



Prestbury Remembers

World War One



Centenary Memorial Trail

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A map of the route can be found on the back cover

Planning Your Route

Welcome to Prestbury. Please allow at least 60 minutes to complete the full walk. Part of the recommended route goes through a kissing gate and across a field with livestock in (please keep dogs on a lead). Alternative routes are available for wheelchair users and larger buggies. You may also prefer to make up your own route. Benches, pubs and parking places are all marked on the map.

Please respect the privacy of residents when passing houses on the route. Houses on this trail are not open to the public.

More than just a name

This year marks 100 years since the beginning of World War One. Between 1914-1918 many men left Prestbury Parish and went to fight in the trenches and other theatres of war. Sadly, more than 40 of them never returned home. This guide has been created to help keep their memory alive, tell you their stories, show you their faces and explore life in the village during the war.

Perhaps one of the most honest and poignant ways to illustrate the impact the war had on our community is to show you the places these men once lived. You will be guided past the houses & buildings that were connected to many of Prestbury's fallen soldiers and sailors. Most were village residents and others had family members living in the area.

As you pass each house you might like to remember that this was not simply a building, it was a home and a place of real human experience. The war touched all classes and ranks and you will see a range of buildings that reflects this, from small terraced cottages to grand manor houses.

It is also easy to focus on the sad conclusion to their lives and forget that for many, their time spent in combat was only a brief part of their life. This memorial walk has been created to honour and remember these men not simply as servicemen, but also as husbands, brothers, sons & fathers. To show you the human face of war and tell the stories of the civilian lives they left behind a century ago.



This 'lost generation' were ordinary men who left behind families, homes & jobs to fight for King & Country

We suggest you begin the walk at the War Memorial

Prestbury War Memorial

Lest We Forget

Prestbury's war memorial was designed by the architect John Coates Carter, who lived at the Manor House, Prestbury. R L Boulton & Sons (a firm of well known local craftsmen based in Bath Road) were tasked with building the memorial and it was unveiled in 1920. The steps are made of pea grit stone from Cleeve Hill and the top section from box-ground. The stone used for the steps was formerly part of Lower Mill, Mill Lane. It was given by Major Christopher Capel of Prestbury House, who served during the first world war.



Sadly the war memorial was badly vandalised in October 2011, with the top section being completely destroyed. It was rededicated in April 2012 thanks to the generosity of local stone masons Meister Masonry, who donated the time and materials to re-build it to the original design. Listed on the war memorial are the names of more than 40 soldiers who lost their lives during WWI. Many of those who died were buried overseas or have no known grave, so the war memorial was particularly important to their families. The names of five additional WWI servicemen have been added this year.



You will see these symbols throughout the guide. This is a code which can be scanned using a smart phone or tablet. Each code will take you to a different website or allow you to view interactive material like videos, photos & sound. Please be aware this will use mobile data unless you are connected to wifi. Scan this code to learn more about restoring the war memorial.



Propaganda cars encouraged 'every man to do his duty'. In the UK around six million men were mobilised, and of those just over 700,000 (11.5%) were killed. In 1918 Prestbury Parish had a voting population of 919 and we know of roughly 200 men who were in Naval or Military service. The Parish lost more than 40 of those men, putting the death toll at almost twice the national average.

Look towards the thatched cottage opposite the war memorial

'Ernest' Jonah Pass
Delholme Cottage (No. 30, High Street)

1

Ernest was born in Cheshire (Jonah Ernest Pass) and was the son of Mary and Simon Pass. In 1911 he lived with his parents in Lechlade. His father was a boot and shoe repairer and Ernest had an older brother William and a sister Edith. He married Julia 'Elizabeth' Cole at St Mary's while on leave in 1917.

Ernest enlisted in 1915, aged 18, and served with the 2/5th and 2/6th Gloucestershire Regiment. He was wounded in October 1917 and having been discharged from hospital, was taken prisoner by the Germans during a trench raid in December 1917. In December 1918 he was listed in a local newspaper as a repatriated prisoner of war but had returned in a 'feeble condition'. Ernest later died at Cheltenham General Hospital on 3rd March 1919 as a result of 'neglect' during the time he was held captive. He is buried in a war grave at Cheltenham Cemetery and was only 22. Ernest is not commemorated on the war memorial but is remembered in Lechlade church.

Mill Street

Turn around and continue along the Bank then turn right into Mill Street

Cyril John Baghot De la Bere
The Cottage

2



Cyril was the eldest son of Cyril and Maud De la Bere and heir to the De la Bere estate. He was also the grandson of the Rev. John Baghot De la Bere, who was the vicar of St Mary's. Cyril grew up at The Cottage but the family owned a large number of properties in Prestbury. He attended Cheltenham College before being accepted at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst.

Cyril was posted to the 10th Gloucestershire Regiment as a junior officer (2nd Lieutenant). He was killed in action during the battle of Pozieres (the Somme) on 18th August 1916 aged just 20.

