

The Mystery of Rustington's World War One Memorials



The Memorial located in "The Street" Rustington

Photograph By J. Winch

By John C. E. Winch

Introduction

Whilst it is not unknown for a community to have more than one World War One memorial, they are usually in agreement. However, in the case of those in Rustington, there is significant discord. This has puzzled many of the local historians and a persuasive answer has yet to be proposed

The most familiar memorial, to most residents and shown the title page, is located in 'The Street' and is the focus of attention for the armistice Sunday dedication. This Memorial was unveiled on the 6 July 1952.

The close up the plaque shows that there are 16 names, which are also on a plaque located in the north arcade of St Peter & St Paul's church.



This was installed sometime after the 31st October 1922. This date being the day on which the Chichester Diocesan Faculty, for the installation of the plaque, came into force.

To accommodate the memorial an existing plaque dedicated to John & Mary Peters had to be moved to the west end of the church.

The Faculty document shows that the plaque was designed by Mr F. W. Nicholson of Liverpool. It also gives all the names of the men that will be engraved onto the plaque. This suggest that the gathering of the names together with other necessary work, required for the creation and installation of the plaque, had been undertaken much earlier. ¹

The plaque seen at 'The Street' Memorial
Photograph by John C. E. Winch

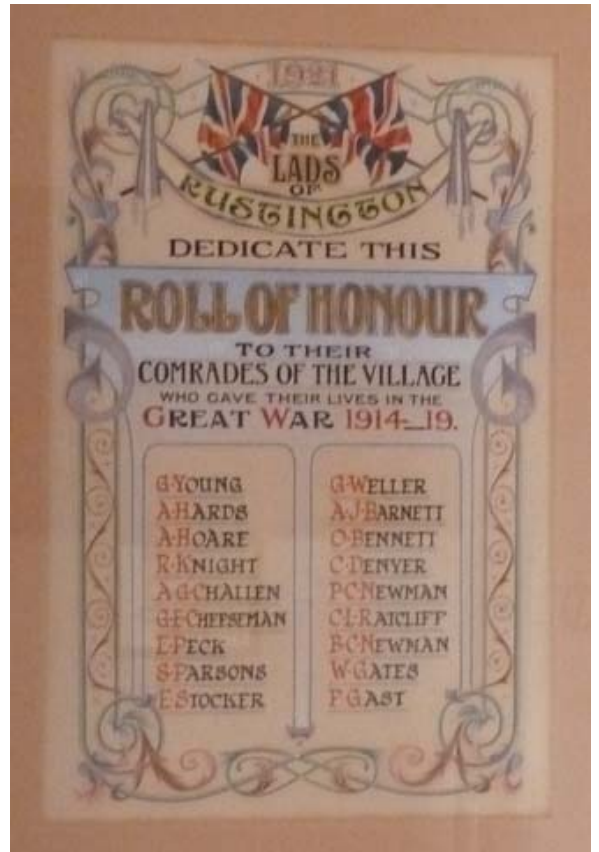
The third memorial, is a scroll entitled "The Lads of Rustington Dedicate this Roll of Honour to their comrades of the village who gave their lives in the Great War 1914-19".

This was originally erected in the Temporary Hall during 1921. Later transferred to the Village Memorial Hall at the Woodlands Centre.

On this memorial there are 18 names, two more than the above. There is no specific documentation for this memorial or to the men shown thereon.



The Plaque in St Peter and St Paul's church
 Photograph by John C. E. Winch



The Memorial Hall 'Roll of Honour'
 Photograph by John C. E. Winch

On viewing the memorials the curious thing is that only 10 names are common to all memorials. Six names exclusive to 'The Street' memorial and eight names exclusive to the Village Memorial Hall scroll. Thereby giving a total of 24 names.

To try and have some understanding of the reasons for the differences in the memorials it seemed appropriate to research all 24 men. Reviewing the 1891, 1901 and 1911 census and other civic and military documentation, gave some indication as to where these men were born. Albeit that they were supposed to have been from Rustington or the immediate environs.

