

1918

REMEMBERED



**A new collection of photographs, texts and narrative
to commemorate the centenary of the Armistice
11th November 1918**

Researched and edited by Mary George

BATTLE'S OVER



A NATION'S TRIBUTE

11TH NOVEMBER 2018

100 YEARS OF REMEMBRANCE

Benefice churches:

St James's,	Nayland
St. Mary's,	Wiston
St. Mary's,	Stoke-by-Nayland
St. Mary's,	Polstead
St. Matthew's,	Leavenheath

The **1914 1918 Remembered Group** would like to thank all those who have contributed in any way to local WW1 centenary events between 2014 and 2018. We are grateful to families here and across the world that have provided photographs, documents or information about the men and women of Nayland-with-Wissington or adjoining parishes who endured hardship and loss during the Great War.

Any profit from the sales of the commemorative booklet will go towards covering the cost of the November Armistice events in Nayland in 2018.

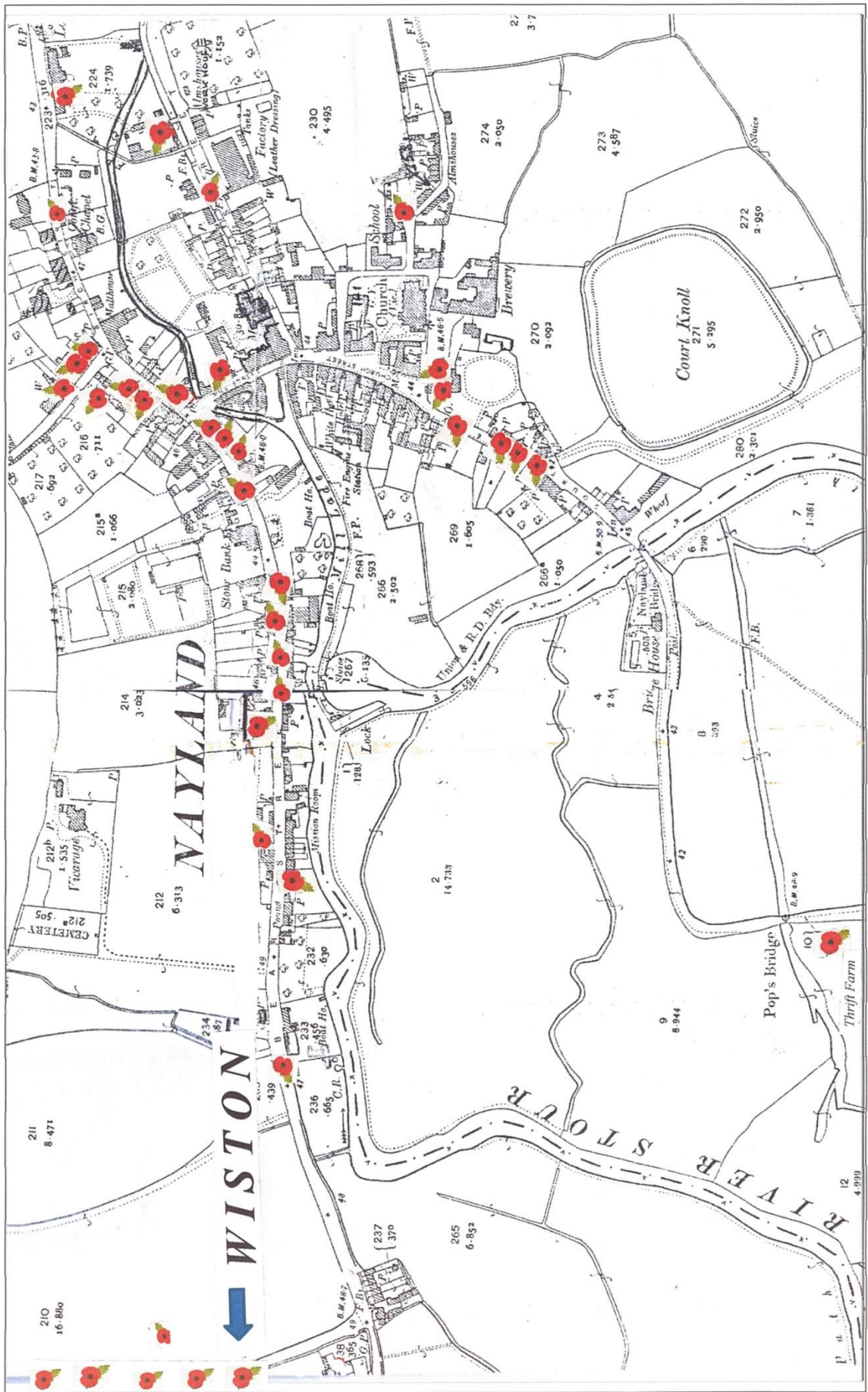
Nayland and District Royal British Legion
Nayland with Wissington Parish Council
Nayland with Wissington Conservation Society
Nayland with Wissington W.I. and other poppy makers
Nayland Primary School
Nayland Choir
Members of the Village Players
Suffolk Parish History Recorder: Wendy Sparrow
Students and staff at Colchester Royal Grammar School
St. James' Church Bellringers and Choir
Nayland with Wissington Community Times
Editor: Lorraine Brooks

Useful websites:

BBC History	www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars
Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC)	www.cwgc.org
Find My Past (subscription website)	www.findmypast.com
Forces War Records (subscription website)	www.forces-war-records
Great War Home Hospitals (inc. Gt. Horkesley)	https://greatwarhomehospitals.wordpress.com
Imperial War Museum	www.iwm.org.uk/history/voices-of-the-first-world-war-armistice
National Archives	www.nationalarchives.gov.uk
Nayland and Wiston Community Website	www.naylandandwiston.com
Nayland with Wissington Conservation Society: Archive Project Photographs	www.naylandconservation.org.uk
Suffolk Record Office	www.suffolkarchives.co.uk
WW1 Art installations, exhibitions and events 2014-2018	www.1418now.org.uk/commissions

Spingold
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1904 OS maps from Suffolk Record Office were used to create this image, with permission

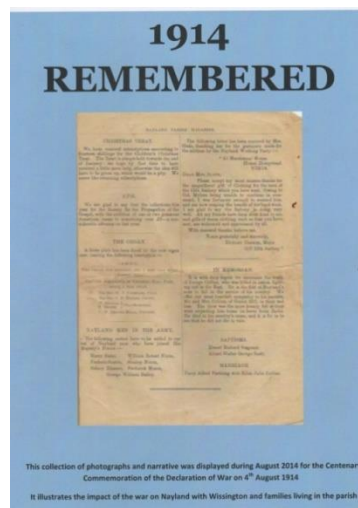
Poppy markers on the map have been placed as close as possible to the homes of the men who died between 1914 and 1920. Although it is easy to pinpoint homes such as Longwood, Alston Court, the Smithy and known shop premises, in many cases only the street name can be identified accurately from regimental or census records.

1918 REMEMBERED

This new compilation of photographs and narrative illustrates the impact of the Great War on families and the rural economy of Nayland-with-Wissington and adjoining parishes. The book has been produced to commemorate the centenary of the Armistice of 11th November 1918.



