

# Bushley through the Great War



## A Commemorative Guide

IN TRIBUTE TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF BUSHLEY  
WHO SERVED THEIR COUNTRY DURING THE CONFLICT

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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*The pictures of the military cemeteries are the copyright property of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.*

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**All profits from this publication will be shared between St Peter's Church, Bushley and Bushley Village Hall.**

**Richard Webb**  
Editor

1914-1919



*Saint Peter's Church  
illustrated by Julia Park*





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## AN INTRODUCTION TO BUSHLEY

**Bushley is a small village some 2 miles north-west of Tewkesbury. The local town is at the northern limit of Gloucestershire. Though Bushley itself is situated in Worcestershire, the village identifies more with Gloucestershire and its local town of Tewkesbury. The village is bounded by the River Severn to the east, Longdon Brook to the North, Green Street to the west, and the Tewkesbury to Ledbury Road to the south. The village covers an area in excess of 1800 acres.**

*Watercolour painting of Pull Court viewed from the West.*



In 1914, the population was about 250, spread across the parish, but with two population centres. The first round St Peter's church in Bushley 'proper' and the second, a cluster of houses facing onto

Bushley Green at the top of the hill, and some 100 foot higher than the main section of the village below. Its inhabitants led a life based on the land. The 1911 census shows 63 different households, of which 20 were farm labourers, including cowmen, waggoners, and a shepherd. Additional households included 13 farming families, 8 retired persons, 4 gardeners, 3 widowed char women, one schoolmaster, one vicar, one squire, one hay and straw merchant, one blacksmith, one ex Midland Railway guard, one assistant engineer, one stationary engine driver, one estate carpenter, one borough council worker, one coachman, one estate bailiff, one gamekeeper, one lady of independent means, and one widowed laundress.

The size of each household reflected either the importance of the owner or the fecundity of the occupiers. Thus, the Squire, the Reverend Edmund Richard Dowdeswell had 10 residents at his home Pull Court, nine staff - including a butler, a housekeeper, a chauffeur, two gardeners and a hall boy - and himself. At the parsonage, there were eight all told. The Reverend Robert Russell Cowan, the vicar, his wife Catherine, two daughters of

school-age, one maidservant, a pageboy and two boarders of independent means. The largest of the farming families was seven strong at Hill House farm. William Morgan, his wife and daughter Annie, son David, two farm workers and two maidservants. At Pound Cottages William and Elizabeth Fowler, a farm labourer/horseman and his wife were bringing up eight of their own children as well, as their five-year-old nephew, James Neale. Sidney and Catherine Hart, who moved to Bushley Green in 1911 had 11 children in all. Charles Philip Cole, a stockman with at least 3 children on the Bushley War Memorial, and his wife Annie lived with 10 children between the ages of 17 and one.

Transport was mainly horse drawn - only the squire and the vicar had motor cars. The roads were crushed stone kept serviceable by steamrollers. There was no mains electricity and no gas lighting in the village. Light after dark was provided by candles. Water was generally drawn from a well. The landscape was much less open than today. Fields were much smaller and divided by hedgerows where the English elm was the dominant tree. Each small farmstead was surrounded by orchards



*This clipped Yew Cross on Bushley Green (photo taken in 2015) was a prime feature 100 years ago.*

from which every farmer made their own cider. The community was largely self-sufficient. Tewkesbury's shops provided what was not available in the village. The village school provided education, the church provided faith and hope and everyone clubbed together for charity. There was no national pension scheme. The doctor's and local hospital services were provided by fees for those who could afford them, and by public subscription for those who could not.

Despite the lack of amenities taken for granted today, the village community appeared tranquil and content. For everyone life was physically demanding; for the farmers it was hard work, but life could be very comfortable.



At the bottom of the pile, the farm labourers who made up the largest part of the population depended on an efficient and benevolent employer to keep their children fed and clothed. Some agricultural labourers hired for the season by their employers, needed to change house, and often parish and school on a frequent basis. Pay was small and farm workers' children were encouraged to leave school at the earliest opportunity to add to the family wage.

It is unsurprising that some enlisting in 1914 signed their name with an X.

Rosanna Starling was a widow living with her children at Freeband Wells, Bushley Green at the outbreak of war. On August 2nd 1914 her diary entry was simple. *'War commenced'*. She showed a remarkable prescience. She was two days ahead of those in power in Whitehall. Her entry for August 3rd read *"Boys to Bredon Show. Mr and Mrs Bint here."* On the 4th it was *"Haymaking."* Little did the village suspect what the next 4 years would bring.

Out of a total population of 250, including women, children and the elderly, 46 names, nearly 20% of the total, would appear on the village war memorial at the end of the Great War. The grieving parents, the wives and sweethearts who lost their husbands and boy friends, and the fatherless children are not among that number. The effect was devastating.

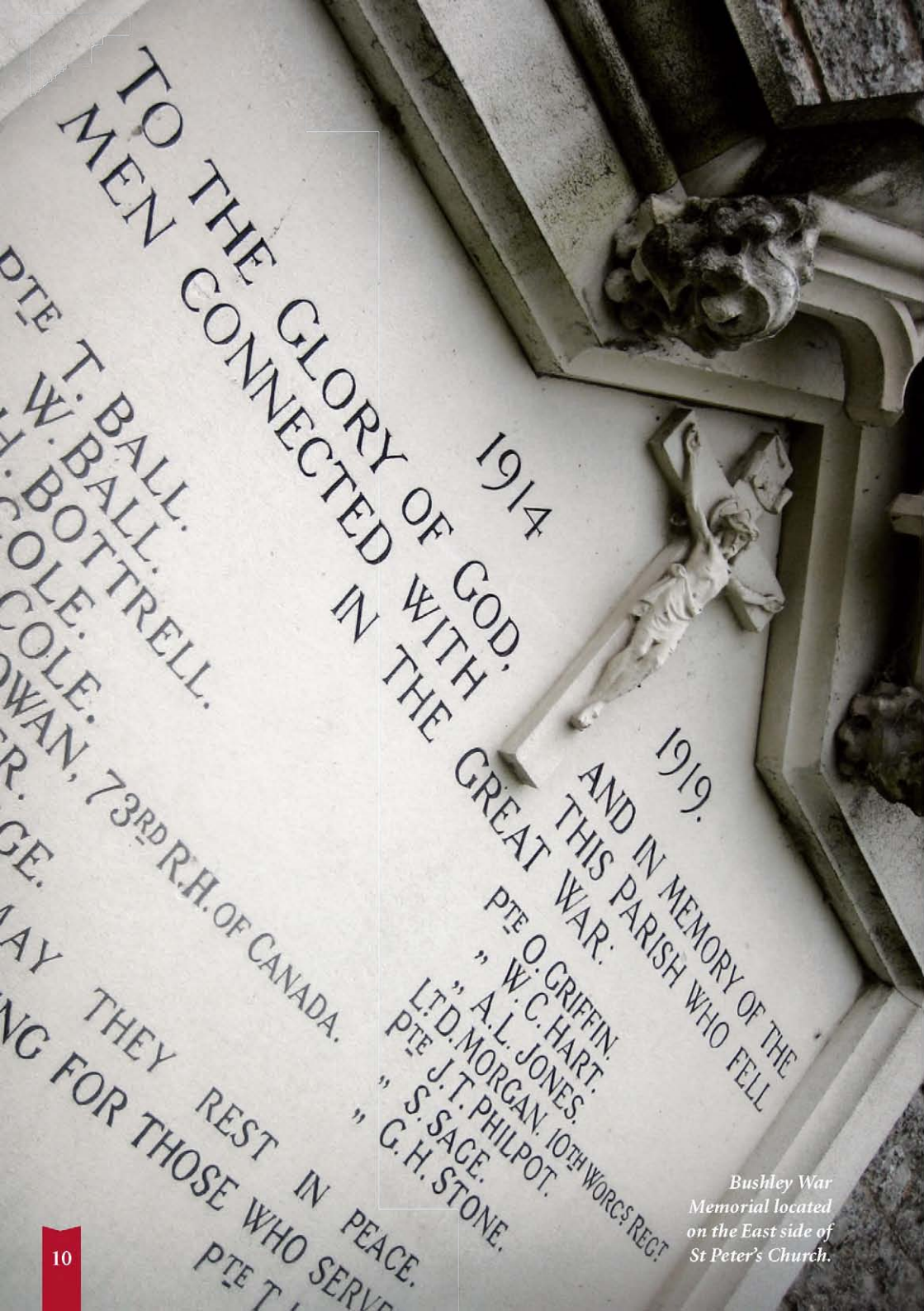
Mrs  
Rosanna  
Starling, of  
Freeband  
Wells,  
Bushley  
Green.



**20%** *Of Bushley's population  
are listed on the village  
War Memorial.*



Church Farm,  
Churchend,  
Bushley 2015



Bushley War Memorial located on the East side of St Peter's Church.

## THE MEN

On 3rd September 1914 a band of young Bushley men, mostly farm workers, volunteered in Tewkesbury to join Lord Kitchener's Army. They all enlisted in the 9th battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment. They were the first villagers to volunteer, in the optimistic belief that this would be a war that would soon be over. They and the many others who followed them were soon to realise that it would, instead, be a hard, protracted and bloody affair.

The Bushley Almanac introduction for 1915 sets the right note. *"It would be impossible for us in this small local publication to describe, even in the most general terms, the object and nature of this terrible worldwide, devastating war, and what the effects might be, not only on our Empire and Nation, but also on our Homes and on our very*

*existence in our happy, peaceful countryside. All we can do is to record how thoroughly this has been realised by our brave young men, who have so nobly offered themselves to fight their country's battles, either in the Navy, or the regular Army, or in Lord Kitchener's newly raised millions."*

The war time biographies listed in alphabetical order are those of the men named on the Bushley War Memorial. We regret that the records are not as full as might be wished and that several names have no recorded war service. These last names are grouped together at the end of the article. Many individual records were destroyed by fire, and it is virtually impossible to retrieve from military records details of those conscripted late in the war who did not serve abroad and therefore received no medals.



Poster calling for British volunteers.



Poster calling for Canadian volunteers - see page 21.



**BALL (Thomas) PRIVATE**  
*Nº2 Company. 1st Bn., Grenadier Guards*



Tom was born in 1893 and was baptised on 26th March 1893. He was the sixth son of Christopher and Hester Ball who lived at Upper Lode and ran their hay and straw and coal merchanting business from the premises. He had five brothers James, Will (see BALL William), Harry, Charles and Bert and two sisters Mary and Adarena. As a young man Tom worked in the family business. He married May Wood in 1915 and had a son Alan.



Tom joined No 2 Company of the 1st Battalion the Grenadier Guards on 20th November 1916; his service no was 27935. He died on 13th October 1917, killed instantaneously in action in the First Battle of Passchendaele, aged 24. His brother William was also killed within 3 weeks of Tom's death (see William Ball). His sacrifice is recorded on the Memorial at Tyne Cot. He was awarded the British War and Victory Medal.



**BALL (William) GUNNER**  
*10th Siege Battery Royal Garrison Artillery*



Will was the second son of Christopher and Hester Ball, of the Upper Lode, Tewkesbury. He was born in 1881. He was at Chaceley School for a short period before going on to Bushley, when his parents moved to Upper Lode. Initially he worked for his father, the tenant at Brockeridge Farm, Twynning. Then he moved to Western Australia in 1910, returning after three years in 1913, as he found the climate detrimental to his health. Subsequently he worked in his father's business as a hay, straw and coal merchant.

On 4th April 1916 he joined the Royal Garrison Artillery as a gunner and cook, his number being 73488. He arrived in France on Christmas Day 1916. He fought in The Western European Theatre and died on 25th September 1917 at Ypres, France.



His commanding officer wrote "Gunner Ball, who was in my battery, and who was wounded on the 25th of last month, died of his wounds the same day. In bringing this sad news to you I should like to offer you my most sincere sympathy. At the time he was wounded he was assisting the battery as a cook, and had gone up to rather an unhealthy spot for this purpose. The sad thing is that he passed away when no one of his battery was with him. He was an excellent gunner, and did his work cheerfully and well. I never heard him complain, however trying his task might be. It seems a most extraordinary thing that it is always the best men who are hit."

His name is recorded at Bedford House Cemetery, Ypres. He was awarded the British War and Victory Medals.



**BLAKE (Albert) PRIVATE***9th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment*

He remained there until December when he joined the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, ending up in Salonika in support of the Serbian army at war with Bulgaria. In October 1916 Bert went down with dysentery, which required several vigorous sessions of treatment. He was invalided home to Reading hospital in December 1916, where in April 1917 he suffered a severe asthmatic attack. Two further attacks occurred in June.

Bert was discharged in July 1917 as no longer fit for military service "*Conduct during his service has been very good. Is .... reliable and intelligent.*" He received a temporary weekly disability allowance of 27 shillings and sixpence. The following year he married Nellie Messenger.

He was awarded the British War and Victory medals and the 1915 Star.

Bert was born in 1892 in Badgeworth Gloucestershire, the son of George and Alice Blake. George is recorded as a 72 year old farm labourer living at Church End Bushley in the 1911 Census. Alice, a much younger wife was then 51. He had a younger brother Charlie (see BLAKE Charles). Bert was educated at Bushley school from 1900-1904.

Bert was one of the first to volunteer for Kitchener's Army with a band of Bushley colleagues on 3rd September 3rd 1914 in Tewkesbury. He was 5'7½ with a fresh complexion, grey eyes and black hair. He was enrolled in the 9th Battalion of the Gloucesters in October 1914. (Regt. No. 13142) He was posted to France on 20th September 1915.

**BLAKE (Charlie James) PRIVATE***9th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment*

Charlie was one of the band of Bushley men who volunteered for service in Kitchener's army on 3rd September 1914 at Tewkesbury. He was enrolled as a private in the 9th Battalion of the Gloucesters in November 2015. (Regt. No. 12615)

He served in the UK until September 1915, when he went to France where he remained till December 1915, when he was transferred to the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force until December 1916. He returned to serve in the UK until his discharge. (Returned to UK because of dysentery?)

He was discharged in December 1917, and in 1920 he married Ada Messenger in Tewkesbury.

