



## CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER BRANCH of THE WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION

Number 116

June 2016

### Welcome

A reminder that there are a couple of places left on our tour to Verdun from 15-18 September. The cost is £400 (with a £25 supplement for single occupancy) which offers a great opportunity to visit an iconic battlefield at a very competitive price. If you'd like to join us please complete your application form as soon as possible as we will be offering the tour to outsiders soon. There are application forms available tonight and if you know anyone who might be interested please pass on the tour information.

An exhibition by Jolyon Fenwick entitled *The Zero Hour Panoramas 100 Years On: Views from the Parapet of the Somme* opens at the Sladmore Gallery, London on 1 July. Taken at 7.30am from the exact jump off point of 14 battalions in the first wave of the 1<sup>st</sup> of July attack, the panoramic photographs are annotated (in the style of the battlefield panoramas of the time) with the points of tactical significance as they existed immediately before the battle.

*The Unknown Soldier*, written and performed by Ross Ericson, is at the Stroud Subscription Rooms on 1 July at 7.30pm. It is a story of comradeship, betrayal and of promises both broken and kept following the carnage of World War One. You will find full details at [www.subscriptionrooms.org.uk](http://www.subscriptionrooms.org.uk).

The Gloucester Civic Trust is holding a Somme Commemoration event at St Michael's Tower, Gloucester Cross, on Saturday 2 July. They would like us there again with our computers and historical resources to help members of the public get started with their research. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Bob Brunsdon: [trips@cgwfa.org.uk](mailto:trips@cgwfa.org.uk). Also, we will have a stand at the Hardwicke Armed Forces Day which is on Sunday 3 July from 2pm.

And finally, we will be holding our Summer Raffle next month so if you have a prize you would like to donate it would be much appreciated.  
**Peter**

### Future meetings

**Tuesday, 12 July 2016**

*Guns at Passchendaele 1917*

Peter Hart

**National Star College at 7:30pm**

On 31 July 1917 British troops began their attempt to break out of the Ypres Salient. The ensuing battle encompassed some of the most wretched conditions endured by any of the belligerent armies, and came to epitomise the futility and pathos of the whole of the First World War.

Peter has worked as the Oral Historian of the Imperial War Museum since 1981 and is the author of several books on the Great War.



**Tuesday, 9 August 2016**

*British and German Aerial Bombing*

John Peaty

**National Star College at 7:30pm**

German bombing of Britain, and especially London, first by airships and then by aircraft, caused considerable alarm. It ultimately led to the creation of the Royal Air Force and in particular the Independent Force under Trenchard, which undertook the bombing of Germany.



*This plaque can be found on the building at  
61 Farringdon Road, London.  
Today it is called Zeppelin Building.*

## K/14432 Stoker 1<sup>st</sup> Class George Edward Fisher Royal Navy – HM Submarine D3

George Fisher was born at Cranham, near Stroud on 18 August 1893, the son of Eli and Frances Fisher of Sutton's Mill, Cranham, and the husband of Edith, whom he married in 1917.

Prior to joining the Royal Navy in April 1912, on a twelve year engagement, he was a farm labourer and the latter part of his naval career saw him serve in submarines.

On 15 March 1918 he was part of the crew of HM Submarine D3, which was on the surface about 35 km north east of Le Havre. At about 14:20 the submarine was spotted by a patrolling French airship, which closed for the purposes of identification. D3 fired off



identification rockets which were, unfortunately, interpreted as hostile fire. The airship dropped four 52kg bombs which caused the submarine to sink. A number of the crew escaped into the water and the airship, recognising that an error had been made, summoned assistance. Sadly this arrived too late to save any of the ship's company.

George Fisher's body was never recovered and he is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial and also on the War Memorial Gate at Cranham Church.

His photograph appeared in the *Cheltenham Chronicle* and *Gloucestershire Graphic* of 23 March 1918.

**Graham Adams**

### Battle of the Somme talks

The Imperial War Museum North is holding a series of free monthly talks marking the 100 year anniversary of the Battle of the Somme.

Monday 25 July at 3.15pm

*Battle of the Somme: Communications from the Front*  
Real-life stories exploring how the events were recorded and reported by artists, poets, journalists and through individual soldier's diaries. Find out more about Philip Gibbs, who was one of five official British reporters in the First World War.

Monday 15 August at 3.15pm

*Battle of the Somme: Sporting Personalities*  
Real-life stories of sporting personalities from the time who served in this landmark battle. Hear the story of Olympic rower Frederick Septimus Kelly, who was killed during the final days of the Battle of the Somme.

Monday 19 September at 3.15pm

*Battle of the Somme: Behind the Lines*  
From chaplains to medics, discover the experiences of non-combatants serving at the

time of this landmark battle. Hear the story of Ernest Crosse, chaplain to men of the Devonshire Regiment, who suffered huge losses on the first day of the battle.

Monday 24 October at 3.15pm

*Battle of the Somme: New Technologies*  
Discover details of real-life stories and explore the new technologies in use during the time of this landmark battle and the scientific advancements linked with these events. Hear the testimony of Alfred Reiffer, who served with one of the first tank crews during the battle.

Monday 28 November at 3.15pm

*Battle of the Somme: Famous Names*  
Real-life stories of famous names who served during this landmark battle. From actors and authors to high-street names. Hear the personal stories of people including Winnie the Pooh author A A Milne.

These stories are amongst millions which are being remembered on *Lives of the First World War*, IWM's permanent digital memorial.

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***"When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow, we gave our today."***