

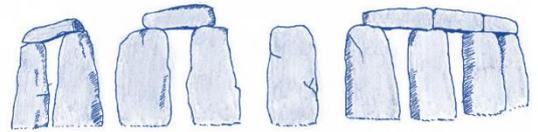


CATENIANS

Circle Website: www.salisburycatenians.org

NEWSLETTER – November 2020

SALISBURY CIRCLE 266



Last year's President's Charities were the Society of Our Lady of Lourdes and the Salisbury Street Pastors. Due to COVID-19 and the sad demise of Brother Jim, presentation of the money raised has been delayed, but on 6th of October, on behalf of Salisbury Circle, Frances Rolleston handed over a cheque for £1,350.00 to Sacha Blanchard for the Society of Our Lady of Lourdes. It is hoped to present the cheque for Jim's other charity, Salisbury Street pastors, soon.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Many of you will know of Brother Joe Falzon's involvement with the The Royal British Legion, and that this year he is their National Vice Chairman. The following is an article he wrote for a local Royal British Legion branch.

On November 7th 1920, in strictest secrecy, four unidentified British bodies were exhumed from temporary battlefield cemeteries at Ypres, Arras, the Asine and the Somme. None of the soldiers who did the digging were told why. The bodies were taken by field ambulance to GHQ at St-Pol-Sur-Ternoise. Once there, the bodies were draped with the Union flag.

Sentries were posted and Brigadier-General Wyatt and Colonel Gell selected one body at random. The other three were reburied. They too are remembered. A French Honour Guard was selected and stood by the coffin overnight of the chosen soldier; can you possibly imagine the privilege, the proximity to the loss, the raw emotion of standing guard to a man who gave his all, and that of his family.

The following day the Unknown Warrior was transferred to the Castle in Boulogne, where it was placed in a specially designed coffin made of oak from the grounds of Hampton Court. On top was placed a crusaders sword and a shield on which was inscribed:

"A British Warrior who fell in the GREAT WAR 1914-1918 for King and Country".

On the 9th of November, the Unknown Warrior was taken by horse-drawn carriage through Guards of Honour and the sound of tolling bells and bugle calls to the quayside. There, he was saluted by Maréchal

Foch and loaded onto HMS Verdun bound for Dover. The coffin stood on the deck covered in wreaths, surrounded by the French Honour Guard.

Upon arrival at Dover, the Unknown Warrior was met with a nineteen-gun salute – something that was normally only reserved for Field Marshals. A special train had been arranged and he was then conveyed to Victoria Station, London. He remained there overnight.

On the morning of the 11th of November, the coffin was placed, by the bearer party from the 3rd Battalion Coldstream Guards, on a gun carriage drawn by six black horses of the Royal Horse Artillery, and finally taken to Westminster Abbey. There he was met by a very special group of women as guests of honour. The guests of honour were a group of about one hundred women, chosen because they had each lost their husband and all their sons in the war. "Every woman so bereft who applied for a place got it".

The idea of the unknown warrior was thought of by a Padre called David Railton who had served on the front line during the Great War. The Union Flag he had used as an altar cloth whilst at the front, was the one that had been draped over the coffin. In 1920 he wrote to the Dean of Westminster – Herbert Edward Ryle, proposing that an unidentified British soldier from the battlefields in France be buried with due ceremony in Westminster Abbey "amongst the kings" to represent the many hundreds of thousands of Empire dead. The idea was strongly supported by the Dean and the Prime Minister, David Lloyd George.

It was his intention that all of the relatives of the 517,773 combatants whose bodies had not been identified and who had no known grave could believe that the Unknown Warrior could very well be their lost husband, father, brother or son.

The coffin was interred in the far western end of the Nave, only a few feet from the entrance, in soil brought from each of the main battlefields and covered with a silk pall. Servicemen from the armed forces, including one hundred who were awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery in the Great War, stood guard as tens of thousands of mourners filed silently past. The ceremony appears to have served as a form of catharsis for collective mourning on a scale not previously known.

The grave was then capped with a black Belgian marble stone (the only tombstone in the Abbey on which it is forbidden to walk) featuring the inscription below, composed by Herbert Edward Ryle, engraved with brass from melted down wartime ammunition.