He was awarded the British War and Victory medals and the 1915 Star.

Charlie was the second son of a farm worker, George Blake and his wife Alice. He was born in 1894 at Badgeworth in Gloucestershire, and by the time of the 1911 census was living with his parents at Church End Bushley. He had an elder brother Bert (See BLAKE Albert). He was educated at Bushley school from 1900-1904. He was described in the census as a farm labourer.





**BLOXHAM (Cyril Frank) PRIVATE***The Royal Engineers*

Cyril's parents were Frank and Annie Bloxham. His father was the son of Isaac Bloxham of Tilterdown Farm, Bushley. Cyril was born in 1895 in Forthampton. In the 1901 census Frank was described as farmer and game keeper.

By 1911 the family, including, in addition to Cyril and his parents, five sisters and one brother had moved to the Oxhey farm, Bushley. Cyril was 16, a farmer's son working on the farm.

During the Great War Cyril joined the Royal Engineers (No 302144) and later transferred to the Royal Field Artillery (No 238725).



He returned home, a young man with white hairs, who never spoke of his army experiences.

In 1923 Cyril married Vera Hayward in Tewkesbury. They had two daughters Pamela, born in 1925, and Brenda in 1928. Cyril farmed first at the Oxhey, and later at Grove Farm and Seaford Grange, both near Pershore.

During World War II Cyril and his younger brother George served in the Home Guard securing the bridge at Upton on Severn, sometimes on the bridge, sometimes in The Swan.

Vera died in 1963 and Cyril in 1967, aged 72, following a stroke. They are both buried at Tewkesbury Abbey.

He was awarded the British War and Victory medals.

**BOTTRELL (Harry) PRIVATE***2nd Bn., The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex) Regiment*

of the war. In 1916 the regiment was in action in the battle of the Somme, and it was probably here that he was killed in action on 21st August 1916. The Bushley Almanac for 1917 records that *"His death came to him while in the trenches, without warning, and it was absolutely instantaneous. His superior officer wrote that he was a very brave, reliable and efficient soldier, and his death a great loss to his battalion."* His sacrifice is remembered at Vermelles British Cemetery. Grave Reference III.0.20.

He was posthumously awarded the British War and Victory medal and the 1915 Star medal.

It is not known how Ellen and their children coped but records suggest in 1922 she married Alfred C Lee in Kingston. Harry's mother Elizabeth and brother Jim continued to live in Bushley after the war. Elizabeth died in the Upton district in 1922 and Jim in 1924 in Kings Norton.

The Bottrell family had lived in or around Bushley at least since the early 1800s. Harry was born in the spring of 1877, was christened on 29th September 1877 in Longdon, and his confirmation took place in the same church on 7th May 1890. He attended Bushley School, starting in 1885. His parents James and Elizabeth lived in Green Street Lodge Bushley. He had three siblings Bert, Jim and Fanny. As a youth he was employed in the Pull Court garden.

He moved to Palmers Green Middlesex in approximately 1906 where he found work as a jobbing gardener. He married Ellen who was 10 years younger and had three children Elizabeth, Herbert and Thomas.

By autumn 1914 he was a private in the 2nd battalion of the Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex) Regiment (Regt. No. 7515) serving at first in Malta then arriving in France in April 1915. The regiment was to remain on the western front for the remainder



**COLE (Frederick) PRIVATE***The Gloucestershire Regiment*

Fred, born in Stoke Orchard near Cheltenham on 10th February 1894, was the second son of Charles and Annie Cole (née Bennett). Charles was a stock man working on various farms in the Bushley area, hired annually by his employers. The Coles were a large family, 11 children in all, the youngest, Harry, being born in 1909, by which time the family was established in Bushley. Fred's older and third brothers Dick and Willie and possibly his fifth brother Alfred also served in the war (See COLE Richard, William and Alfred).

Their great niece, Dorothy Parsons, recorded that Fred and Dick both fell in love and competed for the affection of a beautiful girl of Romany stock, Alice Kecia Gweenett. Alice chose Fred who worked for Mr Loveridge, a farmer at Queenhill. They were married in 1914, and found a house at Church End Bushley. A son, Charles, was born, probably in 1915.



Fred enlisted at Tewkesbury in the Gloucesters in April 1916, and was transferred to the SWB (South Wales Borderers) Regt (known to Gloucesters men as Silly Welsh Bastards). (Regt no. 42272). He was in France with his regiment by January 1916. He returned home on leave in 1917, and a second child Dorothy was born in June 1918.

Fred was destined never to see his daughter. From August 1918 the SWB were in the thick of the fighting involved with the breaking of the Hindenberg line. Fred was severely wounded at the battle of Villers Outreaux 8th – 9th October 1918. He was taken to the Field Hospital at Tincourt, but died on October 14th. He is buried at the Tincourt cemetery.

He was posthumously awarded the British War and Victory Medals.

**COLE (Richard Philip) RIFLEMAN***The Rifle Brigade*

Dick Cole was born at the Folly, Deerhurst on 19th August 1892, the eldest son of Charles and Annie Cole (née Bennett). Charles was a stock man working on various farms in the Bushley area, hired by his employers for the year. The Coles were a large family, 11 children in all, the youngest Harry being born in 1909, by which time the family was established in Bushley. Dick's second, third and possibly his fifth brothers Fred, Willie and Alfred also served in the war (See COLE Frederick, William and Alfred).

In 1911 he was working as a dairyman (milking the cows) for Mr Morgan at Hill House farm.

Their great niece, Dorothy Parsons recorded that Richard and Fred both fell in love and competed for the affection of a beautiful girl of Romany stock, Alice Kecia Gweenett. Such was the rivalry that when Alice chose Fred, Dick tried to commit suicide.



On recovery he departed, returning to tell his mother that he now had a new job. He had joined the Regular army, and was now a rifleman (no 4559) in the 3rd battalion of the Rifle brigade.

Dick went to France with the British Expeditionary Force in August 1914. In May 1915 he was wounded, hospitalised in London, returning home on recuperation leave. Whilst there he received an unwelcome visit from the military police, who had incorrect instructions.

He returned to France and was killed in action in the attack on Guillemont Station on the Somme. He is buried at Serre Road Cemetery no 2.

He was posthumously awarded the British War and Victory medals.



**COLE (William)** PRIVATE*1st Battalion the Worcestershire Regiment*

Willie was one of twin brothers born to Charles and Annie Cole (née Bennett), then living in Walton Cardiff, in December 1897. Charles was a stock man working on various farms in the Bushley area, hired by his employers for the year. The Coles were a large family, 11 children in all, the youngest Harry being born in 1909, by which time the family was established in Bushley.



Willie's twin brother John became a farm worker and remained on farms during the Great War. Elder brothers included Dick and Fred (see COLE Richard and Frederick)

Willie enlisted in the 1st battalion the Worcesters on 10th June 1916. Family records tell that he was sent to France and was exposed to gas attacks, which had a lasting effect. He became a prisoner of war in early 1918, following which he was sent to work in a coal mine in Silesia.

Patricia Parsons a niece wrote "*Uncle Bill, as I knew him was a small gentle man, quiet of speech and ways.*"

It is difficult to identify him from Worcestershire Regimental records, but it is extremely likely that he was awarded the British War and Victory medals.

**COWAN (Alan Russell)** LIEUTENANT*British Columbia Regiment (Black Watch) 73 Royal Highlanders*

The Rev. Robert Russell Cowan's hobby was photography and so he recorded the picture of his son, shown at the head of this notice, taken during a few days' leave, before he departed to join his company in France. Whilst marching along a road on the afternoon of August 19th 1916 Alan was wounded by an exploding shell. He died on 20th August of wounds to his legs and compound fractures to his femur. He is buried at the grave B6 Plot 9 at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery.

Alan was born in Upwell, Norfolk on 5th March 1887, the second son of Bushley's parson the Revd. Robert and Catherine Russell Cowan. He had several siblings noted in the Bushley Graves register, including Denys, killed in a London air raid in 1941, Philip who died in 1975, Barbara who died in 1987 and Lydia, whose married name was Boyd-Carpenter, who died in 1992. Alan attended Bloxham School and also Kings College Taunton. Having completed his education he emigrated to British Columbia where he ran a fruit farm for 9 years. On 24th August 1910 he married Emily Harris Gostling at Kelowna British Columbia. He had two children Molly and Reginald.

Responding to the recruiting advertisement "*The Happy Man today is the Man at the Front*" he joined the British Columbia Regiment (Black Watch) 73 Royal Highlanders.



**DAVIS (Birtrand Harold) PRIVATE***Royal Engineers*

Birt was educated at Bushley school from 1900-1909. He is described as a stable boy in the 1911 Census, presumably working at Pull Court. He was among the first to volunteer, joined the Royal Engineers, (Regt no 25792) and by February 1915 was already in France.

On 25th January 1918, in the London Gazette, Birt was awarded the Military Medal for "*acts of gallantry and devotion to duty under fire.*"

He was also awarded the British War and Victory medals and the 1915 Star.

Birt Davis, born in Bushley in 1898, was the youngest son of Charles and Elizabeth Davis. In the 1911 Census Charles, who was aged 62, is described as an estate labourer and army pensioner living at Park Lodge, Bushley. He had been married for 22 years and out of 7 children, one had died and four had left home. Only Birtrand then aged 14, and his sister Evelyne (11) remained at home. Charles Davis (see DAVIS Charles) was his elder brother.

**DAVIS (Charles W) PRIVATE***3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards*

He had been married for 22 years and out of seven children, one had died and four had left home, including Charles who had followed his father into the army. He is recorded in the 1911 Census, as being a guardsman in barracks in London in the 3rd battalion Grenadier Guards. Birt Davis (see DAVIS Birtrand Harold) was his younger brother.

He took part in fighting in 1914 and is recorded as having received a wound in the thigh at Ypres in November. After this he was invalided out of the army.

He was awarded the British War and Victory medals and the 1914 Star.

Charles W Davis was the eldest son of Charles and Elizabeth Davis of Park Lodge Bushley. He was educated at Bushley School from 1894-1904. In the 1911 Census his father Charles, who was aged 62, is described as an estate labourer and army pensioner living at Park Lodge Bushley.



**DAY (Arthur Edwin)** PRIVATE*3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards*

Arthur was born in 1871 in Holdfast, near Upton. From 1892 to 1903 he had been a regular soldier in the Grenadier Guards with whom he had served in the Boer War. He married Lily Timbrell in Tewkesbury in April 1903, and they had five children. These, (with their ages in 1914) were three daughters, Winifred (10) Lilian (6), and Ada (4). They also had two sons, eight year old James, and Richard aged three. On his original enlistment Arthur was 5'9½" and weighed 127lbs. He was blue eyed with a fresh complexion and dark brown hair.



At the outbreak of war in 1914, he was aged 43 and employed on the Pull Court Estate as an agricultural labourer, living at one of three cottages at The Stalls in Pull Court park.

Arthur re-enlisted in his old regiment as a guardsman in the 3rd battalion Grenadier Guards on 27th January 1915. He was posted to France in March 1915. Shortly afterwards he was declared too old for active service and, for a time, became batman to two successive army chaplains. He subsequently transferred to the 1/8th Worcesters in May 1918. He was finally discharged in February 1919.

He was awarded the British War and Victory medals and the 1915 Star.

**FOSTER (George Richard)** PRIVATE*5th Battalion Worcestershire Regiment*

This seems to have been a real case of 'pie in the sky'. He was passed as A2 fit, with a height of 5ft 5", weighing 123lbs, brown hair, fresh, blue eyes, and a chest measurement of 36".

He was sent to France in October 1918, where he became ill with influenza within a week of landing. He spent three months in France and eight in the UK during his time with the army. He was treated at Rouen and Trouville hospitals in France and discharged from Chester hospital in England in January 1919 as medically fit.

Subsequently he applied for a disability payment stating that he had been disabled after influenza caused by bad weather while on active service. The review board gave his application scant attention, and his claim was dismissed.

In 1921 he married Annie Jones.

He was awarded the British War and the Victory medal.

George Foster born in 1900 was one of three foster children of another George and Annie. His father was a farm labourer, living at Moss Green Bushley in the 1911 Census. He had two sisters Alice and Emily. George junior attended Bushley School.

At the outbreak of war in 1914, he was employed as a farm labourer/carter working for Mr Ellis at Queenhill.

He was called up in May 1918 and enrolled as a private (no 52939) in the 5th battalion the Worcesters. In his registration document he expressed an interest in joining the Royal Flying Corps.



**FOWLER (Albert Henry) PRIVATE***7th Battalion Worcestershire Regiment | 6th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment*

Albert Henry (Harry) Fowler was born in Bushley in 1899. He was the second son of William and Elizabeth who lived at Pound Cottages on the Ledbury to Tewkesbury Road, close to the entrance to Bushley Park Farm. William worked for Richard Guilding of Bushley Park Farm. Harry's elder brother William (b.1897), and younger brother John (b.1900), together with his uncle Frank (b.1887) are also listed on the Bushley War Memorial.

It is unclear when Harry enlisted in the 7th Battalion of the Worcesters. (Regt No. 45152), or when or why he was transferred to the 6th Battalion of the Gloucesters (Regt No.050069).

Details of his life after the Great War are unclear. An Albert H. Fowler married Nan L. Smith in the Upton on Severn area in 1923. Possibly this was Nancy Lizzie Smith from Kings Norton and a possible son, Denys Fowler, was born in King's Norton in 1924. The 1924 electoral register lists Harry Fowler as living at Pound Cottages. He was awarded the British War medal and the Victory medal.

**FOWLER (Frank) PRIVATE***9th Battalion Worcestershire Regiment*

Frank Fowler, born in 1887, was the youngest son of Samuel and Ann Fowler who lived at Pound cottages on the Tewkesbury to Ledbury main road. He had a twin sister Kate, and six other siblings. His eldest brother William, born in 1873, was the father of William (b. 1897), Harry (b. 1899) and John (b. 1900), who were thus Frank's nephews. Frank, William junior, Harry and John are the four Fowlers listed on the Bushley War Memorial. Frank's father, Samuel, was employed as shepherd by Richard Guilding of Bushley Park Farm.

