



The Community Newsletter of TOTSOC - the Totnes and District Society

President's Piece

Judy Westacott

It seems appropriate that for this addition of Contact I have something to say about suffragettes. Were there any in Totnes - of course there were! However, unlike their militant counterparts elsewhere, although active in the movement, the Totnes women were non-violent and acted within the law.

Following a series of meetings, our women became members of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. In 1913 women left Lands End and marched to London to take part in a demonstration in Hyde Park. They passed through Totnes on the first of July and a public meeting was held.

Whilst supporting the right of women to vote, Totnes women appear to have played a supportive rather than an active role in the movement. I wonder what would happen here today if such a contentious issue occurred. Would we show our support by matching up the town shouting and waving placards and banners or would we be more active even violent?

Women's lives have changed dramatically since they were given the vote. Being a woman in the 18th century was vastly different than it is today. Were you aware that, as local historian Jill Drysdale said " Between 1780 and 1850 there were 300 recorded incidents of wife selling in England". An illegal practice. Wives were taken with halters around their necks and registered as goods to be sold. They were often sold for as little as a pint or two of ale!

Today women hold top positions in all walks of life - politics, industry, religion, the armed forces etc. Some are high achievers in all forms of sport.

From a local perspective, it is interesting to note that, until 1945 (following WW2) there had been no lady Mayors in Totnes.

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How times have changed! The present Council has 16 members, and 10 of them are women, and for the past 7 years a woman has been Mayor - that is progress or is it?

Acknowledgments: Ken Prout and Jill Drysdale

## St John the Baptist, Marldon

### Lawrence Green

St John the Baptist's church crouches on the side of a hill, surrounded by old cottages in the old part of the extended village of Marldon. It has two narrow entrances and seems slightly remote, surrounded by a small churchyard which has been enlarged fairly recently.

It is built of a light coloured limestone with the large perpendicular windows quite close together. The north door is blocked and the tower entirely unbuttressed with four finials on top that are echoed by finials on top of the nave walls.

The south entrance porch is tall and contains the parvise room above a blocked window. There is good stone vaulting within the porch with a rose in one of the bosses and traces of the original paint. On another of the bosses can be seen the arms of the Gilbert family of Compton Castle. There is also a holy water stoup.



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The interior of the church is high with an elegant arcade of five Beer stone arches with floriated capitals typical of Devon. This arcade was extended by two bays into the choir on the south side when a new chapel was added onto the old one in 1520. There is no screen but the former doorway to the vanished rood loft can be seen in the north aisle wall near the organ. The floor features several very good sixteenth and seventeenth century ledger stones with the names and dates of wealthy burials. The rest of the floor is covered in Victorian encaustic tiles which set off the Ashburton marble ledger stones. The ceiling is a modern restoration of barrel vaulting with the planks between stained brown, giving the church a slightly French feel. The north and south aisles have flat ceilings relieved by regular beams across them.

There is a good Herbert Read screen at the base of the tower under the second organ. From this the eye is led upwards to the magnificent red sandstone gothic arch under the tower.

There are many interesting details in this church. A war memorial plaque on the west wall of the north aisle gives the names and some of the regiments of the Marldon men who fell in the Great War. The top name, 'Lt. Sir Muir-Mackenzie, Bart.', lacks a Christian name. Much more thorough is the nearby monument, provided by the family, of the Underhill brothers who were both killed in the war.



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All details are provided: names, battalions, regiments, badges, places and circumstances of death. The only omission is the rank of the first brother to die; he was obviously a private soldier. There is also a clock at the base of the tower commemorating 'the men of Marldon who died in the Great War.'

Of great interest is the Tudor south chapel which was extended in 1520, the year of the Field of the Cloth of Gold. The south arcade was extended and three windows inserted in the new walls of the chapel. These windows look, on first sight, to be older than the other, perpendicular windows in the church. They are made of granite and appear to be lancets with round heads. The other windows in the church are Victorian restorations with typical coloured glass. The three Tudor windows have plain glass and are more satisfying to the eye. When the chapel was extended eastwards a new piscina was inserted, leaving the original in the wall under the third window back. The roof of the Tudor chapel continues at the same height as the south aisle, an arrangement that works inside but unbalances the east end of the church from the outside.

