

MAYFIELD AND THE GREAT WAR - NO. 56 - NOVEMBER 2018

The nation as a whole had been cautious in generating optimistic forecasts of an early victory over Germany, despite the positive news emerging since early August of Allied success in each theatre of the war. However, when news of the armistice being signed on the 11th November was released, people across the nation rejoiced spontaneously in a joyful fashion both in their own homes and in the village, town, city neighbourhood. Later there were numerous thanksgiving services of many kinds providing communal opportunities to reflect and rejoice at the end of the Great War.

Mayfield was no exception and the K&SC 15/11/18 P6 reported: *'The announcement that the armistice had been signed reached the village at about noon on Monday (11th November). Flags were at once put up and streamers hung across the High St which soon bore a very gay appearance. Merry peals were rung from the Parish Church bells during the afternoon and evening. The cadets from the Xaverian College paraded in the streets with their band and cheers were given for England and her allies. The schools were given a holiday as everyone was overjoyed at the good news. A service of thanksgiving was held at the Church at 8 PM when there was a large congregation present, the Vicar giving an eloquent address on Peace.'*

The K&SC 22 November 1918 P7 reported: *'A thanksgiving service for the victory of the allied nations in the war was held at the Congregational Church on Friday (15th Nov). Special anthems and hymns of praise and thanksgiving were sung and again on the following Sunday. Thanksgiving services were also held at the Parish Church on Sunday (17th Nov). At the close of both Matins and Evensong the Te Deum and the special peace version of the National Anthem were sung. All the services were well attended.'*

Nationally, by the end of November, party politics resumed and election campaigns hastily devised, as the country prepared for a general election to be held 14th December.

The Imperial War Graves Committee decide to adopt Rudyard Kipling's suggestion for an inscription on grave-stones in the war cemeteries abroad. Rudyard Kipling stated that after search and consultation with all ranks and many races in our Army/Navy it seemed that no single phrase could be better chosen than the tribute to famous men in Ecclesiasticus "Their Name Shall Liveth for Evermore.'

The influenza pandemic continued regardless of the Armistice and in Mayfield it was decided to close all schools for a brief period; and the opening of the St Dunstan's Club was postponed to a later date.

The final meeting of the Uckfield Rural Tribunal was reported in the K&SC 8/11/18 P5: *S J Haffenden, 47, Grade 2, a builders carman of South St, Mayfield was found to be in a certified occupation and was exempted accordingly. E T Whapham, 39, Grade 2, who is Assistant Overseer and Collector of Poor Rates and Clerk to Mayfield PC was granted exemption until 6 February 1919.'*

Amongst the military comings and goings Sapper A R Lusted, RE, was home on convalescent leave. Leading Air Mechanic C Sivyer, son of Mr & Mrs Sivyer, of Lynwood, was reported to have been released from internment in Holland and home on leave. Corporal C D Lodge, 15th London Regiment (Civil Service Rifles), son of Mr & Mrs Lodge, Fingal Place, was awarded the Military Medal for conspicuous gallantry during an attack on enemy positions near Boushugne (sic), perhaps Bouchain, on the 14th October 1918. (see K&SC 29/11/18 P7 for citation).

There are no names recorded on the Mayfield or Five Ashes War Memorials for November 1918.

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