By 1914 Frank was living in Church End Bushley, employed as a groom/gardener and married to Frances Beatrice (nee Burrows) with a four year old son Cecil.

He enlisted in the 9th battalion the Worcesters (Regt. no. 30269) and saw action against the Turkish army in Mesopotamia.

On 25th January 1917 in the Battle of Kut al Amara, the 9th Worcesters and 7th North Staffordshires carried out an attack on the Turkish trenches. A ferocious battle took place and the attack was repulsed at great cost to both sides. 12 officers and 327 NCOs and men of the 9th Worcesters were killed or wounded. Frank was amongst those killed. However the action had demoralised the Turks and the next day reinforcements were able to occupy the Turkish trenches. Frank is remembered on the Al Basrah memorial in Iraq.

A Cecil Fowler born about 1909 died in Malvern in 1987.

Frank Fowler was posthumously awarded the British War and Victory medals.



**FOWLER (William)** PRIVATE*Gloucestershire Regiment*

William Fowler was born in 1897, the eldest son of William and Elizabeth Fowler who lived at Pound Cottages, on the Tewkesbury-Ledbury main road. His father was employed by Richard Guilding at Bushley Park Farm as a farm worker. William junior was one of 14 children, six sons and eight daughters, including Harry (b.1899) and John (b. 1900-01). He was the nephew of Frank (see FOWLER Frank) He attended Bushley School from 1900-1910. William junior, Harry John and Frank all appear on the Bushley War Memorial.



William enlisted in the Gloucesters at Tewkesbury on 26th April 1915 aged 19 (Regt. No. 20489). He was 5'4½", weighed 135lbs and had a 37½" chest. In September he went overseas with the Mediterranean Expeditionary force. On 9th April 1916 he is listed as being part of the Mesopotamia expeditionary force, which saw action against the Turks.

He transferred to the Military Police from whom he retired in November 1919. In December 1919 he was transferred to the Z class reserve.

He retired with the rank of lance corporal. He was awarded the British War and Victory medals, and the 1915 Star.

**GEORGE (Frank)** PRIVATE*14th Battalion Worcestershire Regiment*

Frank George was born in 1875, the second son of Edmund and Jane George. His father was a gardener living in Bushley. He had five siblings, three brothers, Edmund, Arthur and Nathaniel (See separate entry) and two sisters, Jane and Mary. He was at Bushley School from 1880-86. On May 7th 1890 he was confirmed in Bushley Church.

The 1901 Census shows Frank lodging in Parkstone, Nr Poole, Dorset, and working for and learning from Charles Woods, Nurseryman and Market Gardener. His father Edmund had, by this time, left market gardening being described as general labourer on farm.

By the 1911 Census, Frank was back with his parents in Church End working as a domestic gardener.



In December 1915, he received a call up notice and enlisted with the 14th Worcesters (No 92263) Labour Corps at the age of 40. He is described as 5' 7¼" with a chest measurement of 36½". At that time he listed his occupation as farm labourer. The Severn Valley Pioneers, as his unit was called, were trained in the business of constructing trenches, although they were also available to fight in the front line if required. After training in England from December 1915 to May 1916, he went to France. For the first three months the unit worked on the trench systems of the Vimy ridge. As a member of the Labour Corps he was posted to various units including the Somerset Light Infantry and the Devons. In September 1916 he received a severe gunshot wound in the back, returning to England to recover. He then returned to France with the Devon Labour Corps from January to December 1917, when he again returned to England.

He worked in a hospital at Epsom from which he was granted leave from 16th to 25th January 1918.

He was awarded the British War and Victory medals.



**GEORGE (Nathaniel William) PRIVATE***9th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment*

Nathaniel was born in Bushley on 9th October 1878, the youngest son of Edmund and Jane (nee Davis) who lived in Church End Bushley. (See George Frank) He was educated at Bushley School from 1882-1889. He worked as a house painter and, aged 35, was one of the first to volunteer for service. He joined the 9th Battalion Gloucesters (Regt. no. 12590).

During initial training he became ill with pneumonia and died in Cheltenham on 30th November 1914. He is buried in the church yard at St Peter's, Bushley. The 1915 Bushley Almanac reported "We all liked Nath, and although he never went to the Front, he made the sacrifice of his life for his Country as truly and nobly as if he had died on the Field of Battle. He is the first of all our brave recruits to give his life for us. May the good Lord accept his sacrifice... and the deepest sympathy is extended to his aged parents and other members of his family."



The body was brought from Cheltenham on December 3rd, and the funeral took place at 2.45pm. This was attended by a large number of villagers and friends and by 160 members of C Company of the 9th Gloucesters under the command of Capt. Arthur Reed, of Chaceley.

*"The scene at the graveside, with the solemn reading of the words of committal, was one which will not soon be forgotten, with soldiers standing at attention at the graveside. The only sound was the solemn words of the priest, and at the close, the sharp order to the firing party to prepare for the soldiers' farewell to a comrade. Three volleys were fired, each followed by the solemn tapping of the drums; then the Last Post was sounded. Soldiers and people moved away in silence, as a muffled peal was run by the Bell Ringers as a tribute to him who had been one of their number in the more peaceful walks of Church services."*

**GRIFFIN (John Oliver) PRIVATE***9th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment*

He underwent the hardships and privations experienced by recruits in the early days of the War without a murmur. He came to Cheltenham from Salisbury plain with his battalion and was present at the funeral of his comrade Nathaniel George at Bushley on 3rd December.

He was buried with military honours in Queenhill Churchyard on February 3rd. Oliver Griffin acted as chauffeur to Revd. Canon E.R. Dowdeswell after the death of his father, Mr Stephen Griffin, in 1910, and possessed the entire confidence and esteem of his employer.

*He was a young man of irreproachable character and his death caused widespread regret amongst those who knew him and loved him."*

Oliver was born in Martin Trussell near Market Harborough in 1890. His father moved to Pull Court as chauffeur to The Revd. Canon E.R. Dowdeswell. Oliver attended Bushley school from 1894-1903. Following his father's unexpected demise, Oliver succeeded him as chauffeur. Initially the family lived in the Garden House at Pull Court, before moving to Worcester Lodge, Queenhill.

He was one of the first batch of Bushley volunteers in 1914, and joined the 9th Gloucesters (Regt. no. 12617). He was swiftly promoted to lance corporal, but then suffered from a strangulated hernia. He was admitted to the Red Cross hospital in Cheltenham, but unfortunately died on 28th of January 1915.

The Bushley Almanac recorded "He was one of the brave band of local men who at the commencement of the war at the call of their country joined Kitchener's Army as a private in the 9th Gloucesters.





**HAMBLING (David William) PRIVATE***2nd Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment*

David is listed in the 1911 census as being an agricultural labourer living in Church End, Bushley. He had married Ethel (née Lawrence) in 1905, and they had three small children, Fred, Kathleen and John. David was born in Withington, near Cheltenham, and Ethel was a local girl, from nearby Prescott.



He volunteered in November 1914, at the age of 38 and served throughout the war. Initially he was in the second Gloucesters (Regt. no.16281). He was probably wounded as he is listed as being in the Red Cross Hospital at Tewkesbury in 1916. He later transferred to the Labour Corps. (Regt. no.246097). He was awarded the British War and Victory medals and the 1915 Star.

In retirement he lived at 65 Georges Drive, Cheltenham, where he died in 1939. His funeral took place at Cheltenham Cemetery. His coffin was draped with a Union Jack.

**HART (Sidney John) PRIVATE***10th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment*

Sidney Hart was born in Castlemorton where the Hart family had roots going back to the mid 18th Century. After leaving school Sidney became a jobbing farm labourer. On October 18th 1896, aged 21, he married Catherine Pugh at Castlemorton Parish Church. Sidney signed the marriage certificate with an X which says something about his schooling. His eldest son William was born shortly afterwards, followed by six further children born at varying addresses before moving to Bushley in about 1910. Two further sons were born prior to the Great War.

Sidney and his eldest son William (See HART William) volunteered for service in the 10th Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment in December 1914. After training on Salisbury Plain from April 1915 they embarked for France on 9th August 1915, just in time for the Battle of Loos, where William was killed in action.



In 1916 Sidney was probably in action with the 10th Battalion in the Battles of the Somme (10th Battalion in 1st Division) but on 20th October 1916 he was discharged from the army due to sickness.

Like so many of those who returned, it took time to restore Sidney to full health. The October 1918 birth certificate of his son William, named after his brother killed at Loos, describes him as '*ex-private*'. A year later in September 1919, the marriage certificate of another son, Horace, lists Sidney's occupation as '*Discharged Soldier*'. However by 1920 and the birth of the 11th and final child Hilda, life may have returned to as near normal as possible.

Many of their children settled around Bushley providing a village blacksmith, a garage/petrol station owner and a shop keeper. By the time of the 1932 sale of the Pull Court Estate, the family had moved to Church End, where Sidney was described as a Small Holder. Catherine died in 1938 and Sidney in 1940.

He was awarded the British War and Victory medals, and the 1915 Star.



**HART (William Sidney Charles)** PRIVATE*10th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment*

William was born at Druggers End, Castlemorton in 1886, the eldest son of Sidney (See HART Sidney) and Catherine. His father was described as a waggoner and took seasonal jobs on various farms in the district, altering his place of residence with his job. About 1910 the family arrived in Bushley, and lived on the Green.

Shortly after the outbreak of war, William and his father both volunteered to enlist in the 10th Battalion of the Gloucesters. They joined up in December 1914 in Cheltenham where they were initially billeted. In April 1915 they undertook training on Salisbury Plain, and on 9th August 1915 they embarked for France.



On arrival in France the 10th Battalion joined the 1st Battalion, and together they prepared for the Battle of Loos. It was in the early morning of the 25th September 1915, the first day of the offensive, that William was killed in action, near to Hulluch. He was one of 459 men, around 65% of the battalion's total strength lost on that horrific day. Poison gas, used for the first time by the British army had drifted back into their own trenches. Enemy wire had not been cut. They were fully exposed to German machine guns. But still they advanced.

He is remembered on the Pas de Paris Loos Memorial - Stone 62b. Grave No MR0019.

He was posthumously awarded the British War and Victory medals, and the 1915 Star.

**JONES (Alfred Leonard)** PRIVATE*2nd Battalion Devonshire Regiment*

Len Jones was born in 1899, the second son of George and Ellen (née Nicholls) of Church End Bushley. His brothers were Cecil (See JONES Cecil G) born in 1897 and Percy in 1902. In 1911 he was living in Church Street, Bushley, and is described as a stationary engine driver, almost certainly at Healing's flour mill.

He was drafted to the 2nd Battalion of the Devons, qualifying for overseas service in late 1917. The winter of 1917-1918 was relatively quiet but the Division came under attack during the second phase of the Battles on the Somme. In May 1918 the battalion found itself, in theory, at rest in a quiet sector but on 27 May at 1.00a.m., it was subjected to a murderous artillery attack. At 3.40 a.m. German storm troopers mounted a ferocious attack.



Len must have taken part in a spectacularly brave but ultimately useless last stand for the bridge over the River Aisne at Pontavert. As a result of this action, the Battalion was awarded the Croix de Guerre and the epithet, '*Glorious Devons*'.

Len Jones was not reported missing until 29th June – and his body was never recovered. His name is, therefore, commemorated among the 4,000 on the Soissons Memorial.

He was posthumously awarded the British War and Victory medals.



**JONES (Cecil G)** PRIVATE*2nd/1st West Somerset Yeomanry*

Cecil, born in 1898, was the oldest son of George and Ellen Jones. His father was described in the 1901 census as a miller's engine driver. At that date he lived in Tewkesbury, and the probability is that he worked at Healing's flour mill. By 1911 he had moved to Church Street, Bushley, and is described as a stationary engine driver; but there is no reason to suppose his job had changed. He had two brothers Len (See JONES Alfred Leonard) and Percy. Cecil was educated at Bushley School from 1909-1911.



He had left home before war broke out in 1914, was resident in Somerset and had joined the 2nd/1st West Somerset Yeomanry on 20th December 1913, at Taunton (Regt No 49594). He was 5'9" with a 36" chest and well developed, with an apparent age of 17. He remained on home duty till September 1915, when he was sent to France.

In July 1916 he was appointed to the Machine Gun Corps, 2nd Dismounted Brigade.

On February 7th 1919, Signaller Jones certified *'on the field'* that he had no disability claim. He was discharged aged 21.

In 1920 he had returned to Taunton where he married Bertha Young.

He was awarded the British War and Victory medals, and the 1915 Star.

**LANE (Tom)** PRIVATE*9th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment*

Tom was posted to France with the 9th battalion arriving in France on 20th September 1915. They were not to remain there long. In October the 9th battalion moved by train to Marseilles and thence by sea to Salonika arriving in November 1915. They were there to strengthen Serbian resistance against the Bulgarian forces and engaged in various actions including the battle of Horseshoe Hill (1916). In 1917 the battalion was in action in the battles of Doiran (1917). The battalion returned to France in July 1918.

After the war Tom returned to live in the Rampings on the western edge of Bushley and is described on his marriage certificate in 1922 as a gardener. He was wed in Queenhill church to Phoebe Edwards, who at 37 was 4 years his senior. She was employed as a domestic servant at Pull Court.

He was awarded the British War and Victory medals and the 1915 Star.

Tom Lane was born in 1891, the son of Charles, an agricultural labourer, and Annie Lane who lived at Upper Green Longdon. He had 11 siblings. He attended Bushley School from 1896-1904. In the 1911 Census he was living in the Bothy at Pull Court in Bushley. He was then 20 years old, working as a domestic gardener for Squire Dowdeswell.

Tom was among the first band of Bushley men to volunteer. He enlisted into the 9th Battalion of the Gloucesters. He was called up on 21st September 1914 reporting to Horfield Barracks near Bristol. On September 30th the contingent moved to Codford in Wiltshire on Salisbury Plain. This camp was so cold and damp that they moved to Cheltenham.



**MASLIN (David)** PRIVATE*Worcestershire Regiment*

David Maslin was born in Upton on Severn in 1881. He was employed as an agricultural labourer. When he enlisted in 1915 he was living at Moss Green, Bushley with his wife Mary and five small children, George, Robert, Phyllis, Marjorie and Philip.