The results of the research are shown below as a brief summary of each mans background, which has highlighted some interesting facts as follows: -

Of the 24 men only four were born in Rustington the remaining 20 were born as follows: -

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| One in Angmering | One in Hampshire |
| Three in East Preston | Three in Surrey |
| Two in Littlehampton | Two in London and its suburbs |
| One in Worthing | One in Peru |
| Five in other Sussex locations | One unknown |

Those men shown to all memorials

1.0 Albert John BARNETT

61361 - Private - Royal Fusiliers. Formerly 17165 Royal West Kent Regiment. Died 11 April 1917 and is Remembered on the Arras Memorial.

Son of Thomas and Mary Ann Barnett, born about August 1886 at East Preston, West Sussex (WS).

In 1891 and 1901 he is living with his parents in East Preston WS.

He marries Louisa G.P. Wyatt in East Preston WS about November 1906.

In 1911 Albert J. and Louisa are living with Albert's brother Thomas George Barnett at Lindfield Cottages Rustington.

2.0 George Edward CHEESEMAN

204284 - Private - 1st Battalion London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers)

Died 16 June 1917 and is remembered at the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial.

Son of Jesse and Louise Cheeseman, born about August 1897 at Streatham, Surrey.

In 1901 he is living with his parents in Streatham, Surrey. Then in 1911 the family have moved to Sandhurst Glenville Road, Rustington.

The 1915 & 1920 Electoral Register shows his parents continue to live in Rustington.

3.0 Percy Cyril Edward GAST

119783 - Gunner - 40th Anti-Aircraft Company Royal Garrison Artillery.

Died at home 20 November 1918 following hospitalisation and is buried at St Peter & St Paul, Rustington.

Son of William and Eliza Gast, born about May 1889 at Nutbourne WS.

In 1901 he is living with his parents in Havant Hampshire. Then in 1911 the family have moved to 1 Elm Tree Cottages, Rustington.

4.0 Arthur William ROPER (GATES)

4969 - Private - A Company 12th Battalion. Royal Sussex Regiment.

Died 18 March 1916 remembered at the Saily-sur-la-Lys Canadian Cemetery.

Son of Florence Annie Gates, born about November 1896 registered at Easy Preston WS.

Florence Annie Roper married George Gates in 1898, which implies that Arthur William was born out of wedlock.

In 1901 there is no entry for Arthur. However, there is a suggestion that he is living with his 'adopted' parents in Worthing a Abraham and Selina Gates. There is no obvious link between Abraham and George Gates except the same surname.

Then in 1911 he is living with his mother and step father at Church Farm Cottages, Rustington.

Also on the Angmering Memorial

5.0 Albert HARDS

5000 - Lance Corporal - 13th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment

Died 3 September 1918 remembered at the Knightsbridge Cemetery, Mesnil-

Martinsart. Son of Robert Henry and Kate Hards. born about November 1897

Rustington. In 1901 he is living with his parents at 1 Rustington Villa, Worthing Road. Rustington. In 1911 he and the family are still living in Rustington.

6.0 Allen HOARE

12600 - Private - A Company 8th Battalion Devonshire Regiment

Died 25 September 1915 and is remembered at the Loos Memorial.

Son of Richard and Charlotte Hoare, born about November 1883 at Rustington.

In 1891 he is living with his parents at Farm Cottage Rustington. By 1901 he is living with his Widowed mother at 4 Norway Cottages Rustington. Not listed on the 1911 census.

His mother Charlotte dies in 1927 whilst living at D Boundary Cottages, Rustington.

7.0 Stanley Charles PARSONS

J.18297 (Po) - Signaller- Royal Navy

Died 5 June 1916 when the ship on which he was serving, HMS Hampshire, was torpedoed. This was the ship on which Lord Kitchener was travelling, He and many others also lost their lives. Ernest is also commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial.

Son of William C. and Edith M. Parsons, born 6 November 1896 at Rustington.

In 1901 he is living with his parents at Rustington Hall Cottage, Rustington, where his father is Gardener. In 1911 the family are at the same address.

Also on the East Preston Memorial.

