

## Holt - Cricket match saluted the bravery of a lost generation

The First World War left a gaping hole in the life of Gresham's independent school, near Holt.

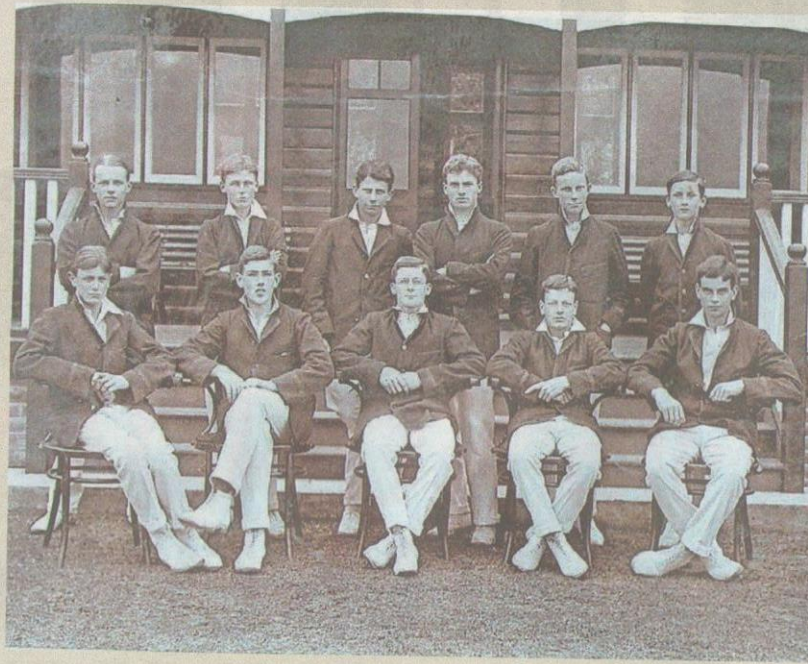
One hundred former pupils at the school lost their lives in the conflict, many of them still teenagers.

The young men had been drilled by the school's officer training corps to prepare them to serve as junior officers – the men who were expected to lead their soldiers “over the top” and into action.

A poignant annual cricket match held this summer was used to salute the school's ex-student soldiers. The game recreated a School v Old Boys fixture in 1914.

Months after that match, many players had moved from the cricket field to the battle field, and 11 of the 24 were killed in action during the long years of war that followed.

Among those to die were: David Jacques (19) – killed in December 1916 by a sniper's bullet in northern France; John Nicholson (20) – a Lieutenant in the Royal Field Artillery who died from his wounds in October 1918;



■ Gresham's 1914 cricket team. Back row, from left: C D Wells, R A Fitzgerald, J A Nicholson, D W Jacques, C A Hill, J Jefferson. Front - C R H Farmer, J H C Wooldridge, A H Graves, J F Laverack, C H Steven. Six of these young men did not return from the First World War.

Clement (Neill) Newsom (20) – killed by shellfire near Ypres in September 1917 a week before his 21st birthday; Adrian Graves (21) – died under heavy fire commanding machine gunners in March 1918; Douglas Wells (21) killed in 1918 while serving as an

observer in the Royal Flying Corps. The school chapel was already being built when the war broke out. When it ended, the building was dedicated to the students who never came home – their names immortalised on a board of honour and seats.

Headmaster at the time

George Howson died a year after the war ended, with many believing it was from a broken heart having lost so many promising young lives.

As the school's pupils tended not to be from the town, they appear not to be commemorated on its roll of honour.

Alfred Wakefield,  
Geoffrey Watson,  
Robert White,  
George Williamson.

### Honing

Donald Beck,  
H. E. Cubitt,  
Randall E. Cubitt,  
Victor M. Cubitt,  
Archibald Flaxman,  
Charles Flaxman,  
Herbert Flaxman,  
Wm. K Hannant,  
Robert Jarvis,  
John Meek,  
R. Riches.

Walter F. Self,  
Christopher Thirtle.

### Horsford

Robert Aldridge,  
Everitt L. Bacon,  
Harry J. Bacon,  
Robt. John Bacon,  
Wm. Ernest Barney,  
Arthur Robt. Blyth  
Wm. Geo. Blyth,  
Percy Booty,  
Arthur J. Broom,  
Edwin Bunn,  
Thos. Wm. Dyer,  
T. Christmas Fiddy,  
Reginald J. Harvey

Herbert Harvey,  
Walter Harvey,  
William Harvey,  
George High,  
Edward Lubbock,  
Arthur Mayes,  
Arthur Newton,  
George D. Platten,  
John Rogers,  
Sidney W. Smith,  
John Willimott,  
Robert Willimott,  
William Willimott,  
William Woodcock.

### Horstead

Hugh Parker

John R. Felstead,  
Ernest J. Hilton,  
James Howard,  
Ernest Hunter,  
Hugh J. Morter,  
Percy W. Nolleth,  
Robert Wilkerson,

### Hoveton St Peter

Alfred Cubitt,  
Alfred F. Jermy,  
Arthur H. Jermy.

### Howe and Little Poringland

William Laban Herwin,  
Albert E. Homes,

Francis J. Cresswell,  
Charles R. N. Crown,  
William Crown,  
George R. Dove,  
Cecil Eglinton,  
Claude V. Emmerson,  
Peroy J. D. Flecknoe,  
Edward Frost,  
Albert T. Gentle,  
Cecil C. Gentle,  
Gordon C. Gray,  
Daryl Leslie Harris,  
John R. Herring,  
Reginald Heygate,  
John M. Jackson,  
George King,  
Albert Langford,  
Fredk. Laws,  
Gerald Lenton,  
Percy Lewis,  
Horace F. Manning,  
Arthur May,  
Fredk. C. Nelson,  
Herbert E. Nicholls,  
Basil V. Palmer,  
Percy H. Palmer,  
Robert H. Partridge,  
Arthur D. Partrick,  
Sidney E. Payne,  
Herbert W. Ranger,  
Fredk. H. Ransome,  
Reginald Ransome,  
Albert Ridgers,  
Reginald Roythorne,  
Arthur E. Sexton,  
Alec J. V. Smith,  
Walter W. Smith,  
Frank E. Southgate,  
Herbert G. B. Staines,  
Edward Thompson,  
Arthur G. St. J. Toms,  
Peter H. G. Toms,  
Arthur Wagg,  
Bertie Wagg,  
William Wagg,  
Charles Samuel Wales,  
Thomas Walsham,  
Cecil A. Williams,  
Stanley Willoughby  
Leslie N. Witley.

### Hunworth

Cecil Herbert Buckle,  
George William Buckle,  
Robert S. Ironside,  
Gifford William Peck,  
Horace Rudd,  
George W. Williamson