It is a sequel to **1914 REMEMBERED** published by Nayland and District Royal British Legion in 2014 to commemorate the Centenary of the Declaration of War in August 1914. Both books are based on displays shown at commemorative events during 2014-2018. They include family photographs, extracts from letters, regimental records, newspapers and items from local collections.



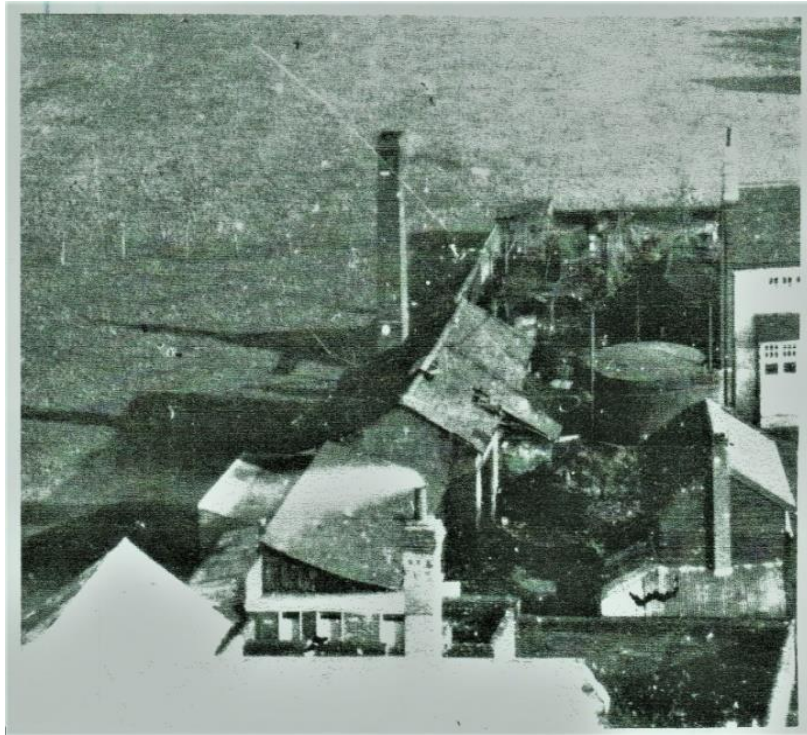
Although the first book is out of print, it is now available as a pdf document on the history page of the Nayland and Wiston community website

www.naylandandwiston.net/history/history_docs/1914.pdf

Mary George : November, 2018

By 1918 the war had made a dramatic impact on rural industry and agriculture

with repercussions that would be felt in Nayland with Wissington and surrounding villages for many years. Skilled labour was in short supply, especially after conscription was introduced in 1916. The last barge from Sudbury travelled through the locks in 1916. Food and raw materials were scarce. Nayland's farming, brewing, manufacturing, building trades and retail businesses were affected. Local newspapers reported an increase in business and farm auctions. The leather factory in Fen Street closed, Nayland gasworks in Newlands Lane went into decline, Nayland Brewery and pubs were sold.



Nayland Gasworks in Newlands Lane : now a private house called Blincoe's Courtesy Wendy Sparrow

William and Sidney Blincoe managed Nayland Gasworks and lived in the Manager's House overlooking Webb's Meadow. They replaced the old oil lamps in Nayland School, supplied domestic gas, stage-lighting for community events and street lighting in the years leading up to the war. The brothers were Officers in the Nayland Volunteer Fire Brigade and arranged science demonstrations in the Gasworks for pupils at the school next door. In August 1914 all of the street lanterns were removed to comply with the Defence of the Realm Act 1914. William Blincoe was compensated by the Parish Council for breach of contract and stored the lanterns till after the war. **Trooper Sidney Blincoe** was one of several young men who volunteered during the first wave of recruitment. They were listed in the December 1914 Church Magazine when they left Nayland. Three of those in that first list are named on Nayland War Memorial. Sidney served with the Essex Yeomanry and was killed at Ypres in May 1915. William went to the Front in 1918. Most coal had been diverted to manufacturing throughout the war. This affected gas production and local coal merchants, one of whom was declared bankrupt. After William returned in 1919 the Blincoe family returned to Middlesborough. The following year, hydro-electricity began to be produced at the Mill.

In 1916 Builder and Undertaker William Deaves and Moy Coal Merchants appealed at Military Tribunals against conscription on behalf of several workmen whose names included **Deaves, Wilson, Roberts and Swann**. They appeared later on the Roll of Honour. For the most part, appeals were made by farmers on behalf of employees or sons who helped to run family businesses.



Fen Street: Bendixen's Factory on the right Courtesy of NWCS Archive Project

The Bendixen family were leather manufacturers and merchants. They moved their business from London to the former silk throwing factory in Fen Street and the fulling mill in Mill Street before 1899. The long-standing leather industry had provided employment in what was then an industrial area of Nayland and supplied leather to local saddlers, glovers, shoemakers etc. Regimental records show that some of the men on the Roll of Honour were leather workers before enlistment. Carl Bendixen helped to run his father's business before the war but was serving as a Petty Officer in the Armoured Car Division of the Royal Naval Air Service in 1915 when he was listed among the mourners at his father's funeral at Wiston. He was transferred to the Royal Flying Corps and died in Russia in 1916.

“On Wednesday intelligence was received at Nayland – by cablegram from Archangel – of the death in Russia of Mr. Carl Bendixen, who some months ago went out with a number of English motor dispatch riders to Russia, where they rendered invaluable aid to our Eastern Ally. Mr. Bendixen, who was 26 years of age, was an accomplished linguist, and was highly esteemed and beloved in Nayland and the district.”

Suffolk & Essex Free Press 5 July 1916

In October and November 1916 the *Suffolk and Essex Free Press* reported discussions at district planning meetings regarding an application to set up a specialised leather manufacturing process to compete with German production. The factory and mill had been idle for some time. This application's failure was described as a lost opportunity by some Melford District Councillors who thought that the people of Nayland should ‘...welcome it with joy’, but on balance the chairman and committee felt that the disadvantages of effluent from the tannery going into the millstream through the village centre beside residential properties and onwards to the River Stour outweighed any benefit to the local economy or the war effort.

CAPTURING GERMAN TRADE.

NAYLAND MILL AS A CHROME LEATHER TANNERY.

A letter was received from Messrs. Puttick and Simpson, auctioneers, London, on behalf of the administrators of the estate of the late Mr. C. C. Bendixen, Nayland, who said they had application from an eminent firm who desired to hire or purchase the leather factory and mill belonging to the estate. They wished to adapt it to chrome leather tanning and as this would at times give off a certain smell, they would be glad to know whether the District Council would allow such an industry in the neighbourhood. The factory had been lying a long time idle, and it would be a relief to the ratepayers of the neighbourhood to introduce such a business, which would absorb a lot of labour, and give an impetus to trade in the district. If they were not let for this purpose, to which they were well adapted, they would remain empty for a long period.

Dr. Holden said they had a tannery at Bures some 20 years ago, and there were no complaints.

Mr Morris: Although there is a certain smell, I do not think it is unhealthy.