Scan this code to watch a short video about life in the trenches during the battle of the Somme. You may also like to view some of the original British Pathe film now available on Youtube.



Albert Edward Davis
Mill Street (unknown address)



Albert was the son of Albert and Susan Davis who lived in Mill Street, Prestbury. Albert was living with his parents in Mill Street in 1911 but at the time of enlisting gave an address in Gloucester. His father was a farm worker and he had a younger brother called Reginald.

Albert was a Trooper in the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars and was killed in action during the battle of Qatia, Palestine on 23rd April 1916, aged 27. His name has recently been added to Prestbury's war memorial.

Retrace your steps and head down Mill Street towards St Mary's Church. When you near the Plough Inn take the steps on the left in to the Churchyard.

The Plough Inn



(Left) The Plough Inn circa 1920. The landlord during WWI was Thomas Pockett. The Plough was also home to the landlord's son George Frederick Pockett.

George survived the war and served in France between 1917 and 1919 with the Worcestershire Regiment.

Why not pay a visit to one of Prestbury's four historic pubs and inns on your way round the village. They would have been popular haunts for local residents in 1914 and still are today. On a nice day there are several beer gardens to enjoy but if it's raining come inside and warm up by the fire.

St Mary's Church

Take the path past the front porch of the church & then to the left of the tower.



Heart of the community:
many of the men you'll read
about today would have been
baptised or married in this
church and local residents
would have come here to
pray for safe return of their
loved ones.

The Bells: due to the Defence
of the Realm Act passed in
1914 church bells were not
rung during the war and stood
silent until peace was
declared in 1918.

Official War Graves:

Many servicemen were buried overseas or have no known grave, but some are commemorated on the graves of family members in the churchyard. There are also several graves of men who died after the war from wounds sustained during combat.

There are five official WWI War Graves in St Mary's Churchyard and some of the military headstones have been added as recently as 2009.

Jesse George Webber

Arthur Grace Louis

Arthur McCulloch Inglis

Arthur Vincent Holman

Robert James Dowdeswell



Arthur Vincent Holman



*To view images and details of commemorations and war graves
at St Mary's scan the QR code to visit www.remembering.org.uk*

William John Grogan

The Priory (behind the wall next to the churchyard)

3



William was the oldest man connected to Prestbury to die during WWI. He entered the Royal Navy as a cadet in 1871 and after a career spanning almost 40 years, was listed as a retired Rear-Admiral in 1908. He originally lived in Surrey but his parents resided in Prestbury and he moved to Cheltenham in 1912.

During WWI William volunteered for active service and accidentally drowned whilst in command of H.M. Yacht Sapphire at Portsmouth. He fell overboard and died on 14th March 1915, aged 54. William is buried at Cheltenham cemetery and left a widow, a son aged 10 and daughter aged 4. His mother lived at The Priory, Prestbury.

Exit the church into Mill Street, just past the Plough Inn. Take the footpath to the right of the bench. The Hayes can be seen (right) as you cross the bridge.

Finding HMS E-18

Walter 'Luke' Landale

The Hayes ('Prestbury Manor')



4



Luke (Right) on E-18

Luke was the son of Walter and Ethel Landale. He began his Naval career at the age of 16 as a Midshipman in the Royal Navy. By 1911 he was a Lieutenant and is listed on the census at The Hayes. Luke had two siblings and the family had five servants.

In 1915 Luke was transferred to the submarine E-18 which was sent to the Baltics to disrupt German shipments of iron ore.

Life on board would have been in stark contrast to life at The Hayes, with cramped conditions and only one bed for use by the three officers. Walter died aged 27 in May 1916 when E-18 vanished near Reval, Estonia. After his death he was awarded the Order of St Vladimir by the Czar of Russia. E-18's fate remained a mystery for 93 years until the discovery of her wreck was made in 2009. It's now believed she struck a mine while on the surface. Scan the code above to read an article about E-18 written by Luke's great nephew, James Landale.

Shaw Green Lane

Exit the footpath into Shaw Green Lane and turn right. After Idsall turn around and continue down Shaw Green Lane in the opposite direction.

Cyril Stanley Geoffrey Stevens *Idsall (No. 71)*

5

Cyril (listed as 'G Stevens' on the war memorial) was the fourth son of the late EF and Mrs Stevens who lived at Idsall, Shaw Green Lane. Cyril was age 30 when he died and he left a widow called Mary Ada Stevens. A CSG Stevens of the Lancashire Fusiliers is listed on the Seaford College roll of honour, so it is likely Cyril was educated in Sussex.

Cyril started out as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 22nd Manchester Regiment but by the time of his death he was serving with the Lancashire Fusiliers and had been promoted to Captain. He was killed in action in Belgium at The Battle of Poelcappelle (Ypres) on 9th October 1917.



