

## HERITAGE TRAIL

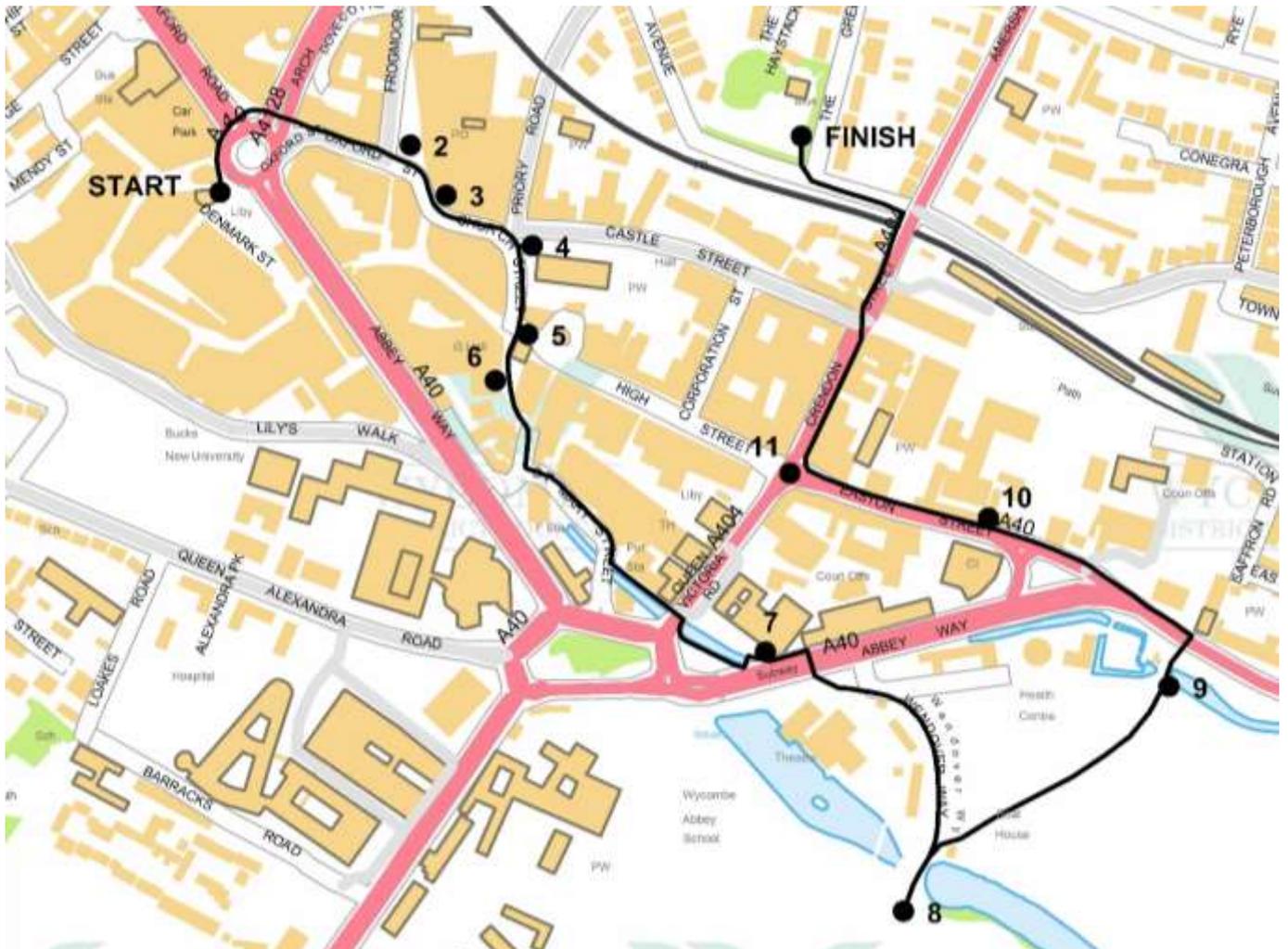
### Welcome to the World War 1 Heritage Trail

This guide gives you a full transcript of the trail and will allow you to follow the route without using a smart phone.

On the trail, you will hear from our soldier guide John, local tailor Mr William Peace, a well-to-do lady visitor, a local factory worker and a Wycombe High School pupil. They will tell you about life in the town during the war.

