**Agenda item 6a Tree planting – email received from Wem Civic society**

**From:** <wemcivsoc@yahoo.co.uk>
**Sent:** 01 September 2020 16:45
**To:** Town Clerk <info@wem.gov.uk>
**Subject:** Tree Planting - VE commemoration

Good Afternoon Penny

Before we all got distracted by C-19, the Town Council was planning to plant trees as commemoration of the end of WWII - one for each of the men mentioned on Wem's War Memorial.

A few thoughts from the Civic Society:

(1) Are you going to include men from both world wars in this project? View from our members suggest that it would be 'unseemly' to omit the men from WWI. As one person said... WWI and WWII are the same war... there was just a long half-time! Relatives of WWI men might feel that the sacrifice of these men is being slighted.

(2) WWII will only produce a copse of less than 20 trees. The combination of both conflicts would produce a mini-wood of nearly 100 trees... a far more impressive commemoration.

(3) There are men missing from the memorial. Oddfellows has a wider list for WWI though I agree with Edward Towers on this list... I suspect that some men may have had a very loose Wemian connection. They are also difficult to trace... no rank is given... and despite an initial search for those men in military records... we have been unable to trace them... a lot of 'Jones' fought in WWI! Unfortunately Oddfellows are unable to help... we checked with them when we did the WWI project for that commemoration. WWII is rather different... John Manuel is not listed... his family did move to Shrewsbury on the death of his father but he was born in Leek Street... whereas Benjamin Baker was a Warwickshire man through and through... and he is listed. I presume that a friend of his from the KLSI put his name forward... or that he lodged here for a short period.

(4) As the Civics'commemoration project we are going to publish a book on the Wem War Memorial and the stories of the men listed there. [As Pat Edwards said, "Rather a lot to chew on!"] We have got the locations in and around Wem that these men are associated with... would this be of any use to you... say, if you are considering groups of trees in appropriate areas?

Kind Regards

*Chairwoman: Wem Civic Society*