

**Remembrance Weekend**  
**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2016**  
**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November, we held our third commemoration event at Willow Grove Cemetery.



Mayor & Mayoress of Stockport, A. Gwynne MP, Cllr T. Grundy & G. Baines, a bugler with the Lancashire Fusiliers.



Two minutes' silence at the screen wall

See more pictures of the events on our web sites

[www.friendsofstockportcemeteries.co.uk](http://www.friendsofstockportcemeteries.co.uk)

[www.willowgrove.org.uk](http://www.willowgrove.org.uk)

Each year from 2014-2018 we are highlighting the life of persons buried in Willow Grove who died in combat in WW1. This year, it was the story of Jack (John) Horrocks, who died in March 1916 and Sydney Craig, who died in July 1916 in the Battle of the Somme.

**Rifleman John Horrocks**  
**No R/5862**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Bn. King's Royal Rifle Corps**

On the 17<sup>th</sup> October 1914, Jack joined the newly-formed 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion of The Kings Royal Rifle Corps. After his initial training, this battalion went to Belgium in May 1915.

Jack was so badly wounded in December 1915 that amputations of both legs and an arm were necessary; he died of his injuries on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1916, just 14 days before his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

The following week, he was given a funeral with full military honours and his coffin, draped with the Union Jack, was conveyed to Willow Grove on a gun carriage drawn by six horses.

**Lance Corporal Sydney Craig**  
**No 17862**  
**20<sup>th</sup> Bn. Manchester Regiment**

Sydney enlisted with the Manchester Regiment ("Pals") in November 1914 and trained as a machine-gunner. On the first day of the Battle of the Somme he was seriously injured, dying of his wounds on the 9<sup>th</sup> July at the Borough Hospital Cardiff.

At his funeral, held at St Elisabeth's Church, his coffin was draped in a Union Jack.

"The Last Post" was played as he was laid to rest at Willow Grove Cemetery.

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The Lancashire Hussars re-enactment group came along to our 2016 commemoration; this year, they joined the parade on horseback and in authentic WW1 uniform.

In addition to the above we had on display a replica of a MK1 tank, the original of which is thought to have been first used at the battle of Fleurs-Courcellette or Courcellelle (part of the Battle of the Somme) on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1916.

This convincing 2016 replica was made by a team of apprentices at Seta (Stockport Engineering & Training Association) Ltd in Reddish. Seta very kindly funded the project & there was a handover ceremony to FOSC and Reddish Army Cadets at Seta's premises before the commemoration event at the cemetery. The tank is now on display in front of the Army Cadets' headquarters in Reddish.

After the parade, the Mayor made a short speech and some of the visitors took the opportunity to walk Willow Grove's military trail, accompanied by Mike Brewis from 1804 (Four Heaton's) Air Cadets; refreshments were then served at the Cadets' Headquarters.

The Friends of Stockport Cemeteries would like to **THANK** all those at Seta Training & Advisory Services Ltd. who were involved in making the tank and those at A.P.C. (U.K.) Powder Coating Ltd. who painted it.

Thanks also go to all the companies involved with displaying the tank and transporting it to Willow Grove, then on to its final destination.

They are:

P. & P. Mather Ltd. of Edgeley, Stockport, Offerton Sand & Gravel, Stockport, Travis Perkins, Reddish & J.P.M. Engineering Ltd. of Heaton Norris.

Each company gave their services freely. **THANK YOU**

### **Remembrance Sunday**

On Remembrance Sunday at 12.30. a parade led by Belle Vue Brass Band left St. Mary's Church in Reddish to lay wreaths and hold services at the Cenotaph on Reddish Road and the Cross of Sacrifice in Willow Grove.

The band was accompanied by the Police Service, 1804 Air Cadets, SS Hawkins Sea and Marine Cadets, the Reverend Angie Stanton from St Elizabeth's Church with the congregation of St. Mary's Church, representatives of FOSC, local councillors, members of the Royal British Legion and many local people.



**Thank you** to all the stewards, the employees of Stockport Council and everyone else who helped with the parade.

**Thanks** also goes to **FOREVER MANCHESTER** for funding both these events

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## Heritage Lottery Bid

We are now at the final stage of the project.

In June 2016 we reported that we had completed the task of transcribing the monumental inscriptions from Willow Grove and were in the process of preparing the information to be printed and put on disc and we are pleased to say that the books have now been printed. Although the ensuing project to transcribe the associated burial indices was more arduous than we originally anticipated, this work has now also reached completion and the data will be available in printed format and on disc soon.

The book entitled "From Shrouds to Shines", chronicling the history of Willow Grove Cemetery, will be in Stockport Heritage Library, together with a DVD of the complete restoration of the Cemetery's Susannah Bogg monument. Copies will also be going into other libraries in Stockport.

The FOSC would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who was involved in this project, especially the **Heritage Lottery Fund** for its invaluable support, financial and otherwise.

## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Thomas Webb on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Sarah Webb visiting her great grandfather's grave on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death.



## Friends of Weaste Cemetery visit Willow Grove



After their visit, Peter Kilvert invited the FOSC to join him on a tour of Weaste Cemetery during Heritage weekend.



It was an informative, enjoyable couple of hours on a lovely sunny Sunday morning. Thank you Peter.



## Future FOSC meetings

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017  
Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2017  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017  
at 7pm

Offerton Fire Station,  
Lisburne Lane, Offerton  
For further information, contact  
[sheilaarobins@outlook.com](mailto:sheilaarobins@outlook.com)

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## **Bits and Bobs**

### **Brunswick Cemetery**

The FOSC and Reddish Army cadets have arranged more task dates to continue with the work which started in February 2016.

### **Park Road Cemetery**

The main pathway through the centre of the cemetery has recently been refurbished and Stockport Council are investing in improvements to the soft landscaping throughout. This work will include the removal / hard pruning of over mature shrubs and crown lifting of trees, ie pruning back the lower branches to improve sight lines, provide more space for people to walk and improve the perception of safety for visitors to the cemetery.

The Council will also carry out mass planting of one plot on an experimental basis, with the aim of providing an attractive year-round focal point while minimising weed growth and reducing the need for maintenance & associated costs. In addition, the rose beds will be re-planted with fresh species in the spring.

This project will be delivered in partnership with the FOSC and local groups and will provide an opportunity for anyone who would like to come along and get involved in helping to improve this cemetery.

### **Willow Grove Cemetery**

Volunteers from Reddish Community have been instrumental in helping to keep the cemetery looking good by working on Sunday mornings alongside the Community Pay Back team, who planted over 5000 bulbs at Willow Grove during October and November.

## **Centennial Commemoration of the Great War 1914 -1918**

### **Willow Grove Cemetery 4<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

10.00 Stockport Silver Band

10.30. Arrival of Mayor of Stockport

10.40 Arrival of Deputy Lord  
Lieutenant

10.50. Parade  
by serving, ex-service and cadet  
forces

11.00 Last Post – reveille – blessing

Mayor's Speech

11.20 Unveiling of the Commemorative  
Stone

11.30 Military Trail Walk

11.45. Refreshments at the Cadets'  
Headquarters

### **Remembrance Sunday Parade Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

10.30 St Mary's Church Service

12. 30 A parade will be led by  
Belle Vue Brass Band to the Cenotaph  
and on to Willow Grove

12.30 Parade will leave St Mary's  
Church for the Cenotaph

12.50 Service at the Cenotaph

1.00pm Proceed to Willow  
Grove Cemetery

1.05pm Service at the Cross of  
Sacrifice

*Newsletter by: S Robins edited by M Fahey.*