Included also, are some additional background notes and links to websites which contain further information relevant to the period in history.

The route starts at the Library in the town centre and finishes at the museum where you can enjoy refreshments in the café.



## START - Tourist Information Office

### John:

Hello and welcome!

I suppose I should start by introducing myself! I'm John and I'm here to guide you on your tour around my home town, High Wycombe. I was born not far from this spot in 1897, the year of Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee. Mother used to say the flags were out and the whole town was celebrating but she was stuck at home with me.

The town was well known for producing furniture and there were plenty of factories here in the 1900s, but you might not know so much about life here during the Great War.

When war broke out in 1914, I wasn't keen to sign up right away. Some of my friends were already in the Territorials – they were at their summer camp when they got their first marching orders early in the morning. Of course, the reservists were soon off to join their regiments, too. I stayed behind, resisting the first calls to action, but not for long. The army recruitment officer promised adventure, so I joined the Ox and Bucks Light Infantry as did many from round here.

Today I am going to tell you about what life was like in High Wycombe during the Great War. The town was busy with soldiers and their horses coming and going. Over 5000 local men went off to fight in the war.

It's difficult to get my bearings in this part of the town now, so much has changed but if we can find the railway viaduct that will help. Let's head along here to the right until we can clearly see the viaduct and Frogmoor.

### Additional background information:

Where the tourist office and Eden Centre are now was dense housing at the turn of the twentieth century. The whole area was known as Newlands. On a plan of the Eden Shopping centre today, some of the names of the old streets have been preserved. Our soldier, John, could have attended school in Priory Road. He could have attended church and Sunday school at St John's which was a relatively new mission church at that time to cope with the population explosion in that area. The church building was never completed – the architect intended it to have a tower!

You can find further information on territorials and reservists here <http://www.1914-1918.net/reserve.htm>

## 2 Frogmoor

### John:

So, this is Frogmoor – or Frogmoor Gardens as it was known in my time! There weren't many cars around back then, more horses and carts. I can see a few old buildings are still here, but where's the fountain? So many streets and buildings have changed since I was last here: I remember the Gardens busy with troops, here to make the most of some time off.

The building over by the viaduct with the clock tower - that used to be the Technical and Arts School, but before the Great War started part of it had already become the public swimming baths, quite a change! Soldiers were allocated a time when their regiment could use the baths and it was very popular!

Over here on the Oxford Road side, you would have seen the Electroscope theatre with its 900 seats. Can you imagine this place with hardly any cars, the fountain and 100s of troops enjoying their leisure time?

Whilst we are here, can you see the sign for Mr Popp's shop – it's up on the wall where his shop was.

Jacob Popp was quite a local character. He had many run-ins with the authorities as he wanted to open his shop on Sundays which, in those days, was not allowed! He paid many fines and once, rather cheekily, asked if he could go in the town stocks rather than pay his fine! When the war started in 1914, we were all surprised when Popp became a Special Constable – Section Sergeant of the Central Section, no less, responsible for Law and Order in this area!

If we walk down Church Street towards the Church, we can already see our next destination.

### Additional background information:

The fountain used to be a rallying point - for prayers and church parades, for union meetings and demonstrations, or just meeting up. The preacher, John Wesley, came here which inspired Hannah Ball to found the first Sunday School. The suffragettes came here before the war too, attracting large crowds who did not always behave themselves, throwing eggs and rotten tomatoes at the women.

Although there were many active suffragists in High Wycombe, there was not the same support for the suffragettes who advocated breaking the law to achieve their ends. There were also active anti-suffragist supporters in the area. Our narrator who was a teenager is likely to remember the hostile reception which the suffragettes received.

The Citadel replaced Frogmore House which was one of the buildings used by Wycombe High School before they moved to Benjamin Road. It was built in 1909

Soldiers stationed in town who did not want to swim or visit the theatre, could visit the Church of England Men's Society (CEMS) rooms where they could go to hang out, play whist or write letters home. CEMS began in York and spread all over the country. Male members of the Church of England could join on payment of a small subscription. They undertook to pray daily and to do something to help forward the work of the church. In High Wycombe during the war they regularly advertised their whist drives for soldiers and the availability of quiet rooms upstairs.