8.0 Edward STOCKER

2nd Lieutenant - 6th Battalion Kings Own Scottish Borderers

Died 26 September 1915 and is remembered at the Loos Memorial.

Son of William E. G. and Juanita Stocker, born about August 1884 at Wimbledon, Surrey.

In 1891 he is living with his parents at West Battersea. Then in 1901 they have moved to Wandsworth Surrey. 1911 the family are at 61 Brodrick Road, Upper Tooting, Surrey.

Interestingly Edwards father William dies on the 16 August 1913, whilst living at 61 Brodrick Road, Upper Tooting Surrey. However, he and his wife Juanita are buried at St Peter & St Paul Rustington.

The 1920 Electoral Register has Juanita living at Cudlow Cottage, Sea Lane, Rustington.

The census shows that Juanita's siblings lived in Littlehampton in 1901 and that her mother is buried in 1900 somewhere in the East Preston WS area.

9.0 George Abraham WELLER

25759 - Private- 1st Battalion East Surrey Regiment - Formerly 6502 Royal Sussex Regiment

Died 15 March 1917 and is remembered at the Bethune Town Cemetery.

Son of George and Jane E. Weller, born about February 1885 at Chapel, Surrey.

In 1891 he is living with his parents in Chapel Surrey. In 1901 the family are living at 3 Bridge Cottage Rustington.

George marries Fanny Parsons in 1906 registered East Preston WS.

Then in 1911 he, Fanny and their 3 Children are living at Bridge Cottages Rustington. Following his death Fanny remarries living at 1 Nursery Cottages, Lyminster, WS.

Also on the Angmering memorial.

10.0 George Thomas YOUNG

G/1599 - Acting Sergeant - 2nd Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment

Died 9 Sept 1916 remembered at the Thiepval Memorial. Awarded the Military Medal.

Son of Andrew and Sarah Ann Young, born about November 1894 Portslade, WS.

In 1901 he is living with his parents in New Shoreham WS. Then in 1911 the

family are living at Ivy Dene, Rustington.

His parents are at this time living on the Ivy Dene, Rustington.

Also on the East Preston WS memorial.

Those men shown only on 'The Street' and Church memorial

11.0 Howard John BARTLETT

Captain - Royal Army Service Corps

Died in Italy after the end of hostilities, 1 December 1918 and is buried and remembered in the Taranto Town Cemetery Extension, Italy. He is Mentioned in Despatches.

Son of J. J. H. and Bartlett, born about February 1876 at Kensington, London.

Married Marion Macdonell Williamson on the 26 April 1900 in Notting Hill London.

His occupation is Solicitor.

In 1901 he and his wife are living in Bexley Kent. In 1911 they have moved to The Grove, Singleton, WS.

The 1920 Electoral Register shows Marion living at Mentone, Broadmark Lane, Rustington.

12.0 Ernest JORDAN

34360 - Private - 2/4th Battalion Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding) Formerly 61629 Northumberland Fusiliers.

Died 30 August 1918 and is remembered at the Vaux Hill Cemetery.

Son of Catherine Jordan (single), born about August 1899 at Littlehampton, WS.

In 1901 he is living with his mother at 26 Cranworth Road Worthing WS, the home of Catherine's widowed Sister. Then in 1911 he is living with his mother and siblings at East Preston WS Workhouse. His mother at this time living at 3 Albert Road.

Also on the Littlehampton Memorial.

13.0 William John KILHAMS (not John William)

48130 - Private - 8th Battalion East Surrey Regiment

Died 25 October 1918 and is remembered at the Cross Roads Cemetery, Fontaine-au-Bois.

Son of George & Mary Jane Kilhams, born about May 1897 at Aldingbourne, WS.

In 1901 he is living with his parents at Chalcroft Fields, Chalcroft Road, Bersted, WS.

Then in 1911 the family are living at Cock Bush, West Wittering, WS.

His parents are at this time living at Windmill Cottage, Rustington.

14.0 Reginald Geoffrey PECK

Lieutenant - 4th Battalion Cameronians (Scottish Rifles)

Died 29 February 1916 and is remembered at the Ploegsteert Memorial.

