



WEM CIVIC SOCIETY

[Registered Charity No: 1001351]

Chairwoman: Shelagh Richardson

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08 FEB 2018

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Councillor Edward Towers
Mayor of Wem
Wem Town Council Offices
Edinburgh House
New Street
Wem, Shropshire SY4 5DB

Wednesday 7th February 2018

Dear Councillor Towers

You will have already have become aware of some of the issues that arose from the society's AGM. However members were concerned that a few items should be highlighted.

There was a lively debate about the absence of a 'Duck Pond' in Wem, a discussion initiated by Edwin Hargraves. Members were very doubtful about creating an actual duck pond, unless it was to be on the much debated land in Mill Street, because of H&S implications and maintenance issues. However the lack of small public spaces (or destination points) for local people or visitors to sit, wander around or contemplate was recognised. There are some, The 'Rec', Millennium Green to name two areas, but there is scant information to guide people to even these limited sites. Is this something that the Town Council could consider?

We are aware that you have an interest in using markets as an attraction for visitors to the town. The Combine Harvesters have attempted to use the Harvest Market, which coincides with British Food Fortnight, as a vehicle for this purpose. Partial success can be reported. Some traders and individuals have been very supportive but the Harvesters are volunteers and there is a limit to what we can achieve on our own. Consideration was given to approaching the Wem Economic Forum for support but this is probably not an area that fits within their remit. Please would you offer us advice or direction for this project.

You may be interested to know that the AGM gave the committee their approval to pilot a small Civic Fund to be used in support of small projects around the area.

Yours sincerely

Shelagh Richardson

Shelagh Richardson
Chairwoman: Wem Civic Society

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 10:09 AM
To: edwardtowers@btinternet.com
Subject: VCH Shropshire/Wem history

Dear Councillor Towers,

You may recall that we met last summer when you very kindly attended the Wem history Sunday morning that Victoria County History Shropshire ran in the Town Hall.

I have to report that the Wem book is finished (although we keep adding bits to it) and is being refereed. This is taking much longer than we envisaged, and all our hopes of publication in 2017 have come to nothing. We are now aiming for the summer of 2018 with a tentative date of 21 July for the launch.

We had thought of approaching you at a slightly later stage to write a foreword to the book. I hope that you might still be willing to do that although publication will now fall outside your term of office.

It has been suggested to us that we should do a launch for the book and celebrate the two hundredth anniversary of the publication of Garbutt's history in 1818 at the same time. This would allow us to set the two books together – history writing over 250 years – and have a proper celebration of Wem history writing.

We would like to go beyond simply having a lecture and a launch but doing some proper displays. As you may know, James Bowen tracked down and recovered from private possession Garbutt's papers and so these would form the focus of the displays, which could be left in the Town Hall for a period or used elsewhere in Wem – they could be lent to the school for instance. The Shropshire Archives would offer assistance and they would want to exhibit them there as well. The question is cost, and I would have thought that we are talking of £2000 and rising for researching the boards, designing them and having them printed. Do you think that the Town Council might make a contribution to this? And who else might be approaching for some money?

Hoping that you can advise us on this,

With best wishes,

[REDACTED]
Chairman VCH Shropshire
Editor, *Agricultural History Review*

Visiting Professor of Economic History,
Centre for Economic History,
University of Reading

SILENT SOLDIER CAMPAIGN SHROPSHIRE

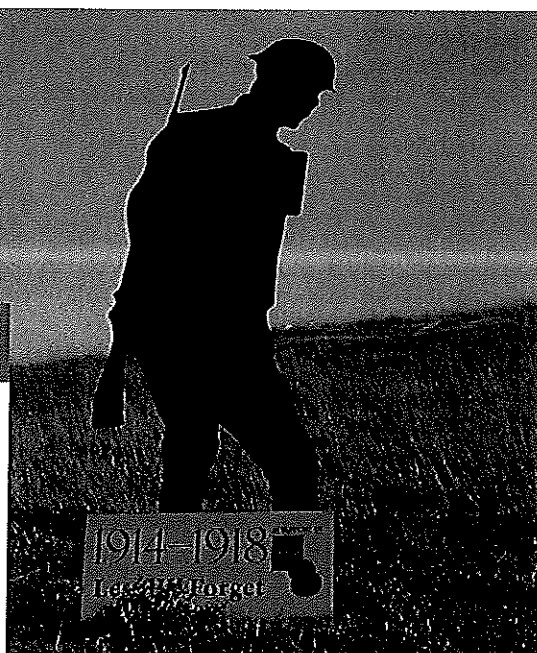
THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
1914-1918 LEST WE FORGET