There are matching early sixteenth century miniature cenotaphs of members of the Gilbert family at the west end of the choir, replacing possible former parclose screens. The figure in the north cenotaph has been removed and a despoiled miniature figure of a knight in plate armour lies in the south cenotaph. The extensive damage to his face, arms and feet probably dates from the Commonwealth period.

What is most remarkable about the two cenotaphs is the fact that the bottom six or



seven feet of the pillars were removed when the Tudor monuments were built, leaving an uneasy and unbalanced effect of pillars starting halfway up.

The Victorian stained glass east window is much finer than the more conventional windows in the nave. The red carpet in the choir and sanctuary complements it. The heavy stone pulpit and font are undistinguished and possibly also Victorian as are the plain benches. The window in the east wall of the south aisle near the door shows the central figure of St James cheerfully wearing a cowboy hat (!)

Above the door are the royal arms of King William IV.

Turning back before leaving the church one is struck once again by the

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wonderful colourful modern kneelers worked in cross-stitch by fifty-three people, four of them men. The subjects range from a Great Western steam engine to the arms, once again, of the Gilbert family. The design and craftsmanship are uniformly of a very high standard.

Once outside the church porch the ancient yew tree can be seen on the south side of the churchyard near the tower. Choosing the easier of the two paths out of the churchyard we come to the lych gate and the lovely Lych Gate Garden next to the larger Peace Garden. Looking above the flowers and shrubs the unbalanced east wall of the church can be seen.

It is a pity that Marldon church is so hidden away at the old end of the village, a long walk from the modern and inter-war streets of houses which now make up the greater part of the village. There is, however, a useful car park just across the road from the church entrance near an original round black and yellow AA sign telling us that Marldon is 189 miles from London.

Best feature: the flowing angels on the capital above the north Gilbert cenotaph.

## Planning and Local Democracy

Paul Bennett

The planning system we have today has its origins in the industrial revolution beginning in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century which resulted in the rapid growth of our towns and cities. This early period saw houses built without regard for the provision of clean water or sanitation resulting in epidemics and poor health of workers.

Planning therefore in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was concerned principally with the problem of overcrowded housing with unsanitary conditions. Gradually local authorities took responsibility for providing clean water and the removal of sewage and refuse. New and rebuilt housing was required to have adequate drainage with builders having to submit details of these services to the local authority before they started work.

The early 20<sup>th</sup> century saw the first planning and housing Acts further legislating to improve conditions for the industrial work force by forbidding the building of back-to-back housing and allowing local authorities to prepare schemes of future development for their towns. At this time too the Garden Cities movement was formed. The 1930's with the rise of the motorcar and continued industrial development saw the countryside come under increasing pressure resulting in the first legislation (Town and country Planning Act 1932) to accept the need for rural planning. Shortly afterwards the Restriction of Ribbon Development Act 1935 was enacted to prevent the sprawl of towns and cities from linear development of rows of buildings alongside main roads leading out of town.

By the time of the Second World War in 1939 thinking was sufficiently advanced for a series of Royal Commissions to look into specific problems in urban planning and

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development control. The outcome of these was the far-reaching Town and Country Planning Act 1947, which, largely remains the foundation on which all subsequent legislation is built. The effect of this Act was to nationalise the right to develop land. It required all proposals, with a few exceptions, to secure planning permission from the local authority (with provisions for appeal in cases of refusal). It also introduced a development charge to capture the planning gain, which arises when permission to develop land is granted. This latter provision was scrapped in 1954. Local authorities were now required to complete a local plan, setting out detailed policies and specific proposals for development and land use within its area.

Over the period from the late 1960's to the present time local control (which here means Totnes Borough Council) over planning and other matters has been lost. The local government reforms of the 1970's resulted in Totnes Borough Council ceasing to exist and the town no longer being largely self-governing but reduced to being a very small part of the newly created South Hams District Council. Before that it had been the Borough Council which made decisions on planning applications, it built houses for those wanting or needing to rent, it looked after the streets and car parks within the town (other than trunk roads) and generally was responsible for looking after the town as a whole. Contrast that with the position now. The Town Council has no powers and no responsibilities other than the Civic Hall and the Guildhall and the upkeep of the cemetery. Little wonder it has degenerated to its present dysfunctional state. Totnes is way down the list of South Hams District Council's concerns mainly because we have no Councillors who belong to the majority ruling party. In any event the substantial cuts in grant funding from central government has left it in a parlous financial state. The same applies to Devon County Council where central government grants have been cut beyond the bone, hence the cuts to bus services and no plans at all to alleviate the appalling traffic congestion or the continued conflict between vehicles and pedestrians in Fore Street, High Street and the Narrows.