Son of Edward C. & Johnina Peck, born about August 1891 at Charlton, Kent.

In 1901 he is living with his parents at 145 Victoria Road, Charlton Kent. Then in

1911 the family are living at The Laurels, Rustington. However, Reginald is not

present, and does not appear elsewhere, possibly he has already enlisted as a regular soldier

15.0 Guy Crawford SHARPE

Born in Peru about 1888, of English parents George, and Marguerita SHARPE. They married in 1874 in Jarrow County Durham.

George's profession was Engineer and Naval Architect, which took him and his family to South America on more than one occasion, where at least four of his children were born.

Guy, together with his brothers Arthur, Bertram and Eric answered the call to arms.

Arthur became a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy, Bertram a Lieutenant in the Army Service Corp, whilst Eric and Guy joined the Royal Horse Artillery both attaining the rank of Lieutenant.

It transpired that about 1917 Guy contracted Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 6 months later Laryngeal Tuberculosis.

Consequently he resigned his commission and returned to live with his parents, who probably as a direct result of Guy's condition, are now are living at 'Calceto' Claigmar Road, Rustington.

Guy dies 28 August 1920 at Nordrach-on-Dee Sanatorium, Banchory, Scotland.

His place of burial has yet to be established.

His three brothers all survived the WW1

16.0 David William WINDEBANK (William David on Joining Royal Navy)

311130 (PO) - Leading Stoker, Royal Navy.

Died 5 August 1915 whilst serving on HM submarine C33 and is remembered on the Portsmouth Naval memorial.

Son of David T. and Maria Windebank, born about February 1890 at Ramsdean Hampshire.

In 1891 he is living with his parents in Ramsdean Hampshire. In 1901 the family are living at Ovington WS.

He enlisted in the Royal Navy about 1906. He does not appear on the 1911 census.

In 1914 he marries Mabel E Ballard at East Preston, WS.

Strangely he is also listed on the Corfe Castle memorials as being a man connected with both Bushey and Corfe Castle, Dorset.

Those men shown only on the Village Memorial Hall Scroll

17.0 Ormonde BENNETT

G/16388 - Sergeant - 13th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment

Died 5 May 1918 and is remembered at the Boulogne Eastern Cemetery.

Son of Harry and Augusta Bennett, born about August 1886 at Broadwater, Worthing, WS.

In 1891 he is living with his parents in Worthing. In 1901 he is living with his parents in Basildon, Essex. Then in 1911 he is living with his brother William George Bennett at Clarendon Manor Road, East Preston, WS.

His parents are at this time living at Gordon House, Pond Lane, Durrington WS. Also on the East Preston and Durrington memorials.

18.0 Arthur George CHALLEN

G/2438 - Lance Corporal - 8th (Pioneer) Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment
Died 18 June 1916 and is remembered at the Bronfay Farm Military Cemetery,
Bray-sur-Somme

Son of Charles and Lucy A. Challen, born about August 1883 at Angmering, WS.
In 1891 he is living with his parents in East Preston where his father is Inn
Keeper of The 3 Crowns. In 1901 he is living with an Esther Williams at Mile End
Old Town Middlesex. Then in 1911 he is living alone at East Preston, WS.
He marries Sybil Ellen Palmer about April 1915 East Preston, WS.
Also on the East Preston and Littlehampton memorials.

19.0 Charles DENYER

Fireman - H. M. Transport, S.S. 'Exchange' (Liverpool) Mercantile Marine.
Died 23 March 1917. Commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial
Son of George and Anne Elizabeth Denyer, born about February 1867 at
Littlehampton, WS.

In 1871 & 1881 he is living with his parents in Littlehampton. He is not present
for the 1901 or 1911 census. In 1904 he marries Fanny in Coleraine, Northern
Ireland.

Interestingly his brother Albert dies at sea in 1918 and is also listed on the
Littlehampton Memorial. It is strange therefore that he is not included on the
Rustington Memorial.

