

## Echoes of War

A hundred years on from the Battle of Passchendaele, last September Menston commemorated the First World War through the Flower Festival; with the poppy cascade, the churchyard trench, exhibitions of textile banners and period objects, a Songs of Praise Service, and a moving concert performance of Faure's *Requiem*.

This year to mark the centenary of the Armistice the parish church with village support proposes to produce a commemorative book, under the title, *Echoes of War: Menston's Reflections 2014-2018*.

The book will be both an anthology of written contributions and feature photographs from commemorative events over the last 4 years.

We need YOUR contribution so as to give a wide range of perspectives. Your impressions, recollections, and family stories are precious and offer insight into the impact of this catastrophe and the way in which it shaped the social history of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The book will serve a three-fold purpose:

- a) It will be a record of how the village kept faith with the generation that sacrificed so much. Inspired by Judith Knaggs's pioneering book, "*For Our Tomorrow*", the village came together in so many ways to devise events, all of which deserve to be remembered. Can you put into words what this shared community remembering has meant to you?
- b) We welcome any contributions that build up our historical understanding of the many experiences of the Menston community during the First World War. Would you like to research and write a piece of local history that relates to the difficulties faced in this period by folk in Menston?
- c) With the death of Harry Patch in 2009, the last eye-witness faded into history. It is now urgent that family memories are captured and passed onto future generations. By writing, however briefly, you are contributing something precious and unique to our book, and ultimately to the bigger story of the nation.

Please do think and talk about this idea. Please ask any committee member (**Dale Smith, Judith Knaggs or Joyce Simpson**) for details or for help to support your research or writing.

All writers need a deadline; ours is July 1<sup>st</sup>.

This is a very exciting project, and **the village needs YOU!** Thank you.