Dr. Holden: No, it is not like dealing with sewage.

The Chairman: The inhabitants dislike the smell though.

The Clerk read a letter from Mr F. Dean, a member of the Council, who is also Chairman of the parish council. He wrote that the suggestion to use the mill for such a purpose met with little favour in Nayland, and was very strongly opposed on the ground of the unpleasant aroma from skin tanneries. While they would be glad to see the mill occupied, situated as it was in the centre of a compact village, it would be most detrimental to surrounding properties.

The Chairman said the matter was brought unofficially before the Highways Committee, and the Clerk had drafted a letter, in reply, which was now read.

Dr. Holden, asked his view, said he would like to have the opinion of Dr. Bygott, who came from a manufacturing district.

Mr Prigg: Better send a copy of the letters to the parish council.

Mr Morris proposed that replies be sent. We were always talking, he said, about capturing German trade. This chrome leather was distinctly a German product; and if it could be brought to this country, they ought to do their utmost to secure it. It seemed they were dependent on the inhabitants as to whether they could have it or not. The fact as to its being a German product should be pointed out to the Nayland Parish Council. If we are going to object, he said, to every smell, or stink as Mr Coe calls it, we shall never "capture" anything at all.

Mr. Coe, who had asked whether it was a smell or a stink, the Chairman declining to pass an opinion, said he agreed with Mr. Morris. They had stinks at Melford, and it would not be worse for Nayland than it was for them.

The Chairman: The objection is that it would be detrimental to surrounding properties.

It was asked how one person could speak for the surrounding properties.

Mr. Morris's proposition was seconded by Mr Hills, and replies are to be sent to Messrs. Puttick and Simpson, and Mr. Deane, and the letters forwarded to the Parish Council asking for their observations.

Stringent wartime regulations imposed on licensed premises combined with reduced production and consumption brought breweries close to financial ruin. Cuddon's Brewery in Church Lane and their sixteen pubs in Nayland and surrounding villages were auctioned just before the Armistice. The Hatton family bought the Compasses in Bear Street and ran their shop there until it closed in 2017.

SUFFOLK AND ESSEX.

TO BREWERS AND OTHERS.

SALE OF THE NAYLAND BREWERY, MALTING, TWO RESIDENCES, AND 13 LICENSED HOUSES,

including

The White Hart, Nayland,
The Star and Garter, Nayland,
The Butchers' Arms, Nayland,
The Fox Inn, Nayland,
The Lion Inn, Leavenheath,
The Rose Inn, Thorington Street,
The Black Horse, Stoke by-Nayland,
The Green Inn, Withermarsh Green,
The Swan Inn, Stratford St. Mary, and Paddock,
The Windmill Inn, Althamstone,

Also

The King's Arms, Crouch Street, Colchester, and
Residence adjoining,
The Fox Inn, Raydon,
The Royal Oak, East End, East Bergholt,
The Unlicensed Premises, lately the Plough, Leav
enheath, The Compasses, Nayland, The Chequers
and Blacksmith's Shop, Boxford.

Sexton and Grimwade

Are instructed by the Executrix of the late Mr.
Thomas Cuddon, to SELL by AUCTION at the
Corn Exchange, Colchester, on SATURDAY,
November 9th, 1918, at 4 o'clock precisely, as a
going concern,

THE NAYLAND BREWERY,

with its 13 LICENSED HOUSES, RESIDENCES,
and PROPERTIES.

Particulars and Conditions of Sale may be had
of Messrs. Elwes and Turner, Solicitors, 3, High Street,
and of the Auctioneers, all of Colchester.

The conflict between the requirements of the military and needs of farmers struggling to provide the nation with enough food is clearly evident in the records of local Tribunals set up after the Military Service Act 1916 introduced conscription. The realities of a war with thousands of casualties reduced voluntary recruitment to a trickle after the initial rush of enthusiasm in 1914. Employers appealed for exemption on behalf of skilled farmworkers and tradesmen as they felt unable to operate when so many had been sent to the Front. Many of the remaining farmworkers were in their sixties and seventies. 1916 *Suffolk and Essex Free Press* reports show their resistance to conscription. The Earl of Selbourne advised the Committee of Imperial Defence that experienced agricultural workers with machinery skills should be recalled from the army to protect production and supply of food. He wrote that if farmers were to be compelled to cultivate land for crops: *"I should certainly have to organise a ploughing and reaping corps"*. However, many of the soldiers who were recalled were often disabled by injury or had no relevant experience. One member of the Melford Tribunal Panel said that he had been sent twenty nine soldiers to do agricultural work but only six of them knew anything about farming.



Land Girls, German Prisoners of War and children at a Suffolk Farm

Image reproduced under Imperial War Museum licence

Melford District War Agriculture Board reported that six hundred tractors had been purchased by the government and requested farmers to set up tractor ploughing competitions to encourage their use. The Board also demanded an increase in flax production for making aeroplane canvas. Some farmers complained that it would take three years to improve soil in ploughed up meadows to grow arable crops and leave them without pasture for grazing. The Women's Land Army was formed in 1917. The Board reported that five thousand women were being trained locally, would live at farms or hostels. They were paid fifteen shillings a week while training and eighteen shillings when fully trained. Thirty thousand German Prisoners of War worked on farms throughout Britain. It was estimated that thirty additional men were needed along the Stour Valley so a German Prisoners Camp was set up at Bures. Some were still at local farms after the Treaty of Versailles was signed in June in 1919 when it was reported in the *Suffolk and Essex Free Press* that two Germans got into difficulties in the River Stour at a bathing spot between Bures and Nayland. One of them drowned but the other was rescued and resuscitated successfully.

District Military Tribunals set up in 1916 to manage conscription also heard appeals for exemption. One elderly farmer who was incapacitated by severe gout was told "... food shortages will soon cure that". His son's exemption was refused and he was advised:"... better get your name down for a prisoner of war".

Thomas Hollick of Wiston was given a short exemption but the following appeal was refused. Thomas's army career was brief. He was discharged as physically unfit in December 2016 and awarded a Silver Service Badge. He died at Wiston in 1917 and is commemorated on Wiston Memorial. **Horace Chippington** of Nayland was given only six months exemption, despite being a Master Grocer and employer in an exempt occupation. Horace died of wounds in 1918 and is named on Nayland memorial.

Applications for exemption by employers in adjoining parishes had a similar outcome for farmers, millers, builders and coal merchants as the following reports in *Suffolk and Essex Free Press* of 1916 Melford District Tribunal hearings demonstrate. Some of the employees mentioned in these reports appear on their own village memorials or on the Nayland with Wissington Roll of Honour.

Mr. Hollick, Wiston applied for two sons, John (38) and Thomas (30). 74 acres, 60 arable.

Six months for John, one month for Thomas.

Arthur Hollick, Wiston, applied again for Thomas Hollick, (30), Hill Farm, Wiston. One son gone and the other had been granted six months. 60 acres arable. This man had been granted till April 28th. Applicant has most of Spring corn in. Applicant says he is 69 and could not do much.

Mr Westropp: 'In your boyhood yet'.

Applicant said that he had 20 steers and other stock, having increased them since he first applied.

