

Update on the WW1 Pewter Mugs

Alan Rockey has sent an update on the mugs.

We are extremely grateful to Frank Haslam of Reading who has very generously returned the mug of Charles Clarke to Branscombe for safe keeping.

Charles Clarke was born 1879 in Stockland Devon, His uncle Charles Clarke we believe was the inn keeper at the Masons Arms, and in the 1901 census he had passed away and his wife Mary Clarke was the Inn keeper with Charles Clarke her nephew mentioned as the assistant inn keeper. In the 1930's he took over as inn keeper when his aunt died. He died in Colyton in 1965.

Frank also was a publican running two pubs in Reading and Arborfield. He was given the mug by his cellar man who purchased it from a secondhand shop for 50p.

The mug was to be found hanging over the bar and was the focus of much discussion as to what its history. Frank even paid a visit to the Masons Arms to try and find out some information about Charles Clarke and the mug, but to no avail.

I would like to say a very big and public thank you to Frank and his daughter for receiving me in their home at Reading and for their generosity in returning the mug to Branscombe.

We now have a record of 16 mugs in existence and know of a further 3 that have disappeared. If anyone has any information on any more mugs please do contact the web site.

We are also still trying to find out how many mugs were issued and who gave them to the war veterans.