Planning in the 2000's has resulted in more control being taken away from local planning authorities first by the creation of Regional Spatial Strategies and after their abolition by the imposition in 2012 of the National Planning Policy Framework. Before that however was the Localism Act 2011 which appeared to give some hope of devolving power to local communities by the introduction of Neighbourhood Plans which would have statutory force. However no funding was made available for the considerable amount of work and skill involved in their preparation and the scope of such plans is constrained by their being subject to national planning policy and local development plan documents. In areas such as Totnes where there is considerable opposition to the provision of yet more open market housing this severely limits the ability to meet the wishes of its population because national policy dictates otherwise.

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The National Planning Policy Framework [NPPF] 2012 -2018 contains policies intended to fix the broken housing market. In doing so it fails to recognise that a “one size policy” cannot possibly be appropriate to meet countrywide disparate needs; policies relevant to cities with swathes of derelict industrial will not help towns like Totnes. Here there is little land left undeveloped and no power to ensure that what there is should be used for social housing to redress the imbalanced development of the past five years containing a preponderance of open market housing way beyond the means of local people.

One particular policy which has adversely affected Totnes is the requirement for local authorities to have “a five year land supply of deliverable sites for housing” in order to meet the targets set by central government. If the local authority is unable to meet this requirement then a developer is almost certain to have its application approved and this is why South Hams District Council was not in a position to refuse the application for the Great Court Farm site and why the Camomile Lawn site was poorly designed with more homes than originally intended.

This brief history of planning coupled with the reforms to local government demonstrates how the ability of local communities to control their own destinies has been taken away with power now vested in central government. This in no small measure accounts for the general disenchantment with the way we are governed.

Perhaps a small start to bringing back any meaningful power here in Totnes would be to abolish the District Council leaving Devon County Council as a unitary authority. This could be coupled with a delegation of powers such as local planning, street cleaning and management of the town generally to the Totnes Town Council giving it a proper job to do and undertake responsibilities which it had until these were taken away in 1974. This would bring some decision making back to the town and restore a measure of local democracy.

## Some Free-Standing Memorials

John Keleher and Lawrence Green

There had never been another war like it. When it started in August 1914 a lot of people thought that it would be a quick job and that the lads would be back home in time for their Christmas dinner. But by the time when it eventually was all over (November 1918) attitudes towards war had changed somewhat. The intervening four or so years had witnessed what mankind had come up with in his determination to kill his fellow men. Never before had so many people died in a war; never before had men employed methods of killing each other in such vast numbers. The heroic cavalry charge was a thing of the past because it had been replaced by the killing inventions of the new industrial age: machine guns, heavy artillery, gas, tanks, bombs dropped from the skies, and so on.

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In previous wars the dead, generally speaking, were not remembered, but if the deceased was of a high social standing he stood a better chance of so-being - in marked contrast to the chances of the lower-class men he commanded. But as the Great War dragged on there was a growing awareness that all lives are precious, that they are of equal value, and that all those who sacrifice their lives for their country should be remembered and honoured. This growing awareness gradually swept through the whole country, and after the war was finally over, resulted in memorials being set up throughout the land honouring those who had died in the conflict . Meanwhile, at an official level, 1917 saw the foundation of the Imperial war Graves Commission. (David Crane's [Empires of the Dead](#) is a good account of its foundation.)

At a more local level we learn from Todd Gray in his seminal book on Devon memorials, [Lest Devon Forget](#), that 11,796 men and women from the County died in the First World War. And at an even more local level in this series of articles we have been looking at how a few of the parishes in and around Totnes commemorated their dead. You'll recall that in the last CONTACT, following Gray's classification system, we looked at the [beneficial](#) type of memorials. Today we look at some of the [ornamental](#) variety, and we begin by noting some of the free-standing memorials which are to be found in this district.