'Lloyd George Survey 1909' For a map of Shaw Green Lane in 1909 and to discover who was living in Prestbury before the war, scan the QR code or visit www.glos1909survey.org.uk

William Melville Goodall *Elmhurst (No. 43)*

6



William was born in Woodmancote and was the son of Irving and Gloria Goodall. He was the youngest of four children and by age 15 was working as a grocer. His sisters were both shop assistants and his older brother was a sculptor. His father was a house painter and paper hanger.

William originally signed up to the Gloucestershire regiment but was transferred to the machine gun corps and died of wounds sustained during the battle of the Canal du Nord, France. He died on 27th September 1918 and was aged 22.

Reginald Edward Guise
Queensville (No. 39)

7

Reginald was born in Cuttack, Bengal and was the 3rd son of Rivett & Mary Guise, who had 5 other children. On the 1911 census he was aged 14 and was living with his widowed mother, older brother John and 3 year old sister Henrietta. The family lived in Essex with one domestic servant. By the time his death was reported, Reginald's mother lived in Prestbury.

Reginald was originally a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeomanry and was then posted to the 12th Glosters. He was killed in action at battle of Scherpenburg, France on 29th June 1918, aged just 21.

Robert James Dowdeswell
Shaw Green (Shaws)

8

Robert (or Bob) was born in Prestbury and was the eldest child of Frank & Ellen Dowdeswell. His father was a farm labourer and his mother was a laundress. Robert and his younger brother Frank were also farm labourers and both served during the war. They had a younger sister called Esther and in 1911 their widowed aunt Mary lived with them. Robert's mother Ellen was also soon to be widowed as by the time Robert's death was reported his father had sadly died too.

Robert enlisted into the Army Service Corps as a driver and died of pneumonia on 20th April 1917 at Shorncliffe Military Hospital. Other sources record that he was injured in a lorry accident. Bob was aged 24 and had been serving with the reserve supply personnel depot. He is buried in St Mary's churchyard, near the north gate.

"Dear Win, just a few lines... Your ever loving Brother Bob"

Letters home from 'Bob' to his little sister Esther 'Win' still survive and can be read online by scanning this QR code. There are also several items relating to their brother Frank who also served in the war. You'll notice that soldiers usually used pencil to write when they were on active duty as it was impractical to carry ink.



Racecourse V.A. Hospital

You may like to head down Park Lane to see a view across the Racecourse



In 1915 Prestbury Park's grandstand became home to 'Racecourse Hospital'

The Red Cross Voluntary Aid Hospital opened on October 28th 1914 with 100 beds, 13 Belgian patients and 2 British. By 1918 the number of beds had more than doubled to 200 with 20 for emergencies. Despite being one of the largest VA hospitals in Cheltenham, for the first six months staff had to manage without electricity or hot water and relied on oil lamps for lighting. Part of the open court was enclosed as a recreation room and the ambulance room was converted into a chapel which held regular services. There was also an operating theatre and outdoor revolving shelters.



The Commandant of the hospital was Miss Ratcliffe OBE, pictured above feeding the chickens. Several members of staff worked continuously throughout the war including Sister Bridget Hands (right) and Superintendent Kate Peters (left).



WWI Red Cross Hospitals

Out of the 3,169 admissions there were only 18 deaths at the hospital and Bridget & Kate were awarded Royal Red Cross Decorations for their nursing.



Bowbridge Lane & Home Farm

As you leave Shaw Green Lane turn left into Bowbridge Lane. When you reach the Burgage turn left into Mill Street to see Home Farm.

Albert John Spencer *2 Bowbridge Cottages (probably demolished)*

9



Albert was born in Witcombe near Cheltenham and was the son of George Spencer of 2 Bowbridge Cottages. Albert worked at a local butchers before the war and lived with his wife Edith in Cheltenham.

Albert enlisted into the 8th Gloucestershire regiment in 1914 and served in France and Flanders. He was killed in action on 15th April 1918 in Belgium (Neuve-Eglise) aged 27.

John 'Jack' Thomas James *Home Farm (& Pigeon House Farm, Southam)*

10



John (or 'Jack') was born in Prestbury. His father died in South Africa and his mother also died when he was young, so he was bought up by his grandparents Thomas & Mary James of Home Farm. (The family also farmed Pigeon House Farm in Southam). During his youth Jack attended Prestbury School and Cheltenham Grammar School. By age 16 he was apprenticed to an ironmonger in Montpellier and was nearing the end of his apprenticeship when he enlisted. He was described by a local newspaper as "a popular young man, keen on sports, a good shot and a bell-ringer at Prestbury Church".

John volunteered at Gloucester and was posted to the 1/5th Gloucestershire regiment. He was killed in action in France during the Somme offensive on 21st July 1916 aged just 21.