His medical report dated 22nd April 1915 at Tewkesbury showed him to be 5'2½", weigh 132 lbs and have a chest measurement of 36". He was enlisted in the Worcesters (Regt. no. 22320). His attestation on joining revealed previous military service with the 2nd Volunteer Battalion of the Worcesters.



He was registered at Norton Barracks Worcester on 4th May 1915. However he was very soon categorised as "*Became non effective by not being likely to become an effective soldier,*" This was written and signed on 18th May by the commanding officer Colonel Edwards. The cause of his rejection was said to be a hammer toe. The following day he was re enlisted in the Labour Corps.

In two reports in September and November 1917, The Tewkesbury Register reported Private D. Maslin of the Gloucesters and coming from Bushley as wounded. It is probable that this was the same David Maslin as above, and that the newspaper report of him as a Gloucesters man was an error.

He was awarded the British War and Victory medals.

**MATTY (Frederick)** PRIVATE*1st Battalion of the Worcesters*

Fred was born around 1876, in Tewkesbury. He married Edith (née Lambert), a Castlemorton girl. They were living at Hole Ground Cottage, Hollybush, Castlemorton when their first child Alf (See MATTY Alfred) was born in July 1900. Three younger sisters, Dora, Lilian and Ethel followed. In the 1911 Census Fred is described as a cowman working on a farm, and resident at Church End Bushley.



He enlisted in the 1st Battalion of the Worcesters on 4th December 1914 (Regt No 20241). Possibly he was wounded as he later transferred to the 2nd/8th Worcesters (Regt No 242464). A further document lists Pte F Matty as Regt No. 31236. He was discharged from the army on 1st December 1918 on grounds of sickness, as being no longer physically fit for war service, and awarded a Silver War Badge.

At the Pull Court sale 1932 Mr F. Matty is associated with lot no 44 a double fronted cottage. Lilian his daughter never married. She died in 1986 aged 78 and is buried in Bushley.

He was awarded the Victory and British War medals.



**MORGAN (Daniel Phillips)** SECOND LIEUTENANT*2nd Battalion Worcestershire Regiment*

Daniel was the eldest son of William and Anne Morgan who farmed at Hill House, overlooking and including the Pull Court park. He had two elder sisters Annie and Lizzie and a younger brother David. (See MORGAN David Phillips) He was born in 1881 in Llandilo; subsequently his parents moved to Bushley. He was educated at the Crypt School, Gloucester. Prior to joining up, he worked for The National Bank of Africa in Cape Town. He was also the financial correspondent for the Standard and several other journals.



He returned to England early in 1916 joining the Artists Rifles. He was commissioned into the 5th Worcesters on December 19th 1916 as a Second Lieutenant. He disembarked at Le Havre on 27th January 1917, joining the battalion on 14th February. He was killed near Gheluveldt in the Battle of the Menin Road on 26th September 1917. That day the 2nd Worcesters lost 36 killed, 145 wounded and 29 missing. He is commemorated with his Worcester regimental colleagues on the Tyne Cot memorial in Flanders.

Daniel was posthumously awarded the British War and Victory medals.

**MORGAN (David Phillips)** SECOND LIEUTENANT*Royal Field Artillery*

David was the younger son of William and Anne Morgan who farmed at Hill House, overlooking and including the Pull Court park. He had two elder sisters Annie and Lizzie and an elder brother Daniel. (See MORGAN Daniel Phillips) He was born in 1883 in Llandilo; subsequently his parents moved to Bushley. He was briefly educated at Bushley school in 1899. At the outbreak of war he was assisting his father on the farm.

On September 3rd 1914 he was one of the initial bunch of volunteers who enlisted at Tewkesbury.

He soon became a lance corporal in the 5th Gloucester Territorials. He was called up on 21st September to barracks in Bristol and thence to Codford on Salisbury Plain. This camp was extremely cold and damp, precipitating a return to healthier quarters in Cheltenham. In February 1916 he was gazetted as a second lieutenant in the Royal Field Artillery, 1st South Midlands (Glos) Brigade.



On 4th June 1917 the London Gazette reported that he had been awarded the Military Cross for gallantry during active operations against the enemy. In 1918 he was apparently an acting major.

On 23rd June 1918 he married Miss Effie Nicholson, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs ED Nicholson, Park Issa, Oswestry at Holy Trinity Church Oswestry. The bridegroom was on special leave from Italy, had twice been mentioned in despatches and fought on both the French and Italian fronts. The best man was Captain Donald Nicholson M.C., the bride's brother. The bridesmaid was her sister Isabel. Both sisters had nursed at the nearby Pentrepant Hospital, whose patients formed a guard of honour.

After the war, he took over the Hill House farm from his father and became a noted cider producer.

In addition to the M.C., he was also awarded the British War and Victory medals and the 1915 Star.



**NASH (William Henry)** CORPORAL  
4th Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry



William, born in 1887, was the only son of the Bushley Schoolmaster, Alfred Nash and his wife Mary Ann. The Nashs had taken up the post of schoolmaster and school mistress in Bushley in 1879. William had a sister Beatrice who married Percy Gillman in 1915. Both parents and daughter were accredited teachers. William was educated at Bushley school from 1891-1897. He followed the family calling and became a school teacher. On 31st July 1913 he married Winifred Jessie Morris of Barbourne, Worcester.



At the outbreak of war he was a primary school teacher in Camberwell, London. He volunteered for service in September 1914 with the Culham Schoolmasters' Corps and first saw action in France in May 1916, by this time with the 4th Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. On 28th June he received a severe leg wound at Laventie. After treatment at St. Omer Hospital, he was invalided home to Brighton to Kitchener's Hospital. He was discharged from the army in May 1917. He finished his service with the rank of corporal.

He was awarded the Military Medal in addition to the British War and Victory medals.

**NEALE (Frederick William)** PRIVATE  
Gloucestershire Regiment



Fred was born in 1884. His parents were John and Emma Neale. In the 1901 census, he appears as a 16 year old stockman working at Doublegates Farm, Bushley,

He married Beatrice Stinchcombe of Barton Regis, Glos in 1908.



He enlisted in the Gloucesters in 1915 (Regt. no. 20438). He reached France on 27th October 1915. He was wounded at the Battle of the Somme. After recovery he rejoined the 2nd Gloucesters in Macedonia, where he ended the war.

He died in Cheltenham in 1953 aged 69, and is buried in Bushley with his wife Beatrice who died in 1958.

He was awarded the British War and Victory medals and the 1915 Star.



**NICHOLLS (Arthur)** PRIVATE*Royal Warwickshire Regiment*

The 1911 Census shows that Arthur was the son of Eliza Nicholls, a 70 year old widowed laundress living at Bushley Green. Arthur, aged 31, and his wife Florence, 29, another laundress, lived at the same address. He is described as a general labourer, and his birthplace is stated as Bushley. He was employed by M. G. Berens Dowdeswell at Pull Court. His medical report dated 4th December 1915, his date of enlistment, stated that he was aged 36, 5'10" high, weighing 178 lbs, with a 41" chest. He had a scar on the right hand side of his face arising from a past accident, and he was slightly deaf. However, he was passed fit for service in the field at home or abroad.

He joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment (No 86178) on 6th June 1916. His service record shows that he embarked at Southampton on 7th October 1916, arriving at Rouen in Normandy the following day.



Shortly after, he complained of deafness in the left ear and of rheumatism, both occurring in November 1916 as a result of military service. During that time he was treated in the military hospital at Etaples, the Prisoner of War Camp at Froissey and No 38 Casualty Clearing Station at Bray. He was transferred to Prisoner of War Guard duties at the POW camp at La Neuville in December, where he remained till reporting sick in July 1917. He went on leave in England for a fortnight in December 1917 before returning to France. In April 1918 he transferred to England with his Prisoner of War Company to various English postings ending in the Isle of Man in February 1919. He was transferred to Z Reserve in March 1919.

His claim for a disability allowance was rejected by the doctor, Captain Robert Marshall, who examined Arthur in Douglas, Isle of Man. He recorded that Nicholls stated that he had always been deaf, but that it had got worse. He had been free of rheumatism for 6 months and there were no current signs of it.

His home health was looked after by the Gloucester Conservative Benefit Society, Tewkesbury branch.

He was awarded the British War and Victory medals.

**NICHOLLS (Charles)** PRIVATE*The Labour Corps*

Charles was shown in the 1911 Census as living in Church Street, Bushley with his 66 year old mother Eliza, a charwoman. He is described as being aged 26, working as a domestic gardener in Longdon. Bushley Almanac states that an Eliza Nicholls died in February 1915 aged 72.

On June 24th 1914 he was married in Hanley Castle to Ada Emma Brown. On November 21st 1915 their son, Charles George, was baptised at Bushley. In March 1919 a second baby son died aged two days.



He enlisted in the 648 Agricultural Company of the Labour Corps as Pte. Charles Nicholls with regimental no. 245625. The Agricultural Companies of the Labour Corps were made up of men who were unfit by reason of age or physique for front line service. They were often required to work on farms in England, paid by the Labour Corps, and charged out at a subsidised rate to the farmer. Food supply was of prime importance not only for the UK public but also for the army. After munitions animal feedstuffs was the second largest requirement of the army in France.

Charles died locally in 1927 and Ada died in Bromsgrove in 1937. Their son Charles George died in Derby in 1998. Possibly he moved away from Bushley with his mother.



**PHILPOT (John Thomas)** PRIVATE*9th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment*

Tom was born in 1892 in Candle Green, Brimpsfield, Gloucester. He was educated at Bushley School from 1900-1905. In the 1911 census his widowed mother Rose (50) lived in Bushley Green with her stepson Richard (32), a labourer, her daughter Lucy, a domestic servant (21), (who was to marry Arthur Walker (see WALKER Arthur) after the war), her son John Thomas (Tom) (19), a house painter and her youngest daughter Ellen (11) at school.

Tom was among the first batch of volunteers from Bushley to join up, enlisting in Tewkesbury on 3rd September 1914 as Private (Regt. no. 12646) in the 9th battalion of the Gloucesters. He was called up on 21st September reporting to Horfield Barracks near Bristol. On 30th September, the contingent moved to Codford in Wiltshire on Salisbury Plain. This camp was so cold and damp that they moved to Cheltenham.



Tom arrived in France on 20th September 1915. In October the 9th battalion moved by train to Marseilles and thence by sea to Salonika arriving in November 1915. They were there to strengthen Serbian resistance against the Bulgarian forces and engaged in various actions including the battle of Horseshoe Hill (1916). In 1917, the battalion was in action in the battles of Doiran (1917).

Tom was mortally wounded on 5th October 1916 whilst on active duty by a shell which burst over him as he lay in his shelter. It was the same shell that wounded Harry Starling. He died of the wounds on his way to the field hospital. His captain wrote that *"he died doing his duty as a good soldier – that he always was ever willing and pleased to do anything he was told or asked to do."*

He is buried in the Karasouli Military Cemetery. He was posthumously awarded the British War and Victory medals and the 1915 Star.

**SAGE (Sidney Eustace)** PRIVATE*9th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment*

He was called up on 21st September reporting to Horfield Barracks near Bristol. On 30th September the contingent moved to Codford in Wiltshire on Salisbury Plain. This camp was so cold and damp that they moved to Cheltenham.

He arrived in France on 19th July 1915. He was wounded in action in October and transferred to Manchester hospital to recover.

He returned to the 9th Gloucesters, and was wounded again in 1916. On recovery he was transferred to the King's Royal Rifle Corps (Regt. no.37230); yet again he returned to France and was killed in action on 26th September 1917. His name is recorded with honour on the Tyne Cot Memorial. He was posthumously awarded the British War and Victory medals and the 1915 Star.

Sidney was the youngest son of Mr and Mrs S. Sage of Wood Street, Bushley. He was baptised in Bushley Church on 30th November 1884. He attended Bushley School from 1888-1897. On leaving school he worked firstly as a carpenter at Pull Court and then for a local Tewkesbury firm, Collins and Godfrey.

A newspaper cutting records the fact that he was summonsed on information provided by a PC Broad on the night of 5th May 1907 for riding a bicycle without lights. He was ordered to pay 4s 6d towards the costs. He was married to Edith and they had a son and two daughters. At the time of his death his family was living in Longdon.

Sidney was among the first batch of volunteers from Bushley to join up, enlisting in Tewkesbury on 3rd September 1914 as Private no 13805 in the 9th battalion the Gloucesters.





**SMITH (Ernest)** PRIVATE  
9th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment



Ernest, born in 1895, was the only son of Herbert and Minda Smith. His father was the head keeper for the Pull Court Estate. They lived in the lodge on the junction of Green Street and the Tewkesbury-Ledbury main road. In the 1911 Census, Ernest, who had followed his father's calling, was listed as a gamekeeper living with his parents.



The Bushley Almanac Roll of Honour 1916, lists Richard Smith of Green Street Lodge as having joined up with the 9th Gloucesters. It is possible that Ernest was called Richard on a day to day basis. There seems only to have been one son from the 1901 Census.

No military record has been found.

In 1920 an Ernest Smith married Ethel Collins in Tewkesbury.

**STARLING (Harry)** PRIVATE  
9th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment



The purpose of the move was to strengthen Serbian resistance against the Bulgarian forces and the battalion engaged in various actions including the battle of Horseshoe Hill (1916). In October 1916, Harry was wounded by the same shell that mortally wounded Tom Philpot, and subsequently treated in hospital in Malta.

On recovery, Harry transferred from the 9th Gloucestershire Regt to the Remounts section of the Royal Army Service corps, (No R366831) the section of the corps responsible for the provision of horses and mules to the Army.

After his war was over, Harry married Mary Blanche Walker, the eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Francis Walker of Sarn Hill Lodge, and sister of Arthur. (See WALKER Arthur) on 25th February 1918. The following year their first child, Gladys Mary, was born.

Harry died in 1971 at the age of 87. He is buried in Bushley Churchyard with his wife Mary Blanche, who was a longstanding church warden and predeceased him, dying in 1968.

Harry was awarded the British War and Victory medals and the 1915 Star.