First of all (alphabetically) there's one at [Ashprington](#). It's a granite Latin cross which is located in the middle of the village at the T-junction, and on it are the names of the fourteen men who died. Eighty-six men from the village and the surrounding area had enlisted to fight, but about 16% of them failed to return. Incidentally sixteen members of the local football club enlisted, but only three of them returned

A few miles away there's another free-standing granite memorial in the shape of a Latin cross at a T-junction. This one's at [Berry Pomeroy](#) and it's just up the road from the village church. The thrifty memorial committee recycled the base of an existing cross in which to set the memorial. It displays no names – these are commemorated on a wooden plaque in the church – but it is dedicated to all who died in the 1914-18 war – and all future wars!

The people from the Dartington parish are most notably remembered at St Barnabas church in [Brooking](#), although there is, as we'll see, a plaque at St Mary's church. Outside the church in the grave-yard at Brooking there is a Celtic Cross on which are inscribed the names and regiments of the twelve men who died in the war.

With just one exception all of the nine people named on the [Harbertonford](#) war memorial had been born in the village. The memorial itself is a free-standing granite column sited outside the parish church of St Peter.

In the churchyard of St Mary the Virgin at [Rattery](#) there is a granite monument

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topped by a Celtic cross. On the memorial there are ten names, one of which is that of a woman. Margaret Carew had volunteered to serve as a nurse with the Voluntary Reserve Attachment and she died on active service in November 1918. Her brother, Jasper, is also named on the monument; he had died earlier in the war. Mary and Jasper were the children of Rev Henry Carew, vicar of Rattery, and his wife Maude.

The names of the dead from both World Wars are recorded on the memorial which is sited in the cemetery of the church of St Matthew, Landscope – twelve of them date from the 1914-18 conflict. An example of the fact that WW1 claimed more combatant lives than WW2 did is, perhaps, demonstrated by the fact that there are twelve times more WW1 name on this memorial than there are names from WW2! The memorial itself is interesting in that it is of an unusual design. The Latin cross is protected by a kind of sloping roof above it. This feature is more often to be found on memorials on the Continent than in this country.

Like the memorials at Ashpington and Berry Pomeroy the one at Stoke Gabriel is located at the side of a road rather than in a churchyard. However, its design is more unusual. The cross is of the Maltese variety, rather than the more common Latin or Celtic type, and it is set in a large stone structure. Attached to this is a brass plaque on which the names of the dead are inscribed. There are eighteen names from the First World War; nine of these were in the Devonshire Regiment which suggests that they were early enlistees. One of these is a Narracott, a member of a Stoke Gabriel family which could have almost formed a couple of its own platoons, since eighteen of its young men went off to the Front. Fortunately, the rest survived. However, we note that about half of the men from Stoke Gabriel who joined the ranks failed to return: this is way above the national mortality average.

Some thirty months after the signing of the Armistice, a memorial to the men of Totnes had died in the war was unveiled. That was in June 1921. This marked the end of a good deal of debate and discussion about how the Totnes war-dead should be remembered. There had been a number of suggestions, which had included a swimming pool, and a playground, but in the end the Committee settled upon the easiest/simplest/cheapest option – a memorial. It stands (and, despite recent controversy will continue to do so) outside the main entrance to St Mary's church. It is a Latin cross standing on an octagonal base, and is fifteen feet high. Below the cross are inscribed the names of one hundred and forty three men from Totnes who died in WWI. Below are the names of the names of the Second World War dead from Totnes.

The cross itself is of interest: it is the only one of its kind. The Sword of sacrifice was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield, and the design was adopted and used by several monumental masons in various towns throughout the country: the sword was always carved from the same material as the main cross. However in the Totnes case the sword and the cross were made of different materials: the sword was made of

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bronze and was set into the main granite monument. It is this feature which makes the Totnes war memorial outside St Mary's unique.

These are a few examples of the freestanding memorials to the dead from the First World War which are to be found in Totnes and some of the surrounding villages. But not every community opted to honour its dead in this way: below Laurence Green takes up the story and looks at some of the memorial plaques in this area.

## Memorial Plaques

### Lawrence Green and John Keleher

There are two sorts of memorial plaque that commemorate the fallen from both world wars: public plaques paid for by public subscription and private plaques paid for by the families of the fallen. Both types of plaques are often, but not invariably, found in churches.