Lake Street

Return to the crossroads continue into Lake Street

Edward Robinson

Unity Cottages

11



Edward was the youngest son of James & Harriet Robinson of Unity Cottages in Lake Street. His father worked as a gardener and according to the 1909 survey the cottages were owned by the Oddfellows Society. Edward was born in Prestbury but he sailed to New Zealand in 1910 and was living in Christchurch, New Zealand when war was declared.

Edward returned to England in December 1915 and enlisted into the 12th Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment.

He was killed in action on 9th September 1916, aged 25, during the battle of Guillemont (the Somme).

George Ernest Robinson

Sandford Dene

12



George was born in Cheltenham and was the son of Betsy and Joshua Robinson. His father was a leather dealer but died while George was still a teenager. George's mother Betsy took over the family business and was listed as an employer and leather merchant on the 1911 census. George played for Prestbury Football Club and worked for the family business. He had a younger sister Edith and an older brother Oscar who was a beekeeper.

George served as a Sergeant in the 10th battalion Gloucestershire regiment.

He was killed in action at the battle of Loos on 25th September 1915, aged 22. His brother Oscar also served in the war.

Scouts & Children

*Retrace your steps to the cross roads and turn right into the Burgage.
The Scout field is on the left opposite the Royal Oak.*

The Scout movement was very active during the First World War. They worked tirelessly to grow food and help with the farming. They did their bit to defend the home front by undertaking sentry duties and carrying messages and they also helped support the families of soldiers who were away fighting. The older boys were taught how to shoot in case they were needed in the event of an invasion by Germany.



Here are two local Boy Scouts with some injured soldiers at Racecourse Hospital marching to the gardens, over an acre of which was being cultivated by them.



Scan to watch a short video about the role the Scouts played during the war.

Most children were expected to help the war effort. They did this by gathering things like firewood, eggs & berries. They also collected recycled materials and sent parcels to the soldiers at the Front. Many women had to work while the men were away so girls also had to help with the cooking and cleaning.



In 1917 the ministry of munitions tried to make explosives from a chemical found in conkers. They asked children from all over the country to collect them and the operation was overseen by the Scouts. Posters were put up in schools and British children gathered over 3,000 tonnes! The conkers were sent to secret factories but unfortunately the experiment wasn't successful.

The Burgage

Continue down the Burgage towards the Library

Henry George Cooke & William Joseph Cooke 4, The Burgage (now probably No. 7, Straw Cottage)

13

Henry and William were the sons of Edward Cooke, a gardener. By 1911 their mother had died & it was just their sister Gladys and younger brother Ernest still living at home. Edward lost two sons in three months and nearly lost a third when Ernest was gassed at the battle of Broodseinde (Ypres) in 1917.



Henry (left) was already a regular soldier with the Gloucestershire regiment, having enlisted prior to the war in 1909. *Henry was serving with the 2nd battalion Gloucestershire regiment in China at the outbreak of war. His regiment arrived in France in December 1914 and he was killed at the battle of Frenzenberg (Ypres, Belgium) on 9th May 1915 aged 25.*

In 1911 William worked as a 'jobbing gardener' in Whittington, near Cheltenham.

He enlisted into the 7th battalion Gloucestershire regiment in August 1914 and left for Gallipoli in 1915. He was killed in action on 7th August 1915 aged 33, just four days after reaching Anzac Cove (Gallipoli).

George Swann Field Cottage

14



George was born in Leeds and had previously served with the army before the war. At the outbreak of WWI he had become a reservist and was working as a butler at Delholme. He lived at Field Cottage with his wife Elizabeth and they had four young children. Elizabeth continued to live in the cottage for at least 30 years after George's death.

George was recalled to the 1st Gloucestershire Regiment and served in France and Flanders during 1914. Tragically he was shot through the head in the front line trenches near Givenchy, France & died there on 15th January 1915 aged 32.

The Home Front

*Continue past the Library and turn left into Tatchley Lane.
Cross carefully to the WI Hall on the right when you reach the roundabout .*



Before the war most women who worked were either in domestic service or took in piece work like laundry and sewing. In villages like Prestbury they would have also helped with farm work such as milking or harvesting, but usually wouldn't have been involved with the heavy labour. During the course of WWI the role of women changed considerably. They played a huge part in the war effort and had to fill the void the men left behind when they went away to fight.



Women took on varied roles such as munitions workers, railway porters, and nurses. They had to take over food production including ploughing and using heavy machinery. Many skilled farmers had gone away to fight and a number of horses had been sold to the army so these tasks became even harder.

Tasks women did before the war also became harder due to food and coal shortages. Most women were still looking after a family and home in addition to working long hours. Even upper class women got involved by entertaining wounded soldiers, fund raising and sending parcels of food to the troops.

Scan to watch a short film produced by the NFU about the work of the Women's Land Army during WWI.



Bouncers Lane

A weighbridge was once located at the end of Bouncers Lane. Weighbridge Cottage stood where the WI Hall is now situated.

