



# PHSG Newsletter

## The Pirton WW1 Book Project\*1



### The Pride of Pirton

With research beginning in 2003 and the original idea for the book being publicly announced in 2005, the story of this book has long since turned into an epic saga, one which is full of hard work, pleasure along with trials and tribulations. We could almost write another book on the production of this one!

Although there may be a final few editing 'tweaks' to the final proof, the details of the book can be confirmed. It details, in story and biographical form, the 234 names of Pirton-related men recorded as serving in the First World War; thirty of whom appear on the Village War Memorial. They, and eight others, made the ultimate sacrifice.

- The book contains brief and pertinent information about the war.
- Is a 'full colour' production with over 200 pages, A4 size
- It contains over 300 photographs, including many original photo portraits and a huge number of colour shots.
- The finish will be professional and very high quality thanks to local firm, Priority Print, and Pirton resident, Andy Lomas.

With end firmly in sight, and with confidence in the size and quality of the final book, all those involved can relax a little and justifiably feel proud of this project and what it has achieved. As well as the book team, consisting of Tony French, Chris Ryan and Jonty Wild, there have been dozens of other people involved. Many have contributed information and photographs, others have undertaken research or proof reading and many villagers have helped with sponsorship. It is a truly collaborative project and one that we believe is concluding with a truly unique and impressive publication.

You will find details of how to order advance copies of the book delivered with this newsletter or at [www.pirton.org.uk/ww1book](http://www.pirton.org.uk/ww1book). We will also be at the Pirton Summer Fair with print quality samples and to take orders or answer any questions you may have. Any books ordered and paid for before September 1st 2010 will be at the discounted price of £17.95 (normal price £19.95) - a deposit will secure the discount. Local delivery or collection is free. Postage and packing, where required, will be £4.50 (UK) and



£8.00 (Europe) and £12.50 (rest of the world). For multiple orders contact us for combined postage costs. All purchases will receive a free commemorative lapel badge, on a first come first served basis, while stocks last.

More information still can be found on the website, along with news of the book launch event as it is announced, but get the date, **23rd October 2010** in your diaries as the date of the **Book Launch Event** and please plan to come along. Although books will be available for collection and will be for sale, that is not purpose of the event. It will be an informal, social and sociable, 'drop in session', with lots going on and a real celebration of the end of this part of the project and, of course, open to all. We are planning lots to see and experience and hopefully a few surprises. Details of the event will be advertised in due course and we hope that you will all come along to enjoy yourselves and help us celebrate.

## What Next

Once the book is published, after a short break, the **Pirton Heritage Support Group** (PHSG) will be moving on to the next project. That one should be a lot easier and quicker, but in many ways equally worthwhile, and that is the updating and reprinting of the lovely little book written by Joy Franklin 'Memories of Old Joy' – the Franklin family has kindly given permission. Other suggestions for projects are always welcome.

### The War Memorial

We would like to join others in recognising the work done, and the results achieved, by the War Memorial Committee. It has completed its programme of work which has included:

- pollarding the overgrown yew trees;
- erecting new fencing and gates;
- planting a yew hedge and borders; and
- constructing new steps.

The memorial is already looking better and over the next few years, as the hedge becomes established, it will once again be a memorial of which the village can be truly proud of.

The PHSG were very happy to be able to help facilitate the Committee's efforts.

### The 1911 Census

As part of the research for The Pride of Pirton, we bought a paper copy of the Pirton section of the census. This has been donated to the Pirton Local History Group and, with the permission of the National Archive and the PHSG, the Group have now completed its digitisation and it is now available with all the other records at [www.pirtonhistory.org.uk](http://www.pirtonhistory.org.uk).

### Photographs, Books and Information Available to Borrow

Pirton residents may not realise that apart from the history records and information that appear on the Pirton Local History Group's website and on the Pirton website ([www.pirton.org.uk](http://www.pirton.org.uk)), the following are available for loan either from the Pirton Historic Photograph and Document Archive (the Pirton 'Archive') or the PHSG. Contact Jonty Wild, 711383 or via [jontywild@pirton.org.uk](mailto:jontywild@pirton.org.uk):

- Historical Photographs - albums available in the categories of Events, People, People and Property, School, Views, Other and Mystery
- Hertfordshire Censuses for 1851, 1881, 1891 (on CD/DVD) and the Pirton 1911 census (paper)
- Soldiers Died in The Great War 1914-19 (database on DVD)



- Kelly Directory of Hertfordshire 1922
- Pirton WW1 scrapbook
- 'The Industries, Customs and Superstitions of Pirton' by unknown author - if you can identify them, please let us know
- 'Hertfordshire Headlines' by Richard Whitmore - contains an account the efforts of the Rev. Ralph Loughborough and his wife to raise the money to repair and rebuild St Mary's Church (Pirton)

The following books can be loaned, but a substantial deposit may be required because of their rarity and value

- 'Bells of Memory' by C Robertson-Nicholl an interesting readable book about her life at Highdown
- 'Common Blood' by C Handscombe - details and history relating to the Handscombe family
- 'Dover the Dark Days' by A 'Dug Out' - contains a detailed account of the events that led to the death of Joseph Walker (WW1)

**The Book Launch Event is on the  
23/10/2010  
Put that date in your Diary.  
Full details later.**