



NEATH'S GREAT WAR POPPY TRAIL



'Neath's Great War Poppy Trail' is part of the centenary memorials and celebrations and aims to tell the story of a select few of those servicemen who lost their lives in the conflict. It also maps out the casualties who lived in and around the centre of town. Using the map you can visit the streets, seeing the houses where these men and their families once lived, in the hope of making them much more than just a name on a plaque.



Neath Town Council
Cyngor Tref Castell neath

This publication was funded and supported by Neath Town Council. Special thanks to Deputy Mayor Cllr Bob Price for offering me the opportunity to work with NTC and to the Mayor Cllr Mark Protheroe for his on going support. Thank you to the Town Clerk Kathryn Charles for all she has done to support the project.

Thank you to my friend Roderick Hughes from the Swansea Pals for his help and support. To Colin and the Neath branch of the Royal British Legion for supplying the plastic car poppies that have been used to mark the houses and buildings. To Harriet and co. at Neath Library for giving me access to photographs from the Neath Museum Collection. Thank you to Jonathan Skidmore, and credit to his excellent book: Neath and Briton Ferry in The First World War. Finally, thank you to Jeff Griffiths for supplying the photograph of his Great Uncle Robert Rees DCM.

- Jim Harle

Please always respect the privacy of the home owners who's houses are included in the trail as you would for any other private residents in the area.

Please share this publication and pass it on to others if you have finished with it or recycle it responsibly.

Electronic and Welsh language versions of this publication are available from the Town council website:
www.neathtowncouncil.gov.uk (under News & Events)

DISCLAIMER: the information provided in this map is correct and accurate to the best of our knowledge at the time of going to print. Some streets have been renumbered and renamed over the years, and have even 'moved'. Some addresses listed in relation to casualties may be ones that their surviving relatives moved to or just where their parents lived, at the time of their death or the gathering if names for the memorial. I have done my best to check/account for all of these factors.



Memories of the war can be seen everywhere: most prominently the Gnoll memorial gates where the names of 459 Neath men are listed on six brass plaques.



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15. COMMERCIAL STREET

- **Private John Scully, Welsh Regiment.** 13 Commercial Street born 1882 died, 18th April 1918 (house no longer there).
- **Private John Laing, Welsh Regiment.** Lodged at the Victoria Hotel (now Dark Arch/Arches), Commercial Street. Born 1876, died 17th of January 1916.

16. CRESWELL ROAD

- **Lance Corporal Allan Leonard Lewis VC, 6th Batt. Northamptonshire Regiment.** 17 Creswell Road (native of Herefordshire). Born 1895, died on 21st September 1918.
- **Private Robert David Rees DCM, Royal Welsh Fusiliers.** 9 Creswell Terrace (Road). Born 1889, died on the 15th November
- **Private Edgar Beer Rhys, Welsh Regiment.** 3 Creswell Terrace. Born 1899, died 18th of September 1918.

17. EASTLAND ROAD

- **Private William Harold Griffiths, London Regiment.** 39 Eastland Road. Born 1899, died on 28th March 1918.
- **Private Ernest Morgan Vickery, Army Service Corps.** 55 Eastland Road. Born 1892, died 7th of October 1918.

18. LONDON ROAD

- **Private Edgar John Holywell, Welsh Regiment/Tank Corps.** 62 London Road. Born in 1893, died 8th of August 1917.
- **Lieutenant Michael Joseph O'Flynn, Royal Army Medical Corps, attached**

1st Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment.

- 22 London Road. Born 1879, died 24th of September 1918.
- **Driver D. R. Evans, Royal Field Artillery.** 37 London Road. Died on 22nd September 1917.

19. PARK STREET

- **Officer's Steward 3rd Class Herbert Colston Keyes, Royal Navy.** 5 Park Street. Born 1899, died on 26th October 1918.

20. RECTORY ROAD

- **Private Patrick Sullivan, Connaught Rangers/Machine Gun Corps.** 8 Rectory road. Born 1881, died 9th January 1918 (illness as a POW).
- **Private David John Hill, Welsh Regiment.** 10 Rectory Road. Born 1892, died on 24th of August 1918.
- **Private William John Evans, Welsh Regiment.** Born 1897, died on 27th August 1917.
- **Private William John Evans (not on memorial).** 12 Rectory Road. Born 1897, died 27th August 1917.

21. ROSSER STREET

- **Private Rosser David Rosser, King's Shropshire Light Infantry.** 6 Rosser Street. Died 14th of July 1916.
- **Private Edward Hall (not on memorial).** 8 Rosser Street. Died 4th April 1916.
- **Private Ivory Pyle, London Regiment.** Rosser Street. Born 189, died on 23rd May 1916.