Towards the end of the war there was a food distribution point here too for meals cooked in the National Kitchen. The premises of the Argentine Meat Company, right alongside the Electroscope, were used. It was more economical to cook in big quantities and then distribute the meals ready-cooked so they were cooked each morning and brought here for distribution. The National Kitchen scheme provided a kind of forerunner of ready-meals.

Jacob Popp was the subject of many articles and news items. This link gives further information about him

[http://postcardcollecting.co.uk/ppm\\_online/ppm\\_09\\_dec.pdf](http://postcardcollecting.co.uk/ppm_online/ppm_09_dec.pdf)

The Technical and Arts School later became the John Hampden Grammar School <http://www.jhgs.bucks.sch.uk/123/history>

The school set up a scheme to train disabled war veterans to give them a future career after being deemed unfit to be part of the army. The school still has a set of lockers made by war veterans.

### 3 Hen and Chickens

**John:**

There are so many changes at street level, but if you keep looking up, there are still clues of what used to be here in my time and before. See here beneath the gabled roofs, “the Hen and Chickens” written underneath rebuilt in 1888 according to the legend. If you look at the left hand side of the roof, you will see the word ‘Peace’ which was the name of the tailor business who had their shop here.

Peace & Jones supplied uniforms for soldiers – let’s meet William, one of the tailors

**William Peace - Tailor:**

Hello, my name is William Peace. I was too old to join the army when Kitchener appealed to the nation. The maximum age was 38 and I was already 49. I may not have gone to fight in the war, with all the other fit and ready men, but I’m still proudly serving my country. Business has never been this good; I’ve had to call in for some extra help. My two hands alone cannot keep up with the demand!

**John:**

Popp and Peace weren’t the only memorable shopkeepers of that time. Also in this area was one of the shops belonging to Mr Cox, an ex-mayor of High Wycombe. He had a tobacconist shop in Church Street where local residents could buy tobacco to send out to the troops on the front line – a very welcome gift!

Walk with me now to the church yard

**Additional background information:**

At the start of the war in 1914, Lord Kitchener, the Secretary of State for War, realised that Britain needed a bigger army. By making a direct appeal to the men of Britain, he created a new volunteer army, which became known as 'Kitchener's Army'. Posters that showed him pointing his finger at passers-by with the words 'Your Country Needs You' inspired men to join up and they queued outside recruitment offices all over Britain to join the army.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/0/ww1/25237878>

Mr Cox was the Mayor in 1911, the year of George V’s coronation. He was very popular in the town and had a dream of making a playground for children on the Rye which he realised after the war.

## 4 War Memorial

**John:**

With so many not returning after the war, families needed somewhere to go at home to remember the fallen. You'll see memorials like this all over the country. In 1919 The King started the national tradition of holding a two minute silence at 11 o'clock on Armistice day, 11<sup>th</sup> November – the anniversary of the end of the Great War. A few years' later the first silk poppies were made as a symbol of commemoration. They became a part of an annual tradition including the laying of wreaths to the fallen.

One local man, Frederick Youens earned the highest award for bravery: the Victoria Cross. Can you find the commemorative stone that bears his name?

There are several individual memorials inside the Parish Church of All Saints and if the church is open go inside and have a look around.

Once you have seen everything here, we are going to have a look at a very important building - the Guildhall

**Additional background information:**

The King during World War 1 was George V

Frederick Youens was born in High Wycombe, the son of basket maker Vincent Youens and Elizabeth (nee Russell). He won a scholarship to the Royal Grammar School and went on to work as a school master in Rochester, Kent, before the outbreak of war.

He enlisted in August 1914 and was wounded in the Battle of Loos in 1915. He returned to the front, and, in July 1917, whilst at Ypres, was wounded by an enemy bomb which exploded as he was trying to throw it away from his men. He later succumbed to his injuries. For this action, which saved several of his men's lives, he was awarded the VC. The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death was commemorated with the laying of a paving stone at the war memorial at All Saints Church in High Wycombe town centre. Further memorials can be seen inside the church and also at St Andrews in Hatter Lane.

## 5 Guildhall

**John:**

Hopefully, you can now see the Guildhall.

This really was a hive of activity – they held special tribunal sessions here throughout the war to consider appeals by people who wanted to claim exemption from conscription from war service. Sometimes employers would appeal for their employees to be able to stay at work, especially those with special skills

With many fathers away in the war, some mothers found life and control of their children difficult. They held Children's Courts here at the Guildhall. Children who committed crimes such as theft could be sent away to reformatory schools or could be sentenced to receive "five strokes of the birch". Imagine how those children would feel in court, being told off and knowing that they were going to get 5 strokes of the birch!

