

Catterall Parish Council

First World War Commemoration Project



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2014 marks 100 years since the outbreak of the First World War, on 28th July, 1914, when the Austro-Hungarians declared war on Serbia and subsequently invaded. Our nation acknowledged the impact the Great War had on Britain, including some surprising initiatives; Blood banks were established on the battlefields, the war saw the birth of plastic surgery and nearly 12 million letters were delivered to frontline troops every week.

The Royal British Legion marked the day with a 'Lights Out' at 10pm, when everyone was asked to switch their lights off for one hour and remember.

LIGHTS OUT

'The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime.'

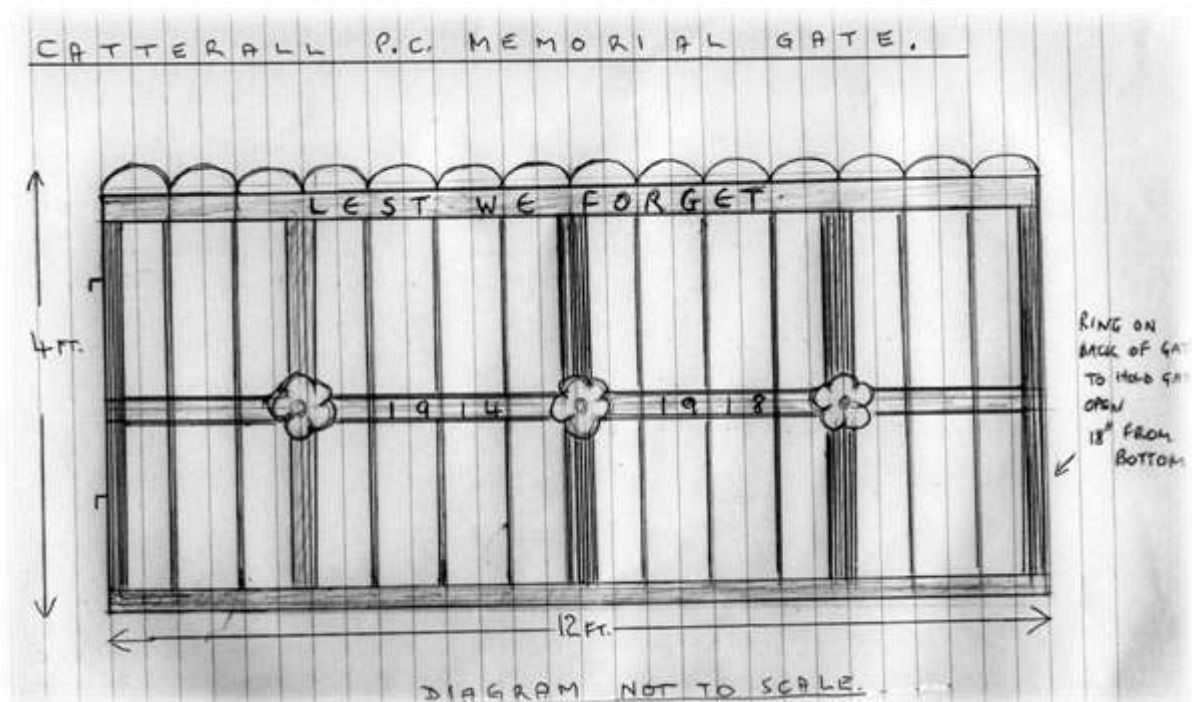
Sir Edward Grey, Foreign Secretary, uttered these words on the eve of Britain officially entered the First World War. Exactly 100 years later the Royal British Legion invited millions of individuals, households and companies to join together in a national moment of reflection.



Catterall Parish Council wished to mark this auspicious occasion with a Memorial Gate to be located at the entrance to the Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field. The gate would be seen by residents and visitors using Catterall Village Hall and the sporting facilities or simply out for a walk.

The initial plans were sketched by Councillor Don Harvey and these were supported by a full specification which allowed for tenders to be submitted.

Catterall Parish Council chose Austin Walmsley of Garstang to carry out the work.





Councillor Harvey worked closely with Austin and was able to see the progress made at each stage of construction.

The final procedure saw the gate painted black with the three poppies picked out in red.



During this time funding was sought and this brought in £250 from The Duchy of Lancaster, which was donating to small First World War projects.