Harry was the youngest of three sons of Rosanna Starling, a farmer and widow living at Freeband Wells near Bushley Green. His two brothers were James and Charles, and there was also a younger sister, Louisa. He attended Bushley School from 1888-1897.

Harry was among the first batch of volunteers from Bushley to join up, enlisting in Tewkesbury on 3rd September 1914 as Private (Regt. no. 12646) in the 9th battalion the Gloucesters. He was called up on 21st September reporting to Horfield Barracks near Bristol. On 30th September the contingent moved to Codford in Wiltshire on Salisbury Plain. This camp was so cold and damp that they moved to Cheltenham.

He landed in France on 21st September 1915. In October the 9th battalion moved by train to Marseilles and thence by sea to Salonika in the Balkans arriving in November.



**STONE (George Herbert)** PRIVATE*Queen's Own West Kent Regiment*

He was born on 15th July 1876 in Church End Bushley, the son of James and Eliza Stone. He attended Bushley School. He was the older brother of William (See STONE William). In the 1891 Census he was listed as an agricultural worker living in Bushley. He left to seek a change of work. By 1901, aged 28, he was employed as a butler at No 6 Wilton Crescent, London. Ten years later he was still with the same employers at their country house in Sussex. Subsequently his fortunes changed. On enlistment in 1914 he was living at Sandgate near Folkestone, working as an omnibus conductor. He married Gertrude Serrell in 1902 and had three children, George, Ernest, and Gertrude.

In December 1915 he joined his local regiment in Kent, the Queens Own Royal West Kents, as a Private (Regt. no. 17970), seeing active service in France from October 1916.



In December 1917 he was posted with his battalion to Italy, returning to England on leave in March 1918. He rejoined his battalion in France in May, and was killed by a machine gun bullet through his chest on 5th July 1918. He was 42, and the regimental chaplain, writing to his widow, said *"Your husband was one of our old hands, and I think we all had a great respect for him; he was always so cheerful about things."*

His widow was awarded a pension of twenty nine shillings and seven pence a week for herself and three children in January 1919.

He is recorded on the Tannay Memorial at the British Cemetery at Thiennes.

He was awarded the British War and Victory Medals.

**STONE (William)** PRIVATE*Somerset Light Infantry*

In 1914 he married May Lewis in Tewkesbury, to where they had moved house. They had a son, Henry William, born in Tewkesbury in June 1914.

He enlisted in December 1915 describing his trade as Insurance Agent and was placed on the army reserve list. He was posted to the Somerset Light Infantry in April 1916 (Regt. no 25237) transferring in May to his brother's regiment, The Royal West Kents. (Regt.no. 201683). In December 2016 he was promoted to lance corporal and in January 2017 to corporal. In February 1917 he was transferred back to the Reserves and seconded to government contractors, W Alban Richards, in Swindon, manufacturers of railway wagons. He was discharged in January 1919.

William, born in 1890, was the fifth son of James and Eliza Stone of Church End Bushley. He was the younger brother of George (See STONE George Herbert). They were a very large family. He was educated at Bushley school from 1893 to 1904 and then worked as an agricultural labourer for Mr Ellis at Double Gates Farm, Bushley. About 1911 he changed jobs and went to work for the Pearl Insurance Co. in Cheltenham.

The 1911 census shows William (20) living with his widowed mother Eliza and his sister Emily (26), a domestic cook, at Rose Cottage Bushley.



**TOMLINSON (Robert Henry) PRIVATE***Royal Garrison Artillery*

Robert was born in Boddington, the fifth son of William and Jane Tomlinson, and one of 13 children. His father was employed as a gardener. Robert is shown in the 1901 census as an 18 year old apprentice wheelwright living at Sheepcot Farm Mission Room in the village of Leigh Enter near Tewkesbury. By 1911, he was listed as a groom gardener living at Coombe Hill and married to Louisa with three young children, Catherine, Lily and William. He moved to Bushley before 1914. He joined the RGA (Royal Garrison Artillery).



His Grandson Martin Roberts says *"My maternal grandfather, Robert Henry Tomlinson, was a WW1 survivor with the Royal Garrison Artillery as a gunner. He was hospitalised out of the action due to gassing. He worked for the (Pull Court) estate prior to the war, but I don't as yet have a date when he became self-employed. He lived at Poplar [now Walnut Tree] Cottage on the Green. Post the 1932 estate sale, he bought and moved to the Smithy Cottage, where he had shared the workshop with the blacksmith. His trade was wheelwright/carpenter. When the Blacksmith left to go to Longdon, granddad took over the whole smithy, and became more of a jobbing builder. He died 2nd August 1961 and is buried in Bushley church yard with his wife Louisa who died in the same year."* He was awarded the British War and Victory medals.

**WALKER (Arthur Henry) PRIVATE***9th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment | West Yorkshire Regiment*

Arthur was the only son of Francis and Eliza Walker who lived on Bushley Green. He had three sisters Blanche, Elsie and Frances. His father was a bricklayer. Blanche was to marry Harry Starling (See STARLING Harry) in 1918. Arthur was educated at Bushley School from 1893-1902.

Arthur joined Kitchener's Army at the commencement of the war. He joined the 9th Battalion the Gloucesters (Regt. no 12619) and saw service, first in France arriving in September 1915. In October the 9th battalion moved by train to Marseilles and thence by sea to Salonika in the Balkans, arriving in November 1915. The purpose of this move was to strengthen Serbian resistance against the Bulgarian forces, and the battalion engaged in various actions including the battle of Horseshoe Hill (1916).

In 1917 the battalion was in action in the battles of Doiran. In July 1918 it returned to France arriving at Sergeux.

At some stage Arthur was transferred to the West Yorkshire Regiment and promoted to Sgt-Major. In the New Year's Honours list for 1917 he was awarded the Military Cross for an act or actions of gallantry against the enemy.

On September 21st 1918 Co.Sgt.-Major A.H. Walker, Gloucester Regiment was married to Miss Lucy Philpot at Ashchurch Church. Lucy was the sister of Tom Philpot (see Philpot Tom) killed in the Balkans in 1916.

He died in 1947 aged 58 and is buried with his wife Lucy, who died in 1969, in Bushley Churchyard. They had a son Cyril who, as a sapper in the Royal Engineers was killed at El Alamein and is remembered on the World War 2 war memorial.

Arthur was also awarded the British War and Victory medals and the 1915 Star.



**WILKES (Lancelot Henry) PRIVATE***Royal Navy*

HMS Bullfinch was a destroyer class vessel, a member of the 7th Destroyer Flotilla, based at Wallington, an RN base on the Humber (Immingham/Grimsby area). She remained in this deployment until the cessation of hostilities. Her employment within the Humber Patrol included anti-submarine and counter mining patrols.

Lancelot stayed on in the navy until at least 1937. He eventually became a Chief Engine Room Artificer. He never returned to the Bushley area and at the age of 57 he married Alice May Venables on 15 Aug 1953 at Stoke Damerel, Devonport. Lancelot died in 1982 in the Portsmouth, district of Hampshire.

He was awarded the British War and Victory Medals, the RN Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and the King George VI Coronation Medal.

Lancelot Henry Wilkes was born in Church End Farm, Bushley on 15th December 1896 to Henry and Ada Wilkes. They lived with Lancelot's grandparents Daniel and Emily Wilkes; both Daniel and Henry were recorded in the 1901 Census as farmers. By the time of the 1911 census, Henry had moved to Church Farm Queenhill and Lancelot and his sister Sylvia Gertrude Alice Wilkes were attending Bushley School. He was educated there from 1900 to 1909.

Lancelot enlisted in the Royal Navy on 14th March 1916. Prior to enlistment he is described as a Fitter/Turner. He enlisted as an Engine Room Artificer (ERA). His deployments during WW1 were:

1. 'HMS Vivid II' the name of the Royal Naval Barracks at Devonport. (1916-17)
2. HMS Bullfinch (1917-19).



**SERVICEMEN WHOM WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO IDENTIFY CLEARLY OR WHOSE MILITARY RECORDS HAVE NOT BEEN FOUND.**

Practically no records exist for young soldiers who joined up in 1918 but never saw action abroad.

**COLE (A)**

The choice lies between the following. Alfred, born in Pamington near Tewkesbury, in 1899, was the 5th son of Charles and Annie Cole (née Bennett). His elder brothers Fred, Dick and Willie also served in the war.

He also had a younger brother Arthur, two years younger, who was very unlikely to have joined up.

Another Arthur is recorded in the 1911 Census as a 28 year old widowed farmer living with his parents Henry, a borough council worker and Ellen his wife, at Church End Bushley.

It is possible that he is the A. Cole on the War Memorial. His mother subscribed to the War Memorial fund.

**FOWLER (John)**

John Fowler was born around 1900, the third son of William and Elizabeth Fowler of Pound Cottages on the Tewkesbury to Ledbury Road. His elder brothers William (junior) and Harry also feature on the Bushley War Memorial, along with Frank Fowler their uncle, and William senior's youngest brother. William senior was employed by Richard Guilding of Bushley Park Farm as an agricultural worker and home help.

John would have joined up near to the end of the war and no record of military service has been found. It is probable that he did not serve abroad.

**MATTY (Alfred)**

Alf, born in July 1900, was the son of Fred (See **MATTY** Frederick) and Edith (née Lambert) Matty. Fred, at the time of Alf's birth was described as a general labourer, living at Hole Ground Cottage, Hollybush, Castlemorton. At the outbreak of the Great War the family were living at Church Street, Bushley. Fred was described in the 1911 Census as a cowman working on a farm. Alf was then aged 10 and attending school. He had three younger sisters Dora, Lilian and Ethel.

In 1937, when both bride and groom were 37, Alf married Elizabeth Bayliss of Heath Hill Queenhill, in Queenhill church. He was described as a smallholder living in Wood Street, Bushley.

Alfred would have joined up near to the end of the war and no record of military service has been found. It is probable that he did not serve abroad.



## THE NURSES *The Story of Madge & Sue Bromley-Martin*

**It was not only the men of Bushley who left their mark on the Great War. Two resolute and effective ladies based in Sarn Hill Grange, Bushley, both before the war started and briefly after it finished, secured the necessary finance, staffed and ran a remarkable hospital in France.**

The Bromley-Martins had lived previously at Ham Court, their family home between Upton and Holdfast. Their brother Eliot played cricket for Worcestershire and the M.C.C. Following the death of their father Madeleine (Madge) and Susan (Sue) his unmarried sisters, together with their mother, had come to live at Sarn Hill as tenants of the Pull Court estate.

Madge was County Secretary for Worcestershire Voluntary Aid Detachments (volunteer nurses) and commandant of the Bushley V.A.D, of which latter organisation, her sister, Sue, was Quartermaster.

On 12th August 1914 a week after the Declaration of War, the Bushley Almanac reported that Bushley School had been declared a suitable site for a hospital and that a committee had been appointed "to collect subscriptions and promises of garden produce, and other things necessary for the proper equipment of the Hospital."

An excerpt from the Cheltenham Chronicle shows that Bushley's nurses were in training and ready. "On the morning of Wednesday, 12th August the Scouts constructed a camp-kitchen with oven, a flare fire and a star fire for the purpose of enlightening nurses of the Bushley Red Cross Detachment.

At 3pm this detachment (no. 4 Worcestershire) arrived under the Commandant Miss Bromley-Martin. The fires were lit and their construction explained to the nurses by the Scouts. Invalid dishes were cooked by the nurses. The Scouts then acting as dummies distributed themselves about the field, where the nurses bandaged them according to their various injuries. The ambulance wagon section under P.-L. Freeman performed smart work in transporting the injured from camp to the hospital (Sarn Hill Grange), both on the wagon and by stretcher. On arrival there the Scouts were put to bed, the triangular bandages being taken off and roller bandages substituted. The troop were then entertained to tea at the Grange by the Misses Bromley-Martin, after which P.- L. Freeman drilled the Scouts, and the Nurses were similarly 'Put through it' by the Scoutmaster."

Sadly it was not long before it became clear that Bushley School was too small to operate as a hospital. In the meantime Madge had been made acutely aware of the lack of hospital arrangements for our allies, the wounded French soldiers in France. The Bushley Almanac reported "Miss Madeline Bromley Martin has organised a scheme for the equipment of a hospital for the wounded in France, which has been accepted by the

*authorities in England and France. She has got together a company of Doctors, Nurses, and general staff to the number of 40 persons – all well qualified for the work."*

The first detachment left for France as early as December 1914. After some tortuous negotiations, the 'Hôpital Temporaire' with Madge at its head, was established at Arc-en-Barrois, not far from Chaumont in the Champagne region of France.



*Nurses at Arc-en-Barrois. Sue (front row left), Madge (front row left centre).*

The Almanac reported that *“The staff is entirely British, the hospital stores are sent out from England and, apart from a small grant from the French government, it is entirely supported by voluntary contributions. It contains 110 beds, and an adjoining hospice with 70 beds has since been opened and is now under the management of Miss S. Martin.”*

In 1915 Laurence Binyon, a Quaker, forbidden to fight by his religion and, anyway, too old to enlist joined the staff. Part of his poem *‘For the Fallen’* appears on the back cover of this book. At the end of the war Sue published her own account of the venture in the 1919 Almanac from which these excerpts are taken.

