Introduction
In the Great War, 87 Norley men went to war but only 77 returned - one, Christopher Fletcher, was so badly injured that he died some years later. Norley has no public war memorial as such; there is a beautiful stained glass window and brass plaques in St John the Evangelist but very few now know anything about these men. The walk is intended to take these names and put them back into the community where they, in the words of Lt Col McCrae in his poem "In Flanders Fields, “…lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow loved and were loved…". Two of the men are buried in St John's churchyard where the walk starts. A further 11 sites around the village are marked with memorial plaques, often close to where the men lived. Plaques in season are surrounded by wildflowers, red poppies in remembrance and other flowers they would have seen as they walked about the village all those years ago. Norley Wildlife Group has arranged a walk around Norley, passing all the plaques. Although you'll be thoughtful, we do hope you enjoy it too!

Phil Gifford/Norley Wildlife Group

SUGGESTED ORDER OF WALK

Our suggested route starts at the car park at St John's church where you are welcome to park your car. However, there is no special order to the memorials and wildflower sites. Enjoy any part of the walk as you like.

1. St John's the Evangelist: Private Christopher Fletcher, aged 27, South Lancashire Regiment, who died of wounds 10th December 1920, lived at Gads Brow. The brass memorial shows him as Corporal, though he may have had an unratified field promotion. Other graves close by include that of Private JH Sanders and Palfreyman family which includes an inscription for 2nd Lieut. Palfreyman.

St John the Evangelist. Rev'd Peter Rugen 01928 787180. The church is locked outside times of service but arrangements can be made to gain access (Dr G Archer 01928 788911 or Alan Nield 01928 787087). There is a brass Great War memorial plaque in the church and other memorials such as for Corporal Fletcher and Captain Beazley, and two stained glass windows, one to the fallen in the Great War and one to the memory of Edwin Beazley of Norley Bank. The car park is not locked and the Palfreyman family grave and the two servicemen's graves are all accessed along the path from the car park at the north eastern end of the Church.

2. Wood adjoining the church: 2ndLieut. Arthur Palfreyman, aged 23, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, previously Lance Corporal, 13313, was in the attack on Mortho Wood, which saw the final breakthrough into the 'green fields beyond'. He died of wounds 9th October 1918; his father, a groom to stallions, lived at Leigh Cottage. Official records show him being "also" buried in Five Points Cemetery, Lechelle, France: and the headstone in St John's is in fact the family's own memorial.

3. Horse Trough: Gunner Jesse Chapman, aged 19, Royal Horse Artillery and then Royal Field Artillery, died of wounds 10th September 1918. Buried in Terlincthum, British Cemetery, Wimille, Belgium. His father was a furniture dealer in Newton Heath.
4. **Planter outside Tiger’s Head:** *L. Cpl. Samuel Grindley*, aged 35, East Lancashire Regiment, died 21 July 1916 on the Somme, lived at Wob Cottage; his sister lived in Cow Lane. He is buried in Serre road Cemetery No. 2

The Stores: food, snacks, sweets, soft drinks, hot coffee. (Dave and Mary, 01928 787044). The Tiger’s Head: a public house also serves food (01928 788309) has lots of old photos of Norley including Wob Cottage where Sam Grindley lived.

5. **Planter at bottom of Maddocks Hill:** *Private Arthur Rutter*, aged 25, Manchester Regiment died 14th July 1916 during the attack on High Wood on the Somme. He lived at School Bank. Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, with no known grave.

Methodist Chapel - Two benches are to be put here and there is a garden with wildflowers for weary walkers.

6. **Norley Village Hall:** *Private Edward Parrott*, Aged 20, Cheshire Regiment. Disappeared during the battle on the Somme 5th September 1916 in an attack against a ramified farm. His battalion of nearly 800 men had already been reduced to about 280. He was a groom and lived at Norley Bank with his parents. He has no known grave but is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.

