

# College plants final tree at First World War memorial

by Helen Devonshire

hdevonshire@guernseypress.com

THE FINAL tree to commemorate the Old Elizabethans who died in the First World War was planted on Saturday.

There are 11 Snow Queen birch trees which have been planted in a circle at Elizabeth College's Memorial Field at Footes Lane.

Each tree represents 10 of those who died.

The field was bought by the Old Elizabethan Association as a memorial to those lost in the First World War.

The OEA has been marking the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War this year.

Elizabeth College principal George Hartley said he had the idea for the tree planting, which was funded by the OEA.

'We started planting a couple of weeks ago,' Mr Hartley said.

'The Ruskin Group, made up of Sixth Form students, helped to plant the other trees.'

Year 11 student George Garnett, who is interested in horticulture, assisted with the planting.

George, 15, said he had learned a lot from the project, which was also supported by Guernsey Men of the Trees.

'It is nice that it will last as well.'

A one minute silence was held by those present.

President of the OEA, John Bell, said those who died were aged between 18 and 65 years old.

At the time there would have been around 100 boys at the school compared to approximately 500 there today.

'To lose 110 from a town or village is a lot, but from one school is something altogether different,' he said.

Following the event, an OE XI team played football against the College 1st XI in a specially commissioned early 20th century kit.



A circle of eleven trees has been planted at the Elizabeth College Memorial Field, each one representing 10 Old Elizabethans who lost their lives fighting in the First World War. Left to right are president of the Old Elizabethan Association John Bell, head teacher George Hartley, George Garnett, 15, who helped with project and Andy McCutcheon from Guernsey Men of the Trees. (Picture by Adrian Miller, 6625410)