*Wounded patients taking in the open air. There were no antibiotics, and in fine weather, the open air was considered healthier than confined wards.*



*“11 years ago, we came to live at Sarn Hill, – to make our home in one of the most peaceful and pleasant places to be found throughout Worcestershire, of all the counties of England, surely one of the fairest and most truly English. Its gentle green slopes spread their gardens and orchards to the southern sunshine, the wide shade of its great elms line the deep, rich grasses of its river meadows, all encircled by the ever varying blue of its hills, soft yet clear-cut against the far horizon. The people are like the land they live in, kindly, open hearted and generous. All too soon the peace of our home was shattered by the outbreak of the most awful war ever waged.*

*My sister Madeleine heard in London, sad accounts of the inadequacy of the hospital preparations made by the French for their soldiers. Their army was incomparably larger than ours at that date, and the number of their nurses out of all proportion small. The need was indeed urgent; and my sister felt impelled to collect a few friends and hasten out to help where she could. No sooner had she announced her intention of going than she was surrounded by eager volunteers – surgeons, nurses, orderlies and cooks, and almost before she realised what was happening, she found herself at the head of a complete hospital staff.*

*The end of 1914, saw the party established in the north east of France, in one of the hunting residences of the Orleans family, the Chateau of Arc-en-Barrois. It stands in a charming park through which flows a rapid little trout river, and around it miles of hilly forest, a haven of green, rest and safety for the poor shattered bodies and souls of the men who took refuge there; but over it all, distant, but almost incessant, came the boom and crack of the guns at the Front.*

*Only a few miles away lay villages that had been as lovely as ours, level with the battered earth around them, and only distinguishable from it by the whiter dust of their powdered stones. We were attached directly to the French army, and had the honour of nursing men of the heroic troops of the Argonne and Verdun, who withstood with almost superhuman endurance and brilliant courage one of the most appalling and long drawn out attacks that have ever been made in the history of war. Our staff numbered about 60, including a radiographer with a complete x-ray installation, a dentist, voluntary chauffeurs with a fleet of 9 motors, and 20 voluntary gardeners. Night after night Our motor ambulances wound down the road with their freight of wounded, their headlights throwing streaks of dazzling brilliance across the snow.*

*I will not describe our Hospital work among the 3070, who passed through our hands, many very interesting, and all too many very terrible; but I must tell of the courage, endurance, and good humour of our French soldiers.*



*This was all the finer for the fact that, added to the physical pain and mental anxiety which our English soldiers shared and bore with equal courage, too many of our French wounded were haunted by the cruel knowledge that their homes were utterly destroyed with all they possessed, that the whole of their previous life work was wasted; and, worse than all, by the awful uncertainty of the fate of their wives and families.*

*One evening I left our concert hall – gay with the flags of the Allies and the red caps of the Zouaves making bright patches amidst the smoke veiled blue of the horizon-coloured uniforms– to find a man sitting on the edge of his bed, in a darkened ward. “You haven’t come down?” I said. “Madame, when I hear music, I see too clearly, my little farm in heaps on the ground, and the faces of my wife and girls.” “And where are they?” The answer came, hoarse and low: “Madame in the hands of the Boches.” Thank God that our soldiers have been spared the tragedy that has come into the lives of thousands of our Allies – ruin and bereavement, beyond description horrible.*

*The Armistice came and brought our men back to the happy welcome of the homes they had left and the friends who had waited for them – in suspense, indeed, but in safety; it sent vast numbers of the French to search for the ruins of their homes in lands of devastation and desolation impossible to imagine. If we in England could realise what we have been spared, I think some of the clamour of our dissatisfaction and unrest would sink into the silence of an awed relief.*

*I cannot end without having a word of affectionate farewell to Bushley and all our friends there, of gratitude for the unfailing kindness that has always been shown to us – never more generously than in their constant and encouraging support of our Hospital, or more touchingly than in their welcome to us at the Peace Supper on our return, – and of assurance of our faithful remembrance of all that Bushley has been and is.”*

SUSAN BROMLEY-MARTIN

With characteristic modesty, Sue had omitted to say that before their departure, the French Government had paid them a very special tribute. In the late summer of 1918 Madge and Sue had respectively received the Gold and the Silver medals of the ‘Reconnaissance Française’. (The Gratitude of France).

*“In recognition of their devoted services in the cause of French Wounded Soldiers.”* The presentation was made by the General in command of the Region and was attended by the assembled Staff of the Hospital and Hospice, and by all the wounded who were well enough to be present.



*Group photograph circa 1909 showing the Reverend E. R. Dowdeswell (centre front row), Madeleine Martin (third from left centre row), Sue Martin (left back row), their mother Mrs Martin (far left front row) and Reverend George Berens heir to Pull Court (back row).*

## PULL COURT AND THE DOWDESWELL FAMILY

*Pull Court itself was rebuilt in the 19th century, redesigned in Victorian gothic style by William Blore.*



Village life and activity very much revolved around the Pull Court estate and its squire. In 1914 'squire' was the Reverend Edmund Richard Dowdeswell. The Dowdeswell family had lived in the area since the end of the 16th century, when Roger Dowdeswell, a wealthy London lawyer, had bought the Pull estate and built a Tudor style manor. His son Richard supported the royalist cause in the English Civil War and following the Restoration in 1660 he became the first member of the family to be MP for Tewkesbury until his death in 1673. Seven further Dowdeswells were to represent the borough in

the Commons. Of these Richard's great great grandson William Dowdeswell was the leader of the Whigs in the House of Commons, and Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Rockingham government from 1765 to 1766.

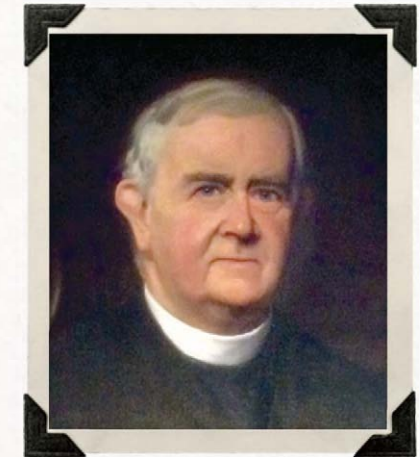
Pull Court itself was rebuilt in the 19th century, redesigned in Victorian gothic style by William Blore. Building started in 1836 under instructions from Canon Edward Dowdeswell, Chancellor Dowdeswell's son, who being unmarried had made over the estate to his nephew, another William, who died in 1887.

His second son, Richard Edmund Dowdeswell, born in 1845, inherited the estate on the death of his elder brother in 1893. He was a clergyman and an honorary Canon of Worcester. He was also the squire of Bushley. He had been crippled from birth and walked with difficulty, so was pushed around the house and garden in a wheelchair. However, he still managed to take services at Bushley and Queenhill churches. It was he who was squire at the outbreak of the Great War in 1914, the last of a sequence of Dowdeswells who had lived at Pull Court for over 300 years.

The Dowdeswell estate included not only Pull Court and the parkland surrounding it but also the whole village of Bushley. It extended into Longdon, Queenhill and Holdfast. The estate owned virtually every house, almost every farm, the church, the parsonage, the school and the post office. Almost all the inhabitants were Dowdeswell tenants. The farmers rented their farms from the estate and also the cottages in which they housed their workers.

Canon Dowdeswell was a popular and kindly landlord. He provided leisure facilities, both for the parishioners, and for visiting groups. These included the Pavilion at Moss Green, reached by a lane opposite the church and adjacent to

the School House. Here at the top of the hill was a scenic view across the Severn valley to Tewkesbury and the Cotswold Hills. In the Pavilion, a not so stately pleasure dome, built in 1864 as a summer house by William Dowdeswell, entertainments for villagers and tenants were held. In the summer, in Longdon brook below Pull Court, an open air bathing pool was provided for local school children and visiting members of scout troops or the church lads' brigade.



*Richard Edmund Dowdeswell, born in 1845, died in 1915.*

The annual summer camp of the local BP Boy Scouts was held at Moss Green, for 10 days in August 1916. Some two dozen scouts went under canvas camp being pitched on the lawn in front of the Moss Green Pavilion.





*Moss  
Green  
Pavilion  
circa 1916.*



Of the five bell tents, one was used as a tuckshop and was well patronised, and the others were for sleeping purposes. The troop had an enjoyable bathe almost daily at the Pull Court Open Air Baths. Campfires blazed nearly every evening and the 'sing songs' which were attended by villagers were very successful, often finishing with a spirited dance around the blazing embers before Auld Lang Syne and the National Anthem were sung. During the camp, in a cowboy and Indian skirmish by opposing troops of scouts, the Indians in full warpaint and feathers in the Moss Green shrubberies surprised an elderly local resident who had walked into their midst.

In May 1915 Canon Dowdeswell suffered a seizure whilst on a clerical retreat in West Malvern from which he did not recover. He died on 5th June and was buried with great ceremony in the ancestral vault beneath Bushley church on 10th June. His heir was a cousin, the Rev. George Berens, who lived in Kent, another to follow the family tradition of becoming a clergyman. Under the terms of his predecessor's will he added the name of Dowdeswell to his own and became the Rev. George Berens-Dowdeswell. He took some time to take up his role as squire. After the war he headed the list of subscribers to the War Memorial with a donation of £50.



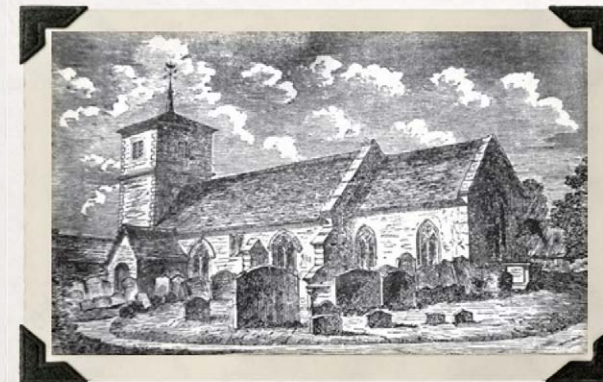
*Pull Court viewed  
from the West,  
circa 1909.*

## ST PETER'S CHURCH

There has been a church in Bushley since the 12th century. A later church was built possibly in the fourteenth century by Lord Edmund Despenser. This church was demolished, and entirely rebuilt in 1843 by Dr Edward Dowdeswell. The remains of two windows of the original church were re-erected as a folly in the nearby Moss Green shrubbery.

The new building's architect was Edward William Blore, a very distinguished Victorian architect, who included Buckingham Palace among his commissions. Fourteen years later William Dowdeswell erected a new chancel at the east end, in memory of his parents. This extension was designed by Sir Gilbert Scott, the architect responsible for the Albert Memorial. In 1914 "the Perpetuate Curate" who discharged the duties of Vicar

was the Revd. Robert Russell Cowan who lived with his wife Catherine (née Scroggs) and two younger daughters Barbara and Lydia, at the parsonage, adjacent to the church. He might be assisted by the "squires" Canon Richard Edward Dowdeswell of Pull Court, licenced as "the assistant curate." He had been born in Glasgow in 1857 and subsequently after attending New College Oxford had taken Holy Orders. He had married at Woodstock in 1883. He had been a priest at Upwell in Norfolk, Clapham in London and the warden at St Lucy's Home in Gloucester before arriving in Bushley in 1899. Their younger son Alan had emigrated to Canada in 1905; he volunteered for service, returned to Europe and was killed in August 1916. (See Bushley War Memorial Biographies).



*The previous St Peter's Church probably dated from the fourteenth century.*

*St Peter's Church was entirely rebuilt in 1843 by Dr Edward Dowdeswell.*

Self portrait taken and hand tinted by Mr Cowan, with another similar of his wife Catherine.



Mr Cowan's hobby was photography and it was he who took the photograph of Alan contained in this guide, during a 36 hour leave, before he left for France and the war.

Mr Cowan was to have his own life threatening experience on 16th June 1915 as reported in the Bushley Almanac – "the Revd. R.D. Russell Cowan, while motoring to Gloucester with his friend, (the Revd. J. Embrey) met with an alarming and serious accident. As the car was descending Sorters Hill, it gathered speed and getting out of control of the driver (Revd. J. Embrey), overturned at the foot of the hill, throwing both gentlemen out. Mr Cowan suffered a fracture of the left arm between the elbow and shoulder and extensive contusions about the body. Mr Embrey was scratched and lacerated about the face and hands. Fortunately, Mrs F.H. Healing,

passing in her car soon after, conveyed the 2 sufferers to Dr. Liston."

The Cowans' eldest son Denys was posted to Havana as British Vice consul, and the Bushley Almanac reported the birth of a daughter to Mr and Mrs Cowan in Havana in 1915. In 1918 the Almanac reported the elevation of our man in Havana to Consul, and the award of the MBE.



Mr Cowan after his crash in 1915

Also in that year the Bushley Almanac reported the marriage of the Cowans' oldest daughter Marjorie to Mr Philip Baily of Pershore and London which took place at Bushley church. "The Church was tastefully decorated for the occasion... The organ was paid by Mr James W. Rusling, the organist for 55 years of Bushley church.

The church was crowded with parishioners and other friends. After the signing of the registers during the playing of the Wedding March, the village children scattered rose leaves in the path of the bride and bridegroom, and the village ringers, assisted by volunteers from outside- for several of the Bushley bell ringers are at the front or have given their lives for their country, rang merry peals. No reception was held owing to the war."

Barbara never married. Lydia married Denys Boyd-Carpenter in 1929 at Upton, and died in 1992 at Alderton in Gloucestershire. They had one son Alan Boyd-Carpenter. The Rev. Cowan was to continue in office until his death in June 1935, his widow living on in the Gloucestershire village of Gretton until her death in 1941.



Mr James Wise Rusling born in 1842 in Lincolnshire

The organist who had completed 50 years' service by 1913 was Mr James Wise Rusling born in 1842 in Lincolnshire. He came as schoolmaster to Bushley, aged 19, and remained in the parish until his death in 1921. In 1878 he handed over the mastership of the school to Mr Nash to become secretary to the Pull Court estate, the position he continued to fill during the lives of three successive Dowdeswell squires. He lived with his sister and housekeeper Elizabeth Rusling, a spinster, and his son John and daughter Eleanor at Church Farm. He was very largely responsible for the creation of the Bushley Almanacs; the pages of which have provided much of the material for this Guide.



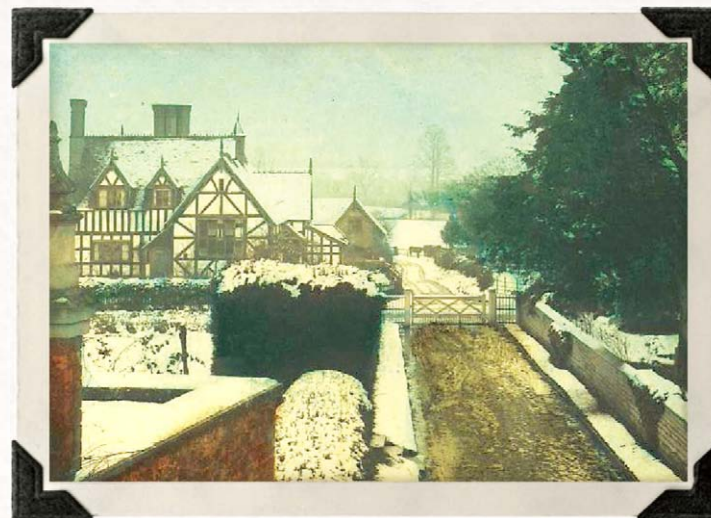
## BUSHLEY SCHOOL

The school was built in the 19th Century in a Tudor timbered style by Squire Dowdeswell. In March 1878, Mr Alfred E Nash arrived from London to take charge of the school, in succession to Mr J. W. Rusling. With the assistance of his wife and later his daughter, he was to run the school for 40 years until Easter 1918. At the outbreak of war in 1914 there were between 60 and 70 pupils at any one time. Mr Nash, who had been in post for 36 years, taught the seniors whilst his wife looked after the infants and juniors. Most children would come to school around four years of age and leave around 14 to take up paid agricultural work.