This fact might suggest that the wrong C. Denyer has been considered, which is
a possibility given that there are a number of other C. Denyers in the area. The
difference being that they have more than one given name.

20.0 Richard KNIGHT

S/2147 - Private - 2nd Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment
Died 9 May 1915 and is remembered at the Le Touret Memorial.
Son of Herber and Ellen Knight, born about August 1896 at Cocking, WS.
In 1901 he is living with his parents at Broadmark Lane, Rustington Then in
1911 the family are living at 20 East Street Wick WS.
Also on the Littlehampton and Wick memorial.

21.0 Percy Corney NEWMAN

L/10214 - Corporal - 2nd Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment
Died 9 May 1915 and is remembered at Le Touret Memorial.
Also on East Preston Memorial

22.0 Bertram Benjamin Corney NEWMAN

200051 - Sergeant - 1/4th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment
Died 13 May 1917 and is remembered at the Cario War Memorial Cemetery.
Also on East Preston Memorial

The above were sons of Stephen and Edith Newman, Percival born about May
1891 at East Preston. Bertram born about August 1893 at Rustington,
In 1901 they are living with their parents at Preston Street, Rustington. Then in
1911 the family are living, Manor Road, East Preston WS.

23.0 E. PECK

There are a number of E. Peck, but none seem to be relevant to any memorial. The aforementioned Reginald Peck did have a brother Edward but he survived the war.

24.0 Cyril Leslie RATCLIFF

G/7297 - Lance Corporal- 13th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment.
Died 4 May 1917 and is remembered at the Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery.
Son of William A. and Lily C. Ratcliff, born about August 1897 at Steyning, WS.
In 1901 he is living with his parents at 11 Western Road, New Shoreham WS.
Then in 1911 the family are living at Laurels Spring Villas, Wick WS.
Also on the Littlehampton and Portslade memorials.

Other anomalies

Located in St Peter and St Paul's church Rustington, situated in the south arcade are memorials dedicated to the INGPEN family.

The first is dedicated to Lieutenant Edward Lucian INGPEN born about February 1891 at Balham, Surrey. Who died 10 June 1916 while serving in the Northern Rhodesian Police and is remembered at the Ndola (Kansenshi) Cemetery.

The second is dedicated to Major Norman Cecil INGPEN, born about November 1894 at Balham Surrey. Who died 4 December 1917 and is remembered at the Tincourt New British Cemetery.^{2 3}

Neither of these two appear on any recorded WW1 war memorial.

The third is dedicated to Douglas George INGPEN who died at sea in 1904, whilst serving as a Midshipman in the Royal Navy.⁴

The fourth is dedicated to Arthur Robert INGPEN K.C. the father of the above. He was born in London in 1857 and appears to have lived all his life in and around the capital and dies 5 December 1917 in Middlesex. His wife Martha dies on 9 July 1947 at the same address.⁵

However, Arthur's father Robert Frederick INGPEN moved to Rustington sometime between 1891 and 1901. The 1901 census shows Robert Frederick (a widower) living with daughter Edith, his son Frederick, wife and children.

Robert Frederick dies 25 August 1901 whilst living at 'Elmhurst', Station Road, Rustington. His will shows son Arthur Robert as a beneficiary, which probably would have included the property 'Elmhurst'.

The 1915 Electoral Register for Rustington indicates Arthur Robert as the title holder.^{6 7 8}

Therefore, the link between the two INGPENS killed in WW1 and Rustington is tenuous and it can only be assumed that, the memorials placed in the church, were placed there by a INGPEN descendent still living in the village after 1917.

Conclusions

Before making any judgments, it is necessary to consider the events that took place in Rustington, following the end of the Great War. Specifically how the powers that be responded to the call, by the populace, for a memorial to those who had not returned.

Fortunately we have a vivid account of proceedings made by William Hollis of the Angmering-on-Sea Estate office who, at the time, produce a magazine "The Scribble" which covered events in Rustington and the environs.⁹ Coupled with this local Rustington historian, Mary Taylor's account of the origins of the Memorial Hall.

