

ARMISTICE DAY 2018 – CAPEL SAINT MARY, SUFFOLK – LIEUTENANT JOHN ENGLISH LOTT MC RE OF (1888-92) – DIED OF HIS WOUNDS 21 MAY 1917

Following the end of the First World War, the villagers of Capel Saint Mary, Suffolk raised funds in memory of those local men who had lost their lives in the conflict. However, instead of building a memorial, the money was given to Ipswich Hospital to help treat the wounded. In 2015, the Capel Saint Mary War Memorial Trust was formed with 2 objectives: raising a permanent fitting memorial to ensure that the sacrifice made by the men of Capel and the surrounding area are properly recognised and making the community aware, particularly the young, of the stories behind events of the time. With the help of the Heritage Lottery Fund and the generosity of the local community, funds were raised to erect a granite memorial on the village green. This was dedicated on 11 November 2018, in the presence of local dignitaries and a huge crowd of local people.

Listed on the memorial with the names of the fallen from the First World War, is John English Lott. He was born in 1875. He was a boarder at Framlingham College from 1888-1892. He was a Goldsmith Scholar and a School Prefect. After leaving Framlingham, he worked in a bank, and also became involved in missionary work, initially in the cause of merchant seamen. As his involvement became greater, he joined the Order of St Paul in Alton, in Hampshire, becoming a Monk or Brother of the Charity in 1899. At the outbreak of war in 1914, the head of the Order decided to formally release all of the Brothers from their vows of obedience to the Order so that they were free to enlist in the Armed Forces if they wished. John Lott was 39 years old and he volunteered to join the 21st Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers – the 4th Public Schools Battalion – which he joined on 11 November 1914 as a Private. After arriving in France in November 1915, he was attached to the 176th Tunnelling Company RE which was employed on operations in the Givenchy-Cuinchy sector as a labourer. He was disappointed not to have been accepted for a commission in April 1916 on the account of his age. Later, he transferred to become a sound ranger in a Survey Company. In November 1916, he made a successful application for commissioning and on 29 December 2nd Lieutenant Lott joined the 5th Field Survey Company. On 7 May 1917, John Lott saw a party of soldiers hit by fire, which wounded all the men of the party. Lott immediately went out and started to bring in the wounded even though the area was still under continual shellfire. A piece of shrapnel pierced his steel helmet and penetrated his brain. Severely wounded, he was carried back to safety and rushed to 55 Casualty Clearing Station. John Lott may never have recovered consciousness. For his actions on 7 May 1917 the award of the MC was approved and a local chaplain pinned the ribbon of the medal on his breast a few hours before he died of his wounds on 21 May 1917. The citation for the MC reads: *“For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. A party went out to recover the body of a comrade and came under heavy fire, which wounded all the men of the party. This officer went to their assistance, helped to dress their wounds and carried them to a place of safety. This was carried out under continuous shellfire.”*

(Much more detail about John Lott’s life may be found in the Distinguished OFs Section of the Old Framlinghamian website [here](#))

In 2015, recognising the Framlingham College connection to John Lott, the Chairman of the Capel Saint Mary War Memorial Trust invited Air-Vice Marshal Simon Dougherty OF (60-67) and Governor, whom he knew well, to lay a wreath on behalf of the Armed Services at the Dedication Ceremony for the War Memorial on 11 November 2018. Also present were Sir Michael Bunbury KCVO JP DL, Her Majesty’s Deputy Lieutenant for Suffolk and Mr James Cartlidge MP for South Suffolk. The Society of Old

Framlinghamians was represented by Chris Milner-Moore (55-61) and Framlingham College was represented by Squadron Leader Simon Cullum accompanied by a small contingent of RAF Cadets from Framlingham College CCF.

