Remembering Herne Hill 1914-13

A volunteer-led project telling the story of Herne Hill in the First World War. Run by the Herne Hill Society with the Charter School North Dulwich.



How many residents died?

Herne Hill lost over 500

— we are still finding more. In fact the figure may be as high as 700. The total for London has been estimated at 100,000 (plus 230,000 wounded).

Where did they die?

Mostly in France and Belgium

— but also in Afghanistan, Egypt,
Greece, India, Iraq, Palestine,
Italy, Malta, Russia, Syria, Tanzania,
Turkey, the UK and on the seas.

How will we remember them?

St Paul's church honours the 107 men who lost their lives. There were 99 names on the memorial at St Saviour's. The memorial on the Peabody Estate commemorates 35 residents.

The former St Jude's church on Dulwich Road once had a memorial with 75 names – now lost. There are other memorials... and many unrecorded casualties.



Memorial at Holy Trinity Church

How many Herne Hill people died in the First World War? 500... 600... 700?

How old were they?

The average age of a soldier at death was early 20s. The minimum age to fight abroad was 19, but many lied about their age.

In Herne Hill,

dozen were just

more than a

18, two were

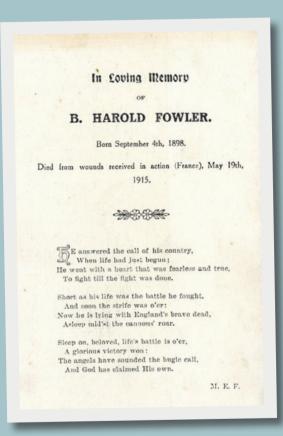
one boy,

lost his life

at 16.

17 and at least

Harold Fowler,



In memoriam Harold Fowler, Alleyn's School

Among the casualties were

Fred Lucas was a Staff Serjeant in the Royal Garrison Artillery when he was killed at the Somme in July 1916. He left a widow and five little children at 45 Kemerton Road.

Louisa Tearle, from 88 Railton Road, was a stewardess on the RMS Falaba when it was torpedoed and sunk by U-28 in March 1915. Over

100 passengers and crew, including Louisa, were killed.

The Armistice of 1918 was not really the end of the war, which continued to claim lives. Lance Corporal Ronald Easterbrook of Milton Road served in Mesopotamia (today, Iraq) and died on board ship while returning to England via India in April 1919.



Fred Lucas

Where did they live?

You can search our website to find that out. From names so far researched, 10 percent lived in Railton and Mayall Roads. In these roads two families often shared a single house.



RMS Falaba













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Nursing the wounded

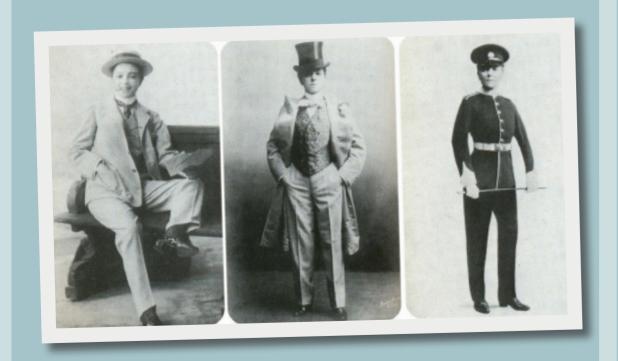
Huge numbers of wounded men entered London via Victoria Station. King's College Hospital became the 4th London General Hospital. It later expanded into Ruskin Park, where beds and treatment facilities were set up in tents and huts.



Temporary hut in Ruskin Park

The show goes on

Matilda Alice Powles adopted the stage name 'Vesta Tilley' and became a famous male impersonator. Among her characters was 'Burlington Bertie'. She lived for some years at 56 Tulse Hill. Vesta was known as 'Britain's best recruiting sergeant', because young men were persuaded to join up during the show.



Vesta Tilley

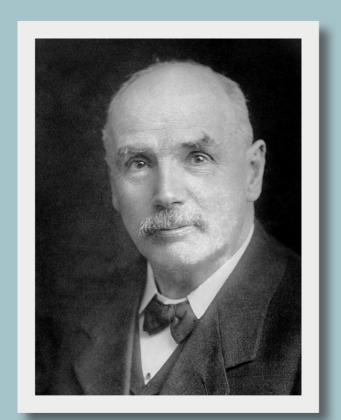


Sprechen sie Deutsch?

In 1914 the residents of
Frankfurt Road petitioned
Camberwell Borough Council
to change the name to Namur
or Louvain (cities in Belgium)
— and failed. There were many
people of German origin living
in Herne Hill. After war broke out
they were often vilified. In 1915
shops belonging to barbers and
bakers in or near Milkwood Road
were attacked.



One of the signatories of the 1919 Versailles Peace Treaty, Rt Hon. George Barnes, lived at 76 Herne Hill. Barnes was Leader of the Labour Party from 14 February 1910 to 6 February 1911. His son, Second Lieutenant Henry Barnes, was killed in France in 1917.



George Nicoll Barnes



Henry William Hahn, shop after attack, 51 Hinton Road

The First World War affected the lives of everyone who lived in Herne Hill

Homes for heroes

Sunray Estate was built after the First World War. In his election speech of 18 November 1918, Prime Minister David Lloyd George announced the 'Homes Fit for Heroes' programme. The aim was to provide decent homes for working class people, as well as returning servicemen. Built by Camberwell Borough Council using Government subsidies, Sunray Estate is a fine example.



Casino Avenue today









