

## November 11, 1918.

The great news of the Armistice reached Broad Chalke and a signal was given from the belfry. Children sang the National Anthem and a service of praise and thanksgiving was held at 7pm

Walter Dowsett died of Spanish Flu, which killed most of the camp near Mons, while waiting to be demobbed.

J.R.R. Tolkien was demobbed from Fovant as was Sir Anthony Eden. When Eden later bought a cottage, Rose Bower, in Little London (part of Broadchalke) and returned to Fovant, he described it as not the Godforsaken place he had thought in 1918.

## Jan 1919.

Sydney Shergold, Edgar Feltham and George Burnett – P.O.W's and a month later Edwin and Ernest Penny returned home. Sydney Creighton was killed.

**On 17 July** The Peace Day celebrations were held – unfortunately it was very wet, so the procession and sports had to be abandoned. After a well-attended service in the church, an excellent tea was provided in the schoolroom for the children, and in the reading-room for the old age pensioners. The evening was spent dancing to the strains of the Chalke Valley Brass Band. A bonfire blazed brightly on Bury Hill despite the weather. In September the postponed sports day took place. A procession with flags and banners wended its way around the village, led by the band. On its arrival at Mr George Sidford's field, Mrs Jeans presented all the children with a mug as a souvenir of Peace Day. Then followed the sports, dancing and a brilliant display of fireworks.

"Comrades of the Great War" was formed and all ex-servicemen were invited to join.

After the 1914-1918 War many people from the village were employed in dismantling the Army huts. These were bought for re-erection as village halls, cow sheds and surprisingly as long-lasting bungalows. "Greenways" erected by William Weeks was one of them, and remained as a home until 1986.

The railway sleepers that made the steps of the Camp Cinema are still in Green Drove in Fovant. Australia sent 330,000 men of whom 57,000 died in the "Great Cause". 70% of these men were first generation Australians and so most of those who died were claimed by their families for burial in various parts of the country. Others were interred in the local churchyard and there are several Australian graves at Fovant.

The First World War had given the younger generation glimpses of a wider society than the insular existence their forefathers had enjoyed. It is no wonder that many found it difficult to settle within the restricted range of opportunities available in such a small village.

## Those who died in the Great War

William Buckland  
Francis Creighton  
Sidney Creighton  
George Compton  
Walter Compton  
Walter Dowsett  
Fred Emm  
John Emm  
Albert Gurd  
Frederick Foyle

Thomas Jones  
Frank Loader  
Fred Loader  
William Penny  
Harry Read  
Elgar Read  
Herbert Stevens  
Frank Tryhorn  
Filmer Witt