When war broke out in September 1914 Britain had a relatively small army of 975,000 (including territorial and reserve forces), so the call to volunteer was issued. The response was great, but as the war went on and the death toll rose, the need for conscription (forcing men of fighting age to enlist) came into play, starting on 2nd March 1916.

The casualties suffered in the Great War were on a scale never seen before in any conflict: 10 Million soldiers lost their lives: 700,000 of these were British, and 40,000 of these were Welsh. Of those, 459 soldiers from the town of Neath died during the conflict and are commemorated on the Gnoll memorial. Many more men suffered life changing injuries: both physical and mental.

*Photograph:
Private Robert David Rees DCM,
Royal Welsh Fusiliers*

WHERE TO FIND OUT MORE:

Neath Library: Lending & Reference Library

Briton Ferry Library

www.livesofthefirstworldwar.org

www.cymru1914.org/en/home

The National Library of Wales:

www.cymruww1.llgc.org.uk

Facebook:

**'Neath Port Talbot World War One'
'Neath and Briton Ferry Soldiers of the
Great War 1914 1918'**



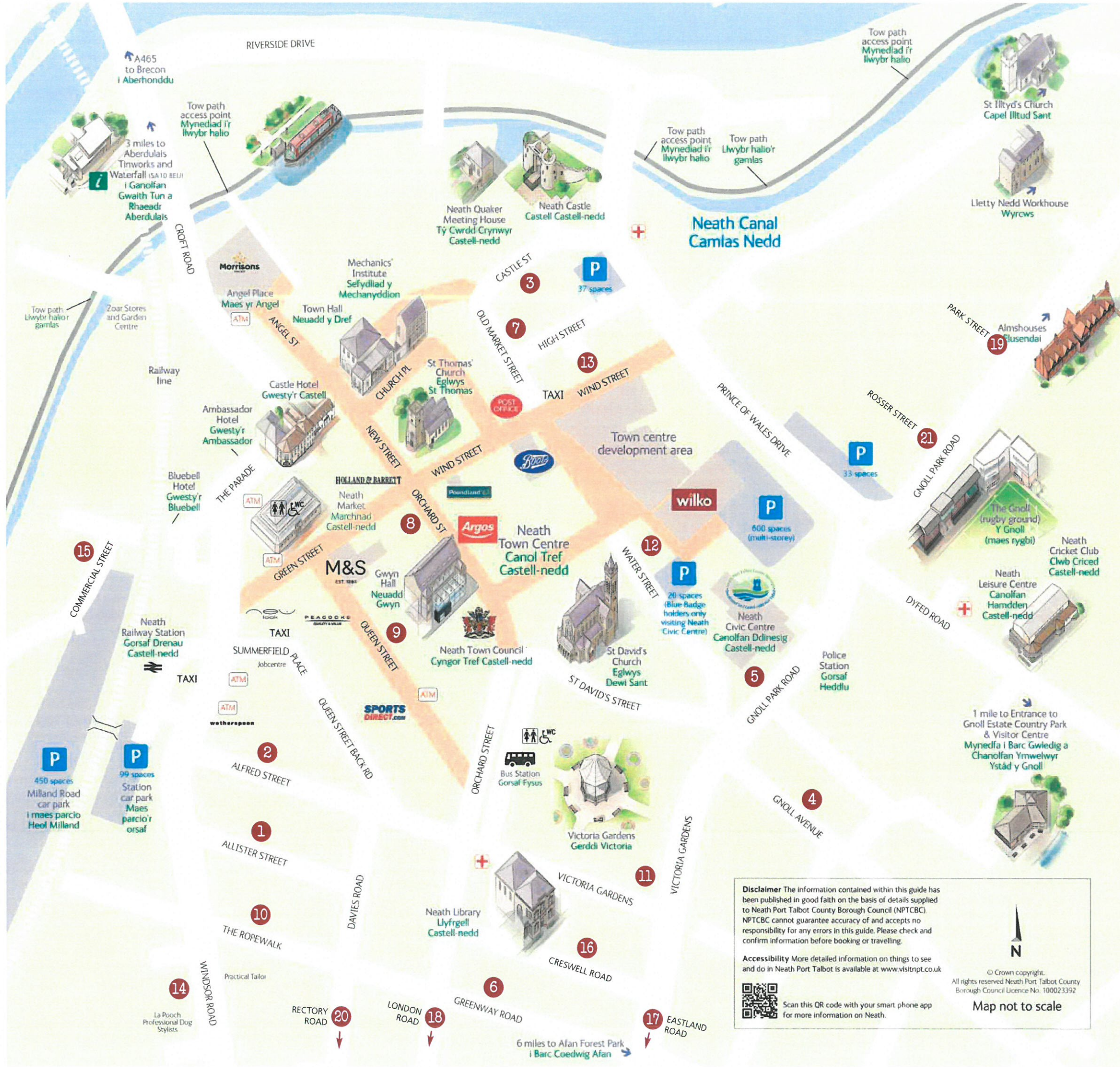
*Photograph:
Lance Corporal
Allan Leonard Lewis VC,
Northamptonshire Regiment.*