The school was an integral part of the village community that revolved around the Pull Court estate. The Bushley Almanac records that on January 1st 1915 *"The school children of Bushley, Queenhill and Longdon had their usual treat at Pull Court, consisting of a Magic Lantern Exhibition, a Christmas Tree, and a tea. This treat will doubtless be remembered by the children present as being the last, at which their kind friend Canon Dowdeswell acted as their host."*

A School Logbook, which still exists, started when the school reopened for the summer term of 1916. Its Roll of Honour has its own list of past pupils who fought in the Great War. There are 43 names in all, 19 of which are repeated on Bushley War memorial. Of the others several are remembered in the Rolls of Honour for Longdon, and Holdfast and Queenhill, contained in the Bushley Almanacs. However around half the names on the School Roll, are not remembered locally, perhaps owing to the seasonal nature of agricultural employment when families would move often annually from farm to farm in different locations. Even if in the same geographical area, in a pre-motor car era five miles could seem like the other side of the world if you didn't own a horse or bicycle.

Much of the log book deals with absence from school. The war, the weather and childrens' illnesses all contributed. Agricultural workers fighting in the war were to some extent replaced by school children. In May and early June 1915 notice was received that Rose Lane and Edmund Payne had permission from the education committee to be absent for three months for agricultural work. Then Alice Barnes and Henry Daffin had permission



*Old Bushley School and School House during heavy snow in winter, which reduced school attendance.*

to be absent six half days per week for agricultural work. In July it was noted that two boys and one girl were absent for three months on agricultural work and three girls and two boys for six half days of the week similarly. At the beginning of the spring term 1917, seven boys were absent either whole or part time engaged in agricultural work. The seasons played a major part in attendance and holidays. Harvest Holiday was four to five weeks in August to September which permitted the children to help with the harvesting. Blackberry picking in the autumn was a family ritual when school attendance fell. Sometimes the children's activity

could be turned to the school's advantage. Thus in October 1916 the school received some of the blackberries which were sold for 6/4d (six shillings and four pence) and the proceeds remitted to Tewkesbury Hospital.

Children, who often had to walk two miles or more to school, were often absent during the snowy winters of 1916 and 1917. Spring term 1918 was particularly hit by both snow and sickness.

Illness started at the top. Mr and Mrs Nash were both elderly, in failing health, and frequently unable to teach.



In May 1916 six children were absent suffering from chickenpox. By June, Beatrice Blake, Frederick Cole and 'the family of Fowler' had also been smitten. In 1917 there was a further outbreak of chickenpox followed by scarlet fever in January 1918. In June 2018 an outbreak of fever in the Maslin family resulted in a visit from Mr Price, the sanitary inspector, following which the school was closed for disinfection. No one had informed the Revd Roberts who had arrived from Eldersfield to examine and report on religious studies. The school being closed no examination could take place. In mid October 1918 the first signs of the great flu epidemic of 1918-20 appeared when an outbreak

which reduced attendance to 22 out of 66 closed the school on October 21. It reopened on November 4th.

Assistants to the Nashs came and went in quick succession. At the end of the summer term 1916, Miss Davies, the recently appointed infants teacher, resigned. She was replaced in September by Miss Perkins. A year later in September 1917 both Miss Nash and Miss Perkins resigned. The winter term commenced on October 1st with Miss Lewis taking over the Infants and Sewing. The 1st form had now to be taught in the Infants Room. The two time tables could no longer be adhered to, as the Master was now single handed.

On December 6th Mr Day, the assistant inspector visited. In December, children in the main school were examined. Owing to the peculiarity of the infants' teacher (Miss Lewis), the first and infants were not examined. On December 31st Miss Lewis resigned

Under these difficult circumstances it is not surprising that, the school inspector's reports did not glow. In December 1916 he wrote "*the Master appears to be doing his best, but owing to indifferent health, he has been unable to raise school to a sound satisfactory state of efficiency.*

*The standard of work is not really good in any subject. Drawing shows little improvement. Composition and Spelling are weak and the Arithmetic of standards 4 and 5 is inaccurate. Most of the exercise books are untidy and carelessly written. The children are generally well-behaved, but they are talkative when left to themselves.*"

At the end of March 1918, after a miserable term, Mr and Mrs Nash resigned after being in charge for 40 years. It was the end of an era, and not the happy ending they would have desired. The last four years had been dogged by ill health and worry from staffing problems.

The Nashs, too, had found themselves involved in the consequences of war. In May 1916 their son, Corporal William Nash, like his parents a school teacher by profession, had been severely wounded in France. To their great relief he made a complete recovery, but many of their former pupils did not. It must have been particularly heart breaking to see so many of those children whom they had taught, boys and girls, broken by the war and its fall out.

At a Farewell Meeting at the School, Mr Nash was presented with a clock, an address and an expression of "*good wishes for his happiness, long life and prosperity in his new home.*"

On April 1st the Managers appointed Mrs Davies as headmistress and Mrs Coppendale as assistant mistress. On November 12th 1918 the children were given a half days holiday in commemoration of Germany's surrender (the armistice was signed at 5am on Monday, November 11th).

*The School House looks almost the same today as it did back then.*



## MY MEMORIES

*Freda and her sister, Clarissa having afternoon tea.*



**These extracts are from *Memories of my Childhood 1902-1919* by Freda Guilding (later Mrs Frank Baylis)**

**They are a very small part of a longer memoir which vividly describes life on a farm in Bushley. The original document is in the Worcestershire County Archive at the Hive in Worcester.**

Freda was born in the year 1902, at Bushley Park, a farmhouse on a hill south of the Tewkesbury-Ledbury road. Her parents were Richard and Augusta Guilding, she had a sister Clarissa who was two years older.

### **The Fowler family**

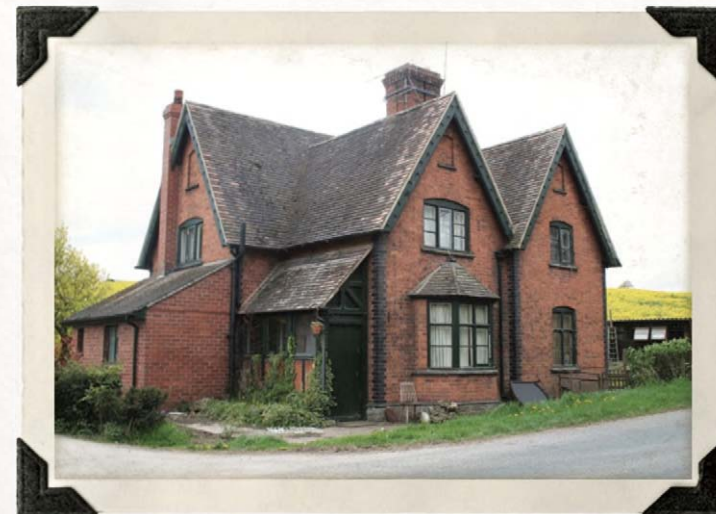
My mother ran the house with the help of one resident maid, a mother's help and, a handyman, William, the only employee to be called by his christian name, because he was the son of Fowler the shepherd, so we could not have two Fowlers. William helped in the garden, harnessed the carriage horses, fetched goods from the town, cleaned knives and boots, filled coal buckets, trimmed lamps, prepared vegetables and collected eggs in outlying places. William was always there to lift heavy things in the dairy, turn the handle of the separator, butter churn or cheese press. The separator was a machine which separated the cream from the

milk, and I was allowed to catch a cupful of cream if I got up in time. On washing days William carried buckets of water to fill the furnace and the wooden tubs and then he turned the mangle. I don't think he was ever away for a day.

William lived in one of the Pound Cottages and his father, Sam Fowler, the shepherd, lived in the adjoining cottage. When William brought the letter, he had his breakfast in the kitchen, but on Sundays his eldest son, Jimmy, brought the letters, and had his breakfast and sixpence. Such meals and other perquisites such as free milk and rabbits for the workmen and their families, helped enormously; although they lived

rent free, had large gardens and kept a pig for killing, most of them had large families. William had 12 children, and there was no health service or family allowance. The services of a district nurse were paid for by subscriptions from the local gentry and farmers. No wonder children left school at the age of 12 knowing very little of reading or writing so that they could add a little to the family income.

William and the unskilled workers got about 12 shillings a week (60 pence). The head shepherd and carter got a top wage of 14 shillings. The maids would get about 10 pounds a year, a cook or help about 12 to 14 pounds paid monthly in



*Pound Cottages, home of Samuel and William Fowler and families. In the 1911 Census 14 family members lived here.*



gold sovereigns. A month's notice could be given by either side. These were the wages up to 1914-1915.

### Cider and Perry

This is just one of many fascinating descriptions of farming activities contained in the Memories.

Our daily drink was cider or perry, for which my Father was famous, (I have no recollections of a water jug). The best cider was sealed down with wire and silver paper, similar to real champagne. He won many prizes for this including one at the Brewers' Exhibition in London. He knew just which apples or pears to use and planted orchards of special varieties.

From the orchards, the apples and pears were gathered into sacks and collected in a barn ready for cider making. The heavy cider press was brought out into the yard, and all the cheese mats and wooden implements put to soak in water. We did not use a millstone for grinding the apples, but they were chopped up in what I can only think looked like a mangle cutter. The crushed apples were spread in layers, between horse-hair mats, folded in envelope



fashion. These were piled up several feet high. Then the wooden press was lowered and a tub placed to catch the juice. Two men at the beginning, then four men when it got hard going, walked round and round holding aloft at arms length a long pole inserted in the cross arms, squeezing out every drop of juice.

A man with a bucket filled up the casks, where it was left to ferment and mature. The best cider was put into casks previously used for brandy or rum. Pure saccharine was used for sweet cider. It was then 16/- an ounce, a man's weekly wage. The best casks of cider were kept in the cellar under the house.

Perry was made in the same way using special varieties of pears, especially Worcester Blacks.

The swillings or weaker cider were put into bigger casks in the drink house for the daily ration of the farm workers. Each man was allowed half a gallon per day, which they carried in miniature barrels. The residue or 'must' was fed to the pigs, poultry and cattle.

### Health matters

Leading an outdoor life with plenty of wholesome food, we were hardly ever ill, and visits to a doctor were very unusual. Coughs and Colds were treated by rubbing the chest



*Farm workers taking a break from collecting up the summer hay.*

with goose grease, covered with brown paper. Mother made her own cough mixture for all and sundry, until the control on the sale of drugs came into force. I know her recipe contained laudanum, paregoric, liquorice and black treacle. For a cold we children were given a 'posset' at bedtime; this was a drink of hot milk, rum and honey and during the day, a drink was made from boiled linseed and liquorice.

When I had an ear-ache, the centre of a small hot roast onion was inserted in my ear! I do remember when we had whooping cough, we were driven to the gas works each day, for a week, to inhale the fumes of the gas tar.

We had a maid whose mother used cobwebs to stop bleeding.

I can well recall my only visit to the doctor. I had been sewing with a rusty needle which broke, leaving a piece in my finger. This went septic and had to be lanced, without any local pain killer. Only the threat of losing my finger, made me face this ordeal. This was alarmingly real to me because, in the Doctor's surgery there was a gas fire burning, with pieces of white substances, looking like skeleton bones; and to me these were the bones of patients, who had lost their fingers. I can still remember hiding my face in my Mother's fur coat while she held my arm.



For toothache a clove was held against the offending tooth, until a dentist came visiting the town once a week.

Before the First World War 1914 - 1918, small towns had Cottage Hospitals, which is exactly what they were; small Hospitals financed by local voluntary subscriptions, legacies and gifts of food and clothes for the poor. Well to do people had private nurses, nursing homes and visiting doctors, driving their rounds by pony and trap. That is after someone had walked or driven to fetch a doctor, there being very few phones and very few doctors. Almost all babies were born at home, instead of going into hospital. A resident nurse came for a month at least. The poor people only had the help of a district nurse, or an amateur midwife, when they had their babies, often in very crowded conditions.

Subscribers to the Cottage Hospital were allocated one or two days a year for visiting the wards. My Mother hated these official visits and would take my sister and me with her to chat to the patients.

When wives of the farm workers had their babies, we made large jugs of fine oatmeal gruel to take to them for a week. The husbands could

always get a meal in the kitchen and the rest of the family would live on bread and rabbits, milk and eggs from the farm.

### Helping the wounded

I remember the Cottage Hospital during the First World War when Clarissa and I, then about seventeen and fifteen, were asked to play the honky-tonk piano in the ward of the wounded soldiers, as loud as we could, while the wounds were being dressed in order to drown the screams (and the language) because there were so few pain killing remedies. In civilian life, in case of an accident, enough whisky or gin was given to the victim to render them insensible; this was the accepted procedure. Because of the appalling number of wounded, many large country houses were commandeered as convalescent homes. One near us was at Mytton, which incidentally was the home of Aunt Mary Ann before she married



*Mytton Hospital.*



*Mytton Hospital interior.*

my Uncle. Any four wounded from Mytton had an invitation to tea with us on a Sunday afternoon. How they enjoyed the home made cakes, scones and jam. My task was to bake a sponge sandwich, which my Father, teasing, called kill me quick.

Wounded soldiers in the 1914-1918s wore sloppy, short saxe-blue suits with white revers, and with as much crease as a pair of pyjamas. With this went a white shirt and a scarlet tie.