Walter Wilfred Winstone *Weighbridge Cottage*

15



Walter was born in Leckhampton and was the son of William and Elizabeth Winstone. He had two younger brothers and two younger sisters. Walter's father was a labourer and Walter was also listed as a labourer on the 1911 census.

By the time war broke out Walter was already a soldier with the 1st Gloucestershire Regiment. He served in France & Flanders and was killed in action at Ypres on 7th November 1914, age 20.

Turn right into Bouncers Lane & walk to the two houses after the thatched cottage.

George Frederick Parker 2, Beehive Cottages (Now No. 3 or 5)

16



George was born in Prestbury and was the son of David & Hester Parker of 2 Beehive Cottages. His family can be seen above at his sister Rosa's wedding in 1917 at St Mary's.

George enlisted in Bristol and served with the Labour Corps. He was wounded in action near Arras (Somme) on 17th July 1917 and died the following day. He left a widow Florence at 6 Little Herberts, Charlton Kings.

Continue down Bouncers Lane until you pass the Beehive Inn. Lynworth Cottages is the terrace just before the school. Three of the cottages had family away fighting.

Frederick John Sansom 4 Lynworth Cottages (Now No. 39)

17



Frederick was the eldest son of Frederick and Ellen Sansom. He worked in domestic service as a 'house boy' with his younger brother William. They also had another younger brother called Arthur. Frederick's mother was a letter carver and his father was a stonemason. Before moving to Prestbury the family lived in Woodmancote and previously with Frederick's aunt who was postmistress at Bishops Cleeve.

Frederick enlisted into the 3rd Grenadier Guards and served in France (Loos). Frederick died of wounds, probably sustained from a bomb blast, on 9th October 1915 aged just 21. Frederick's parents continued to live at 4 Lynworth Cottages for the rest of their lives & his father was listed at the address until the 1950s.

Prestbury School

Many of the men from Prestbury who fought in the war had been educated at St Mary's. It was known as 'Prestbury National School' in those days and the Headmaster's son Frederick Rylands served in the war.



Cemetery Road & Blacksmith's Lane

Bouncers Lane was also known as Cemetery Road. You may wish to detour to the cemetery and past where Illerton used to stand, but it is some way off.

Edgar Robinson *Illerton (Was located near May Cottage)*



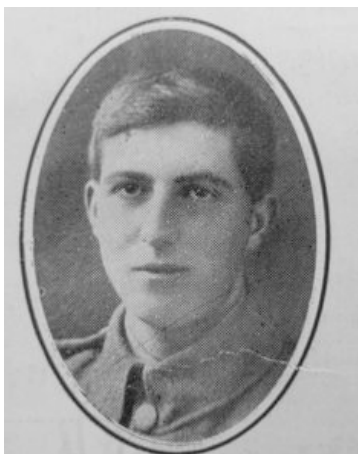
Edgar was born in Tewkesbury and was the son of *George & Emma Robinson*. He is listed at *Illerton (now demolished)* as a milkman in 1911 age 30. It's possible he worked for nearby *Lynworth Farm*.

He enlisted into the 3rd Gloucestershire Regiment. He died on 23rd February 1915 aged 34 at the royal military hospital Woolwich.

Retrace your steps toward the WI Hall. The garage on the left was once the site of Lynworth Farm. The Birts ran the farm and two of their sons Charles & Ronald fought during the war. At the roundabout turn right into Blacksmith's Lane.

Albert Edwin Gibbins *2 Lynworth Terrace*

18



Albert was the son of *Albert & Edith Gibbins*. Before the war he was employed at *Monkton House* near *Taunton*. On the 1911 census he was working as a milkman (possibly for nearby *Lynworth Farm*).

Albert joined up in Cheltenham and enlisted into the Somerset regiment. At least 4 of the 5 houses in Lynworth Terrace had someone serving in the war. Albert was killed at the first battle of The Scarpe (Arras) 11th April 1917 age 19.

The High Street

Retrace your steps to the roundabout and turn right into Deep Street. As you join the High Street look for the house next to the Post Office as you round the corner.

Arthur Grace Louis *Hygeia (Westwold)*

19

Arthur was born in Lancashire and was the son of Alfred and Cora Louis. He was educated at Cheltenham College and later went on to become a farmer and horse dealer at Starveall, New Barn Lane. He married his wife Caroline in 1899 and by 1911 they were living at Hygeia in Prestbury High Street. Interestingly, Arthur was actually the enumerator for the census.

Arthur enlisted into the Army Medical Corps but sadly died of heart failure aged 42 on 22nd September 1916. He is buried in St Mary's churchyard.

The Post Office



*Postmaster
George Sumption*

The Postal Service played a significant role during WWI. Letters were extremely important as they were the only way to communicate with soldiers fighting in the front lines or loved ones back at home. It was vital for the troops' morale that letters and parcels could get through, so 'Field Post Offices' were set up.