Application refused.

Mr. H.L Chippington, master grocer and draper, Nayland, did not know why he had been brought here, as he was in an exempted occupation. Has now four hands. One man has a wooden leg. It was pointed out to him that the fact that he was in a certified occupation did not now necessarily exempt him.

Six months allowed.

Alfred Richard Baker (33) Leavenheath master carter, carrier and smallholder, wanted absolute exemption. Refused.

Harold Tomkins of Rose Hill Farm, Leavenheath applied for his son, Robert George (32)

Desired exemption. Working farmer, in conjunction with four brothers, about 201 acres, of arable. Refused.

*Mr. Alfred Munson, miller, Stoke by Nayland, applied for Alfred T Herbert, ploughman and horesman, 201 acres, 60 pasture. Applicant's son had gone. Has four men, excluding himself.
Exemption of one month.*

*Mr. Curtis, Stoke-by-Nayland, applied for Frank Rolfe, (30), ploughman and horseman. Has four sons in the army and two in the police. 120 acres, 5 grass. Asked why he did not attest, Rolfe said that he did not think it was worthwhile.
Four months.*

*Mr. E..K. Kerridge applied for Edgar Pryke, (22), Harrow Road Farm, Leavenheath, milkman and stockman, had been granted four months from March 7th. 132 acres, 92 arable. Has two other men, old ones, one 61 and the other 73. Had five men before the war. Would have to give up the cows if this man goes. No boys or women to be obtained. Has six cows and seven other stock.
Exemption to the 30th September.*

*Mr. Asher Prior ;(solicitor) appeared for William L. Deaves, aged 31, son of Mr. Wm. Deaves, Builder, Contractor and Timber Merchant, Nayland, who employed 36 men. Ten men have joined the colours, including one son, who was a very practical and energetic man. Has only this son at home, who is the manager. The bulk of work being done was for government contracts, as to which letters were read. They supply work for shell cases, gun wheels, etc., which is expected to go on for some time. Applicant who is 65 urged that he could not carry on the business alone.
Six months exemption.*

"Mr Dennis, Nayland, for Messrs. Thomas Moy, applied for Robert Ernest Swan, single, (40) coal carman. Man had been granted a month. Applicant said it was a certified occupation

Mr Prigg: 'People won't want so much coal now?'

Mr. Dennis: If the weather keeps like this they will. There is no railway here. We are six miles from a railway station. This man carts from Colchester to our yard four days in the week. Should say they deliver 80 to 100 tons a month. Have a large contract with Nayland Sanatorium. If this man goes, I would have to close the Nayland Depot. There is no other coal depot in Nayland.

The Clerk: 'You mean seriously that this depot would be closed?'

Mr. Dennis: 'I do sir.

The Clerk: 'That would be a serious matter'

Tribunal considered the case in private and decided to refuse the application.

Mr. Dennis was told he could appeal again in three days.

Coal was in very short supply for domestic use throughout the war and the Headmaster often recorded that the school was very cold. By early 1918 he wrote that it was difficult to find any wood or coal to heat the school and that William Blincoe the Gasworks Manager and William Deaves the builder had each donated a hundredweight bag of fuel to the school.

This situation was even worse after the war ended. During 1919 the village had very few coal deliveries for months while snowfalls were recorded until the end of April.



Food became increasingly scarce with long queues for bread, flour and potatoes. Before 1914 Britain had imported 60% of all food supplies. By 1916 there was only enough stored wheat and flour to last six weeks and 25% of the trade fleet had been lost to U boats. 2.5 million acres of pasture were ploughed up. 1.5 million vegetable allotments were created on wasteland such as railway embankments, yet an order for Nayland allotments field to be cleared and ploughed for crops was made by the Melford District War Agricultural Committee. Farmers complained that seed potatoes provided by the

Ministry of Agriculture were of poor quality. Voluntary rationing and price controls introduced in 1917 proved to be insufficient. There was panic-buying amidst rumours that Germany intended to reduce Britain to starvation. Rationing was imposed between January and April 1918 and was still in place in 1920. Children foraged hedgerows to supplement food supplies poachers were prosecuted regularly in Suffolk Magistrates Courts. Food prices increased.



There were also increasing numbers of children to feed while orphans and homeless children from East London were 'boarded out' with families in Nayland by the Children's Society and London County Council. At one point there were one hundred and eighty nine pupils at the tiny school in Church Lane but only four teachers. Some orphans were still attending the school in 1920 when the Headmaster recorded visits from welfare-officers.

Although many women had been taking on traditionally male roles since 1914, the workforce became seriously depleted after the 1916 Military Service Act came into force. By the end of the war there were women employed in heavy industry, in dangerous factory jobs such as munitions, in transport, forestry and agriculture. Some kept family businesses and farms going throughout the war or took up new opportunities in administrative posts.

The Women's Institute was started in 1915, initially with the aim of encouraging civilian women to be involved in wartime food production and conservation, especially in rural communities. In 1917 the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps created uniformed roles at home and abroad that went beyond nursing for the Red Cross or doing agricultural work in the Women's Land Army, set up in the same year.

Women's contribution to the war effort could not be ignored. Although the Suffragette Movement had agreed to limit activism in 1914 because of the war, the Representation of the People Act became law in February 1918. Forty percent of women, those over 30 who held property or were graduates, were granted the right to vote. What is often forgotten is that many of the men fighting and dying at the Front had no voting rights before 1918 when 5.6 million men became eligible to vote for the first time because the property qualification for male voters was removed.

Eighteen female candidates took up their first opportunity to stand as a Member of Parliament in the General Election of December 1918. The only woman to be elected was Countess Constance Markievicz, an Irish Republican and Socialist Suffragette. She served as Minister for Labour between 1919 and 1922 but declined to sit at Westminster as a protest against British rule in Ireland. A year later, Lady Nancy Astor was elected as MP for Plymouth in November 1919.

The Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act of 1919 allegedly gave women the right to work in any occupation, but this ran counter to the promise that men could reclaim their jobs on return from the Front so thousands of women were dismissed after the war. Women also found themselves caring for hundreds of thousands of male relatives with permanent physical or mental disability after the war. There were still approximately 700,000 men on war disability pensions in the 1930s.



The Silver Badge was awarded to those who were honourably discharged from service because of injury or illness. The badge was worn on civilian clothing and helped protect ex-servicemen from accusations of 'cowardice' or being presented with white feathers because they were not in uniform. Each badge was numbered so that it could be returned to the owner if lost.

Regimental records show that many of the men from Nayland and Wiston received Silver Badges or were awarded Wound Stripes before returning to the Front.



Nurses at Woodhouse Home Hospital, Great Horkesley

Several young women from Nayland and Wiston were Red Cross nurses or VADs including, Bessie Marshall of Bulmer Farm and Mrs. Violet Walsh of Stourbank (*Bear House*). Sisters Eileen, Phyllis and Monica Mary Deane served with the Red Cross in Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich Hospitals and at the Military Home Hospital at Great Horkesley. Eileen also nursed at St Thomas's Hospital, London.