Neath had it's own drill hall on the corner of Cimla road and Eastland road that still remains today. It was opened on the 1st May 1914 and was home to F Coy, 6th Batt. Welsh Regiment (territorial force) as well as part of A squadron Glamorgan Yeomanry and 2 Battery 1st Welsh (Howitzer) Brigade. This is where many of the local men who served came to enlist.

There were numerous hospitals in Neath that dealt with casualties of the war and convalescing soldiers: the main one was the third Western general hospital or 'military hospital' in Briton Ferry (now demolished). There were also Red Cross hospitals: The Laurels that still remains in Lewis road, the hospital in Cwrt Sart school (now demolished), the hospital in the Gnoll infants school, Woodland road and the 'small hospital' on Gnoll park road (opposite the Police station, also now demolished).

Neath has many churches that predate the First World War and in these you can often find a roll of honour - a list of the men of that parish or church who lost their lives in the Great War. The best example is in St. Thomas's Church that has a fantastic hand painted roll of honour.

MAP INDEX



- 1. ALLISTER STREET**
 - Private David Cleaver, Army Ordnance Corps/Notts and Derby Regiment Sherwood Foresters. 33 Alexander Street, which is now Allister Street. Died 22nd of September 1917. (This house could not be located).
 - Lance Corporal William John Rees, Welsh Regiment. 12 Alexander Street, which is now Allister Street. Born 1819, died 26th of March 1923.
- 2. ALFRED STREET**
 - Corporal Griffith Bending, Royal Engineers. 33 Alfred Street. Born 1892, died 18th February 1918. This building is now HRT Estate agents.
- 3. CASTLE STREET**
 - Andrew (alias Anthony) O'Neill, South Wales Borderers. 20 Castle Street Neath. Born 1887, executed by firing squad on a 30th of April 1916.
 - Private John Jack O'Neill, Welsh Regiment Cheshire Regiment. Brother to Andrew (alias Anthony). Born 1885 date of death unconfirmed.
 - Private Thomas Roberts, Royal Welsh Fusiliers. 21 Castle buildings born 1870 died on 6th October 1919 (unrelated to the war).
 - Private Daniel Watkins, Royal Welsh Fusiliers. Castle buildings. Born 1890, died on 18th September 1918.
- 4. GNOLL AVENUE**
 - Lieutenant Daniel Gwyn Thomas, Royal Dublin Fusiliers. 18 Gnoll Avenue. Died 24th of May 1915.
 - Second Lieutenant Temporary Captain Henry Merddyn Jones, Royal Welsh Fusiliers. 3 Gnoll Avenue. Died 13th of November 1916.
 - Private William David Williams, Royal Welsh Fusiliers. 3 Gnoll Avenue. Died on the 31st of July 1917.
- 5. GNOLL PARK ROAD**
 - Second Lieutenant John Jack Angus Griffiths, Gloucestershire Regiment. Gnoll Park Road. Died on 23rd of April 1918.
 - Sergeant William Arthur Cyril Moore, Rifle Brigade. Gnoll Park Road. Died 23rd of March 1918.
 - Second Lieutenant William George Griffiths, Royal Welsh Fusiliers. 80 Gnoll Park Road. Died 9th of March 1918.
 - Second Lieutenant John (Jack) Enos Griffiths, Gloucestershire Regiment. Born 1893, died on 23rd April 1918.
 - Private Richard Davies (not on memorial), Kings Own Royal Lancashire Regiment. 1 Gnoll Park Road. Born 1895, died 26th January 1921.
 - Private John Frederick Harris, Welsh Regiment. 34 Gnoll Park Road. Born 1894, died on 8th May 1915.
- 6. GREENWAY ROAD**
 - Private William George Billings, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, 41 Greenway Road. Died 26th of September 1917.
 - Private Leonard John Merriman, Welsh Regiment. 12 Greenway Road. Born 1884, died 14th of December 1918.
- 7. OLD MARKET STREET**
 - Lance Sergeant Charles Penny, Border Regiment. Worked at John Rhys barbers, 16 Old Market Street. Died on 5th of July 1916.
 - Private Arthur Jones, Welsh Regiment. 4 Old Market Street. Born 1893, died 9th November 1917.
- 8. ORCHARD STREET**