Taking the churches alphabetically it is interesting to compare the number on the roll of honour for each parish with the number of who were lost. Public plaques do not discriminate between servicemen and women who were killed by the enemy or who died in accidents or of disease. Private plaques mention 'killed' or 'died', as in 'Pte Tommy Atkins, killed on July 1<sup>st</sup> 1916' and 'Pte Tommy Atkins, died on November 11<sup>th</sup> 1918.'

Public plaques are often found in the middle of the north aisle of a church where they can be seen from the south door. They vary in detail from a list of names to names, battalions, regiments and dates of death. Materials are usually some kind of stone but sometimes brass. On rare occasions regimental badges are shown.

**Ashprington:** there are seventeen names on the war memorial in the centre of the village and no plaques within the church. Fourteen men did not return from World War One and three from World War Two. Thirteen of the fourteen men are on the memorial because they played football for Ashprington United, the fourteenth was added later. All the men were in the army. The three men from World War Two were all in the RAF Volunteer Reserve: one was killed by enemy action, the other two died accidentally.

Eighty-six men are recorded on the roll of honour as serving in World War One in the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Marines Light Infantry, fourteen were lost. The loss for Ashprington was well above the national average of just less than ten per cent lost. Awards for the Ashprington dead were a Military Cross and two Military Medals.

**Berry Pomeroy:** has eight men from World War One and Three from World War Two, one of whom was an officer in the American Army. The plaque is carved oak with a figure of St George above the list. This is possibly the work of Herbert Read of Exeter who designed and built the Ashprington cross. A roll of honour is not evident.

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**Bridgetown:** has a plaque with twenty-one names in the room leading to the sanctuary of the church. One man was killed in Ireland in 1921.

**Brooking:** is a satellite church to St Mary's Dartington. It has no memorial plaques but a fine celtic cross just south of the church near the door. It has twelve names all from 1917 and 1918. All the fallen men were soldiers, the battalions of nine are listed. Awards are one MC and one MM. This list is replicated in St Mary's Church, Dartington.

**Cornworthy:** there are two public plaques in Cornworthy, one from the First World War is in the middle of the north aisle, one from the Second World War is on the wall of the former school near the church gate. After the last war Cornworthy church was in poor repair and was in danger of abandonment. There are ten men from the Great War and three from the Second, all soldiers. Under the alabaster plaque, on a shelf, is a book of excellent research on the Cornworthy fallen by the late Ken Mitchell and his wife Ann.

**Diptford:** according to a wooden plaque inside the church near the south door seventy-five men and four women served in the Great War of which eight men and one woman did not return. This is exactly the national average of just under ten per cent mortality rate.

**Halwell:** has the parish roll of honour in the church porch. The spellings of some of the names vary from the names on the two plaques, each commemorating a world war, in the church. Thirty-nine men served during the Great War, eight were killed, just under one fifth.

**Harberton:** in the middle of the north aisle is a fine public plaque with the names and ranks of twenty-two men and their regimental badges. Nearby is a smaller and simpler public plaque with the names of four men lost in the Second World War. The Great War roll of honour shows one hundred and ten Harberton men who served in the war. Exactly twenty percent of Harberton men failed to come home.

(There is the grave of an officer who won the Victoria Cross during the Indian Mutiny in St Andrew's churchyard. It is a few yards due west of the Harvey mausoleum.)

**Harbertonford:** on a granite obelisk near the south door are the names of nine men from Harbertonford who died or were killed in the Great War. Inside the church is a plaque on the south wall to Raymond Claude Shinner who died on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1944 'a prisoner of war in Japanese hands.'

**Landscope:** has a war memorial in the churchyard south of the south door. It is unusual, having a roofed granite cross on an octagonal plinth with three steps. There are twelve soldiers' names, all of which are also found in Staverton church. There is a framed roll of honour in the north aisle which shows that forty-four men served in the Great War. The rate of casualties was over twenty-five percent, an unusually high number.

**Littlehempston:** displays a public alabaster plaque above the north door. It has six

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names; thirty-three men served. Just over twenty-five percent did not return, a number well above the national average. There is no plaque from World War Two.

There are three interesting graves in the churchyard: two from the Great War. One sets out in detail where the officer was killed, the other is of a Lance Corporal who died three days before the war ended at Herinnes, France. (Herinnes is actually in Belgium.) The third is an official US Army stone which marks the grave of an American officer who survived Exercise Tiger and Utah Beach to settle in Littlehempston until his death in old age from natural causes.