Have a look round and I'll meet you again between the Guildhall and the Eden Centre

## 6 Stained Glass Window

### John:

Now look up at the Guildhall – you'll need to have your back to the Eden Centre – and you will see a stained glass window.

This doesn't look wonderful from the outside in daytime but it is a very special Memorial which honours all the local servicemen who went away to war and returned alive. It was Charles Raffety's idea. He was an elderly man – some called him the Grand Old Man of High Wycombe – he was always doing things for the town! Anyway, this window isn't just for those who were in the army – it also includes the Navy and Merchant Navy – and there are lots of other details. My regiment's badge is up there near the top left: see the bugle of the Ox and Bucks - but it's only one of many that local people served in.

One family in Wycombe had all 8 sons return from the war. They received a letter from the King thanking the boys for their efforts – quite amazing as so many families lost all their men.

Follow the road round the corner in front of the Swan Theatre. Follow the river past the Police Station and cross Queen Victoria Road.

Before you cross Queen Victoria Road imagine what it would have looked like with soldiers and horses instead of cars.

### Additional background information:

Conscription refers to the process of automatically calling up men (and later, women) for military service. During the WW1 men who were conscripted into the armed forces had no choice but to go and fight, even if they did not want to. WW1 conscription ended in 1919

<http://ww1facts.net/people/conscription/>

During WW1, Britain depended on cargo ships to import food and raw materials, as well as to transport soldiers overseas, and keep them supplied. After the war, King George V granted the title 'Merchant Navy' to recognise the contribution made by merchant sailors. Britain's merchant fleet was the largest in the world during both world wars. By the end of the First World War, more than 3,000 British flagged merchant and fishing vessels had been sunk and nearly 15,000 merchant seamen had died.

At the start of WW1, Britain had the biggest navy in the world. The Royal Navy had hundreds of ships and more than 200,000 sailors. The Navy played an important role during World War One. It protected the British Isles and its colonies and was also used to blockade the ports of enemy countries to try and stop supplies of food and other materials getting in. The Royal Navy Air Service started in 1914 and the first specially-built aircraft carrier HMS Argus was launched in 1918.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/0/ww1/26280177>

Children's Courts and Tribunals were regularly reported in the local papers.

One tribunal case concerns an appeal that the "porter at the Saunderton workhouse should be exempt from war service". One of his tasks was to bath vagrants and it was said that the vagrants would not be bathed if he went to war! The Saunderton workhouse served the whole of the Wycombe Union district which was approximately the same as Wycombe District today. For most of the war there were approx. 200 inmates. If any of them appeared eligible for military service they would be referred to the recruiting office, so it tended to be the sick and old who remained. Towards the end of 1917 the workhouse was taken over by the military and the inmates transferred to other places. It never reopened after the war.

The Guildhall was also where the Board of Guardians met. They managed the Workhouse at Saunderton and the Poor Law School at Bledlow. Some of these were pacifists but mostly they were people who were needed at home or at work either to look after elderly relatives or to keep businesses going.

The Guildhall window was made up in London in the studios of the late Arthur Dix. The same studio did the windows in the Red Room (now called Oak Room) in the town hall in 1911 when Arthur Dix was still alive. The Territorials formed the Bucks Battalion -their symbol is up the top right, and you can see the Red Cross symbol bottom left. Charles Raffety was a thoughtful man who tried to remember everyone.

Towards the end of the war, Mr Raffety was one of the few people who realised how hard men and women had been working in the Postal services so he threw a big party for them all. He tried to do it anonymously but word got out.

## 7 Queen Victoria Road:

### John:

What a lovely garden this is! Lovely to see the river – it certainly smells better than it used to! You can see the university from here and, if the leaves on the trees aren't too green, the hospital. Behind the hospital, you might be able to see Tom Burt's Hill. I used to climb up there often as a child and at the beginning of the war. You get a good view of the town from the hill – you could see some of the furniture factories that Wycombe was so famous for. The hospital's huge now! Much bigger than in my day.

In wartime looking down from the hill you'd see the barracks of course but they'd be lost in a sea of canvas, as there were army tents everywhere.