 - Private Charles Bernard Griffiths, Lincolnshire Regiment. His parents ran the Royal Oak Hotel (Costa Coffee) on Orchard Street. Died 1st of May 1918.
- 9. QUEEN STREET**
 - Lieutenant Reginald Spencer Dudley Thomas, Royal Welsh Fusiliers. His father was a successful solicitor with a practice at 38 Queen Street. Born April 1896, died 18th of September 1918.
 - Corporal James Jenkins, Rifle Brigade. Queen Street. Born 1890, died 1st September 1917.
 - Private Thomas Lewis Llewellyn, Canadian Machine Gun Corps. 35 Queen Street. Born 1880. Died on 12th April 1917.
- 10. THE ROPEWALK**
 - Private Edgar Arthur Jones, Royal Welsh Fusiliers. 27 The Ropewalk. Died 6th of October 1918.
 - Private Walter George Perlman, Royal Welsh Fusiliers. 29 The Ropewalk. Born 1896, died on the 17th of July 1916.
 - Private David Samuel Anthony, Royal Berkshires. 18 The Ropewalk. Born 1883, died on 24th April 1917.
 - Sergeant Homer Davies, Welsh Regiment. The Ropewalk. Born 1891, died September 1915.
- 11. VICTORIA GARDENS**
 - Private Benjamin John Noot, Royal Army Medical Corps / Wiltshire Regiment. 11 Victoria Gardens. Died on 22nd of October 1918.
 - Private Alexander William Chapman, Welsh Regiment. 4 Victoria Gardens. Born 1877, died on 17th May 1915.
- 12. WATER STREET**
 - Private Frank Abbott, Royal Welsh Fusiliers. 27 Water Street. Died 21st June 1918.
 - Private James John, Welsh Regiment. 54 Water Street. Born 1887, died 22nd of August 1917.
 - Private William John Wayman, Welsh Horse Montgomeryshire Regiment. 61 Water Street. Died 17th of June 1917.
 - Private Evan John Rosser, South Wales Borderers/Royal Army Medical Corps. 49 Water Street. Born 1893, died 13th of August 1918.
- 13. WIND STREET**
 - Leading Seaman Ernest John William Warren, Hawke Battalion Royal Naval Division. 14A Wind Street. Died 23rd of April 1917.
 - Private Godfrey Dory, South Lancashire Regiment. Wind Street. Born 1883, died 24th of March 1918.
 - Private Elias Jenkins, South Lancashire Regiment. 37A Wind Street. Born 1897, died in Wind Street on the 7th of April 1920, buried in Llantwit cemetery.
 - Private John Samuel Vickery, South Wales Borderers. 33 Wind Street. Born in 1898, died 23rd to 25th of November 1917.
 - Private Evan John Rosser (not on memorial) South Wales Borderers/Royal Army Medical Corps. Wind Street. Born 1893, died 13th August 1918.
- 14. WINDSOR ROAD**
 - Private William Bodycombe James, Royal Army Medical Corps. 71 Windsor Road. Born 1899, died 19th February 1918 age 18.
 - Corporal James Jenkins, Rifle Brigade. Windsor Road. Died 1st of September 1917.
 - Private Hyman Lietz, Royal Fusiliers. 28 Windsor Road (family shop). Died on 10th of August 1917.
 - Trimmer Samuel Bodycombe Rees, Versatile Marine Reserve. 65 Windsor Road Grocers. Born 1878, died 1st of March 1918.
 - Private Daniel Edgar Evans, Welsh Regiment. 48 Windsor Road. Born 1898, died June 1918.
 - Mess Room Steward Evan Llewellyn Lewis, Versatile Marine. 83 Windsor Road. Born 1887, died 23rd of May 1918.
 - Lance Corporal Reginald Treharne Rombach (not on the memorial), South Wales Borderers. 84 Windsor Road. Born 1882, died on 30th August 1917.
 - Private Herbert Arthur Evans, Welsh Regiment/Army Service Corps. 124 Windsor Road. Born 1886, died 8th March 1922.

Disclaimer The information contained within this guide has been published in good faith on the basis of details supplied to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (NPTCBC). NPTCBC cannot guarantee accuracy of and accepts no responsibility for any errors in this guide. Please check and confirm information before booking or travelling.

Accessibility More detailed information on things to see and do in Neath Port Talbot is available at www.visitnpt.co.uk

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Map not to scale

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