



A sacrifice that mustn't be forgotten

By Barry Atkinson

The house now known as Beacon Lodge has stood in Eastern Road, N2, since the 19th century, and since 1928 it has welcomed and supported young women who have been struggling to make their way in the world.

Originally a home for 'fallen' women it later became a mother and baby home, and for the last 30 years it has been a residential unit where women with young children have been sent to learn parenting skills.

Sadly the cutbacks in local authorities' finances have meant that they have sought alternative ways to do this, and in July of this year the trustees of the Beacon Lodge Charitable Trust decided the centre must close. The building is to be sold, and the funds raised will be used to continue the objectives and work of the trust.

Son's death in WW1

Visitors to Beacon Lodge over the years will have seen the plaque commemorating a young man called James Bradley which hung in the entrance hall, together with his portrait.

James died at the age of 21 on 26 October 1918 in France, while serving with the Royal Sussex Fusiliers. His mother had been involved with the Hornsey Association for Rescue and Preventive Work (the original name for Beacon Lodge) since its inception, and after the death of their only child she and her husband dedicated themselves to the work of Beacon Lodge. It was



The James Bradley memorial presentation at All Saints'

their generosity which enabled the purchase of the building in Eastern Road.

Plaque finds new home

The trustees were anxious that this memorial should not be lost, and were delighted when All Saints' Church in nearby Durham Road offered to give it a permanent home.

On Sunday 26 October, 96

years to the day after James Bradley's death, Father Christopher received the memorial from Valerie Packer, chair of Beacon Lodge, in the presence of Martin Russell, chair of Barnet War Memorials Association and Deputy Lieutenant for Barnet.

The sacrifice made by James Bradley and the generosity of his parents will not be forgotten.



Beacon Lodge on Eastern Road. Photo Mike Coles

All Over By Christmas

Book review by Daphne Chamberlain

This fascinating book, packed with illustrations, letters and contemporary accounts, concentrates on life in Barnet during the First World War.

One advertisement, from Barker's of Kensington, spells out how the trenchcoat got its name: (weatherproof wear for officers.) Another advertises The Boy's Own magazine, which told children how to blow up railway lines if we were invaded.

Even before the war had started, a North Finchley shop owned by a German was vandalised, and a naturalised neighbour flew a Union Jack from his window for protection. In East Finchley, two German-sounding shops were renamed The East Finchley Hairdressing Salon and Market Parade Bakery.

Contrast this with the front line. Following the Christmas Day truce in 1914, when soldiers from both sides strolled around together, even exchanging addresses, a Bowes Park man wrote to his mother that they had sung the German national anthem as well as their own.

Mabel Holman, a Muswell Hill woman, and her fiancé,

Lionel Gray exchanged over 200 letters between 1914 and 1918. Through Mabel's eyes we follow changes on the home front.

Other letter-writers, newspapers and reported anecdotes add to the picture. They report the East Finchley man sentenced to two months in prison or a £50 fine for feeding stale bread to his pigs; and Finchleyans at the Tally Ho turning out to see flames if another Zeppelin were shot down after the one at "the sombre Middlesex hamlet" of Potters Bar.

This is a fluent and comprehensive narrative, covering the takeover of most jobs by women; food shortages and the growth of allotments; contact with returning wounded and the pension situation; and the mixed terror and excitement of air raids.

Local author David Berguer includes indexes and a historical introduction.

"All Over By Christmas" (ISBN 9 780956 934499) is published by the Chaville Press.

Trail of war graves

By Ann Bronkhorst

The display of thousands of ceramic poppies at the Tower of London aroused great emotion and interest, nationwide. Here in Islington and St Pancras Cemetery, after several years' work, the First World War is being commemorated by the creation of an imaginative 'trail' of war graves.

Each year wreaths are laid at the cemetery's civilian and military war memorials by representatives of Camden and Islington councils and Trades Unions, as well as by private individuals. This year, for the first time, a bugler played the

Last Post while the Colour Sergeant of the Islington Veterans Association lowered the flag.

Usually, those who died in battle were buried close to where they fell but more than 340 men (and one woman) who served in the forces in WW1 are buried in the cemetery. Most died of wounds or illness in hospitals, many in the 'Spanish flu' epidemic between 1918 and 1920.

How to find them

The new walks are designed to be more or less circular and of a manageable length. They cover four areas containing the most accessible of the 1914-1918 graves and memorials that are scattered throughout the cemetery.

Clear route maps, obtainable from the cemetery office, list each man's name, age and service or regiment. For example George Astley, 17, who served on HMS Powerful, lies not far from 19-year-old Flight Lieutenant Lea Wimbush of the Royal Naval Air Service. And, after finding the grave of Capt. A.B. Kynoch from North Finchley, if you Google him a touching story emerges.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, which maintains all war graves from both World Wars and subsequent ones, has installed two information boards in the cemetery, one in the St Pancras section near the grouped war graves and the other near the Islington burial chapel and war memorial. Both carry interesting facts about WW1, with QR codes to scan for more information.

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