



# FRAMPTON REMEMBERS

## WW1

**Frampton on Severn** lies on the east bank of the river Severn approximately ten miles south of Gloucester. With a population of around 1200, it is the largest village in the Berkeley Vale and boasts the longest village green in England. Reputedly this was used as a practice area for medieval bowmen, was the site of a parliamentary garrison in 1643 and the local militia, formed in 1795 to combat the threat of invasion by Napoleon, regularly drilled up and down its half mile length.

**FRAMPTON REMEMBERS WW1** has been inspired by the Gloucestershire Remembers WW1 project. We shall look at the effects of the Great War on our village and its inhabitants by drawing on extensive archives from a number of public sources. We will combine these with the private records of the many families whose connections with the village are still maintained.



### THE WAR EFFORT



**Chocolate** was considered to be a great morale booster during WW1.

**Cadbury Bros Ltd** opened a factory in Frampton on Severn in 1916 which helped to **produce chocolate for the soldiers in the trenches.**

Cadburys started up a number of **recreational and sporting clubs** in the village, many of which still exist today.

**German prisoners of war extracted gravel**, making some into concrete building blocks. One of these became a memorial to a colleague who died.

Gravel from Frampton was also used in the construction of Chepstow dockyard during the war.

The gravel pits are now lakes which are designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest for their varied wildlife and habitat.



## SCHOOL LIFE

The **death of our pupil teacher, Frederick Robert Hitchings**, was a bitter blow to those at school.

His parents had to witness all five of their sons leave the village to serve their country in either the army or navy. Their youngest son died too, aged just 18.



1917  
June  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup>

It is with great regret that I have to record the death of our Pupil Teacher, F. R. Hitchings, on the battlefield in France on 12<sup>th</sup> May last. As can be seen, by referring back, in this book he joined H.M. Forces on 12<sup>th</sup> June 1915 for purely patriotic reasons, and at the time of his death was a Sgt in the Lancashire Fusiliers. He was a most promising pupil, always ready to perform any of the duties assigned to him, always industrious, and ever looking forward to the goal, of a Head Teacher. Personally, I can say with truth, he was the best Pupil Teacher I ever had to train. His death came as a great shock both to Mrs Osborn & myself and is a great grief to us.

F. J. Osborn (Head Teacher)

Many other **pupils from our school** also enlisted and were proud to retain comradeship with their fellow servicemen after hostilities had ended.



## THE ESTATE

Campaign :- 1914-15 Star		(A) Where decoration was earned.
Name	Corps	Rank
(A) CLIFFORD	R. Grenadier Machine Co. Major	REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR
(B) H. F.		
Action taken		18.11.17 17.11.18 29.12.18 15/1/20 25/1/20 25/1/20
Theatre of War		Egypt 1915
Qualifying Date		CP/S/385

(6 24 46) W3138-RP433 50,000 12/27 HWV(P795) K908 [OVER]

124-RP2020 40 000 678

Correspondence.

Application from Mrs. H. Clifford in respect of the services of her late husband H. F. Clifford Reg. Reply on 28th from Mrs. H. Clifford 26.11.20 6.1.19

Address. *Strampton Court  
Stratton  
Gloucestershire*

The **death of our lord of the manor, Henry Francis Clifford**, who was tragically killed in action in 1917, meant that several properties in the village had to be sold to meet death duties.

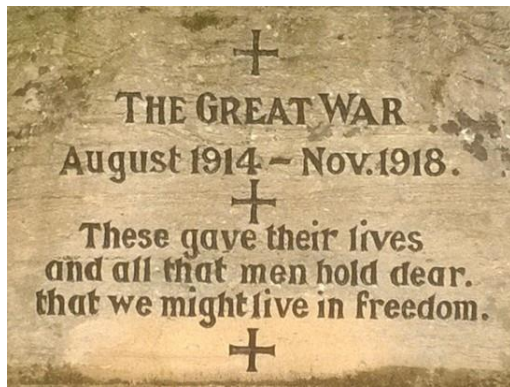
These included the **village inn, houses and three farms**, which were sold to the tenant farmers. Their descendants still farm these today.



Three sisters of Henry Francis Clifford, **nursed during the war**. Mabel Constance, was awarded the French **Croix de Guerre** in 1917 in recognition of her bravery whilst nursing on the Western Front.



## THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE



## OUR PROJECT

Guided by a part-time project officer, volunteers will be researching many private and public records to help us tell the stories of the men, women and children of our village and how the war changed their lives.



We shall talk to their **descendants** and build on the **successful Memories Day** which has helped to inspire us to apply for Heritage Lottery funding for this community-led project.

We want to find out more about people like 'Pip' Aldridge who proudly joined up in September 1914, aged 18, and lived in our village until he was 100 years

and 4 months (even though he was gassed during the Great War).

This is **Our Heritage** and we want to understand and preserve it by creating a **comprehensive website and book** covering the service personnel, their experiences and how the war affected their lives. We want to find out and share with others what it was like for those living in the village, working on the farms and in the local munitions factory. We hope to discover how they coped with food shortages, rationing and the commandeering of horses and hay from the farms.



Our **village primary school** has strong links with the community and intends to build on our WW1 research in their lessons with the **help of volunteers** from the **FRAMPTON REMEMBERS WW1** project.

<http://www.lakefield.gloucs.sch.uk/gloucs/primary/lakefield>

We will be staging a **public exhibition** in the spring of 2016 which pupils will attend with their teachers.

We want to ensure that the **collective heritage of WW1** in relation to the village and people of Frampton on Severn is readily **available for all to access and understand**. We would like the project to be an **enjoyable experience for all participants** and hope that it will **inspire non-villagers to look further into their own family's WW1 heritage**.



Each September, **Frampton Country Fair** attracts **over 14,000** visitors from Gloucestershire and neighbouring counties to celebrate the heritage of our *Living Working Countryside*. Traditionally the yeomen farmers of Gloucestershire enlisted with the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars and their action in the Boer War is often remembered at the Fair during a tent pegging display in the main ring.

As part of the **FRAMPTON REMEMBERS WW1** project, **enactments and static displays** will be staged at Frampton Country Fair in **2015 and 2016** to cover several aspects of the Great War. They will feature the **Army, Navy and Air Force** and also the support staff such as **Nurses**. (Examples shown are from <http://www.thegreatwarsociety.com>.)



Royal Gloucestershire Hussars



Triage



Tank Crew and Machine Gun Corps



Yeomanry Gas Alert

Frampton Country Fair offers a **fantastic opportunity to present the heritage of the Great War to people of all ages in an authentic and interactive way.**

<http://www.framptoncountryfair.co.uk/>

**The project will be delivered by Frampton Remembers World War 1, a not-for-profit organisation formed to record and commemorate the effects of the Great War on the community of Frampton on Severn.**