Woodhouse Home Hospital at Great Horkesley, Essex

Photographs from VAD Nurse Lily Nevard's album, courtesy of David Seabrook and Heather Johnson

The Deane family lived at Longwood. Frederic Deane was a retired accountant with three sons Kenneth, George and Ralph and five daughters Phyllis, Doris, Eileen, Monica and Sylvia who were descended directly from Oliver Cromwell via their mother Bertha. Frederic and his family involved themselves wholeheartedly in the local community as can be seen from local documents and newspapers. Many of his public duties involved cycling to and from Sudbury for meetings. The Suffolk and Essex Free Press reported Frederic Deane's appointment as a Suffolk Magistrate in 1918. He was also a Nayland School Manager, Churchwarden, Captain of Nayland Fire Brigade and an Overseer of the Poor before being appointed as a Suffolk Magistrate. The War Savings Committee meetings were held at Longwood.

Mr. Deane is chairman of the Nayland Parish Council and represents the district on the Melford Rural District Council and Board of Guardians. During fifteen years' residence in Nayland he has rendered much valuable public service and has actively furthered every project that could benefit the neighbourhood. He is captain of the Nayland Fire Brigade and held a similar honorary office at Carshalton, Surrey, where he resided before coming to Suffolk. Formerly a member of the Artists' Rifles – at a time when Sir Frederick Leighton was Colonel – he has greatly interested himself in rifle shooting and he also qualified for voluntary Red Cross service. Since the outbreak of war he has suffered two severe bereavements. One of his sons – a Lieutenant in an Essex Battalion, was killed in France whilst in charge of a machine gun section, and another son who held a responsible appointment in the Cape Verde Islands, fell victim to disease. A third son is an officer in the Royal Navy and three of his daughters are actively engaged in Red Cross work. Mr. Deane's appointment to the Commission of the Peace has given great satisfaction in Nayland

Suffolk and Essex Free Press

Second Lieutenant George F. Deane served with the Essex Regiment. He died of shrapnel wounds after six months in France and is named on Nayland War Memorial. **Sub-Lieutenant Ralph P. Deane** served in the Royal Marines. They both attended Colchester Royal Grammar School (CRGS). The *Old Colcestrian* magazine records that they enrolled in the CRGS Army Cadet Corps and enlisted immediately after leaving school. They are both named on the Rolls of Honour at CRGS and in St. James' Church. Ralph Deane is one of the officers standing on the deck of the *Baden* shown in this photograph taken after the German Navy scuppered their fleet at Scapa Flow in 1918 to prevent their vessels from being transferred to the Allies.



Baden at Scapa Flow, 1918 Photograph courtesy of Jonatan Deane

Lance Corporal Frederick Sexton volunteered soon after the 1914 Declaration of War. He served throughout the war but died of pleurisy at Kalamaria, possibly caused by influenza, after the Armistice. He had been injured at Ypres and Salonica during those four years. In 1917 Fred visited the school while he was on leave. Fred's younger brother Albert joined him in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1916. Their father was Head Gardener at Alston Court. One of their sisters, Edith, was a nurse. She emigrated to New Zealand in 1920. Her collection of wartime photos and correspondence from her brothers was discovered in recent years by her grandchildren.

Photographs courtesy of Tony Thomson



Sexton family wedding before WWI : Frederick and Albert are the young men in the back row



Lance Cpl. Frederick Sexton died December 1918, aged 24



Private Albert Sexton



Albert Sexton RAOC in Lincolnshire in April 1916 : second from right in back row



Albert Sexton on Eastern Front



Albert and Fred Sexton: 1917

Cyril Arthur Richardson was a blacksmith employed by his father Ezra Richardson at the Smithy in Bear Street. He was killed in action in December 1915 aged 20 and buried at the Essex Farm Cemetery at Ypres. Several Nayland recruits trained at Shoreham in Sussex and were billeted there with the Stammers family.

In her reply to Mrs Stammers' letter of condolence, Cyril's mother Flora wrote:

"I feel I must thank you for your sympathetic letter. It seems sometimes that I cannot realise it but of course it is true.

Wilf has written to his brother. I think you know Wilf. He says poor Cyril was wounded slightly and was sent down to a temporary dressing station and while there three shells came, one after the other, killing all that was there. He saw him buried by the chaplain in the British cemetery by the banks of the Ypres Canal. Poor boy. He was never meant to be a soldier so God has taken him instead, away from it all."

(It is likely that 'Wilf' was Wilfred Cundy of Nayland who served with Cyril in the 9th Suffolk Regiment).



Cyril Richardson was killed 19th December 1915



His brother George Richardson survived



The Smithy in Bear Street: demolished during 1990s *Courtesy of Wendy Sparrow*



C Company 9th Suffolk Regiment *Richardson family collection*

Some of the young men from Nayland who trained at Shoreham could be in this group photograph. In January 1915 the Headmaster proudly wrote that Sergt. Cansdale of the 9th Suffolks had told him of the Colonel's praise for their good conduct. With "... no cases of crime or drunkenness", the 9th Suffolk recruits had proved to be the most well-behaved regimental group in the training camp.



Ernest Thorpe (?), killed in 1916 at Battle of Ypres

*Photographs courtesy of Ernie Smith,
grandson of Ernest Thorpe*



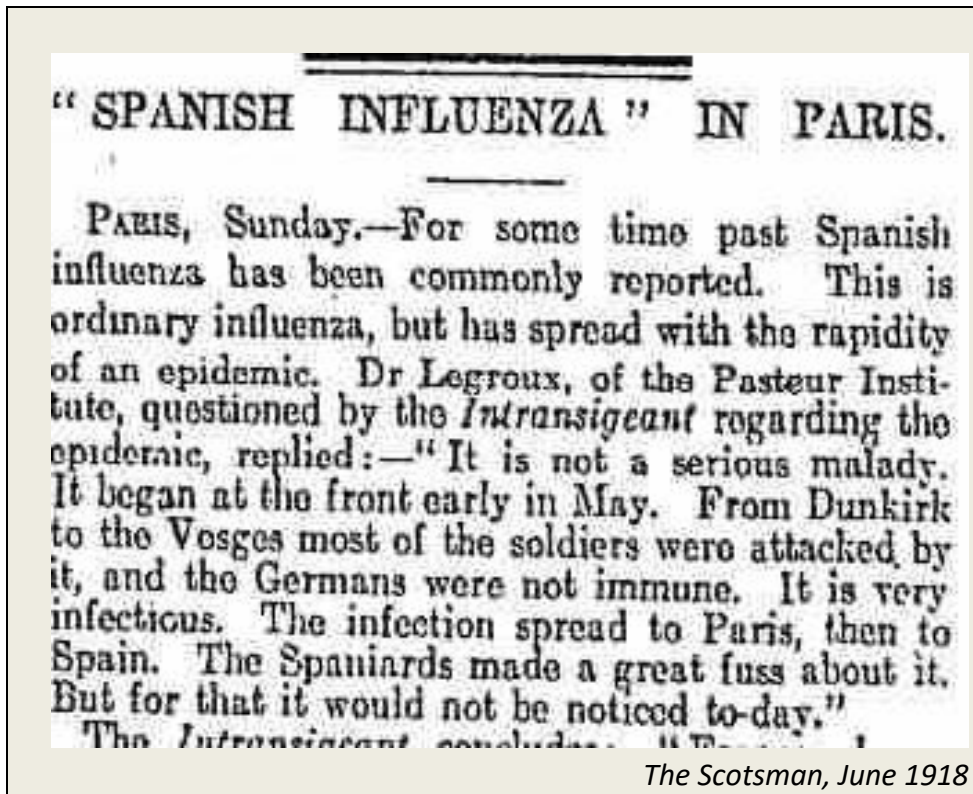
**Jane, widow of Ernest
with their children Dick and Maude**



