

12 THATCHED COTTAGE

It is believed to be part of the Sandys estate. This was inhabited by John and Lucy Davis, their two sons and two daughters and a nephew. John was a farm labourer as was his 17 year old son Howard. The nephew Albert Walker and son, Percy Albert, were both carters. Percy joined the Army Veterinary Corps in 1915, before transferring to the East Surrey Regiment. He was killed in France on 26 March 1918 and he is remembered on the Arras Memorial.

13 RADNOR HOUSE BAKERY

Alexander Joyner and family lived in Radnor House from as early as 1884. From 1914 to 1932 the eldest son Charles Joyner and his wife Edith remained in the house and continued baking bread.

14 MORTIMER TERRACE

During WW1 Brothers Walter, Fred and Christopher Wigley moved from Birmingham to Ombersley. Walter was a newsagent and part time postman. His brothers were farm labourers.

15 PENNINE COTTAGE

Pennine was 1 of 20 properties built for renting out. During the war it was home to Lucy Hicks aged 48, her daughter Florence Smith aged 23 and her son in law Alfred aged 28.

16 THE ELMS

The Elms became the village doctor's surgery in 1910 with the arrival of Dr Conway Gent from London.

17 ALMA VILLA

In 1914 Alma Villa was home to William Hemming, threshing machine operator, and his family. William died in May 1914 and his son Albert took over the business. He was exempted from military service in 1916 because of the importance of his job.



In 1915 the Marshall family moved into Alma Villa, and in 1916 advertised in the local paper for a boarder. Their son Elias fought and perished in Arras in 1917.

Alma Cottage was home to Richard Williams, from Ross on Wye, his wife Alice from Ludlow, and their 5-year old son, Leonard who was born in the village. Richard ran his bootmaking business from the cottage throughout the war. The family emigrated to South Africa in 1925.

18 FERN HOUSE

Mrs Florence Watson was a widow when the war began and lived in Fern Cottage with Millicent and Sylvia, two of her five children. The family had moved to Ombersley from Sedburgh by 1901.

Florence's husband, Thomas James Watson, died in Ombersley in 1912. He had been a renowned watercolorist of Cumbrian landscapes and mythological narrative paintings whose work was exhibited at the Royal Academy.



In January 1915, Florence & Sylvia passed a First Aid examination organised by Lady Sandys. In 1918, as a widow over 30 with a sizable property in her own name, Mrs Watson qualified to vote in the first election in which women could vote. Mrs Watson subscribed £3 to the Memorial Hall Fund, equivalent to £175 today.

19 COLWALL HOUSE BAKERY

John Frederick Oxley and his wife Gertrude Daisy Oxley lived and worked in Colwall House Bakery from 1910 to about 1916, before they sold the business to a 32-year old chemist's assistant from Ledbury, Herbert Mark Attwell, and his father-in-law.

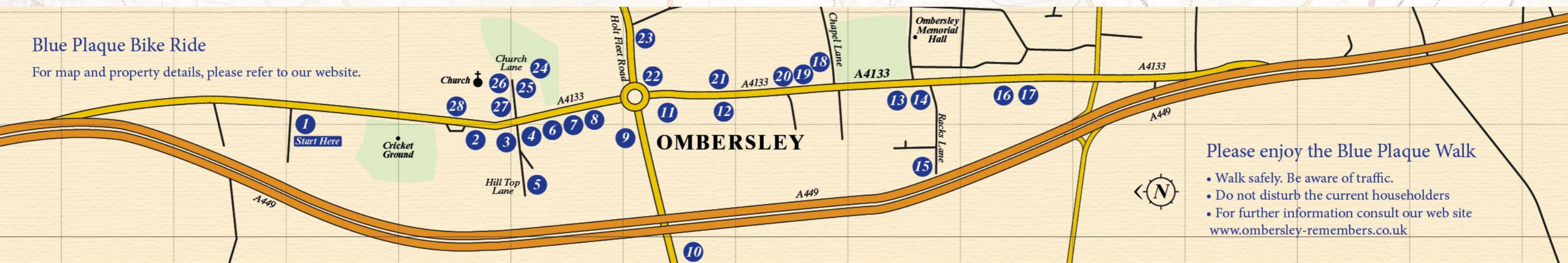


Attwell employed Oxley in the bakery whilst his father-in-law ran the grocery. Atwell appeared before the Tribunal in July 1916, seeking exemption from military service on the grounds that he was a baker and 'the work of delivery could not be done by a woman - the bread had to be carried over hedges and ditches'. His appeal was dismissed.