It was equally important to the war effort back at home to carefully monitor what information was being sent back. Every letter sent from across the Channel was opened and read and almost four tonnes of letters were censored each day at the height of war.



Scan to watch a short video about the postal service during WWI.

John Francis Sumption Post Office

20



John was the son of George & Mary Sumption and his father was post master for Prestbury. John emigrated to Canada in his early twenties and was a partner in the dry goods firm Sumption & Hughes in Montreal.

John joined the Canadian army prior to WWI and volunteered for overseas service during the war. He sadly returned to England on the day his father died in 1916 but was able to attend his funeral. His wife Bessie also came to England with him.

John was injured at the battle of Le Transloy in October 1916 where he lost a leg and received several shrapnel wounds. Bessie travelled to France to nurse him but he died on 22nd October 1916 aged 38.

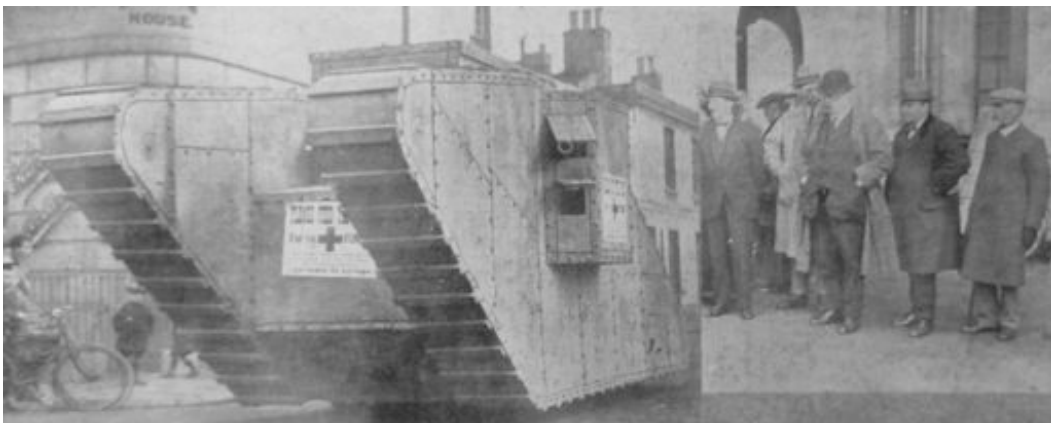
Francis Arthur Hann Salford Cottages (now 'Pellon' No. 24)

21



Francis was the nephew of Mr & Mrs C Tovey, who lived at the above address. Francis was actually born in Somerset.

He enlisted into the 1st Grenadier Guards and served in France where he was wounded in the head and neck in 1915. Francis was killed at the battle of Flers-Courcellette (Somme) on 10th September 1916. Flers-Courcellette was the first battle in which the British used tanks.



A model tank being displayed in the Cheltenham area

Food & Rationing

*You will have just passed the village stores and are approaching Waghorne's butchers.
(This is the end of the main trail shown on your map.)*



Food prices more than doubled during WWI and people often had to queue for a long time at shops. A large quantity of food was being sent away to feed the troops and shipping had become more hazardous due to attacks by German U-Boats. This photo shows children queuing for potatoes.

Economising became hugely important during the war. There was an emphasis on not wasting anything. Slogans such as 'Glutton is the only enemy we need fear' and 'Save bread, win the war' were displayed at marches such as this one. There were also 'war economy' exhibitions which taught people how to use substitute plants such as dandelion roots for coffee and encouraged recycling.



'Dig for Victory' may be a WW2 expression but cultivating the land to boost productivity was just as important during World War One. The photographs below illustrate preserving methods used to make sure none of the produce was wasted. Rationing was introduced in 1918 to ensure everyone got a fair share of essentials like bread, meat, butter & sugar. Everyone had to have a ration book (even the King & Queen) and you were given more food if you were doing heavy work. There were books of wartime recipes and National Kitchens opened in some areas to feed people en masse as this was considered more efficient, as it required less fuel for cooking and created less waste. Food parcels were sent to feed troops and prisoners of war, and at the beginning of the war soldiers had about 4000 calories a day, including their all important morning rum ration.



Noverton Lane

You may wish to extend your route by continuing down the High Street into Noverton Lane. Five men were killed during WWI, making it the most unfortunate street in Prestbury.

Frederick Thomas Surman

Noverton Cottage



Frederick was born in Cheltenham and was the eldest child of Thomas and Sophia Surman. His father was a baker and by age 14 Frederick was working as an errand boy. On the 1911 census he was living at Noverton Cottage with his parents and had two sisters and two younger brothers.

Frederick enlisted into the Royal Navy prior to WWI and as you can see on in this picture, his cap reads HMS Vivid, which was the Navy barracks at Devonport.

At the outbreak of the war he was serving on the HMS Monmouth as a Stoker 2nd class. His ship had originally been consigned to the reserve fleet and the crew were mainly young and inexperienced. On 1st November 1914 HMS Monmouth was sunk by two German ships along with the HMS Good Hope at the battle of Coronel, off the coast of Chile. Frederick was only 18.

