visited by Queen Alexandra and Princess Victoria. There were 16 wounded British and Belgian men there at the time, and each received a present of an inscribed pocket case. Inside was a prayer, a hymn, a pound note and a postcard with a picture of Queen Alexandra and Florence Nightingale. The Queen had written on the postcard 'A small Christmas gift from Alexandra 1914'.

In May 1917, the hospital for the workhouse on Earlswood Common was requisitioned by the Army Council and became Redhill War Hospital. The hospital had 80 beds, an operating theatre, an x-ray department and a massage department. It was staffed by members of the Surrey/108 Voluntary Aid Detachment. The hospital was organised by Miss Madeleine Nutt, who had previously been Matron at East Surrey Hospital in Redhill until she was called up during World War I to serve as Assistant Matron at the First London General Hospital. She returned to Redhill in 1917 and was Matron of the War Hospital until it closed on 31 December 1918.

Extract from Medical Officer's Report 1915

- ♦ *The number of troops that have been billeted within the borough at one time has varied from 1,000 to 11,000.*
- ♦ *The Chief Constable reports that during the year, 35,527 men and 3,051 horses were billeted in the borough.*
- ♦ *Of the 328 men dealt with for vermin, I am perfectly certain that at least 75% are thoroughly respectable, cleanly disposed people, and got into the condition they were simply through having to sleep in verminous blankets.*



Events listing

Trench open weekend

13 & 14 June • 10am-4pm

Windacres Farm, Russ Hill, Charlwood, RH6 0EL

Tickets £6 adults, £3 children and £12 family.

Armed Forces Day flag raising

22 June • 10.15am

At the ceremonial entrance of the Town Hall, Reigate.

Reigate Community Festival

4 July • 10.30am-10.30pm

Priory Park, Bell Street, Reigate

Wheels for Troops

4 July • 11am-5pm

Memorial Park, Redhill

Digging the Trenches: The Archaeology of the Western Front by Andy Robertshaw

11 July • 2.30-3.30pm

A talk examining the ways in which archaeology can inform the understanding and interpretation of the Great War.

Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking

Tickets £5 from www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents, Surrey History Centre or any library in Surrey.

Heritage Open Day

12 September • 11am-3pm

Town Hall, Castlefield Road, Reigate

See inside this Grade II listed building and view exhibitions on its history and borough residents' role in the World War I.

For a full listing of events, visit www.heritageopendays.org.uk

**For details of these and other events,
visit www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/WWI**

An illustrated talk on the Battle of Loos by Doug Cox

24 September • 7.30 for 8pm

Methodist Church Hall, Victoria Road, Horley

Including events leading up to the battle and lessons learnt by it
Free for Horley History Society members, £1 for non-members.

Laying of the VC stone in memory of 2Lt Rupert Price Hallows VC

25 September • time to be confirmed

Memorial Park, Redhill

Show and tell event

17 October • 2-4pm

Harlequin Theatre, Redhill

Bring along your wartime artefacts, hear from experts and find out how to research your own family war heroes. Free event.

Armistice Day Services

11 November • 11am

Various war memorials around the borough

Remembrance services with readings by local school children of the borough's war dead for 1915 and poetry.

Armistice Day Remembrance Service

11 November • 11am

The Belfry Shopping Centre, Redhill

Remembrance service including readings, buglers playing the Last Post and Reveille, two minute silence and poppy drop.

Filming War Horse the movie

22 November • 3pm

Harlequin Theatre, Redhill

A talk by Andy Robertshaw, who was a historical adviser on the production and also appeared in the film. The talk will be followed by a screening of the 2011 film War Horse.

Tickets £5 from www.harlequintheatre.co.uk or the Box Office on 01737 276500.

Event details correct at time of going to print.