**Herbert and Walter Thorpe
Killed in 1917 at Battle of the Somme
And in 1918 at Battle of Cambrai**



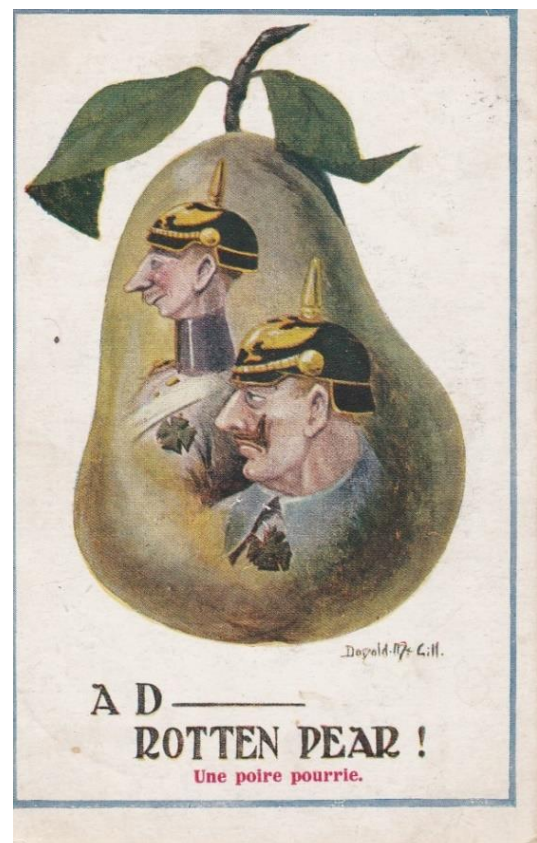
Influenza began to spread across the world in Spring 1918. The constant movement of troops across the Eastern and Western Fronts or returning home in overcrowded ships and trains encouraged the rapid spread of infection. Deaths were not restricted to the vulnerable, elderly or infants but could kill healthy young people within twenty four hours as they developed severe pneumonia, pleurisy or septicaemia. The virus started in America, travelled across the Atlantic in American troop ships and arrived in the trenches. Newspaper reports of the rising death toll were suppressed or restricted by most European governments but not in neutral Spain where the King Alfonso was one of the victims who died.



By November 1918 the same newspaper reported that undertakers could not cope with the overwhelming number of funerals taking place every day from early morning until dusk. The first cases in Britain were recorded in Scotland in May. By June influenza had reached major cities including London and spread outwards across the whole Country. Public buildings, churches and schools were closed. Public transport and streets were sprayed with chemicals. The official advice given to the general population was to wear muslin facemasks, to wash the nostrils with soapy water twice a day, to eat plenty of porridge and to smoke tobacco to ward off infection.

On 14th October 1918 the Headmaster noted that attendance at Nayland School had suddenly dropped and that "... influenza was the cause". The school was then closed for two months. Although the November Armistice was not recorded in the school logbook, a child's letter to her father described flags strung in the streets and a torchlight procession followed by singing and dancing around a bonfire. The pandemic spread in three waves. The worst came after the November Armistice when hundreds of thousands of people poured onto the streets in spontaneous celebration of the ceasefire. From January 1919 the Headmaster reported an average absence of fifty five children each day. One of the teachers died and the Headmaster lost two members of his family. In May 1919 he wrote that the effects of influenza were still being felt in the village. Approximately 230,000 died in Britain by the end of the pandemic. At least fifty million people are estimated to have died worldwide, ten times the number killed by the war itself.

Throughout the hardships suffered at the Front and at home families exchanged regular correspondence. Postcards were popular with the troops, especially those that offered a humorous view of the war or expressed sentimental feelings for loved ones at home. Propaganda against the enemy was another theme.



Postcards from private collection courtesy of Ray Spencer

Commander Cyril Duncan Fenn served in the Mediterranean and China on a variety of vessels including HMS Dreadnought, shown here in 1913 at Malta. He was already a serving officer when war was declared as he had joined the Navy as a cadet in 1898 and served throughout WW1.



Cyril also served at Portsmouth, Devonport and Shotley and was given a command in Canada at the end of the war but was invalided out of the Royal Navy because of poor health.



Photographs courtesy of Edward Fenn

Cyril died at his family's home at Alston Court in April 1921. He was buried at Nayland Burial Ground with full naval honours following a funeral service at St James' church.

DEVONPORT SIGNAL SCHOOL.

NEW OFFICER IN CHARGE.

Lieut.-Commander Cyril Duncan Fenn, who has been appointed to the Vivid for charge of the Signal School at the Royal Naval Barracks, Devonport, served as naval cadet and midshipman in the Repulse, in the Channel squadron, September, 1898, and the Astraea, in the Mediterranean and China stations, September, 1899. He became an acting sub-lieutenant in April, 1902, and in May of the following year joined the Bacchante (flagship of Rear-Admiral Sir Baldwin Walker in the Mediterranean Cruiser squadron), to which he was reappointed on promotion to lieutenant, June, 1904. He was an officer of the boys' training-ship St. Vincent at Portsmouth from March, 1905, to March, 1906, when he joined the Signal School at Portsmouth for a course of instruction. This completed, he served as a watchkeeper in the Dido, in the Home fleet at the Nore, July, 1906, and the Warrior, in the Fifth Cruiser squadron, June, 1907. He was flag-lieutenant to Rear-Admiral Briggs in the Home fleet from January, 1909, to January, 1910, when he was appointed to the Ganges for signal duties and for duty with the inspecting captain of boys' training establishments. His seniority as lieutenant-commander dates from June 30th, 1912. He was flag lieutenant-commander to Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Briggs in the Fourth Battle squadron from July 1st, 1912, to the end of June, 1914, and in the following month was appointed to the Signal School at Portsmouth, additional, temporarily. From August to October, 1914, he was flag lieutenant-commander to Rear-Admiral Tottenham in the Albion and Sutlej.



Funeral procession passing Webb's Butchers 1921

Although Cyril is not included on Nayland war memorial, his grave in Nayland has been registered as a war grave by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. He is listed on the Roll of Honour with his brother 2nd Lt. Edward Fenn, who is named on Nayland war memorial.



The **Distinguished Conduct Medal** was awarded for exceptional valour shown by those serving in the ranks. This 1917 citation for twenty year old **Percy Forsdick** of **Harpers Farm, Nayland** describes his courage in the face of enemy action.

“For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in covering the retirement of the company with his Lewis gun which he continued to do after all his team had become casualties and his magazines had given out. He then collected ammunition from the dead and wounded and carried on single-handed.”



