FUNDER FILMS CIC WYE CHILHAM CHARTHAM: SCENE FROM THE TRAIN 1914-18

This summer, local communities in Wye, Chilham and Chartham turned detective to unearth the stories of our villages' fallen soldiers and discover what happened to those who stayed. The result was a mobile exhibition which was taken into Wye School, Wye Heritage Centre and Wye station, with a film of the project currently underway.

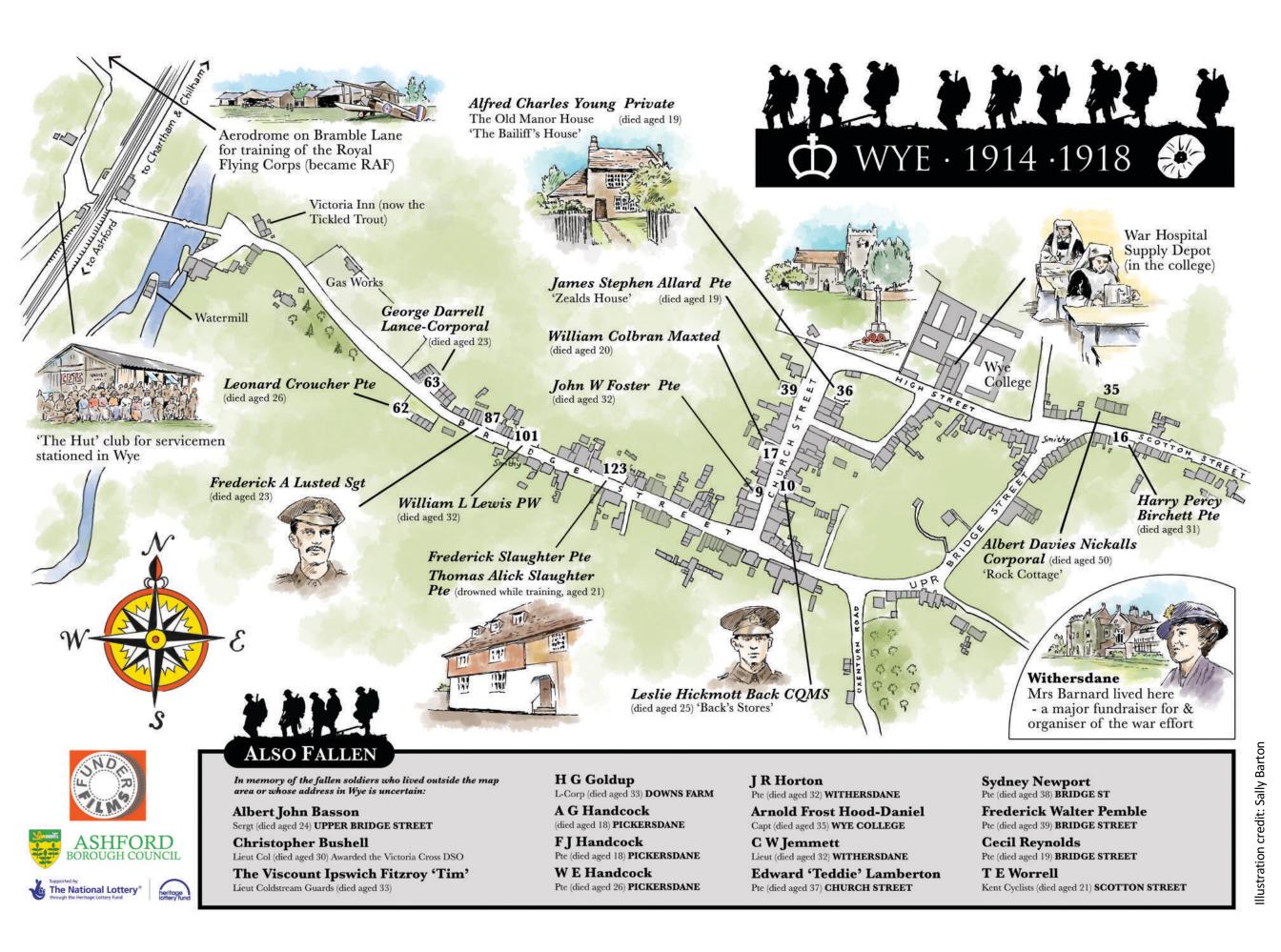
Key findings were:

- How the community worked together to raise the equivalent of £2,000 a month to support the influx of refugees (20 in Wye alone).
- The role local buildings played, from hosting fundraising committees to housing billeted soldiers, we have uncovered some amazing stories and archive photographs.
- Wye Aerodrome: training airfield for the Royal Flying Corps. During the project, diaries written by mechanic Corporal Gordon Tucker were discovered, recording several flying expeditions and daredevil stunts undertaken by the young pilots.
- The establishment of a hospital supplies depot, ran by volunteers, which produced over 65,000 items for the front line including bandages, swabs, dressings, splints and crutches.
- Identification of the houses in Wye where fallen soldiers lived. We notified the current owners of this history, commissioned a local illustrator to produce a map and put a commemoration display on in the village.

The feedback we've received has been very positive and we hope to put all our material into a booklet in due course.



WYE · CHILHAM · CHARTHAM 1914 -1918





Soldiers entering Wye just past what is now The Tickled Trout pub. Photo: courtesy Vera Wyld and Wye Historical Society