

# Hanslope's World War One Roll of Honour Restored



**100** years ago in April 1915 a Roll of Honour listing 66 Hanslope men who were regular soldiers or who had already volunteered to serve in the Great War was placed in the porch of St James church. In the early years of the war many towns and villages wanted to record the names of those serving King and Country before the start of conscription. Sadly six of the men recorded were to die and so their names appear also on our War Memorial, the Soldiers' Chapel inside the church.

One of the Hanslope World War One Commemoration Committee's projects was to restore this striking work of art. A further 128 Hanslope men and one woman were recruited subsequently so we are planning a second Roll of Honour to remember them.

Hanslope's Roll was produced by a famous commercial design company, Carlton Studios. The lithograph picture was created by Frederick Gardner, a well known artist and book illustrator. Thanks to the wonders of the internet we have been able to trace some of his descendents. On 26<sup>th</sup> July they were represented by his granddaughter, Heather Hanks at the Patronal Festival Service when the Roll was re-dedicated. The family had moved to Chesham Bois, Amersham, before 1914 – not too far away. Frederick's son, Peter Gardner, thinks he must have been contacted privately about the commission – so there may be a link with him and the then vicar, Fr William Harkness. Frederick also served in the army in the war so this must have had particular resonance for him.

The Roll was restored in two stages – the first task was to clean and restore the paper, lithograph painting and fine calligraphy. A large quantity of insects was removed and the slight foxing and other damage re-touched by Penny Jenkins Paper Conservator at Cambridge. The severely worm-eaten oak frame needed major refurbishment and new glass. This was carried out by Michael Dolling an Antiques Restorer based in Norfolk. The frame was covered in quarter-sawn oak veneer and given a gold oak stain. The UV treated glass is used by museums. The inner and outer frames are now sealed in their own environment which should keep it in good condition for at least the next 100 years.

We are extremely grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund for their grant enabling this work to be undertaken.

*Hanslope WW1 Commemoration Committee*