Wartime food shortages meant that flour became increasingly scarce and bakers were forbidden by law from selling bread on the day it was baked. Stale bread lasted longer!

Blue Plaque Bike Ride

For map and property details, please refer to our website.



Please enjoy the Blue Plaque Walk

- Walk safely. Be aware of traffic.
- Do not disturb the current householders
- For further information consult our web site www.ombersley-remembers.co.uk

20 BRISTOL HOUSE

Frederick George Brotheridge was a grocer who had moved to Ombersley from Gloucestershire and married a Witley girl, Ada. Their son Fred Jr assisted in the shop.

In April 1916, Mr Brotheridge appealed to the Tribunal for Fred to be let off military service because he was needed in the shop. The panel disagreed and Fred Jr was conscripted. Before leaving, Fred married Isabella Harris, from Barnhall, and their daughter Dorothy was born in early 1917.

Frederick survived and is listed on the Memorial Hall Roll of Honour. His father subscribed £5 to the Memorial Hall fund, worth £300 today.

As a grocer, Mr Brotheridge would have experienced supply difficulties as food became increasingly scarce. On 1 January 1918, he was fined £1 (£60 now) by the magistrates for selling flour at too high a price.



21 LANGHAM HOUSE

Throughout the War, James Patchett (aged 65 in 1914) and his wife Alice lived here. He was retired, having been a building surveyor in Birmingham. In 1919 the house was occupied by William George Page, who had been Headmaster at Ombersley School until 1917, with one of his sons.

22 CRESSWELLS

Cresswells was occupied by three generations of the Rea family. Benjamin Rea Sr was 78 and had retired, so the head of the household was Benjamin Rea Jr, a carpenter employed on the Sandys estate and also Ombersley's undertaker.

His son, Benjamin Elwynne, enlisted in the Royal Engineers in 1914 aged 20 but was honourably discharged 89 days later, returning to work in the village. Both men worked on the construction of Northwood House.

Aged 45, Benjamin Jr was called up in 1918, when the recruitment age was raised to 50, but successfully appealed his conscription.



23 DOWER HOUSE

During WW1 it was the home of the Honourable Cecil Josephine Sandys, fourth daughter of Arthur Marcus Cecil Sandys, 3rd Lord Sandys, Baron of Ombersley.

24 ST ANDREWS CHURCH/MAUSOLEUM

Designed by Thomas Rickman and considered to be his masterpiece, the church was consecrated in 1829. The chancel of the 1296 church then became the Sandys Family Mausoleum.

25 THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE & GARAGE

The Old School House was owned by Lord Sandys and let to William J Brandon in late 1914. Brandon was 34 and employed as a coachman and chauffeur by Charles Duveen, a wealthy art collector who had built a country house in Uphampton in 1911, now called Far Field. Duveen appealed against Brandon's conscription three times before the military tribunal and eventually won his case. Brandon may be the first to operate a motor garage service at the Old School House.

Duveen donated £50 to the Memorial Hall fund - equivalent to almost £3000 today.



26 BLUNDELLS

We were unable to identify who lived here during WW1. Miss Emma Evans was a tenant of Lord Sandys for at least 30 years but she died in 1912.

27 RATTENBURY HOUSE

During WW1 Margaret King aged 63 a widow lived here with her son Rupert aged 32.

28 PARK COTTAGES 1 & 2

1 - Owned by Lord Sandys, this cottage was occupied by the estate's Head Gardener, Percy Plumer and his wife, whom he married shortly after the 1911 census. They had a daughter in 1913, Phyllis, who died in 1917 and is buried in the churchyard. Percy was born in Woking, then famous for its plant nurseries, and trained at Somerleyton Hall, Suffolk, before moving to Ombersley. Although 35 in 1914, he served in the Royal Garrison Artillery during the war. He appears to have left the village by 1921.

2 - Harriet Hancock rented the cottage from Lord Sandys. Born Harriet Duggan in Ombersley in 1843 to an agricultural labourer, she worked as a worsted spinner in her teens, perhaps for the Kidderminster weaving trade. She married an agricultural labourer, George Hancock, in 1869 and they had two children. In 1891, we know that son George was a grocers assistant in the village and daughter Harriet was in service at 12 Parsonage Lane. In 1914, Harriet was a 59 year old widow and shared the house with a lodger, Mary Oakley, aged 81. Mrs Hancock donated a shilling to the Memorial Hall fund, worth £3 now.

