Sutton Down Badges
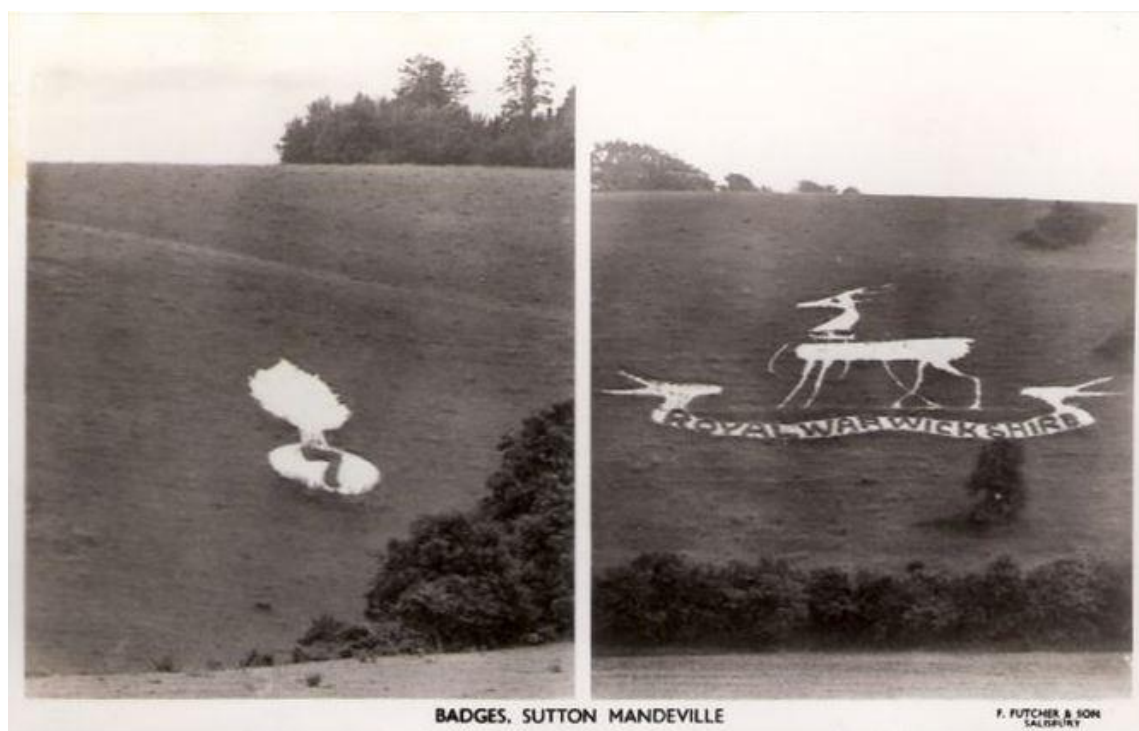

BADGES, SUTTON MANDEVILLE

F. FUTCHER & SON SALISBURY

At the going down of the sun and in the morning, Will we remember them?

First World War Centenary in Sutton Mandeville

By Hugh Collins

A packed public meeting on May 20 at All Saints Church, Sutton Mandeville, discussed the reinstatement of the regimental Badges on Sutton Down, two miles west of Fovant. The Badges were; for decades, a proud feature of our landscape. The badges of the 7th (City of London) Battalion and The Royal Warwickshire Regiment carved into the chalk Down land nearly 100 years ago have become overgrown since their maintenance stopped, and the Warwick's striking antelope emblem, in particular, is fading from view. Dr Antony Firth, opened the meeting and outlined the historical importance of the Badges, and how they were a widely visible, and a distinctive reminder of the huge impact the First World War had on our communities. General Sir Jack Deverell, another resident, spoke of the timeliness of the initiative to reinstate the Badges. With the centenary approaching, we must make the most of this opportunity to remember the thousands of troops who came to the area. There are many areas of historical interest to explore in addition to the physical reminder on the Downs. This moment in history profoundly changed our sleepy villages as the enormity of WW1 swept through. Long-standing residents of the local area clearly expressed their strong desire to see the Badges restored, and enthusiastically greeted the news of this exciting project. Newer residents are also keen to bring to life this poignant feature of our local area. The work will not be simple and substantial funds will be required. But with wide ranging support already from Wiltshire Council, the AONB Office and The Warwicks 1914-18 Living History Group, as well as numerous interested parties, momentum is building for a worthy project to commemorate the centenary of WW1 in a distinctive and enduring manner.

(Valley News June 2013 issue)   Sutton Down Badges