Loakes Park at the bottom of the hill was the Royal Field Artillery camp and this was the centre of their artillery training. They were billeted in High Wycombe at the start of war. The 14<sup>th</sup> Durham Light Infantry and the 13<sup>th</sup> Rifle Brigade were also in the town. I had thought that life at home would carry on as usual, but the whole town changed so rapidly.

Wycombe Abbey School, across the road from here, used to be the home of the Carrington family. They had already moved up the hill to Daws Hill House when the school opened just before I was born. I heard that the schoolgirls were really busy during the war. Let's meet someone who can tell us a bit more.....

### Lady visitor:

The girls at Wycombe Abbey School do a lot for the war effort. They have raised funds for two ambulances to help the Red Cross and now they are busy knitting lots of "mufflers, socks and helmets" for the troops in Boulogne. They're organising a big concert soon for the soldiers from the VAD hospitals in Cliveden and Wycombe. The girls' choir is really very good since their teacher and choirmaster, Gustav von Holst, works them very hard. He composes things especially for them to sing.

Of course, Lady Carrington and Mrs Disraeli both work very hard for the Red Cross too – their appeals for money for the Red Cross helped buy three motor launches – did you know that one of the motor launches has been named the Wycombe Swan because the funds were raised here. It's now out in Mesopotamia helping save lives by ferrying the injured along the river Tigris.

Your soldier friend is waiting for you in the park, follow this road to meet him

### Additional background information:

Loakes Park was the Royal Field Artillery camp – the 21<sup>st</sup> Division was one of the first created in response to Kitchener's appeal and this was the centre of their artillery training.

Viscount Wendover was a child aged 4 when he and his family moved to Daws Hill House. The estate was divided to create the school.

The first headmistress of the school, Miss Dove, was a formidable lady, a pioneer in girls' education, and very well-known about the town, long after she retired as headmistress. Not everyone approved of her. She became a Borough Councillor and stood to become the Mayor of the town but was prevented from taking office because she was a woman. She was a suffragist and encouraged the girls to make the most of their lives. She had to wait till long after the war before her contribution was recognised and she became a Dame.

The manner in which Miss Dove was prevented from taking office as Mayor provoked debate nationally and internationally. During the war there was already a new headmistress here, Miss Whitelaw. She was keen for the girls to have a chapel at the school, but funds could not be found so in the meantime the girls attended services at All Saints' Parish Church in town. Gustav Holst taught at the school from 1912 to 1917 and, on Wednesday afternoons he directed the choir at the school. He was quite a recognisable figure and of course he became famous as a composer of the Planets in particular after the war. He was also teaching at other schools at that time. He changed his name to eliminate the "von" at the end of the war.

Both Lady Carrington and Mrs Disraeli were honoured after the war for their contributions to the Red Cross.

## 8 War Office railings:

**John:**

Well now, this has changed a little since the war. These gates look brand new – but they're like the old ones that used to be down at the entrance to Daws Hill Park – and it looks like they kept the old railings.

A lot of this land, including the stretch of water used to be inside Daws Hill Park and was separate from the Rye. His lordship gave the land to the Town a few years after the war in memory of his son, Viscount Wendover, who died after being mortally wounded at Ypres. That's why the path you're on is called Wendover Way.

The Carringtons offered their grounds here in Daws Hill Park to be used in whatever manner the mayor saw fit to help the war effort, and with the town playing host to thousands of soldiers, there was another large military camp here.

Turn around now and walk back across the Rye towards Pann Mill

**Additional background information:**

On the same day that Lord Carrington gave the land to the town, Major Coningsby Disraeli formally handed Rye Mead "back" to the town, too. There were some who said it should always have belonged to the town as it had been common pasture land for the burgesses of the borough since time immemorial. Major Coningsby served in the Royal Bucks Hussars around the time of the Boer War but never saw service abroad.

## 9 By the Mill

### **John:**

The Rye hasn't changed much – it was waterlogged for a lot of the time in the war and not quite as flat as it seems now. The houses that you can see all along the London Road, many of them are quite huge - well they got used for all sorts of things during the war. One house, up at the far end of the Rye was the headquarters of the Wycombe Aircraft Construction company.

