started with *A Shropshire Lad*. Then after the interval a series of newspaper articles, poems and prose were read out by Ticknall residents intermingled with songs. We all had a lovely evening and felt it had paid tribute to the men and women who had ensured our freedom. And we felt their presence and absence through transparent silhouettes sitting in the audience. It gave us a tangible demonstration of those who had been part of our communities, but for a century only with us in thought and spirit.

We finished off the commemorations with an excellent talk by Tim Picken on the impact of World War 1 on British society. This was really interesting as not only did he show how the war impacted on ordinary people as well as international relations, but also how the actions of the allies and the central powers before the war developed into war.

Many people helped to make these events successful, enjoyable and memorable. Their contributions ranged from donating soup and cakes, spending time serving these and other refreshments at all events, erecting poppy displays on lampposts and in the churchyard, to reading at the concert, plus all of the hours of organising and co-ordinating behind the scenes. Ticknall Remembers, and also looks forward.
A bursary offered by Ticknall Parish Council was the starting point for a series of initiatives in Ticknall to commemorate the centenary of the Armistice ending World War 1. The Parish Council reviewed the proposals and approved the range of activities suggested.

A core group of villagers set out to provide a focus for the community to show our remembrance in a variety of ways. The aim was to honour not only the men who did not return from the war but also those who did return; some managed to live full lives, but some died from their wounds and are not recorded on any war memorial. We also wished to explore the legacy of the Great War for families, our local community and the wider effects.

A WEEKEND OF EVENTS

We started with participating in the British Legion initiative to display poppies throughout communities – a large poppy could be seen on each of the lamp posts in the village and at other key places. Further displays were seen in the evocative flower arrangements in St George’s Church and on the arrangement of felt poppies in the churchyard.

During the weekend of November 9 – 11 events included an exhibition in the Village Hall seen and described here and visited by over 300 villagers and visitors to the village. The families who had lost relatives in the war, both from Ticknall and elsewhere, were generous in supplying lots of material. On the evening of Friday, 9th November we held a concert and on Saturday a lecture, followed by remembrance church services on the Sunday and the striking of the newly restored clock at St George’s.

Wreaths were laid at the memorial window in the church and at The Menin Gate in Ypres on behalf of the people of Ticknall.

As the exhibition in 2014 commemorating the beginning of the war had proved so interesting and popular, we decided to stage another one. Its themes would be a development of that original exhibition. We felt that we could do this by researching the lives of the Ticknall men who returned. We also realised that current Ticknall residents would like to share their family memories. We know that World War1 changed the world for ever, but how did it change Ticknall? Amongst the many subjects we explored were philanthropy, modernisation, recreation, suffrage, war memorials, widows’ pensions, industrial unrest, medical improvements and the British Legion.

MONEY RAISED

Home-made refreshments were served throughout both days. Visitors to the village also enjoyed these and voiced their appreciation of our hospitality and the exhibition.

Donation boxes for Blind Veterans UK received over £200. This was a direct connection with Ticknall after World War 1 when Christmas collections were made for St Dunstan’s, which was the original name of Blind Veterans UK. Money collected…