

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Richard Snow has been researching the people whose names are found on the War Memorial. In the first part of this series, he gives details of seven soldiers who lost their lives during the First World War. Editor

The War Memorial in Hastings Road was unveiled and dedicated on Sunday 25 September 1921 by Rev. H. Sinclair Brooke, MA (Vicar of Pembury 1898-1918). The site was given by the Marquis Camden, and the Portland Stone Memorial stands 16 feet high, and cost £365 19/4d., which apparently took quite a long time to raise. It was designed by well-known local Architects Ashley S. Kilby and the work was executed by Messrs.



Burslem and Sons of Tunbridge Wells. The Service (programme in Pembury Library) included the Last Post and Reveille and the National Anthem at the end of the Service. The Roll of Honour was read by Mr C.R. Bosanquet.

1914-1919

ARNOLD, Edward – Sapper 541121, 497th (Kent) Field Company, Royal Engineers. Served in the Dardanelles and Egypt. Wounded in action on 2 March 1917, and had his left leg amputated. Died 9 March, aged 23. Born in Tunbridge Wells, enlisted Gillingham. Lived Pembury. He is buried in Grove Town Cemetery, Meaulte, Somme, France. Grave 111.C.40.

BALDOCK, Stephen Thomas – Private G5058, 2nd Battalion Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Served with the British Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders. Severely wounded in May 1915 and invalided home. On recovery went to Mesopotamia in February 1916 and was killed in action there. Died 28 October 1918, aged 28 and unmarried. Born Lamberhurst 1891, enlisted Tonbridge. Lived Little Bayhall Farm, Pembury, where he was employed as a milkman by David Smith. 2nd Son of Charles Henry Baldock of 4 Woodland Villas, Pembury and formerly Great Bayhall. He is buried in Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery in Iraq. Grave XV111, F1/29. (Also on Lamberhurst War Memorial).

BARDEN, George – 471982 Sapper 363 Forestry Company, Royal Engineers. Died of wounds 17 April 1918. Age 32. Born Godstone, Surrey, enlisted Tunbridge Wells. Formerly a Timber feller. Son of Edward and Jane Barden of Pembury. Brother of Edward of Knights Place Lodge, Pembury. Buried Choques Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave 111.C.14. Had two other brothers serving in France.

BATCHELLER, George – (possibly) 115212 Gunner 225th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery. Died 28 March 1917, aged 33. Born Pembury, son of Robert and Julia Batcheller of Maidstone. Husband of Minnie Highley of Chatham. Enlisted Tonbridge, lived Maidstone. Buried Faubourg D'Amiens Cemetery, Arras, Pas de Calais, France. Grave 11.L.28.

CHATFIELD, Arthur Warden – G/13452 Corporal, 7th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Went to France in December 1916. Died 6 November 1918. Remembered on Panel 3 of the Vis-en-Artois Memorial Pas de Calais, France, which commemorates 9,000 men who have no known grave between the Somme and Loos. Born Waldron, Sussex. Enlisted Lower Green, Pembury aged 18. Lived at The Chippings, Lower Green Road, Pembury. Member of the Baptist Church, Pembury. Address at death was Lower Lodge, Blackhurst Lane, Pembury. Had a brother, Percy C. Chatfield.