

Doug Jones, Paul Turrell, Lynette Watson and colleagues, **Buriton and the First World War: Through Local Eyes**, Buriton Village Association, 2019, pp.196 (not for sale)

This impressive publication serves as an example of what can be achieved through communal effort at local level. As Doug Jones, the Project Co-ordinator, puts it in his Introduction: 'The book marks the culmination of a four year project – a ... commemoration of the First World War which has provided the community with opportunities to reflect upon the experiences of those who lived, fought and died during the conflict and to forge new connections with our past.' The material, from a wide variety of sources, is organised in quarter years, with sections devoted to life on the home front and to the theatres of war in which men from Buriton were involved, from the Western Front to the Middle East and from Mesopotamia to India. In addition, there are specialist sections devoted to such topics as the trenches; the Gallipoli Campaign; the night a Zeppelin flew over Buriton; the Army Postal Service; Prisoners of War and many more. Throughout, the local perspective is interwoven with broader narratives of a War which affected everyone, both individually and collectively. As well as including moving written testimonies, in the form of extracts from diaries, letters and poems, and newspaper articles, the book is profusely illustrated with images from local sources and the Imperial War Museum. Overall, it is a poignant tribute to the sacrifices made by the residents of Buriton during the First World War. Thanks to charitable donations and other income, every household in the village has been presented with a free copy.

Note: Although this book is not available for purchase, copies have been deposited for reference purposes with the Hampshire Record Office and the Hampshire Regimental Museum Library. In due course, it should also be possible to borrow one from the Hampshire Library Service.

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