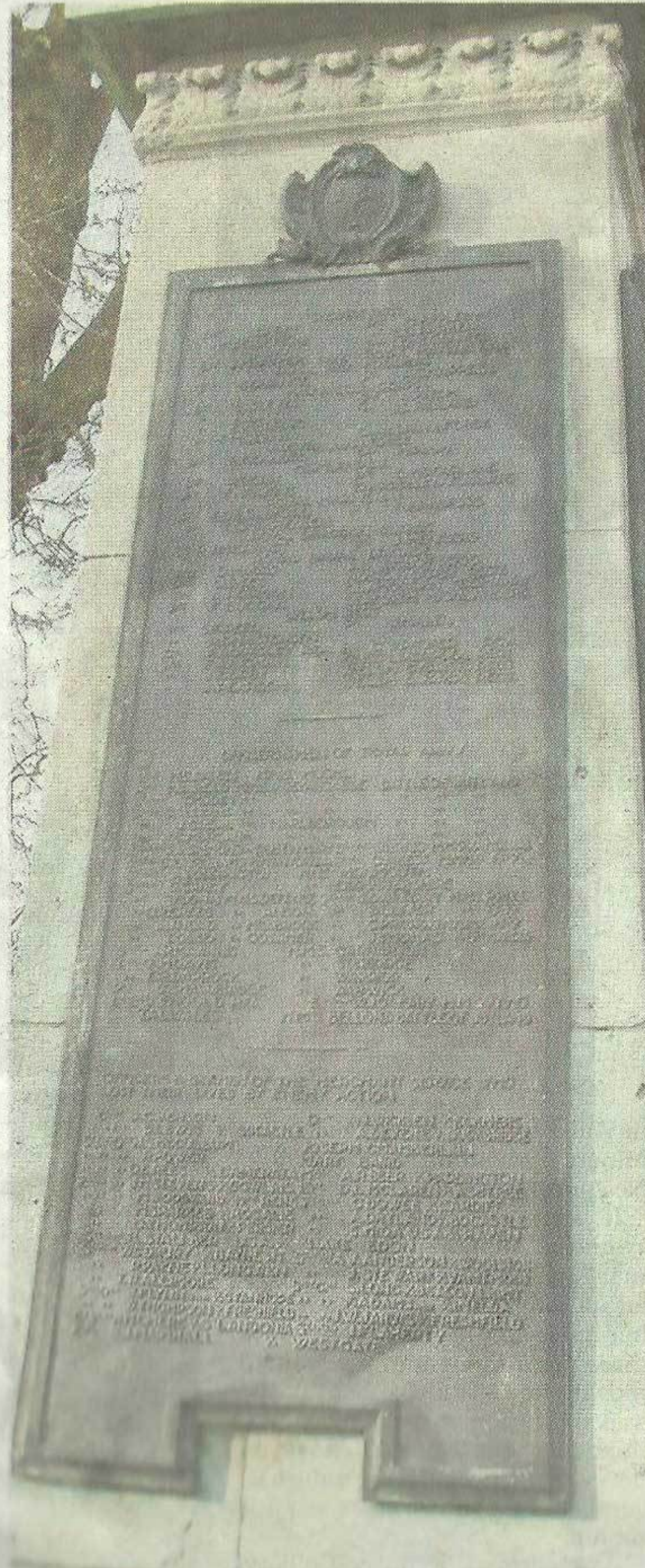




■ Private Tom Goodland from Grangetown (front second left) with colleagues of the Royal Welsh. His name does appear on the Grangetown War Memorial but the local history society is appealing for information on all the men from the area who died so their lives can be celebrated



■ The Grangetown War Memorial



■ Tom Goodland, of Clive Street, Grangetown, who is one of those soldiers whose name does appear on the war memorial. He died aged 32 from his injuries on September 3, 1918, fighting at Mametz Wood at the Somme

Unearthing the past to ensure those who died will never be forgotten

THEIR sacrifice left children without fathers and wives without husbands, but their courage saw their names etched in neither marble nor granite.

The names of more than 90 soldiers killed in the First World War are missing from a Cardiff war memorial, historians have discovered.

Over the last year Grangetown Local History Society has documented the details of 330 local men who died and had their names inscribed on the memorial in Grange Gardens.

The work includes

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researching details of the soldiers' families and home and working lives ahead of the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War in August.

But the research has also brought to light dozens more men from the area whose contribution has been forgotten for the last century - until now.

Chair of the Society Zena Mabbs said: "So far we have found 91 men who either lived in Grange-

town or who had Grangetown links but for different reasons were not included.

"It may be that their families moved out of the area or that their names were simply not recorded or passed onto the committee organising the memorial."

The memorial was unveiled in Grange Gardens in 1921, on the anniversary of the Battle of Mametz Wood (where hundreds of Welshmen were killed) and three years after the end of the war following local fundraising.

One soldier Private William Laugharne, whose body was not found until nine years after his death in France, had his name added to the memorial only 14 years ago.

But now the society is keen for descendants of more than 420 Grangetown war dead - including those not on the memorial - to get in touch if they have any family stories or photographs.

Mrs Mabbs added: "It is quite possible some mistakes were made too when information for the memorial was compiled."

Grangetown men not on

the memorial include Tom Witts, 24, a Cardiff City footballer who died only two days before the end of the war.

Durham-born Tom had played as a full-back in the reserves from about 1913 until he was called up.

Before his death, Tom, a lance corporal, lived in Compton Street with his wife Beatrice.

His third child Ellen was born six months after he was killed following his last period of home leave in August 1918.

His son Thomas Wilfred had his third birthday the day his father died fighting

with the Durham Light Infantry.

The history group looked through every copy of the South Wales Echo from 1914 to 1919 and researched Army and Commonwealth War Graves Commission records to compile its list of 91 soldiers missing from the Grangetown memorial.

Details on 15 of the 91 remain scant and have proved difficult to flesh out beyond the soldier's name and regiment with family, work and address records still missing.

Mrs Mabbs added: "There are still a few gaps and we have around 15

names which have been quite elusive in our research, so any help families could provide would be invaluable."

"So far we have found 91 men who either lived in Grangetown or had Grangetown links but for different reasons were not included"

Zena Mabbs, Grangetown Local History Society Chair

After the anniversary of the start of the conflict in August the group plans to use social media to highlight Grangetown's contribution to the First World War. They will tweet the

names of each of the Grangetown dead as the centenary of their demise comes round. An online memorial and website

with all the names is being updated as more information comes to light.

Grangetown Local History Society has also received a grant of £5,500 from the Heritage Lottery

Fund through its First World War: Then and Now programme.

It plans to use the money to help its research and website, produce leaflets and hold an exhibition showing the material it has unearthed.

■ Anyone who can help or has stories about any of the Grangetown casualties can contact the society on grangetownwar@yahoo.co.uk

■ The online memorial - including the "forgotten" 90 - can be viewed at www.grangetownwar.co.uk