The Silent Soldier stands as a tribute to those who didn't return home and to those whose lives would never be the same again.

JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN

Shropshire Poppy Appeal is inviting sponsors to get involved in the country wide Silent Soldier campaign. These Silent Soldier silhouettes will appear across the country as we commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War.

Companies, community groups and individuals can donate to receive a Silent Soldier to display, they can also choose to display their company name on the base of the silhouette and join the nation to remember our fallen heroes during 2018.



IN SUPPORT OF



When the soldiers got back to England they were given a railway ticket to their home station. From there they were on their own, and would be seen across the country, walking back home, down the roads and across the fields, returning to their families.



More than 1.1 million British and Empire service men and women gave their lives during the First World War so that future generations could live theirs. The Royal British Legion aims to ensure that we pay our respects to those who gave so much.

The First World War changed communities across Britain and the allied countries forever. These same communities are coming together in many different ways to reflect and remember the huge sacrifice that so many made during the First World War and say thank you to those who rebuilt the country after the war. The Silent Soldier stands as a tribute to those who didn't return home and to those whose lives would never be the same again.

Why a Silent Soldier?

Following the end of the war in November 1918, the process of demobilisation and discharge was still a long process as the British Army still had commitments to fulfil in Germany, North Russia and in the garrisons of the Empire. On arrival back in England the men would move to a Dispersal Centre, this was a hutted or tented camp or barracks where they received a railway warrant or ticket to their home station. From there they were on their own, and would be seen across the country, walking back home, down the roads and across the fields, returning to their families. Most of the war service men were back in civilian life by the end of 1919.

How to get involved

The Royal British Legion is inviting organisations, community groups and individuals to support the Silent Soldier campaign by donating for and displaying a Silent Soldier to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, from now to the end of December 2018. The Silent Soldier could be placed on a roundabout, in gardens, fields, on buildings, in the countryside, towns and cities across the nation. The silhouette is supplied with both wall and ground fittings to make sure it stays put.

The First World War changed the world forever. If you would like to find out more, get involved and show your gratitude to a generation who fought for our freedom, please contact:

Jenny Robey
Community Fundraiser, Shropshire
E jrobey@britishlegion.org.uk
T 07918 562902

Please note this is an initiative by The Royal British Legion in Surrey and they will administer the manufacture and distribution for the rest of the UK.
Registered Charity No 219279

14th February, 2018

Dear Mrs O'Hagan,

Thank you for your letter of 31st January, when you confirmed that the Town Council have agreed to support our grant application and contribute £22,000 towards the running costs for 2018/19, and also for their agreement to act as a guarantor against any losses made by Wem Town Hall during that financial year up to a maximum of £5,500. We are also very grateful that the payment of the grant will be made in April, as this will assist in our cash flow.

We welcome the Town Council's suggestion of more regular meetings, and agree that this will strengthen the partnership between the two bodies. However, bearing in mind the pressure which your members have in attending various meetings, may we suggest that 2 of the meetings could be between yourself and the Town Hall Manager. Then, the other two meetings could be between the elected members and Wem Town Hall Trustees. As regards the timing of these meetings, we would like to propose that it would be helpful if one of the member meetings could be in December 2018, so that your Council is fully informed as to how things are progressing before the budget setting meeting in January 2019.

We hope that your members will find this acceptable.

May we take this opportunity of thanking Wem Town Council for their continued support of this community facility.

Yours sincerely,



Chairman

Mrs P.E. O'Hagan

Town Clerk and Treasurer, Wem Town Council

