



### Public Consultation on adding Names to our War Memorial

A working party consisting of Councillors (the Town Council being official custodian) and local people has been coordinating events to commemorate the 1914 – 1918 War.

Part of the climax to these events - **focusing very much on the local loss of life** – is to review the accuracy of the names displayed on the Town's War Memorial at the Cross and to add names of any inadvertently omitted at the time. The Historical Society book, *Noble Band of Heroes*, reveals the biographies of all the people behind the names but, in researching it, we realised that there were omissions.

Few records have survived revealing how decisions were made - but the process was clear. We are replicating that by **firstly** consulting the public. Once we have received

responses, we shall **secondly** present the proposed names to the Town Council.

The War Memorials Trust presents challenging criteria for inclusion:

1. **People in military service within defined periods:** Tewkesbury, however, took more time and so we are following practice at the time – 4 August 1914 to 31 December 1925 and 3 September 1939 to 28 February 1955;
2. **People who died after 1918 and 1945**, but in the defined periods above, of wounds or illness attributed to war service. **However, this link has to be proven.**
3. Certain **civilian roles** can be included e.g. VAD and Home Guard
4. They had been a **citizen of the Parish of Tewkesbury** and not commemorated on official Memorials in other parishes.

Accordingly we propose adding the following names:

**WWI: Pte. Frederick Green:** killed in 1918 but whose body was not discovered until 1925; **'Worker' Kathleen Sollis:** died in the influenza pandemic while in service at Tredington Isolation Hospital; **Pte. F. W. Taylor:** died of 'flu whilst serving in Bristol (lived in Newtown which was then Ashchurch but not commemorated on its memorial). In recent research, we have discovered two men unknown in 1925: **Pte. A. E. Fletcher**, who disappeared in battle in Gallipoli on 8 August 1915 and **Pte. F.G. Green**, killed in 1916 but whose next of kin, a Tewkesbury girl, had married and moved to Winchcombe (where he is not commemorated). Also possible is **Gunner Henry Knight** who died of illness in 1920. He was not a native but is buried in the Town, where his wider family lived.

**WWII: Homeguard Sgt. Arthur Hanlon**, blown up by a faulty shell at Healings Mill during practice; **Pte. John C. Cash**, a POW camp guard in Scotland, who was killed in a motor cycle accident whilst off duty. In service but off duty causes problems – thus we feel that we ought to consider **Pte. Collet** and **Sapper W E Portlock**, killed and died respectively whilst home on leave.

We would like to hear from the public on these cases - and any others it feels were omitted. Detailed supporting information can be found on [www.ths.freeuk.com](http://www.ths.freeuk.com) (with a paper copy at the Town Hall). **The deadline is 30 April 2017** so please contact me on [johnhistory46@btinternet.com](mailto:johnhistory46@btinternet.com) or write to me c/o the Town Clerk.

*John Dixon*



**Attached consultation papers**

0. Amended Report to Town Council Working Party 14-2-2017
1. Preliminary list of names possibly to be added
2. Anomaly report
3. Advice from Cheltenham Historian used for its recent update of names
4. Death Certificates for verification Dr A Crowther 02-17
5. draft biographies of two newly discovered Tewkesbury men from WWI