A lot of the chair factories were just up behind the houses. Some of them changed to making munitions and other war supplies. But, towards the end of the war, they started making airplane parts. It made sense to use the skills of the chairmakers as the airplanes were all made of wood. There was great excitement one day in April 1918 when Captain Hucks gave a flying demonstration in his DH9 airplane – he flew right over the town! Remember Mr Cox, the tobacconist and hairdresser? He was one of the lucky people given a chance of a seat for a flight.

This chap looks like he worked in one of the factories, let's hear what he has to say ...

### **Factory worker:**

Well, I suppose I was lucky I didn't have to go to war. I would have joined the army soon enough but I failed the medical examination. Couldn't breathe well enough, they said. Well, a lot of us in the factory had problems with our lungs what with all the sawdust we were breathing in every day not to mention the varnishes and paint. I joined the local Volunteer Training Corps just the same so I would have done my bit if there had been an invasion. Later on in the war, when conscription came into force, it didn't seem to matter any longer that I wasn't fit, I had to register and I got papers calling me up but my boss went off to the tribunal and argued that he needed me. We were already doing war work by then and he got my enrolment delayed for a few months, just long enough for him to find a substitute, they said. Then the factory started making airplane parts and now my skills are needed. I think I'll be at home for the rest of the war.

Cross the road and head back in to the town to meet your soldier friend

### **Additional background information:**

Details of flying demonstration by Captain Hucks can be found in the book "High Wycombe's Contribution to Aviation" by David Scott and Ian Simmons. The visit had been arranged by Mr Holt Thomas.

The Wycombe furniture factories were also making the furniture required for furnishing army barracks etc. So they needed a workforce capable of meeting this demand. Requests for exemption for their employees (particularly for skilled men who could oversee the process) were made throughout the war and their arguments were heard at regular tribunals or hearings. Many chair makers left the town to work on aircraft manufacture nearer to London. This drained the local workforce of much needed labour so that not only could the Wycombe factories not complete orders of a domestic nature (risking orders going abroad) but they couldn't complete the orders requested by the military - for furniture, munitions boxes, gas rattles etc.

The Volunteer Training Corps was the Great War equivalent of the Home Guard (or Dad's Army). Once conscription came in, others were directed to join this.

## 10 Boys Grammar school

### John:

So, this building was a Boys' school at the start of the war – The Royal Grammar School, no less. 325 RGS Old Boys and Masters served in the forces during the Great War. 39 lost their lives

Despite the war, new school buildings were completed on top of Amersham Hill and the boys moved up the hill in 1915. This building would not remain vacant for very long but the next occupants would be girls. We heard about the Wycombe Abbey girls earlier. What else did local girls get up to during the war? Let's hear from one of the Wycombe High School pupils....

### Pupil from Wycombe High School

We are lucky to have this building. Soon after the war started, our school buildings in Benjamin Road were requisitioned for temporary use as a VAD hospital. Everything was done in a hurry. Our headmistress, Miss Christie, was given 24 hours notice to vacate the premises and we all had to help carry books and equipment to two houses on the London Road: Oxcroft House and Bedford House. It was chaotic.

A year later, when our buildings were again needed as a VAD hospital, we moved here, into the old Grammar School building. Many of us now help out at the VAD hospital. We do six-hour shifts and our school hours have been adjusted so we can do this. It's nice to see some of the patients getting better. We have even had a couple of exciting hockey matches in the cricket club grounds in February 1917. Other pupils help with growing vegetables and maintaining the gardens of those who have gone to war.

### John:

Now we are heading for the station. Look out as you go along for the old post office – above the door you'll see the Royal Crest with the lion and the unicorn. Keep walking and turn right up Crendon Street. As you go up Crendon Street, try to imagine a narrow lane – the horses used to find the going really tough on that hill. The Soldiers' club was somewhere here on Crendon Street but there's nothing left now. A lot of local women were involved in the war effort here, helping with the Belgian Refugee Workroom and Prisoners of War Clothing Committee

### Additional background information:

The Voluntary Aid Detachment system was founded in 1909 with the help of the Red Cross and Order of St. John. By the summer of 1914 there were over 2,500 VADS in Britain. Of the 74,000 VAD members in 1914, two-thirds were women and girls.

At the outbreak of the First World War VAD members offered their service to the war effort. The British Red Cross was reluctant to allow civilian women a role in overseas hospitals: most volunteers were of the middle and upper classes and unaccustomed to hardship and traditional hospital discipline. Military authorities would not accept VADs at the front line.

