

Those who served

Additional information

Four of our posters used research that we did to identify the men and women of Wheathampstead who served in the armed forces during the Great War.

- Those who served
- Occupations
- What regiments did local men serve in?
- Where did you go in the war, Daddy?

Finding out about those who served was difficult. The village war memorial on the High Street was a starting point but we were aware that war memorials are not always accurate or complete. Fortunately, research by Terry and Margaret Pankhurst helped to identify 72 men who had died during the war. They published their research in two books in 2014: *Wheathampstead - details of the fallen 1914-1918* and *'More than just a name'* (a volume of additional information).

Identifying people who had served in and survived the war was more challenging because many military records were destroyed by bombing during the Second World War.

Gill Roe, who researched this part of the project, used a range of additional resources that allowed her to identify the 374 men and one woman from Wheathampstead who had served in the war. This total includes the men who died. The sources she used were:

- Absent Voters list for 1918
- National Roll of the Great War
- Ancestry website (for census, family information, military records) www.ancestry.co.uk
- Findmypast website www.findmypast.co.uk

All the information that Gill collected is available on the Excel file that can be downloaded from the website. This file contains information such as name, address, family details, enlistment date, rank, regiment or ship, and occupations in 1911 and 1939.

Our list is not inclusive because there may be individuals who are missing. The total figure may be closer to 400 but we have no way of confirming this. Our original poster listed 340 people who served in the Great War. Since then we have found another 35, making a total of 375. This is out of a pre-war parish population of 2850 of which 1424 were male (according to the 1911 census).

Note: These figures and the rest of our research are based on the parish of Wheathampstead as it existed in the Great War. In 1936 the parish boundary was changed to what it is today. The parish lost Batford and gained a rural and largely unpopulated section of Sandridge. Before 1936, Batford contributed just under a third of the total population of the then-parish of Wheathampstead.