BENEATH THIS STONE RESTS THE BODY
OF A BRITISH WARRIOR
UNKNOWN BY RANK OR NAME
BROUGHT FROM FRANCE TO LIE AMONG
THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS OF THE LAND
AND BURIED HERE ON ARMISTICE DAY
11 NOV: 1920. IN THE PRESENCE OF
HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE V
HIS MINISTERS OF STATE
THE CHIEFS OF HIS FORCES
AND A VAST CONCOURSE OF THE NATION

THUS ARE COMMEMORATED THE MANY
MULTITUDES WHO DURING THE GREAT
WAR OF 1914 – 1918 GAVE THE MOST THAT
MAN CAN GIVE LIFE ITSELF
FOR GOD
FOR KING AND COUNTRY
FOR LOVED ONES HOME AND EMPIRE
FOR THE SACRED CAUSE OF JUSTICE AND
THE FREEDOM OF THE WORLD

THEY BURIED HIM AMONG THE KINGS BECAUSE HE
HAD DONE GOOD TOWARD GOD AND TOWARD
HIS HOUSE

Around the main inscription are four quotations from the New Testament:

THE LORD KNOWETH THEM THAT ARE HIS (top;)
UNKNOWN AND YET WELL KNOWN, DYING AND BEHOLD WE LIVE (right side;)
GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS (left side;)
IN CHRIST SHALL ALL BE MADE ALIVE (base;)

THIS is the reason we wear poppies.

Remembrance: simple remembrance. Not to glorify war, but to remember its human cost. The cost of suffering and sacrifice.

We remember – with humility – the great and the ultimate sacrifices that were made, not just in this war, but in every war and conflict where service personnel have fought – to ensure the liberty and freedoms that we now enjoy (and is perhaps taken for granted by some).

Every year, on the 11th of November, we remember the Unknown Warrior.

At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them.

To see the full story go to: <https://youtu.be/cvOI4RPe8v0>

Contextual After notes:

1. Remember that these momentous events happened only 6-7 months after the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918 – 1920 was declared over in the UK.

2. Three years later, on 26th April 1923, Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon – later known as Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother – established the royal wedding tradition when she laid her wedding bouquet at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior. The offering of her bouquet was in memory of her brother Fergus, who died at the Battle of Loos in 1915, as well as to honour the millions of others who had died in World War One.

Circle Diary		Contact
Tues 10 th Nov	Council meeting, Video Conference 7:15pm for 7:30pm	Secretary
Thurs 26 th Nov	Circle meeting, Joint meeting with San Pawl Malta , Video Conference 6:15pm for 6:30pm	Secretary
Tues 12 th Jan 2021	Council meeting, Video Conference 7:15pm for 7:30pm	Secretary
Thurs 28 th Jan	Circle meeting, Video Conference 7:15pm for 7:30pm	Secretary
Looking Ahead		
March 2022	Salisbury Circle 50 th Anniversary Celebration	

Please note the earlier time for the November Circle Meeting

For details of Virtual Circle meetings throughout the Association, log in to the members area of the Catenian Website and then go to the “Virtual Circle Meeting Register”, where you will find dates, times and contact details if you wish to attend.

 Anniversaries and Birthdays in November 	
Enrolment:	24th Kevin Lynn (15 years), 25th Steven Fletcher (21 years), 28th Dominic Butler (5 years), 28th John Caniogo (5 years)
Birthday:	Ian Simpson, Dave Blake, John Say, Allan Trowbridge
Ladies Birthday:	Liesel Butler, Heidi Lynn
Wedding Anniversary:	Sam & Mandy Camisa, Albert & Michelle Rhodes, Allan & Pam Trowbridge

Please remember especially in your prayers

Tony Broughton
 Michael & Mary Cairns
 John & Christine Edwards
 John Say
 Charles & Dorothea Sultana de Maria
 Madelaine Sadler
 Ken McNally

 Cath Kiamtia (widow)

Brothers are reminded that photographs may be taken at our Circle functions for inclusion in the Newsletter and our website, unless an objection has been notified. Please advise any of your visitors accordingly.

Don't forget your tickets for the Salisbury Swindle

As his charity for this year our President Adrian Holloway has nominated the
Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI).

Due to COVID restrictions the format is different from previously. The sheet of numbers is available to view on the Salisbury Catenians web page. Brothers can select their numbers and pay either by bank transfer or cheque. Each square selected costs only £2. You can change your numbers at any time by notifying the Treasurer. The monthly prize will be a £20 Marks & Spencer voucher. As ever your generosity is much appreciated. The draw takes place live during the Video meetings.

October's winner was Kevin Lynn.

Officers 2020 - 2021			
President	Adrian Holloway	Vice President	<i>Vacant this year</i>
Imm. Past President	Jim Rolleston RIP	Provincial Councillor	Joe Falzon
Secretary	Chris Burnell	Treasurer	Allan Trowbridge
Membership Officer	<i>Vacant</i>	Chamberlain	Kevin Lynn
Presidents Marshall	Dominic Butler	Registrar	David Gillen
Welfare Officer	John Detain	Charities Officer	Phil Jones
Press & Publicity	Dave Blake	Employment & Careers	Sam Camisa
Dining Secretary	David Morehead	Benevolent Board Chairman	David Morehead
Schools Liaison	Michael Presley	Newsletter & Website	Richard Verrian