In 1914, Cookham parish (Village, Rise and Dean and the nearer parts of Maidenhead) had a population of 5000. It is estimated that, out of this, around 700 men served in the Armed Forces during the Great War of 1914-18. The two principal Cookham memorials list 105 men who died including two on both memorials, with at least a further ten from Cookham who were killed but are not named on the memorials. This was an extraordinary sacrifice and our Poppy Trail sets out to remember these men and to put them back into the village they left behind. They were mostly labouring men, working on the farms and in the larger properties in Cookham, living in small, terraced, crowded houses. In these mostly ‘two up, two down’ cottages as many as a dozen family members lived together.

The vast majority served in the Army, with around a third in the Royal Berkshire Regiment. A few were with the Royal and Merchant Navy and one or two served with the Royal Flying Corps, later to become the RAF. Most served on the Western Front, fighting and dying in the horrific battles that have become embedded in our national history and psyche including the Somme and Passchendaele. But there was a considerable contingent who fought and died in Greece, Turkey and the Middle East.

The two Cookham war memorials are at the Moor end of Cookham High Street and on the old Cricket Common in Cookham Dean, both erected with public subscriptions shortly after the war. A separate brass plaque memorial is in the Methodist Church in Lower Road, Cookham. The Holy Trinity bellringers who were killed were also given their memorial.

Various properties in Cookham had a special place to play in the story of the war. Some areas will have received more than their share of telegrams telling of a death of a husband, father, son: Hamfield and Apsley Cottages, along Lower Road, lost 11 men and Lower Road lost at least 18 in total.

The churches will have been witness to much suffering. A convalescent home brought some relief - in Moor Hall and later in Churchgate House near Holy Trinity Church, both properties made available by Mr Francis Lambert who owned Moor Hall. Lulbrooke Manor, now the home of the Odney Club, laid on dances and other light relief for recovering soldiers and the young ladies of the community. The Young family estate at Formosa hosted a Red Cross camp.

The Poppy Trails cannot tell the full story of the men who died and of the grieving community they left behind. But they do lead you past some of the houses and other places of interest associated with the war, with, during the 2015 Cookham Festival, storyboards to tell the story of some of the men who served and died.

For more information:
- Go to the Cookham in the Great War section of Cookham.com
- Visit the For King & Country website www.fkac.info

If you have information about any of the Cookham men who served in the Armed Forces in the Great War please contact

ww1.rbwm@rbwm.gov.uk  Tel: 01753 743 947

We are grateful to the following organisations who have assisted financially or otherwise in the development of the Poppy Trails and the production of this leaflet.
There are three trails shown on this map. Starting points are the war memorials, for the Dean and the village, and the station for Cookham Rise.

The Dean Trail
1. Elizabeth House, once the police station. Walter Woolford 1899 -1918
2. 3 Riley Cottages. Herbert Johnson 1895 – 1916
3. The Glen. Herbert Willis 1893 -1917
   Joseph Ridgley 1893 – 1914. George Ridgley 1886 - 1914
8. Teynham View. Owen Hatch 1881 – 1917
11. Ethel Cottage. David Sharp 1876 – 1915
13. 1 Apsley Cottages. Frederick Muggridge 1896 – 1916
14. 20 Hamfield Cottages. Wilfred Emmett 1897 – 1917
16. A Street in Mourning
17. 8 Hamfield Cottages. Jesse Ward 1893 – 1917
18. Rayleigh, Lower Road. George Dennis. 1883 -1916
19. Methodist Church. Memorial to local Methodists who died.

The Rise Trail
1. Cookham War Memorial
3. Fernlea, High Street. Sydney Spencer 1889 - 1918
5. St George’s Lodge, Sutton Road. Gilbert Rapier Frere 1888 - 1915
7. Lulibrooke Cottage, Odney Lane. Richard Bayley 1885 - 1918
8. Churchgate. Lambert Convalescent Home

The Village Trail
1. Cookham Dean War Memorial
2. 1 Low Ventnor Cottages. Harry Tuck 1894 -1918
3. 3 Midway Cottages. John Usher 1881 – 1917
4. 1 Midway Cottages. Robert Carter 1886 -1914
5. Spike Hatch. Harry Hunt 1884 – 1914
11. 2 Royal Cottages. Frederick Sandalls 1888 – 1918