

'We will catch benefit cheats'

BENEFIT cheat Deborah Skelton wrongly claimed more than £4,000.

The 47-year-old, of Corporation Street in Stafford failed to tell the local authority that her income had increased.

Now Skelton has been handed a six month community order – which also involves carrying out 40 hours of unpaid work.

The defendant, who was caught out following an investigation by Stafford Borough Council must also pay fines and costs of £160.

Stafford Magistrates Court heard that Skelton wrongly claimed £4,080 of housing benefit between April 2011 and December 2014.

Community leaders have welcomed the punishment handed to Skelton.

Councillor Ken Williamson, cabinet member for resources at the borough council said:

"We are determined to prevent people cheating tax payers out of money they are not entitled to. It is unfair on all those people who do pay their dues – and if you do cheat the system you should expect to be caught and could face a prison sentence."

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Villagers land funding to research war dead and improve memorial



TRIBUTE: Project members, from left, Christine Fowler, Pat Mullington, Ivor Lucas, Ken Unwin and Martyn Hordern. Left, the war memorial.

£6k helps pen new chapter on heroes

BY MATT SIMPSON
matthew.simpson@thesentinel.co.uk

VILLAGERS will never forget the heroic wartime efforts of those who lived in the area before them when a book is produced detailing their brave tales.

To mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War residents and community leaders in Kingsley landed a £6,400 grant to help pay tribute to the 28 people on the village's memorial.

And organisers initially hoped to have enough for a short booklet – but found out so much they ended up with enough for a full book.

Martyn Horden approached members of Kingsley Parish Council to float the idea of researching the war memorial.

Martyn, aged 49, of Barnfields Lane, said: "Initially we wanted to produce an A5 booklet, but we ended up with so much information it has become a book. With a book we can set this down for future generations. This is almost the last chance to uncover this information before it is lost."

"We could be within a few years of it going so research project like our are crucial in preserving local history."

To help fund the project, and bring about improvements to the village's war memorial, Martyn applied for and succeeded in getting a grant of £6,400 from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The work to the memorial, which will begin in 2015, will provide a seating area and allow easy access for those less able.

Now the information is put together the next step will be to publish the work into a hard copy.

Martyn added: "This project

has helped to build good community relations for the future as we all pause and reflect on what has happened.

"It can be easy to lose a sense of community, but the village and relatives of those who died have bought into the spirit and have taken a great deal of pride in these men."

"It is amazing what you can find out. They become real and hearing their stories means something more than just listening to their names read out at a service."

Parish council chairman Ken Unwin, aged 62, of Shawe Park Road, who assisted Martyn in his research, said: "As retired policemen, Martyn and I had the skills and the mindset for this project."

"It is remarkable how much information we have managed to find and we're delighted to have found so much. It really enriches the history of the village itself."

"We can all relate to it – they live in places we are all familiar, had jobs we share."

Ivor Lucas, aged 72, who is chairman of the Kingsley branch of the British Legion, said: "The work which has been done is absolutely marvellous."

"The men who left to fight have made Britain what it is today and it is very important we continue to recognise what they did. They gave so much for so little and gave their lives for something they believed in. We must always respect that."

"And the memorial is a very poignant place in the village and when the work starts, I hope it will be treated with respect. It means such a lot to the village and it is special to me."

The men who never returned

The Kingsley men who died in the Great War:
■ Sto. George H Smith, died September 22, 1914, aged 23

■ 2nd Lt. Robert M Heywood, right, died February 15, 1915, aged 31

■ Lt. Rowland AJ Beech, died February 21, 1915, aged 26

■ Pvt. Thomas Salt, died October 9, 1915, aged 31

■ Pvt. James Poyser, died March 18, 1916, aged 23

■ Pvt. Charles Allen, died August 12, 1916, aged 24

■ Pvt. Isaac Hammond, died August 31, aged 27

■ Pvt. George P Bevans, died eptember 8, 1916, aged 32

■ Pvt. Arthur Keene, died October 12, 1916, aged 28

■ Pvt. Thomas Clowes, died October 19, 1916, aged 23

■ Pvt. Earnest Upton, died April 9, 1917, aged 29

■ Pvt. George Fallows, died April 19, 1917, aged 21

■ Pvt. Edward E Bradshaw, left, died May 21, 1917, aged 26

■ Pvt. Thomas Barker, died August 8, 1917

■ Pvt. George S Wheawall, died August 18, 1917, aged 31

■ Pvt Roland J Burston, died December 12, 1917, aged 30

■ Gnr. James Meakin, died January 20, 1918, aged 32

■ Pvt. James H Wildgoose, died May 8, 1918, aged 30

■ Pvt. Colin Capewell, died May 26, 1918, aged 29

■ Pvt. George Ramsell, died August 8, 1918

■ Pvt. Moses Holland, died October 5, 1918, aged 18

■ Pvt. William Brindley, died November 2, 1918, aged 22

■ Pvt. John W Salt, died November 18, 1918, aged 33

■ Fus. Kenneth R Lovatt, died December 5, 1918, aged 19

■ Lt Col. Rowland J Beech, right, died August 30, 1919, aged 65

■ Com Sgt Maj. Leonard Edwards, died September 16, 1920, aged 27

■ Sto PO. George W Hood, died June 21, 1921, aged 43

■ J Tideswell (no details)



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