



Armistice Centenary Celebrations in Hathersage



(photography credit: © Tom Hodgson | tomhodgson.co.uk)

The thriving Peak District village of Hathersage will be holding an inspirational series of events and activities this year to mark the 100th anniversary of the Armistice, which ended the hostilities of the First World War.

Since the middle of October, a beautiful and poignant tribute to the 101 servicemen from Hathersage who gave their lives during WWI has been steadily evolving in the new Village Centre, featuring handmade poppies bearing each name. Bernard Madden and Meryl Skyrme, behind the community team who masterminded the installation explain:

“The memorial has been designed to simulate the trenches which were such a major and continuous feature of the Great War. 101 exquisite hand-crafted poppies line the two trenches to remember those who died in conflict from the village and surrounding hamlets ... each bears the name of one of the Hathersage Heroes who lost their lives in the conflict, with a central descriptive plaque also detailing the 608 who served their country and survived. Surrounding it all in the landscaping are poppies made by each child in the village primary school” says Bernard. *“We are inviting members of the public to plant their own wooden poppy crosses, available at the adjacent Craft Shop, on the surrounding turfed area as a token of remembrance of anyone who died in that war.”*

The Armistice Centenary Weekend events will commence on Saturday 10th November at 10:30 am with **The Hathersage Connections**: a free exhibition of First World War artefacts, images and documents reflecting local connections with the conflict.



On the evening of Saturday 10th November, the Hathersage Branch of the Royal British Legion are sponsoring two short one-act plays **‘At The Going Down of the Sun’** at 7:30pm in the War Memorial Hall (tickets will be £7.50 in advance from:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/hathersagerbl> with a limited number also available in the Craft Shop). The plays were written by soldiers who took part in the conflict and will be preceded and followed by a selection of poems, letters, descriptions and reflections, along with songs and music from the time.

Press contacts and for additional comment:

Bernard Madden: maddenfamily@btinternet.com or mob: 07850 536396

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The annual **Service of Remembrance** will take place in the Parish Church at 10:30am on Sunday 11th November, preceded by a parade from the Memorial Hall which passes the **Great Hathersage Memorial** of giant poppies and crosses. The parade will assemble at the village car park at 9:30am, ready to set off at 10am and the public are welcome to join.

From noon on 11th, **The Hathersage Connections** exhibition will again be open for public viewing in the Stanage Hall (beside to the Memorial Hall) followed by the second evening performance of **'At the Going Down of the Sun'** at 7:30pm, reflecting the thoughts of those who took part in the conflict and of their families at home, as well as aspects of its consequences for the community of Hathersage.

- ENDS -

[471 words]

About the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal:

The Poppy Appeal is the Royal British Legion's biggest fundraising campaign held every year in November, the period of Remembrance. This year marks the end of the WW1 centenary by saying Thank You to all who served, sacrificed and changed the world.

Numerous cities across the country dedicate a day to distributing poppies and getting the public involved through activities and entertainment. The Royal British Legion Hathersage branch is currently appealing for new volunteers to help sell poppies and for loans of First World War artefacts for use as part of The Hathersage Connections display.

Performance times:

At The Going Down Of The Sun ...

Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th November

7:30pm-9:30pm

@ Hathersage Memorial Hall, Hathersage S32 1DU

Tickets **£7.50**

(available online: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/hathersagerbl>

and from the Craft Shop in the village)

All profits from the event will be donated to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal:

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/ways-to-give/fundraising-appeals/poppy-appeal/>



(photography credit: © Tom Hodgson | tomhodgson.co.uk)

"Certainly worth visiting this stunning display to remember them" says Visit Peak District.

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