Basil St Merryn Cardew also died (aged 19) whilst serving on HMS Monmouth. He is commemorated on his parents' grave in St Mary's churchyard but their connection to Prestbury is not known.

George Mayall

Noverton Farm



Caddies on Cleeve Hill

George was born in Prestbury and was the son of Herbert & Jane Mayall. His father was a gardener and George worked as a golf caddy (probably on Cleeve Hill). He had six other siblings and his eldest brother Frederick was unable to work due to a disability. The family lived at Noverton Farm in 1901.

George enlisted at Cheltenham into the Gloucestershire Regiment in 1914. He was sent with the 10th Glosters to France in August 1915 and was killed on the first day of the battle of Loos. George died on 25th September 1915 aged 23.

Frank Leslie Parker & Ernest Edward Parker *Darkes Farm*



Frank & Ernest were both born in Prestbury and were the sons of Frank and Emma Parker. Their father was a farmer at Darkes Farm and also the chairman of Prestbury Parish Council. They had one younger brother William.



Frank enlisted into the 2nd Grenadier Guards and served in France and Flanders. He was gassed twice during the war and was killed in action on 25th October 1918 at the battle of Selle, France. Frank was aged 26.

Ernest or "Jack" enlisted into the 8th Devonshire Regiment. He served in France and Flanders and was killed in action on 5th October 1917 at 3rd battle of Ypres, Belgium. Ernest was aged 21.

Robert Pockett *Noverton Lane*



Robert was born in Cheltenham and was the son of William & Mary Pockett. William was a hay cutter in the local area and Mary was a laundress. Robert had six siblings and it is alleged that his mother Mary was once in service to the royal family.

Robert enlisted into the Royal Field Artillery and was sent to France in 1916. He died during the battle of Guillemont (Somme) on 3rd September 1916, aged just 19.

Photograph above shows Gloucestershire haymaking during WWI

Life after the War

The war left a huge void within society. Children without fathers, women without husbands, estates without heirs and families without sons to carry on the family business. Many men returned changed and scarred by their wartime experiences and injured soldiers were often unable to resume their former occupations. Jobs had to be found for the thousands of troops being demobbed and many men found it hard to readjust to civilian life.



There was a lack of skilled, healthy men after the war which in part contributed to the mechanisation of farming. During the 1920s, early tractors and threshing machines started to be introduced, leading to the gradual decline of traditional farming methods.



Some women were given the vote in 1918, in part this was due to the substantial role women had played during the war. Their roles and expectations had changed drastically by the 1920s and it had become more acceptable for married women to work and for women to undertake more varied roles. There was also a general decline in domestic service and a move towards jobs in trade and industry.



Suffragettes in 1911, when Emmeline Pankhurst's daughter Christabel visited Cheltenham

Every Man Remembered

*The Parish of Prestbury extended much further than the village itself.
In all there are 55 men we know of that had some connection to Prestbury.*



Noel Graham Lake
Tatchley



Percival Thomas Fildes
The Laurells



Raymond William Eggleton
Folly Lane



George Ed Turner
2, Elmfield Cottages



Percy John Tustin
29 Courtenay Street



Sidney Willis
Cromwell Road



Edward Basil Hanks
Kilburn House

Arthur McCulloch Inglis
Laurence William Newberry Boschetti
Arthur Vincent Holman
Aubrey Causton Strachan
Frank Radcliffe
Jesse George Webber
Alexander Falkland Gulland
Dennis William Diston
Frederick George Spencer
Lionel Bruce Maby
Sidney Davis
Guy Frederick Beckham Handley
Owen Harrison
Daniel Pockett
Charles Arthur Archer
Basil St Merryn Cardew
Lawrence Herbert Marshall
G Richardson
Caleb Ryles

Inglisby, New Barn Lane
The Orchids, Prestbury Road
Melfort, All Saints Road
Pittville Court (Military Cross)
Unknown (also Francis Ratcliffe)
15 Guestriss Cottages
Malvern Hill Hs, Albert Rd
Unknown
Unknown
Marle Hill House, Evesham Rd
Unknown
Handley Cross Albert Rd
Born in Prestbury
Born in Prestbury
Born in Prestbury
Commemorated at St Mary's
Parents lived at Sunnyside
Unknown
Caravan nr Hyde Farm 1891?

Your Village Needs YOU!

Do you have any photos, letters, or information about Prestbury in 1914-18?

By 2018 I am hoping to have undertaken some basic research into each man from Prestbury who served during World War One. Those who survived, those who were injured or those who helped the war effort back home. Copies (or originals) of documents, photos, letters, paper cuttings etc... will be gratefully received by Prestbury Local History Society for their archive.