However, the growing shortage of trained nurses opened the door for VADs in overseas military hospitals and female volunteers over the age of twenty-three and with more than three months' hospital experience were accepted for overseas service.

By 1916 the military hospitals at home were employing about 8000 trained nurses with about 126,000 beds, and there were 4000 nurses abroad with 93,000 beds. By 1918 there were about 80,000 VAD members - 12,000 nurses working in the military hospitals and 60,000 unpaid volunteers working in auxiliary hospitals or various

VADs lacked the advanced skill and discipline of trained professional nurses, and were often critical of the nursing profession. Relations improved as the war stretched on: VAD members increased their skill and efficiency and trained nurses were more accepting of the VADs' contributions. During four years of war 38,000 VADs worked in hospitals and served as ambulance drivers and cooks. VADs served near the Western Front and in Mesopotamia and Gallipoli. VAD hospitals were also opened in most large towns in Britain. Later, VADs were also sent to the Eastern Front. They provided an invaluable source of bedside aid in the war effort. Many were decorated for distinguished service.

At the end of the war the leaders of the profession were agreed that untrained VADs should not be allowed onto the newly established register of nurses.

The RGS building in Easton Street was designed by Arthur Vernon, a well-known local architect and built in 1882. The plan was originally to demolish the buildings at the front completely, but a group of historians and conservationists of the day were up in arms about it and insisted on the ancient parts being preserved.

## 11 Station/Mary Christie boarding house:

### John:

All of us soldiers will have lasting memories of the station. It was the place we all said our farewells when we left to go to training camp and also the place that those of us lucky enough to return would be welcomed back. On occasions, it was also the place where there would be a guard of honour for a funeral procession for one of our number who was not so lucky. This was a hive of activity in my day, with the goods yards, the horses and the livestock. The army recruitment office was just opposite – you can see it on an old photo. And just up the road was the vicarage for Christ Church –it was a nice little church on the steep bit of the hill you’ve just come up. No sign of it now. They had an orchestra and their organist was Ivor Gurney, the poet and composer.

### Pupil from Wycombe High School:

A lot of children have fathers and brothers away on war service so normal family life is a thing of the past. Travelling has become quite difficult so many of us are boarding in hostels about town – I was boarding with Miss Christie who was an excellent teacher and headmistress. She chose our school motto: Fortiter, Fideliter, Feliciter – Bravely, Faithfully, Happily- and she encouraged us to remember it in all that we did. She would go out sometimes to suffragist meetings. We weren’t supposed to know where she was going but I asked her once and she said she hoped we would all get the vote one day.

She worked so very hard for us all that it seems so unfair that she died so suddenly in 1917 after an asthma attack. It seemed everyone in the town knew her and loved her.

### John:

Our journey is nearly over. Go over the railway bridge and turn left and you will find the museum on the right

### Additional background information:

Check out SWOP for additional images of High Wycombe and the surrounding areas <http://swop.org.uk/swop/swop.htm>

You can see further information about Ivor Gurney in High Wycombe on this website

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2001/07/igbuck1.htm>

The big train shed below the station served the Marlow and Maidenhead line branch and was designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel as part of the Great Western Railway and was the original 1854 train station before it was replaced ten years later. The old building then became the ticket office and an engine workshop. The line from Wycombe to Marylebone was added to the rail service in 1902.

## FINISH - Museum

### John:

Here we are at the end of the trail. It's been quite a journey and I can see that Wycombe has changed a lot since I was last here. It's time for me to leave you now - well done for completing the trail, enjoy a cup of tea at the museum. If interested, you can walk up the hill to the site of the VAD hospital and have a walk around the cemetery to see the graves of some of my comrades. Miss Christie's grave is there too overlooking the school buildings to which she would have liked to have returned.

### Additional Background

During WW1, Arthur Clarke lived in the house which is now home to the museum. Arthur was the Town Clerk, and he and his wife were heavily involved in the establishment and fundraising for the new War Memorial Hospital. They lost their eldest son Donald who served in the Royal Flying Corps.

You can find out more information about graves in Wycombe Cemetery from the website 'Tell Them of Us'

<http://www.galaxypix.com/Sally/Losttheplot/Tellthemofus/>