### Frolics with the Flying Corps

It must have been during the farmers' competition shoot of 1916 or 1917 that two young Flying Corps Officers from Salisbury Plain, flew their bi-plane rather too low, in their desire to see what was going on, so they crash landed in the top of a nearby elm tree. After scrambling down and walking to the town to telephone the damage from the Post Office, they returned to join the evening party. In fact they stayed with us for a week, while their plane

was repaired. One of the young men could play the piano and the song I can remember best of all was K-k-k-Katie, which we all sang with gusto. Only those who can remember those fragile planes, with their open cockpits (made we used to say of matchwood, tied up with string and glue) can realise the great pioneering work done by the Flying Corps of which they were all justly proud members.



*The R.E.8. aircraft known as 'Harry Tate'.*

### The new craze for motor cars

About this time, 1912 - 1913, cars were becoming more commonplace, and in the summer, my cousin, Frank Guilding, who was with the Thames Conservancy at Reading, came with his wife and daughter for their summer holidays. We all went out to the top of the hill to await their arrival and I can still picture this open four-seater chug-chugging to get up the hill. Motor horns, fixed on the side were of metal and sounded a blast when the black rubber bulb was pressed.







1914 Perry 8HP Two-Seater.

The roads were not tarmacked, just made of stones and gravel, rolled with a steam-roller. It was quite usual to see a roadman by the side of a pile of stones on the grass verge, cracking them up to fill up the holes in the road. They were very dusty, so all the ladies wore dust coats to protect their clothing. Mother's was made of cream nuns veiling, edged with insertion, threaded with black velvet baby ribbon. Over the elaborate hats they wore motoring veils. These were made of two pieces of fine silk chiffon, each about a yard long and a foot wide, gathered in the centre and tied under the chin; very becoming they looked too. The dust coat was later unpicked and the material reversed and remade.

#### School journeys 1914-18

When war was declared in 1914, we did not return to boarding school, but went daily by train to Cheltenham, to attend Pate's

Grammar School. This meant cycling two miles to Tewkesbury Station, parking our bikes; changing platform and trains at Ashchurch; there to board a Northern Express to Cheltenham, then a dash up a flight of stone steps to catch a tram for another mile or more, before arriving at school by nine o'clock. In the afternoon we did the reverse journey, later some days after playing hockey or tennis, then after dinner, homework.

The daily journey to school was even worse in the winter time. Cycles did not have battery lights. Lamps were either small oil ones with a wick or special lamps with carbide. The base of the latter, unscrewed and filled with pieces of carbide, when damped gave off an obnoxious smelling gas, which when lit gave a very good light. Rear lights were not used. The usual means of lighting for pedestrians, or for farm workers, was to carry an oil lantern or candle lantern.

#### Spanish Flu

Food became very scarce, there was no official rationing, as in the Second World War. Country people fared better, but in towns there were queues for everything. Resistance to illness was low and, in 1917-18 Spanish Flu swept the country.

Schools and places of entertainment were closed and thousands died. I wanted to go to Cheltenham, but was not allowed to travel by train and tram as usual, because of the risk of infection. So I cycled there and back, about 25 miles in all, and something I shall always remember is counting 13 funerals on that journey.

One of the saddest things of that war, was when the Army commandeered the hunters and carriage horses to go to the war, and they often came back shell-shocked as did many of the young men, who joined up at eighteen.



Freda on her wedding day with her father, Richard.

## CONCLUSION *Peace and afterwards*

### The 1919 Bushley Almanac gave the following report:

*“At last, after weary years of fighting and bloodshed, and squandering of life and wealth, Peace has returned to the Western lands. True, the problems raised by the War have not been solved without political warfare at home, nor are they likely to be solved in the near future without some bloodless civil war. But we do not any longer await with anxiety the fatal telegram which used to tell us of the sacrifice of some beloved relation or friend.”*

On Peace Day, the schoolchildren and old people were entertained at the vicarage by Mrs Cowan. Unfortunately, the weather prevented outdoor amusements

and the party had to retire to the Schoolroom.

A Peace Supper was given at the Moss Green Pavilion later on in the year to all the men who served and survived, their relations and friends and the parents of those who had lost their lives. The Squire was present in the chair and Mrs Berens-Dowdeswell; the Misses Bromley-Martin also, returned from their work at the Arc Hospital in France. Speeches were made and toasts were drunk in honour of the men who had served their country and a memorial was made of those who had gone, never to return. A pleasant evening was spent with ‘music and dancing’.

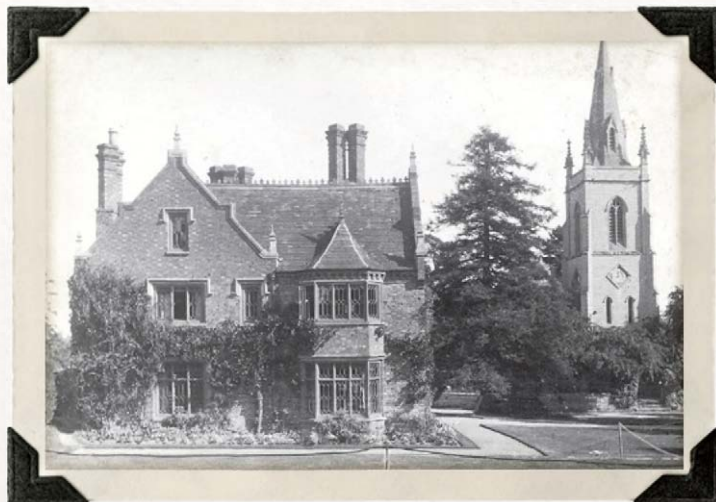
*“This pleasant evening was the first of a series which we owe to the foundation of a Social Club for Bushley and the neighbourhood. The initiation of the Club is due to Miss Bromley-Martin and the movement has been taken up heartily by the farmers and the whole village. Various ladies – Mrs Cowan, Mrs Morgan, Mrs Lyndon Guilding and Mrs George Creese, have acted as hostesses and 40 or 50 of the inhabitants have met every Thursday evening to enjoy dancing and singing. It has been found possible, so far, to carry on the social meetings at a merely nominal fee from each person and we hope that they will continue to brighten the lives of many who, living in the country, are debarred from enjoying the social amusements which a town supplies. These family gatherings of all the classes of country people, who spend an evening together once a week without any sense of social distinctions, should do much to draw together all the inhabitants and to produce that spirit of unanimity and mutual understanding, which is required to affect a satisfactory solution of trade and social problems. May the Social Club last long and flourish!”*

The arrival of peace did not bring a return to pre-war conditions.

A land fit for returning heroes was not fit for purpose. 1918 to 1920 saw an influenza epidemic, which killed off more people worldwide than had the four years of the Great War. The last Dowdeswell Squire had died in 1915, and although the Revd. George Berens, his nephew, who had succeeded him, added the name of Dowdeswell, life would not be the same again. The Pull Court estate beset by taxation and liquidity problems lacked inspirational leadership and the will to survive. Already by 1916 the sale of outlying farms in Ripple, Longdon, Holdfast and Queenhill had been necessary. With the arrival of the Great Depression, farm incomes plummeted along with tenants’ ability to pay their rents. A further sale was necessary in 1926 and, in 1932, the whole of the remaining estate was put on the market. For the first time the village became owned by its occupants.

The village school did manage to continue, even without Mr and Mrs Nash to guide it. Numbers reduced as families became smaller, though an influx of refugee children during the Second World War created a temporary increase. The school finally closed in July 1948. The then owner, Mr Hogan, vicar of Birtsmorton, requested the school

Bushley Church and Vicarage circa 1920s



*Bredon School in 2015, there are now over 245 pupils aged from 3 to 18 years*



managers to pay a rental of £65 PA, which the managers refused. The School therefore closed.

The house Pull Court was purchased in 1933 as a birthday present for Dick Seaman, later to achieve fame as a Mercedes Benz team racing driver. In 1939 he was killed in a racing crash at Spa in Belgium, the year after winning the German Grand Prix for Mercedes. Hitler sent an enormous wreath to his funeral in London.

Subsequently, Pull Court was purchased in 1962 by Colonel Tony Sharp as being suitable for a boarding school specialising in children with dyslexia. Renamed Bredon School, it grew quickly from 17 pupils at start up to over 100 in the early 1970s.

Although the Sharps have now retired, the school is still independently owned and is a main stream school with a specialisation in 'Educational Needs'. In 2015 there are 245 pupils from 3-18.

If Squire Dowdeswell were to return to Bushley today he might appreciate the fact that Bushley still has a school and, that the same sounds of youthful enjoyment, that used to emanate from the Village School House, Moss Green Shrubbery and the Open Air Bathing Pool, now echo around the Bredon School Playing Fields.

## BUSHLEY TODAY

Profits from this Guide will be shared between St Peter's Church and the Village Hall. The Church building is little altered since the Great War; however the Vicar's job has changed. Today's vicar, Chris Moss, also has responsibility for Longdon, Castlemorton, and Queenhill parishes. St Peter's welcomes everyone to its regular pattern of Sunday services, in addition to weddings and funerals on request.

The Village Hall built in the 1970s has taken the place of the Moss Green Pavilion as a centre of entertainment for the village.

With a smart new interior it is available for many functions at very reasonable rates. For smaller events the Village cricket ground Club House situated on Bushley Green also offers a warm welcome.

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Bushley Cricket Club  
[bushley.play-cricket.com](http://bushley.play-cricket.com)



*St Peter's Church*



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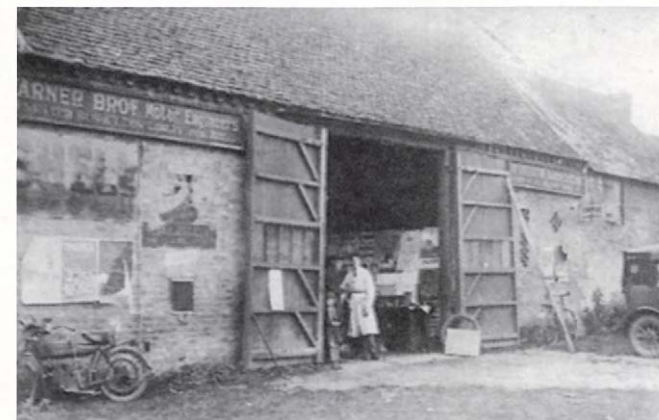
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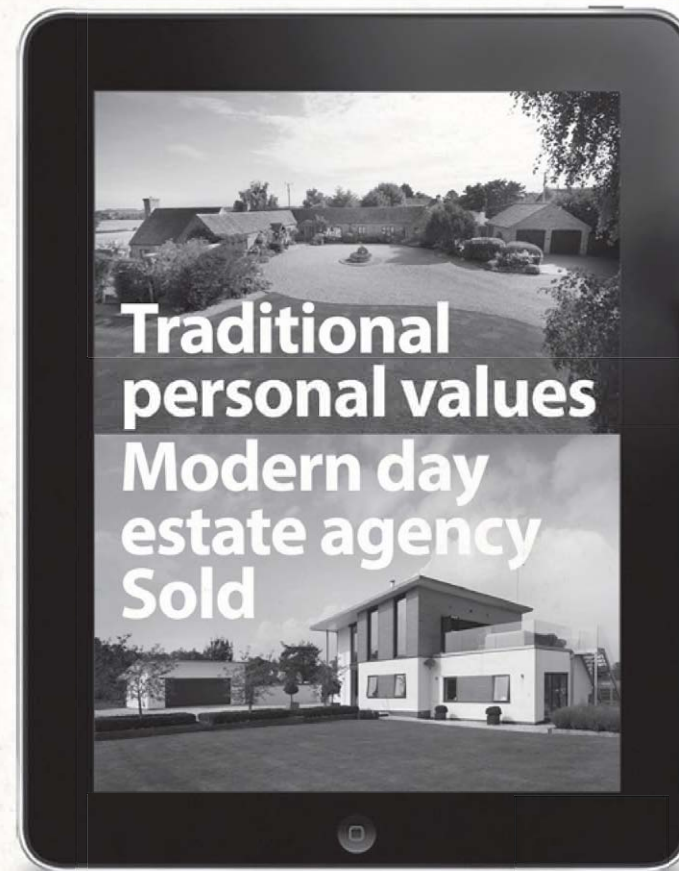
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## **Bredon School Remembers**

A NICHOLLS

RH TOMLINSON

A MATTY

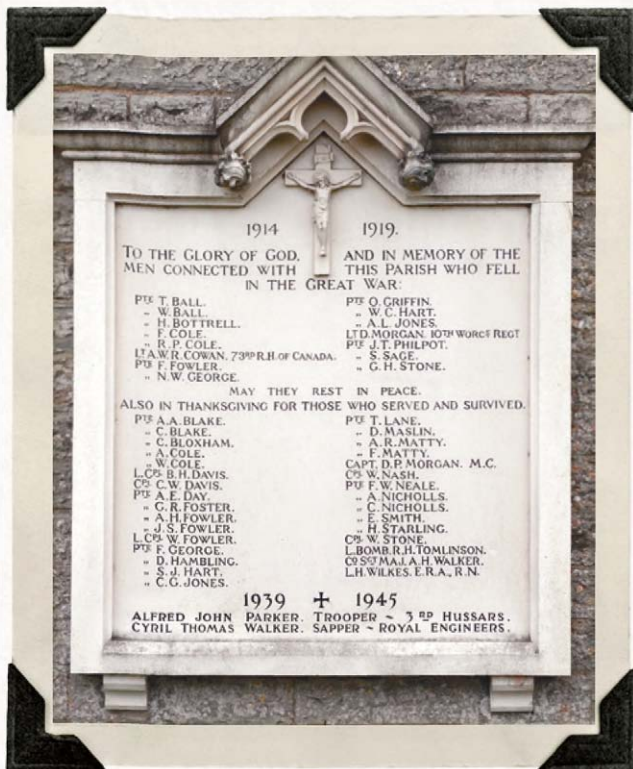
DP MORGAN

H STARLING

AW RUSSELL COWAN

The soldiers named above were all associated with the Pull Court Estate and are remembered on a plaque at Bredon School.





They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,  
We will remember them.

*From For the Fallen by Laurence Binyon 1914*