



# THE WEEKLY WORD

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<http://www.lawrencesherrifschool.net/weekly-word>

First Word ... from David Howe, Vice Chair of Governors

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## THE END OF WORLD WAR ONE: A HUNDRED YEARS AGO

One hundred years ago, World War One was coming to an end. The war would end officially with a signed peace treaty in 1919 but **11 November 1918 'Armistice Day'**, marked the end of the fighting.

The Rugby Local History Group published an intriguing booklet *Aspects of Rugby during World War One*, which contained a number of news items giving a flavour of those final weeks.

Just as in 1945, extra rationing measures were introduced at the end of the war. Local grocers advertised how to register to obtain ration cards. One 'thing on ration' was the availability of fit, young, male workers. Until all troops had returned from overseas, women were still needed for what had long been 'men's work'. Two examples from the *Rugby Advertiser*: 'Wanted. Strong woman for one day a week with knowledge of machinery' and 'strong intelligent girl, not under 17, wanted; one used to machinery preferred'.

Meanwhile, the so-called 'Big Boys' at Clifton School 'lighted the fires'. Other children swept and dusted the school at midday. (Why midday?).

Just when the slaughter seemed to be over, a severe strain of influenza known as Spanish Flu arrived. It affected particularly young and healthy victims. Its speedy and lethal nature killed nearly 50 people in Rugby in a couple of weeks. There were normally two gravediggers employed at Rugby Cemetery but six more had to be taken on to prepare the graves.

Most local schools closed. I have found no record that Lawrence Sheriff School did, but anyone suffering from a fever was urged, as far as possible, to isolate him or herself; so heroically struggling in when ill would be strongly discouraged.

And just how did Rugby mark the end of the war? On 'Armistice Day' workers were allowed to leave work at lunchtime. Drivers on the railway sounded their whistles, the BTH factory siren, audible for miles around, trumpeted at noon, and with admirable speed celebrating crowds gathered. Their very membership told the story of the war - soldiers on leave, wounded soldiers, munitions workers etc. Flags appeared everywhere, many draped over cars. Shops closed and impromptu celebrations were arranged in churches, in the market place and in any convenient or even inconvenient place. The next day a grand parade was hastily improvised, passing through the town and adjacent to the school en route to the recreation ground - police, cadets, soldiers, land girls, robed masters from Rugby School, nurses, boy scouts, women's Royal Air Force, the police - all processed. Work throughout the town came to a standstill so that all could throng the streets. People of all classes and backgrounds mingled freely in unity, as they had learned to do in the Great War. The war had proved to be a great leveller, at least for the time being. **David Howe**



# Armistice Festival

Rugby and Daventry 2018

Please refer to the attached 'Armistice Press Release - the wheels on DEBUSSY' for full programme details.

Lawrence Sheriff School is involved in the following three events:-

**Be Brave and Come Home Safe (full page poster on the next page)**

**Poetry Performances**

**A Soldiers Tale**

## ChatHealth Parent line

Warwickshire School Health & Wellbeing Service and Warwickshire Young People Substance Misuse Service has launched a new way for parents and carers of school aged children to get confidential advice and support about child health related issues.

ChatHealth is an award-winning school nurse messaging service and is available Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm. There will be automatic bounce-back responses to incoming messages out of hours. Answering the text message will be a nurse who can assist with any queries about general health, child development, behaviour, toileting and emotional health and wellbeing issues. The text number is **07520 619376**.

The opportunity to discuss any health issues relating to your child is always available and The School Health and Wellbeing Service can be contacted on 03300 245 204.

Many thanks

**Warwickshire School Health & Wellbeing Service  
Compass**



## TABLE TENNIS



### Lunchtime Sessions:

Wednesday: year seven club members only (Lawrence Sheriff School)  
Friday: club and school team members only (Lawrence Sheriff School)

### Club Sessions:

Wednesday 6.30 pm—9.00 pm (Lawrence Sheriff School)  
Sunday 10.00 am - 12.00 pm (Hill Street Community Centre)

**Try them out - first two are free!**

See the website for more info: [www.RugbyTableTennisClub.NET](http://www.RugbyTableTennisClub.NET)

## Shopping online?

**Access your favourite retailer via:**

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/lawrencesherriffschoolpta>

**and the school gets a commission!**

## Be Brave And Come Home Safe

A story of love and hope told in drama, song and dance

Written by Martin Riley

Directed by Matthew Sharp

Performed by Matthew Sharp, Cici Howells and the local community

It's November 1918. Families in a remote village are gathering in their school hall to give an emotional send-off to their fathers, husbands and sons returning from leave to the Western Front.

There'll be popular songs from the Village Band with a chance for everyone to join in, a Tea Dance, a Children's Choir who have written a special anthem for the occasion and a thrilling choral rendition of Jerusalem.

To begin the evening, Danny Scarriot, a renowned local musician, wounded at the Battle of Ypres, will play an excerpt from a cello concerto by Edward Elgar, a work still in progress, as well as sharing some of his experiences of life on The Western front.

Written by BAFTA-nominated dramatist and librettist Martin Riley. Based on real-life experiences of soldiers from Daventry and Rugby during WW1, it combines the talents of international musician and "virtuoso of the arts" (The Times), Matthew Sharp, with actors, singers and dancers from local community groups, NMPAT, The Grange School, Rugby School, St. Gabriel's Church of England Academy and Lawrence Sheriff School.

**Temple Speech Rooms** Rugby CV22 5DA

**Thursday 8 NOVEMBER** 6pm (2 hr)

**Daventry Community Centre** NN11 9QD

**Sunday 11 NOVEMBER** 3pm (2 hr)

Tickets: £2 - £8

[www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk)

A unique musical, immersive  
and interactive community event

The event starts prompt and will finish in  
time for the troops to catch the last train.



**Come in costume and travel back in time.**

Put on your frocks and your feathers, your plus fours and khaki shirts and help us bring November 1918 to life!



"As part of Rugby School and The Macready Theatre's ongoing commitment to community projects, we are delighted to be involved in The Armistice Festival. We are thrilled that some of our drama scholars will be performing alongside professional artists, children from other schools plus the local community. This is an important commemorative festival for Rugby".

Dr Tim Coker, Head of Drama and Artistic Director, Festival on the Close