7. **Hambletts Hollow:** *Private Wilfred Shallcross*, aged 18 was originally in a (Young Soldiers) Battalion and then the Manchester Regiment, he never went to France but died on 14th November 1918. He lived at Hamblett’s Hollow, with his widowed mother Hannah. He is buried in a family grave at St Mary’s Church Weaverham.

8. **Memorial Garden:** *Captain John Roland Beazley*, Royal Fusiliers, He was a 2nd Lieut, in the British Expeditionary Force (BEF), Gazetted for gallantry between 21st - 30th August and awarded the Croix de Chevalier Legion d’Honneur, was badly wounded at Veullly in Picardy on 10 September 1914. His parents lived at Norley Bank. He died 4th January 1938, aged 47, Memorials at St Mary’s in Eastham, the Wirral and St John’s Norley.

9. **‘Jack’ Sander’s Corner:** *Private John Henry Sanders*, aged 19, Cheshire Regiment, was wounded in Belgium and died of those wounds at Dover Military Hospital 15th May 1915. He lived at Ivy Cottage, Flaxmere. His father was a labourer. He is buried in a family grave in St John’s churchyard.

10. **Planter at Fortune Palace:** *Private Heber Robinson*, aged 29, East Yorkshire Regiment, joined up on 28th Aug. 1914 and was in the British Expeditionary Force. He died on 12th April 1918 during the German Push. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Ploegstcert Memorial, Belgium. He lived at Lyndon Cottage, School Lane with his wife Janet (married Nov 1911) and one son, Harold (born 9th October 1912).

Delamere Fortune Palace chinese restaurant (01928 788293)

11. **Signpost near to the Carriers:** *Private Samuel Sanders*, aged 40, Cheshire Regiment, died 18th September 1918. In a tough, disease ridden campaign in Doiran, Macedonia, only 61 officers and men out of a battalion of over 1000 survived. He died at Jackson’s Ravine. His name is recorded on the Doiran Memorial with no known grave.

The Carriers Inn, lots of old photos of Norley and Hatchmere, (01928 7876877)

12. **Crabmill Lane junction:** *Private David Thomas Malcolm*, aged 18, Welsh Regiment, died of wounds on 3rd June 1918 in Flanders. He is buried in Vitry le Francois Cemetery, France. A cooper, he was born in Norley but at the time of enlistment was a Kingsley resident.
WILD FLOWERS
A variety of wild flowers can be found along the walk. These are some of the common ones you may see.

- Cornflower
  *Centaurea cyanus*
- Corn Marigold
  *Glebionis segetum*
- Wood Anemone
  *Anemone nemorosa*
- Black Knapweed
  *Centaurea nigra*
- Red Campion
  *Silene dioica*

POLINNATORS
During sunny days especially, a variety of insects may be seen visiting the flowers, such as honeybees, bumblebees, solitary bees e.g. miner bee, leaf cutter bee, butterflies and moths. There will be true flies too, such as hoverflies. See how they can hang in the air. All seek the sugary liquid known as nectar. Bees need pollen too to raise their young. By providing this bounty the plants benefit from the pollen brought from other flowers as their seeds are more likely to germinate. Around the walk, look out for bee houses which have been placed for the solitary bees as they will hatch out in the spring. Look out too for the tree bumblebees which have only recently appeared in the North West, some colonies live in bird boxes!

- Tree bumble bee
  *Bombus hypnorum*
- Tawny mining bee
  *Andrena fulva*
- Honey bee
  *Apis mellifera*
- Drone fly
  *Eristalis tenax*
- Peacock butterfly
  *Inachis io*

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Thanks too to all the Norley Wildlife Group volunteers and help and advice from the Cheshire Wildlife Trust, the Grow Wild Team, the National Wildflower Centre at Knowsley, Graham Evans MP and last but not least our own dear Norley News.

If you liked the walk and wish to donate something to ensure that every year wildflowers will continue to commemorate these men contact NWG’s treasurer Sheila Hills 01928 787122 sheila@sheilahills.plus.com