



Euxton War Memorial Group

From: Annette Markland

8th June 2012

I am writing to you in the hope that you may be able to help our group, the Euxton War Memorial Group was formed in 2011 and its aims are to research, collate and eventually construct a community war memorial for the village of Euxton.

My son WO2 David B Markland was born into a military family in 1973 at BMH Rinteln Germany, his Father was a serving soldier of 40 Field Regt RA. When my husband finished his service in 1988 we settled here in Euxton Chorley Lancashire. David went to a local Secondary Modern School and on leaving had nothing on his mind other than joining the Army. As you can imagine I was a bit reluctant to let him go; he was only 16 years old. His Dad persuaded me saying as long as he went in for a trade we should let him go.

David had a full and exciting Army Career with the Royal Engineers; he was full of life and enthusiasm. He loved adventure training and would participate in, but most of the time organize, excursions everywhere from the Isle of Arran to Nepal and New Zealand.

David met and fell in love with a Canadian girl and they went on to get married in 1996, they had 3 children but sadly their daughter Sophie died at the age of 2 with meningitis.

The Army was David's life. A dedicated soldier, he had 8 tours of active duty, sadly with 3 years left to serve was the 256th soldier to be killed in Afghanistan; blown up by an IED in Helmand Province on 8th February 2010. He was a well-respected Warrant Officer (MPF) with so many friends of all ranks throughout the Corps. His loss to his family and friends is indescribably monumental and devastating; he was loved by so many.

Shortly after David's death, his uncle and cousin were discussing how David's name could be permanently remembered in the village. Jim and Stephen decided to go and talk to the local Parish council, and were taken aback at how enthusiastic the response was. Within a few months, a war memorial working group had been formed with the council, and Jim and Steve started to research and look at other local village memorials.

It was plain that after only a few months that Euxton, although it had Church honour boards, was in real need of a community memorial. Through the research they started to find that some of those who had given their lives for their families and countrymen were not even honoured within the village. More help was needed, so in February 2011, a formal community group outside of the Parish council was formed and Euxton War Memorial Group started the journey that leads us to this letter today.

At the going down of the Sun, and in the morning, we will remember them.

www.euxton-war-memorial-group.org.uk

The team of volunteers who came to assist in this project has worked tirelessly, meeting each month to discuss progress, fundraising, awareness and support. We can now, as of January 2012 boast charity status which means that we are VAT exempt and can also claim gift aid, we have a website that is being accessed by 1000 new people every 6 weeks, a plot of land to site the memorial, support from businesses and individuals from within our community, but most importantly of all, we have found another twenty two names including David's who are not honoured within the village on the current Church honour boards, it is these men and women who are driving us to complete this work. Research is still ongoing, as we are only nearing completion of our research to the 2nd World War, there are many more conflicts as well you know, we can leave no stone unturned.

So far, we have raised about £6,500 and are now busy discussing how the memorial should look, once the group has settled on one or two designs, we will approach the community to gauge their thoughts and obtain feedback. This project will not only remember those who have been forgotten, it will bring our community and churches together once a year on Remembrance Sunday. Our view is that Euxton should have its own Remembrance Sunday, with a walk from either side of the village meeting at the centre where the memorial will be sited. We think that a fund of £20,000 to £25,000 will give the village something to be proud of, and our aim is to have a memorial in place before November 2013.

We already have some elements of the Royal Engineers pledging support to the project, if you can assist in any way especially when it comes to fundraising, the group and I would be enormously grateful. We would be very honoured if those with military backgrounds who have assisted us in achieving our goal would attend the unveiling of the memorial.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, we look forward to your response.

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Yours Faithfully,

Annette Markland

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