Catterall Parish Council wanted to ensure that everyone understood the background to the new gate.

A hand made plaque was made by the pupils of Fleetwood High School as part of their end of term assignment; this arrived ready mounted and was placed on one of the gate posts.



A further and much larger plaque was commissioned from Adrian Cross at Pilling Pottery, working closely Councillor Harvey and the Clerk. Adrian presented several design options before the final decision was made by the Parish Council. The tiles were made in pieces to allow for the firing process and possible replacement should anything happen.



The Dedication Service for the Memorial Gate and plaques
took place on
Sunday 31st August, 2014
At 2pm

The service was conducted by Reverend Andrew Wilkinson,
Vicar of Garstang St Helen's, Churchtown, Area Dean of Garstang and
Chaplin to HM Armed Forces (rtd.).

Invitations were sent out to
Austin Walmsley,
Adrian Cross,
Catterall Parish Councillors,
The Duchy of Lancaster and
Catterall Village Hall Committee

Two representatives from the Armed Forces were invited to represent those
who served in the First World War from Catterall



WWI MEMORIAL GATE



Catterall residents are invited to the

Dedication Service of

Catterall's Memorial Gate

At Catterall Playing Field

On Sunday 31st August

At 2pm

The gate commemorates

100 years since the outbreak of WWI



Attendees gathered at Catterall Village Hall



The procession was led by the uniformed officers, followed by Reverend Wilkinson with Councillor Ian Brayshaw, Chairman of Catterall Parish Council and his daughter, Emily.



Reverend Wilkinson included in the Dedication Service the men and boys from Catterall who had signed up to fight in the First World War and in particular he had details of the son of Rev George Boyes-Stone, vicar of Garstang St. Thomas' at the time.



**Those men from Catterall who gave their lives in
The first World War**

**Known as the Great War and the War to end all Wars
1914 - 1918**

11868 Private Ernest Hall

1st Battalion, Kings Own Royal Lancaster Regiment

12th Brigade, 4th Division

Killed in action on 8th October, 1915

Age 19

Awarded the Victory and British War Medals and the 1915 Star

DM2/179716 Private Richard Parker

819th M. T. Company, Army Service Corps.

Died 19th November, 1918

Age 24

Captain George Lawden Boyes-Stones MC

7th Hariana Lancers (Indian Army)

Attached to the 6th Cavalry Brigade

Died of wounds 30th March, 1917

Age 29

Awarded the Victory and British War Medals and the 1915 Star. He was also a recipient of the Military Cross, awarded to officers for gallantry during active service, posthumously.



George Lawden Boyes-Stones, born in Garstang on 30th March, 1888; was one of the sons of Rev. George Boyes-Stone. By the time of the 1891 census he was living at St. Thomas' Vicarage, which became The Pickerings Hotel in Catterall.

George was educated at Carlisle, Rossall and Oxford, he attended Sandhurst: gaining his commission on 20th January, 1909 and joined the Indian Army on 11th March, 1911 as a 2nd Lieutenant stationed in India, serving the 1st Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment.



In April, 1911, he transferred to 7th Hariana Lancers and was appointed Regimental Quartermaster on 8th April, 1913, with the rank of captain attained on 1st September, 1915. He carried out further training at the Cavalry School, Saugor, taking courses in equitation, signaling and transport instruction.



George was stationed at Poona, India when orders to mobilise were received on 16th February, 1915 to Bombay. From there they sailed to Alexandria and arrived in Basra on 7th March. The regiment consisted of 11 British Officers, 1 Medical Officer, 13 Indian Officers, 366 Rank and File, 403 horses, 221 mules and 6 camels.

From October 1915 to January 1917 he took command of the signal troop attached to 6th Cavalry Brigade becoming the Staff Captain. George married whilst in India to Dorothy during an extended leave of three months in 1916.

It is believed he was wounded in the 1st Battle of Gaza, when the Egyptian Expeditionary Force attempted to invade Palestine in the Ottoman Empire in 1917. George died from his wounds on his 29th birthday – 30th March, 1917 and is buried at Bagdad West Cemetery, Iraq.



The afternoon was completed with refreshments and memories in Catterall Village Hall.



Acknowledgement and thanks for the information on the three Catterall soldiers is extended to Karen Macauley for her detailed investigations on behalf of St. Helen's Church, Churchtown.

