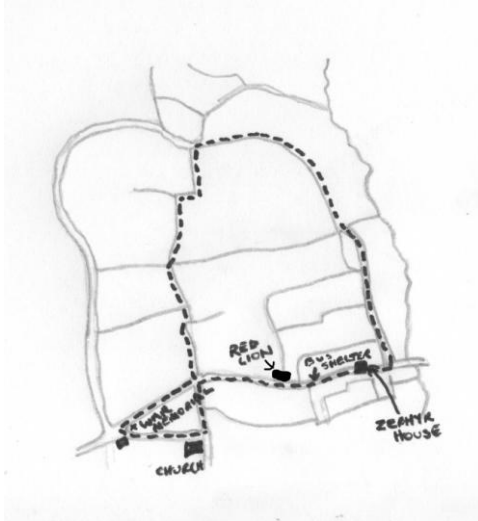


# SHOBROOKE WW1 VILLAGE WALK

Approximately 2 miles

*Start and finish at Shobrooke Bus Shelter*

Adapted from Shobrooke Walks leaflet after agreement with Fred Harper



This walk around the north of the village provides some magnificent views of the surrounding area and takes in some locations relevant to the Home Front in Shobrooke during World War 1 and real people featured in the 'Echoes of Wartime' theatre production performed in Crediton in October 2018.



From the bus shelter marked, walk up the road out of the village towards Crediton. A few yards after the 30mph signs the road turns to the left and a lane goes down to the left.

Take this left turn and you will pass on your left the Holy Well. Rev. Worthington Jukes, Rector of Shobrooke from 1890-1922 wrote about his search for the Holy Well: "No one seemed to know anything about it, but on talking it over with the oldest man in the village, he said he remembered seeing it when he was a boy, but had since forgotten all about it. He pointed out the place in Church Lane, so far as he could remember, but on digging there was no sign of it. The Rector's little dog was with him, and curiosity led the dog to the top of the hedge, not far off. All of a sudden the dog disappeared – having fallen into the well so eagerly sought for. The dog soon reappeared – and the well was found. The Holy Well had been filled up in the course of years with the way soil and had been lost to sight."



Continue down the lane to the Church and it is worth spending time looking at the gravestones and memorials inside the church for dedications to men who were killed in WW1. You will find the graves of Stephen Dimes, Thomas Horwell and Joe Brealy. Local historian Rosemary Barber wrote the following:

## **SAPPER STEPHEN CYRIL DIMES**

Born 10<sup>th</sup> October 1880. Died aged 36 between 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> April 1918. His wife was Winifred née Cooke of Shobrooke, one of 12 children of Edward and Alice Cooke, both of whom are buried here. Stephen was injured twice during the war and returned to the Front. He then committed suicide following war strain/shell shock. He threw himself under a train. It was said at that time "Inhumanity seemed to increase with the distance from the battlefields. The aim was to patch up the injured and get them fit to send back to the front."

Thanks to the late Len Darling we managed to get Stephen's name put on the War Memorial and this Commonwealth Grave Stone.

## **PRIVATE THOMAS EDWARDS HORWELL**

Born 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1886, the son of William and Fanny Horwell (née Edwards) of Shobrooke. His wife was Edith, (nee Davey). Thomas was a bell-ringer, and our bell-ringers recently rang for him on the centenary

of his death. Two of his brothers died in the same war. His son was born the day before he died. He is buried in Etaples, France.

### PRIVATE JOSEPH BREALY

Son of Joseph and Sarah. He was born in Zeal Monachorum in 1891, but lived in Shobrooke. He died aged 25 on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1916 and was buried here next to his intended bride Jessie Greenslade, just a week before their wedding. He was a sidesman at the church and was described as being “a good and straightforward man.”



Entering the church, on the left hand side of the doorway you will see the memorial on the wall to members of the Jukes family. Rev. Worthington Jukes was quite a character as you will see from this photo of him while he was still working in Pakistan where he insisted on wearing the local attire. Life in Shobrooke must have seemed tame to him by comparison.

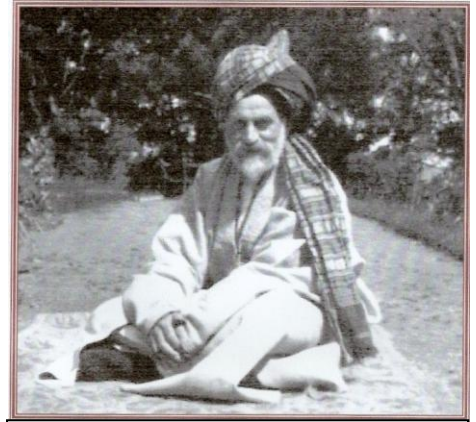


Photo provided by Rosemary Barber

Leaving the churchyard by the side entrance turn left and continue up the lane to the crossroads and the war memorial. In February 2015 Stephen's name was finally added to the memorial after local man the late Len Darling and other residents of Shobrooke had campaigned hard to have his name memorialised.

Continue back towards the village but turn left by the way-marker and go through the small wooden gate. Continue along the side of the field by the hedge bank. Take a look backwards and you will be rewarded with a fine view of the church.

The path soon descends quite steeply to a gate and bridge at the bottom of the hill. Badgers are very active in this area and walkers should be careful not to step in their sett entrances. Cross the bridge and turn left. Follow the hedge line to the top where the path turns right. It is worth stopping here to catch your breath and also to admire the magnificent views of the Devon hills in all directions. One can imagine in WW1 soldiers at the Front from Shobrooke fondly remembering scenes like this from their beloved home.

Continue right for 100 yards or so before turning left down the hill. Go through a gate on your left at the bottom of the hill and immediately turn right. This is the junction with another path which links to the main road. Walk along the hedge line, where you will also see signs of badger activity. The path turns to the right and on the bend you will see a marker post. Proceed round to another small wooden gate and go through it to join a grassy track. There are good views of the village from here on. The grass track leads to some buildings and after a short climb you will be on a concrete road going through Moor Farm and the associated buildings.

The concrete road leads to the main highway going through Shobrooke village. Turn right at this junction and walk up the hill to the starting point. On the way you will pass Zephyr House on the right. This is where Stephen Dimes and his wife Winifred lived with her parents, Edward and Alice Cooke, when WW1 broke out in 1914. Zephyr



House is still private so please respect the residents' privacy and view it from the road only.

You will shortly arrive back at your starting point by the bus shelter. However, it is worth continuing up the hill to The Red Lion for some rest and refreshment. The pub was the centre of activity in WW1. Doubtless the men would gather there and relay stories and updates from their sons and brothers fighting at the front. On the wall there is a picture of the Slade family who are recorded as living there in the 1911 census.

Some old photos of Shobrooke around the time of WW1



**Shobrooke Cricket Club 1908**



**Haymaking at Barton Farm**



**Transport in Shobrooke**



**Outing with Shobrooke passengers**