(Although there is no mention of it in the church or village Littlehempston was the home of the tallest soldier in the British Army in World War One. He was Guardsman Barter who measured six feet eight and a half inches.)

**Marldon:** has a public memorial plaque on the west wall of the south aisle with twelve names of the Great War dead. Two of the men were from the Royal Navy, one officer and one rating. Two more men were Royal Marines. Perhaps this reflects Marldon's closeness to the sea. Not all the men on the plaque have their service or regiment recorded. There are two MCs, one awarded to the imperfectly recorded 'Lt. Sir Muir-Mackenzie, Bart.'

The Great War roll of honour is on the wall just south of the tower and contains sixty-seven names. Just under one fifth of the Marldon men were lost, more than the national average.

On the west wall of the south aisle is a plain stone public plaque with nine names from the Second World War. No ranks, services, regiments, battalions or dates are recorded. This is a high number of casualties.

In the south aisle near the public Great War is a private plaque to the Underwood brothers who were both killed in the Great War. It is the clearest and most informative private plaque that I have ever seen. It has places and dates of death, ages and many unusual details, a model of memorial clarity and a historian's dream.

Moreleigh: has no plaque of any form of memorial from either war. There is a memorial wrought iron gate at the church porch which says: 'V E Day 1945, in memory of friends, sons and lovers, 1939-1945. From those who did, 1995.'

It appears that Moreleigh lost no-one in either war. It therefore qualifies as one of the few 'Thankful Parishes' which has not been recorded as such. If this is the case it is the only parish in Devon untouched by death.

**Rattery:** There is a fine celtic cross near the lych gate with the names of nine men and one woman below the mis-spelled 'In Gratefull Memory'. Inside the church is a small plaque commemorating two women: May Teglio, Killed in Action 11<sup>th</sup> April 1917, and Margaret Carew died 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1918'. Both women were nurses; Margaret Carew is also on the public plaque in South Brent Church.

The roll of honour, on the north side of the south aisle behind the choir, distinguishes

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between 'Faithful Departed' (church members) and 'Parishioners'. Eleven dead out of sixty-seven who served represents around a twenty percent death rate.

**South Brent:** on the east wall of the south chapel of this cruciform church is a fine stone public Great War plaque containing twenty-six names in alphabetical order with two names added at the bottom. The plaque is unusually informative showing the rank, battalion and regiment of the fallen. Five of the men were officers, eighteen were soldiers, four were sailors, one of whom was a naval chaplain, two were in the Royal Air Force (with their former Royal Flying Corps ranks), and two women were nurses. One, Margaret Carew VAD, is mentioned on the Rattery war memorial. The other, May W Rowlands QMAAC, is buried in South Brent cemetery.

There is an unusually wide range of arms and corps on the South Brent plaque. Cpl Herbert Abbott was in an anti-aircraft battalion, Major Hugh F Glanville the 1<sup>st</sup> West Indian RAF, Pvt Henry Bennett Gribble in the Canadian Mounted Rifles and Sgt Paul de Lappe Winter in the Rhodesian Native Regiment. The latter poses a mystery because he has no known links to cosmopolitan South Brent.

On the east wall of the south chapel opposite the Great War monument is a plain stone public plaque with the names of seven men from South Brent who died in the Second World War. They were all in the RAF or the Royal Navy.

**Staverton:** there is a brass public plaque mounted on marble containing the names of twenty-one men who fell in the Great War, twelve of whom are commemorated at Landscope. They are all soldiers, including Pte Sinclair Bennett May, 44<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Australian Imperial Force, who died at Hill 60 during the Battle of Passchendaele. There is no obvious roll of honour.

**Totnes:** has a public war memorial just outside the south porch of St Mary's Church which was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield who designed the Menin Gate and many of the CWGC cemeteries in France and Belgium. The sword of sacrifice on the stone cross is the prototype for the hundreds in CWGC all over the world. There are the names of one hundred and three men on the memorial.

Totnes has a tenuous connection with General Birdwood who commanded the Australian Imperial Force at Gallipoli and the Somme. His strategies were not outstandingly successful. He took the title 'Lord Birdwood of Totnes' after the Treaty of Versailles. There is a piece of stone from Anzac Cove, near Gallipoli in the church.