**1914-1915 Star,
British War Medal and Victory Medal**

These medals were awarded to all those who served depending on the period of service. Those who volunteered in the early years before conscription were entitled to the Star. The set of three became known as ‘Pip, Squeak and Wilfred’. The remaining two were awarded to all and known as ‘Mutt and Jeff’. The nicknames derived from contemporary cartoon characters.



A commemorative **Peace Medal** was issued in 1919. Every child at Nayland School was given one of these medals at the end of their Peace celebration party in September 1919.

It is likely that some of the men listed on the other three war memorials at churches within the Benefice were related to families in Nayland with Wissington. Children from Stoke by Nayland and Leavenheath often attended Nayland School, some were born at Polstead. Other Nayland pupils lived across the river at Boxted or Little Horkesley and are commemorated there. The Headmaster recorded that one hundred and ninety seven of his 'Old Boys' served during WW1 although only one hundred and fifty two names are listed on the Roll of Honour at St. James' Church and two of the young men on Nayland memorial attended boarding schools elsewhere. A total of one hundred and seven names are listed on the five parish war memorials. The loss of so many young men from small, inter-dependent communities was devastating for their extended families and for the local economy. Between 2014 and 2018 the names and regiments of the men on all five memorials were printed as an 'In Memoriam' in the LPSN Magazine on the hundredth anniversary of each of their deaths.

Polstead War Memorial, St Mary's Churchyard



1917

A.C. Humphrey
A.B. Sparrow
R. Clarke
D. Humphrey
W. Burrows
A. Daking
F.W. Day
R.R. Cocksedge

1918

H.F. Fletcher
S. Oxford
J.W. Richardson
S.J. Mann
G. Peartree
J. Gardiner
H. Burrows



1916

J.H. Sowman
T.G. Woods
E. Humphrey
R. Fisher
E. Tatum
B.J. Clarke





Leavenheath War Memorial
and
crosses in St Matthews' Church



Photographs in St Matthew's Church



Robert Locke



Fred Palmer



Charles. J. Locke



Edgar Pryke



George Hollick



Percy Pryke

Stoke by Nayland War Memorial St Mary's Churchyard



Henry Woodfield Noy of Scotland Street, Stoke by Nayland, served with the Essex Regiment. He died on 2nd December 1918, after the Armistice, and is buried in Stoke by Nayland Churchyard. His grave has been designated as a war grave by CWGC.



Forty one names from the Great War are listed on the memorial tablet inside St Mary's church.



Unveiling of War Memorial, Stoke by Nayland, 15th March 1920.
Press by Admiral Simpson.

**Unveiling the war memorial at
Stoke by Nayland**

Photograph courtesy of Ernie Smith



The names of several men from Nayland or Wiston were not included on local memorials, perhaps because relatives left the parish before war memorial committees were set up in 1919. Most of them had attended Nayland School and were noted in the Headmaster's log books when they died. One soldier died in France in 1920 as a result of wounds sustained in late 1918. His mother lived at Wiston. Agricultural families regularly moved between adjacent parishes to find work or intermarry. Some family names can be traced back for centuries in local parish records. Families elsewhere are known to have refused to add 'missing' sons to memorials because they still hoped for good news as casualties were sometimes posted missing more than once only to be found later in military hospitals. All of them deserve to be remembered in our history and have been added to the Annual Roll Call on Remembrance Sunday.



Lance Corporal William Robert ANEY

Died 30 July 1916 – age 21 Commemorated THIEPVAL, SOMME and Clacton on Sea Memorial
His death was recorded in Nayland School logbook as an 'old boy'. He **lived in Bear Street, Nayland**

Private Arthur DURRANT - born Nayland

Killed in action 23 April 1918 - age 26 : Commemorated LOOS Memorial
Son of Mrs. Martha Durrant, Mill Road, Mile End, Colchester

Albert FIRMIN - born Nayland

Killed in action 8 October 1918 – age 32: buried BELLICOURT British Cemetery
Son of Mr & Mrs. Walter Firmin of **Bear Street, Nayland**, husband of Gertrude Firmin, Colchester

C.S.M. Cecil Alexander GATES D.C.M. - born Nayland

Killed in action 11 May 1915 – age 22: buried WYTSCHAETE Military Cemetery
His brother George was killed in 1917

Private Wilfred HARVEY - born Nayland

Killed in action in France 11 July 1917 – age 23 : buried BRANDHOEK Military Cemetery, Ieper, Belgium
Commemorated Kempston War Memorial, Bedfordshire

Private George Henry James HOLLICK - born Wiston

Killed in action 4 October 1918 - age 23: buried GUIZANCOURT FARM Cemetery
Commemorated **Leavenheath War Memorial**

Private Albert Charles KING, MM

Wounded 19 September 1918 – Died of wounds 12 February 1920
Buried LEVALLOIS-PERRET Communal Cemetery (Hautes de Seine) France
Son of Mrs. Frances King, **Chase Cottage, Wiston**

Private Alfred MILES

Died 13 October 1915: Commemorated on LOOS Memorial PAS DE CALAIS
Nayland School log book records that he was an 'old boy' who was shot while on sentry duty

Private Dudley Henry TAYLOR born Little Horkesley, lived at Hill Farm, Wiston

Died 14 May 1915 – age 22 : Commemorated MENIN GATE MEMORIAL, YPRES, BELGIUM
Commemorated at Colchester Town Hall and at Chelmsford Cathedral
Nayland School logbook records his death as an 'old boy'

Private Herbert THOMPSON - born Nayland

Died of Wounds 5 November 1917 – age 22: buried WIMEREUX Communal Cemetery
Son of Marcus and Elizabeth Thompson (*nee Bugg*) of Herons Farm, Coggeshall, Essex,
an 'old boy' of Nayland School who lived in **Nayland and in Wiston**

Private Arthur Exelston VINCE - born Nayland

Killed in Action 24 March 1917: Buried Philosophe British Cemetery MAZINGARBE, France
Son of James and Edith Vince, husband of A.A. Vince, commemorated at Elmstead

1914 REMEMBERED



Top: Nayland marked the centenary of the start of the First World War with a short service at the war memorial, before moving to St James Church for a programme of readings and music.
Clockwise from above left: the Village Players gave readings of letters from the front line and poetry, Mary George described how the war affected Nayland, Rev Adrian Mason conducted the re-dedication of a memorial plaque to Alfred Edward Norfolk, the congregation accompanied by Nayland Choir singing Jerusalem in St James. See the 1914 Remembered article on page 31.



August 4th 2014

Commemoration of the centenary of the 1914 Declaration of war
Re-dedication of Alfred Norfolk's memorial plaque formerly in Nayland Congregational Chapel

Published in the December 2014 issue of the Community Times

Reproduced courtesy of Lorraine Brooks

Colchester Royal Grammar School (CRGS) remembers two Nayland pupils

In 2014 **CRGS** created a centenary memorial garden to commemorate the seventy five former pupils who were killed during WW1. These include two of the young men on Nayland War memorial, **George Deane** and **Alfred Norfolk**. Individual bronze poppies have been added to the garden on the 100th anniversary of each death. Between 2014 and 2018 students and staff endeavoured to trace and visit the graves and memorials of all of their fallen pupils and place poppy crosses where they fought and died.



