

# The Extraordinary and the Everyday

A Year in the Life of a Rural Community, 1914-5

Newsletter No. 2 September/October 2014

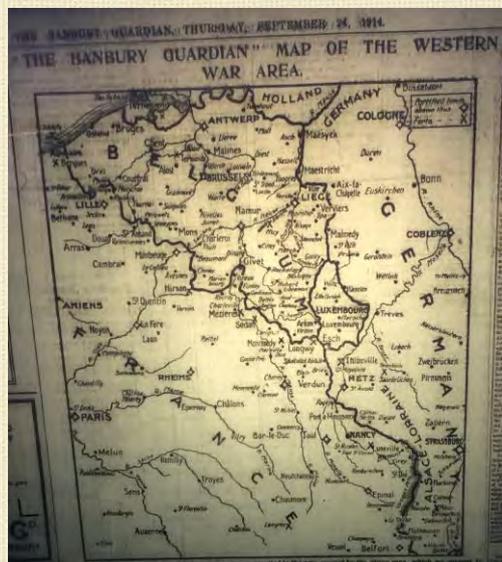


**CORRECTION** The photograph above of William Winthorpe Watts is the father of current resident of Avon Dassett, Reg Watts, and not his grandfather as previously described.

## Project Launch Event at St John the Baptist Church

The official launch of the new History Group Project took place on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2014, almost exactly 100 years after a state of war was declared between Great Britain and Germany in 1914.

The information on display was gathered from a number of sources such as local newspapers and military records and included information on everyday home news items as well as details of the men of Avon Dassett who enlisted.



The information collected from public resources was enhanced by members of the History Group group displaying some of their personal mementos from family members such as photographs, postcards and badges.

The launch event was well attended with visitors from the village and further afield. The exhibition then travelled down to the Dassett Country Show on August 16<sup>th</sup>.

Follow events on our blog: [ww1.avondassett.com](http://ww1.avondassett.com)



## WHAT HAS HAPPENED SO FAR

**On 4<sup>th</sup> August** 1914 Fenny Compton held its Sports and Flower Show. Meanwhile on the same day German troops entered Belgium.

**On 13<sup>th</sup> August** a German subject was brought before Kineton Magistrates charged with begging. Letters from Germany, a passport and map of England were found in his possession.

**The 15<sup>th</sup> August** saw the fall of Liege in the first battle of the war.

**On 16<sup>th</sup> August** Leslie Favley Cooper, son of William and Fanny Cooper, was baptised at St John the Baptist Church.

**On 25<sup>th</sup> August** Walter George Cooper enlisted with The Royal Warwickshire regiment.

**On 2<sup>nd</sup> September** Mrs Perry of Bitham House wrote to the *Times* suggesting that ladies may lend guns to signalmen following an attack at Northchurch. On the same day the French Government leaves Paris for Bordeaux as the German army approaches.

**On 17<sup>th</sup> September** the Warwickshire Yeomanry advertise for Troopers who can ride and have knowledge of fire arms whist at Farnborough hall they advertise for a man to tend the cows..



## MEMENTOS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Many visitors to the launch event talked to us about the mementos and photographs they had of loved ones and distant relatives. For instance, the photograph below is of Private Henry James Haywood, great, great uncle of Steve Mullane. Henry was born in Cleeve Prior in Worcestershire in 1896 and was Steve's Great Grandmother's brother. He joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion the Worcester Regiment at the outbreak of war and was killed in action in France on 10<sup>th</sup> November 1915 aged 18. He is commemorated on the Loos Memorial Nord-de-Calais, France.



If you have any pictures, memorabilia, medals or other artefacts belonging to your family which you would like to share please get in touch with Jill or Sarah. We will photograph the items and add them to our growing collection. Stories of your relatives' war experiences are also welcome.