The Scribble edition dated March 1919 notes the following: -

Angmering village had already elected to have a permanent memorial erected of the Green, in front of the church. Other villages were also proceeding along these lines. However, the Rustington Parish Magazine announced that a church meeting had unanimously decide upon a new organ as a fitting memorial.¹⁰

When enquires were made it transpired that it had been a 'very small and very select meeting' that had made this decision and was 'in no way representative of the wider village community'.

This article it would seem was the catalyst for a change of direction. However, it is clear that the Vicar at St Peter and St Paul's, at this time, was violently against any other form of memorial.

The next addition of Scribble dated July 1919 reports that 'Rustington is still lagging behind others in their project to honour those who made the great sacrifice'. Now that a new organ, as a memorial, had been dropped (even though they did go ahead and purchase one) it was to be put to the community to decide.¹¹

To this end a public meeting was held, attended by 70 persons, who unanimously decided that a Memorial Hall and Club should be erected. Even this floundered as it could not be agreed as to whom would be eligible to use the facilities.

Once this had been resolved during 1920 a temporary building was erected in Church Road (which later became the Scout Hall) and it was here that the "Roll of Honour Scroll" was first installed.

These actions probably caused the church members to reconsider and they then went ahead with the Plaque as detailed above.

Therefore one could speculate as follows: -

For the Village Memorial Hall Scroll, names were gathered from those who had a strong allegiance to this project.

Whilst the names on the St Peter and St Paul's plaque would have been submitted by those affiliated with the church.

Those in the parish who supported both institutions managed to have their loved ones names recorded on both memorials.

Two independent groups, who saw their duty to arrange a fitting memorial to the fallen and is often the case neither communicated with the other.

It is also important to be mindful of the trauma that the war must have wrought on those who had lost loved ones and those who were returning from the front. Therefore, when names were sought for inclusion on the memorials those in the

population who were aware, put their details forward, to one or both, it mattered not to them. They were only interested in ensuring that their son or husband was commemorated somewhere.

It can be seen in that in most cases, those not born in Rustington have varying degrees of allegiance to the village. Whether or not they are on the memorials was dependant on where their parents settled in the area.

It must be appreciated that, at that time, the Kith and Kin of those who had been killed fighting, for what they thought as a just cause, would look for any means available to commemorate their loved ones.

Thus to come to terms and assuage their loss and grief they would not hesitate in promoting their sons or husbands to any possibility of immortality.

Which, is probably why some names appear on more than one memorial both in and outside of Rustington.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Mary and Bev Taylor, Harry Clark and other members of the Rustington Heritage Society for their guidance. Similarly, the officers of St Peter and St Paul's Church.

Bibliography

Details of the 24 Men shown on the memorials were sourced from the following: -

<http://home.ancestry.co.uk/> England Census for 1881 – 1891 – 1901 – 1911
UK Birth Marriage & Death Records.

<http://www.cwgc.org/> Commonwealth War Graves Commission – Details of war dead.

<http://www.roll-of-honour.com/> Details of war dead as given on City, Town & Village Memorials.

Electoral Register for 1920 and Absent voters for 1918 - transcribed by Rustington Heritage Association. Can be seen at Rustington museum
Can be viewed at Rustington museum.

¹ PAR 164/4/12 Chichester Diocesan Faculty – St Peter & St Paul Rustington. Held at the West Sussex Records Office Chichester.

² Ancestry UK Birth Marriage & Death Records. - <http://home.ancestry.co.uk/>

³ Commonwealth War Graves Commission web site - <http://www.cwgc.org/>

⁴ Details taken from the Memorial Plaque in St Peter & St Pauls, Rustington

⁵ Ancestry UK Birth Marriage & Death Records. - <http://home.ancestry.co.uk/>

⁶ Ancestry UK 1901 England census - <http://home.ancestry.co.uk/>

⁷ Electoral Register for 1915 transcribed by Rustington Heritage Association

⁸ Ancestry UK Birth Marriage & Death Records. - <http://home.ancestry.co.uk/>

⁹ MP5611 held at the West Sussex Records Office Chichester.

¹⁰ MP5611 held at the West Sussex Records Office Chichester.

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