There is also a rare public memorial plaque in St Marys to the Totnes soldiers who died in the Boer War (1899-1902). Unlike many of the men on the Great War cross they were all professional soldiers.

**King Edward VI Grammar School, Totnes:** had a memorial plaque in the hall of the Grammar School at the Mansion in Fore St, Totnes. It is now in the former computer room of the, now regrettably closed, Elmhirst site of KEVICC, the former Girls' High School. In the Great War six teachers and one hundred and thirty-four pupils served, of whom thirty-eight died. This is approximately the national average.

Our knowledge of the men on the memorial plaques in Totnes and surrounding villages is incomplete. There are many anomalies between the names on the monuments and the names on the rolls of honour where they exist. There are spelling mistakes, duplications and all sorts of errors of human record keeping (and research!).

The more we find out of the history of the actions of both wars the more significant and interesting the stories of individual soldiers, sailors and airmen become. We must not forget their sacrifice.

## TOTSOC 2018 AGM

TOTNES &  
DISTRICT  
SOCIETY

+

AGM of the  
TOTNES & DISTRICT  
SOCIETY  
followed by

**THE  
HIGH  
STREET**

*Presentation from  
the photographic  
archives of the  
Totnes Image  
Bank*

at  
TOTNES CINEMA  
TOTNES  
HIGH STREET

on  
18th October 2018 - 7pm

Admission: £4.00 members of TOTSOC & TOTNES IMAGE BANK £3.00

## Application to join the Totnes and District Society (TotSoc)

**Individual membership fee: £5.00 s/o or £8.00 cash. Joint: £8.00 s/o or £11.00 cash**

Please complete the form below. Payment by standing order is much preferred, but if you wish to pay by cheque or cash this is also quite acceptable. The membership year is from 1<sup>st</sup> October.

Name..... Tel.....

Address..... Post Code.....

Email address.....

### STANDING ORDER FORM

TO: (name of your bank).....bank

**Please set up the following Standing Order and debit my/our account accordingly**

#### 1. Your Bank Account details

Account name..... Account Number:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Your bank branch..... Sort Code:

--	--	--	--	--	--

**Postal address of your branch** (please print)

.....Post code.....

#### 2. Payee details

Name of organisation you are paying: **Totnes & District Society**

Sort code of TOTSOC: **40-52-40**

Account number of TOTSOC: **00027393**

#### 3. About the payment

How often are the payments to be made: **YEARLY**

Amount details: **£5.00 / £8.00** (delete one)

Date of first payment: **on or after 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018**

**until further notice** (payments will be made until you cancel this instruction)

#### 4. Confirmation

Customer signature(s)

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Date.....

**Please return this completed form to Jeremy Logie, Totsoc Treasurer,  
15 Heath Way, Totnes, TQ9 5GP**

He will send the lower section to your bank.

*The information you provide will be used solely for dealing with you as a member of The Totnes and District Society. The Society has a Data Privacy Policy which can be found [totsoc.org.uk/privacypolicy.pdf](http://totsoc.org.uk/privacypolicy.pdf) Your data will be stored and used in accordance with this Policy.*

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## TOTSOC on Facebook

TOTSOC now has a Facebook page at:

[www.facebook.com/Totnes-and-District-Society](http://www.facebook.com/Totnes-and-District-Society)

## The TOTSOC Committee

The current TOTSOC Committee Members are:

Judy Westacott President	tq9jude@gmail.com
Paul Bennett Chair	paulandsuebennett@gmail.com
Tom King Secretary and Minute Secretary	tom@seymourvillas.com
Sue Bennett	paulandsuebennett@gmail.com
Jeremy Logie Treasurer and Membership Secretary	jeremy.logie@talk21.com
Kate Wilson Planning Officer	katewilsondeane@gmail.com
Jim Carfrae	jim@carfrae.com
John Keleher	john.keleher@virgin.net
Dave Mitchell Webmaster and Contact Editor	dave@zenoshrdlu.com
Anne Ward Public Art & Design Subcommittee	mail@anneward49.plus.com

A form for joining TOTSOC is on the previous page.

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Kathi Green

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Barrington Weekes

The TOTSOC 2018 AGM will be held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October. See page 14 for details.