

Otterton Remembers

Otterton marked the Centenary of the ending of World War One by planting an oak tree to commemorate the 15 young men from the village, who gave their lives for their Country. The Ceremony began at the village War Memorial, where representatives from the British Legion, Parish Council, Parochial Church Council, the Scout Group, as well as a number of individuals laid wreaths. A Light Infantry bugler, Darran Wilson, who had come all the way from Shropshire, sounded the Last Post and Reveille. After a Service in the Church, the congregation of around 100 people then moved to Stantway Recreation Ground to plant the Commemorative Tree. The Ceremony was introduced by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr John Fudge. A brief synopsis of the background of each of the Fallen was given by Cllr Tony Bennett and his wife, Jane, who had that day launched a book, "Otterton Remembers", giving details of each individual on the War Memorial. Cllr Fudge then invited Tim Gorman, the grandson one of those listed, Private John Gorman, to plant the tree. This was then dedicated by Canon Pusey. Finally, all those present were invited by Cllr Fudge to raise a glass to in honour of the fallen.

It is intended that the tree will be surrounded by a circular bench bearing the names of each of the village heroes, so that in the years to come villagers will be able to sit and reflect upon the sacrifice of their forebears.