Alfred Norfolk's grave at Les Gonards Cemetery, Versailles

photograph courtesy of Jack Edwards

In 2017, four CRGS Sixth Form history students, Jack Edwards, Ellie Harkness, Pastora Little-Morgan and Jack Ridge, 'adopted' *Old Colcestrian* **Alfred Norfolk**. They visited Nayland before travelling to France where they found his grave at Les Gonards Cemetery, Versailles. The full report of their visit was published in the December 2017 edition of the Nayland-with-Wissington Community Times available on the Nayland and Wiston website.

Jack Ridge wrote:

“Most of the fallen soldiers buried in Les Gonards had succumbed to their injuries while in the base camp hospital in Versailles. Once we found Alfred Norfolk’s grave, the 25th grave in the 3rd row, there was a sense of connection with this man that none of us ever knew – the strong bond shared between all OCs and members of the CRGS family. The headstone reads, ‘Always remembered in the old home Nayland, Colchester’. For me, this reinforced the strong sense of community and connection that we had felt when we visited Nayland. After a few minutes reflection we cleaned the foot of the grave before laying two poppy crosses, one from the people of Nayland-with-Wissington supplied by Mary George on behalf of the Nayland and District Branch of the Royal British Legion and one from CRGS and OCs. Our journey was complete. Hopefully everybody that now comes to Les Gonards will see the symbol of our journey made on behalf of CRGS and the people of Nayland – the two crosses each representing very important parts of Alfred Norfolk’s life – his home village and CRGS”.

Colchester Royal Grammar School, 2017

At the end of April 1915, Alfred Norfolk sent a letter home from the front line at Ypres. He wrote: *“I was on guard in the small hours of the 19th and just as day was breaking a little lark got up from between the two lines and sang beautifully. It seemed so out of place there”.* The German line was one hundred yards away. Alfred was wounded at Ypres on 8th May and died later at the hospital in Versailles.

Menin Gate, Ypres, one of the Memorials to the Missing, commemorates those without identified grave. The arch is engraved with the 54,395 names of men killed up to 1917. Another 34,984 who were killed later are listed at Tyne Cot. There are three Nayland and Wiston names on the Menin Gate. **Sidney Blincoe** and **Dudley Taylor** served in the Essex Yeomanry. They were killed at the Battle of Frezenberg Ridge on the same day that Alfred Norfolk was injured, 8th May 1915, a date known as the ‘Black Day for Essex’ as 53% were killed. **Ernest Thorpe** of the Suffolk Regiment was killed at Ypres in 1916.



May 2018



A wreath of poppies named in remembrance of those three men was laid at the Menin Gate by retired officer Mark Shirley and his son, serving officer Max Shirley, on behalf of the Royal British Legion and the people of Nayland and Wiston.

Commemoration of the Centenary of the 1914-1918 Great War, Armistice and Peace ended with these events in November 2018



REMEMBERING THE CENTENARY OF THE END OF



THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918

THURSDAY 8th NOVEMBER
At 11am our children will be planting crosses to commemorate the fallen in a special Field of Remembrance on Caley Green at the A134 entrance to Nayland.

SUNDAY 11th NOVEMBER
At 10.50am there will be a special service at the War Memorial in the centre of the village followed by a service of commemoration in St James' Church. Afterwards there will be a celebration in the village hall with refreshments, a historical display and music by the School Choirs and Nayland Choir.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR BOTH EVENTS



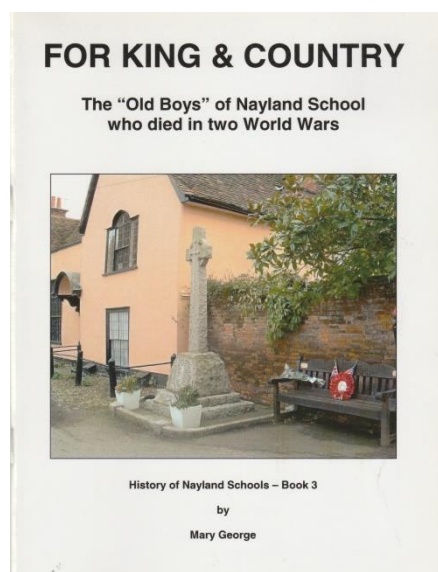
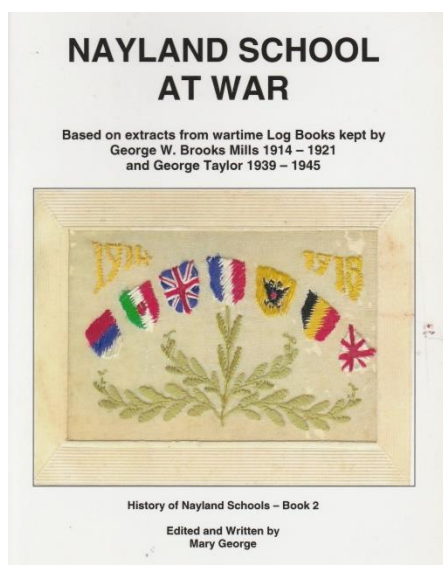
The 2014 art installation at the Tower of London inspired Nayland WI members and other volunteers to make hundreds of knitted or crocheted poppies during 2018. These were sewn to nets and decorated St James' church during November 2018. Four of the original ceramic poppies from the Tower are now on permanent display in the church.

Other local events during 2018 included a WW1 memorabilia display and food parcels luncheon organised by Nayland Women's Institute, Nayland Cinema screening of *'Journey's End'* and a concert performance by Nayland Choir in St James' church entitled *'Airs for Armistice'*.

Some information is taken from two of the three books published by
Nayland Primary School in 2005,

Book 2: *Nayland School at War* and **Book 3: *For King and Country***.

Extracts transcribed from school logbooks describe village life during two world wars as recorded by Nayland Headmasters. Profiles of all those named on Nayland and Wiston war memorials are included in Book 3.



Other local history books with information about village life during the early 20th century include:

Nayland: Suffolk Town and Village

by Denis Halliday, Rosemary Knox, Wendy Sparrow, Keith. Worricker, Karen Warren and others
published by Nayland with Wissington Conservation Society in 1991, revised edition 1998

Nayland & Wiston 1860s – 1950s: A Portrait in Photographs

Compiled by Wendy Sparrow and Andora Carver,
published by Nayland with Wissington Conservation Society in 2002

A History of Nayland Schools: 1707 to 2004 (Book 1)

by Mary George, published by Nayland Primary School in 2005

Memories of Nayland in the Twentieth Century

by Wendy Sparrow, published by Nayland with Wissington Conservation Society in 2006



—FOR—
PEACE
CELEBRATIONS

—FOR—

NAYLAND,

Wiston, Leavenheath, & Little Horkesley,

SATURDAY, JULY 19th, 1919.

PROGRAMME

:: Price 1d. or more ::

Proceeds for the Prize Fund. Subscriptions
thankfully received by
Mr. W. H. CHURCH, Hon. Treas.