

# 100 Years

I guess in most of the publications that we all read there will be lots of articles this month commemorating the Armistice in 1918 and the end of the First World War, and this article is no exception. I decided that I would concentrate on the memorials to those who gave their lives in the Great War and by memorials I don't just mean the stone tablets in churches and the sometimes elaborate structures on village greens and in town centres. You may remember that about a year ago I wrote a piece about the university that my wife and I attended, the University of Leicester. In 1917, at the most difficult time of the war, the local newspaper floated the idea of a more fitting memorial than just a stone tablet to remember all the local men who had given their lives in defence of their country. The newspaper proposed that a place of learning should be established in Leicester and this proposal was quickly taken up by the city fathers, by industrialists and by the people of Leicester in general.

Quite quickly £100,000 was raised, a colossal sum in 1917/18, and the first building was bought, fittingly one that had been used as a hospital for the wounded, and so the university was founded.

If you're a member of National Trust, your autumn magazine has an article about "The Great Gift". This is a trio of donations given by families and local organisations in the Lake District, covering 14 peaks. You may have walked some of them – Great Gable, Scafell Pike, Lingmell, Broad Crag, Great End, Castle Crag,, Seathwaite Fell, Allen Crag, Glarmara, Kirk Fell, Green Gable, Base Brown, Brandreth and Grey Knotts. What a generous and far sighted gesture that we are all free to enjoy 100 years later.

Of course, with many of our clients being from an older age group, they may have memories of the Second World War and have heard stories from relatives who fought in the trenches in the First World War. It's fitting that we all pause and take a moment to remember all those who fought for our freedom.

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