

# 1918-2018

## THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

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# JOURNEY'S END



**GWENT WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER No 3 JUNE 2018**

### **Gwent WFA's 'Journey's End' project to commemorate the centenary of the armistice at the end of World War One continues with a number of important events.**

In January a plaque to commemorate Annie Mistrick (nee Brewer) was unveiled at her former home in West Street, Newport. Annie served with the French forces throughout the war was one of the most highly decorated nurses of the war. The plaque was unveiled by Vaughan Gething, Secretary for Health in the Welsh Government. Guests included Ian Brewer and other members of the family, Jane Bryant AM, Debbie Wilcox (Leader, Newport City Council), Bronagh Scott (Director of Nursing, Aneurin Bevan Health Board), Jane Carroll (Senior Officer, Royal College of Nursing) and children from St Woolos School.

On 1st May the Royal College of Nursing held an event in tribute to Annie at which we were honoured to provide a speaker. An RCN member has placed Annie's story on Wikipedia.

On 6th July there will be a ceremony at St Woolos Hospital to unveil a plaque commemorating its work as a major military

hospital. An information leaflet will be available in the building and a staff photograph from 1918 will be placed in reception.

On Friday November 9th, three local primary schools will be giving presentations at St Woolos Cathedral in front of an audience of parents.

Saturday November 10th (10.30-4.30) will be 'public day' at the cathedral with stalls, music, talks, re-enactors and other activities. The event is free and is suitable for all the family. Drop in for an hour or stay all day. If you belong to an organisation or are an individual with a particular interest in the Great War and would like a stall at the event, or would like to participate in any other way, we would love to hear from you.

Monthly tours of the First World War graves in St Woolos Cemetery are conducted by Richard Frame

**ST WOOLOS WAR GRAVES**  
1918  
2018  
**JOURNEY'S END**

**FREE MONTHLY TOURS**  
January to October 2018  
10 am, 2nd Wednesday each month  
Meet at main gate Bassaleg Road

  
cronfa  
drefadaeth y loteri  
heritage lottery fund



**Follow us on Facebook: Journey's End and [www.gwentwfa.org.uk](http://www.gwentwfa.org.uk)**

**To include your name on our circulation list for further newsletters, email Pete Strong, Chair Gwent WFA at [strong@btinternet.com](mailto:strong@btinternet.com)**

# Annie Mistrick



Debbie Wilcox, Jane Bryant and Vaughan Gething at the unveiling of the plaque to Annie Mistrick.

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## 100 YEARS AGO GWENT IN SUMMER 1918

By the summer of 1918 the situation was improving both at the front and at home.

The huge German 'Spring Offensive' which had been launched in March had petered out and in July the Allied armies began their counter attack. In August British troops broke through the Hindenburg Line.

Within Britain, the food situation was improving rapidly. Under Lord Rhondda of Llanwern, Minister of Food Control, the government had finally introduced rationing, which did much to bring about a fairer distribution of food and an end to the queues.

Lord Rhondda died on 3rd July 1918. The many tributes to him reflected the general view that he had made a major contribution to the war effort. His ashes are buried in Llanwern Churchyard and an image of him has been included on Magor War memorial.

With conscription being enforced increasingly vigorously, conscientious objectors faced harsh treatment even if they had genuine pacifist beliefs. In June, Samuel Bromfield, a Newport accountant who claimed a conscientious objection as a Quaker, was forcibly taken to Brecon barracks and, when he refused to put on a military uniform, court-martialled. He was sentenced to six months imprisonment and taken to Wormwood Scrubs.

On top of all this, mother nature intervened to add to the misery. In June 1918 it was reported that "a strange new disease" had broken out in Tredegar. This turned out to be the first local signs of the world wide epidemic of "Spanish 'flu". By July it had spread to virtually every town and village in Gwent.

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## READ OUR COLUMN IN THE ARGUS

A 'Journey's End' column appears in the South Wales Argus every Friday. Look out for its stories not just of major people and events but also of little known aspects of the Great War in Gwent 100 years ago.

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## WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION GWENT BRANCH 2018

We meet on the 4th Wednesday of alternate months at the Constitutional Club, Park Road, Abergavenny NP7 5TR. Unless otherwise stated, meetings begin at 7.30. Visitors welcome

**Wednesday 25 July:** Members evening.

**Wednesday 26 September:** The Welsh Metropolitan War Hospital, Cardiff.  
Speaker: Dr Ian Beech.



Tank in High Street Newport (From the collection of Linda Paffey)