



News and events

- As many of you will know, the District Council has ordered work to stop on **The Old Bakery** because of a suspected breach of the planning laws relating to listed buildings. The Council has engaged Archaeological Solutions Ltd to research the history of the building and they have been in touch with the Society to ask for any information we may have.
- **Next meeting:** Our next meeting is the Christmas party on 19 December. This is your opportunity to show us an object of historical interest and explain its background. As usual, we will also enjoy a fish-and-chip supper. Ruth will send an email asking for your order.

Notes and queries

The Great War exhibition at the Memorial Hall over the Armistice weekend was a great success; over 1200 people attended, many spending an hour or more looking around. Feedback was very positive and the researchers received a great deal of valuable information to add to the project database. Visitors had come from as far afield as Wales, Leeds, Oxford and Chelmsford, such was the interest in family history.

A high point of the exhibition was that the researchers had managed to identify more than 340



men and one woman from Wheathampstead who had served in the war. This included the 72 men who died who had already been identified in Margaret and Terry Pankhurst's book '*Details of the Fallen.*' This new analysis revealed many fascinating facts such as the average age when men were enlisted or called up, the work background of the men, and which were the most popular regiments to join.

Sandra Wood, the project co-ordinator, would like to thank everybody who contributed to the event including the Wheathampstead Library for their display of books, the WI for providing tea and cake, the Wheathampstead Flower Club for the floral arrangements, and the Clover Singing Club

who gave a magnificent rendition of Great War songs on Sunday afternoon.



Sandra emphasises that the exhibition was not the end of the project, which is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. "We are only one third of the way there" she says, "we wanted to use the exhibition to widen the project and to encourage



local people to contribute their family stories. We are hoping that people who attended the exhibition

or read our *Remembrance and Hope* special edition of *The Pump* will get in touch."

We offer our grateful thanks to Sandra Wood, Mike Smith and all the volunteers who helped to make the exhibition such a success.