If you have any information, corrections or comments please contact:
prestburyremembers@gmail.com

Credits & Thanks

Printed by St Mary's Church

'Prestbury Remembers' was written by Rebecca Sillence as a memorial to the men from Prestbury who lost their lives during WWI. It is also dedicated to the memory of Frank Stanley Carpenter and William Edward Sillence.

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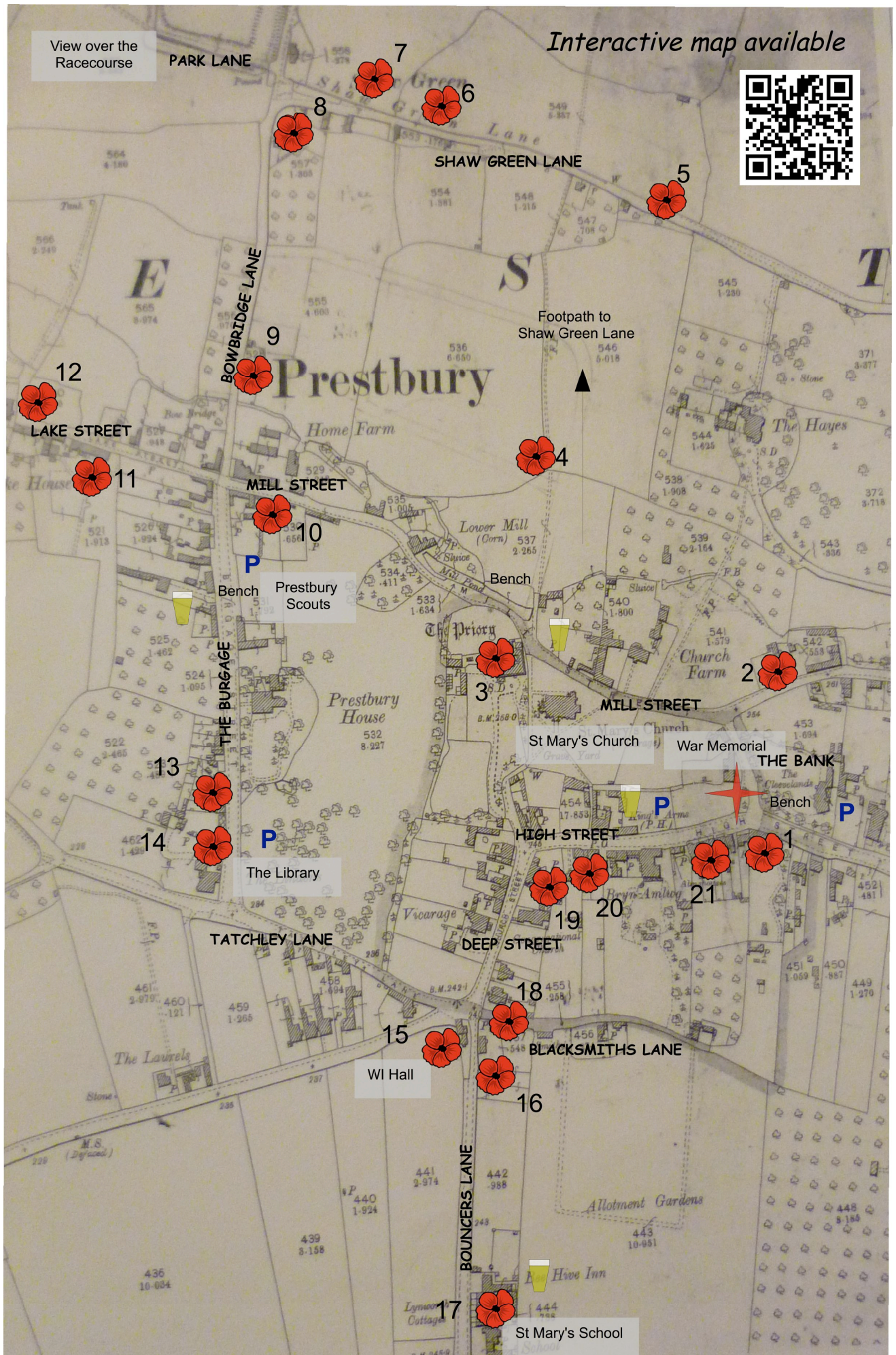
Do you want to discover more?

www.prestburyremembers.moonfruit.com

'Leaving all that was Dear' by Joseph Devereux & Graham Sacker
Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum www.glost.org.uk
Prestbury Local History Society www.prestburyhistory.btck.co.uk
Gloucestershire Family History Society www.gfhs.org.uk
Cheltenham Local & Family History Library www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/libraries
Gloucestershire Archives www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives
The Long Long Trail www.1914-18.net
Commonwealth War Graves Commission www.cwgc.org
Cheltenham war memorials and rolls of honour www.remembering.org.uk

View over the
Racecourse

Interactive map available



1903 map of Prestbury courtesy of Cheltenham Local & Family History Library