

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

BEFRIENDING WOUNDED SERVICEMEN

In Swanley – 2 hospitals catered for wounded servicemen

- Parkwood Hospital took men with facial injuries from Queen's Hospital, Sidcup
- Kettlewell, with 70 beds, was linked to the First London (T.F.) General Hospital

As Servicemen grew stronger, they were allowed out of the hospitals, and were often invited to local homes for tea. In Crockenhill members of the Baptist Chapel welcomed servicemen into their homes, as did the headmaster of Crockenhill Council School, Thomas Wilson. Several of these men drew cartoons in his autograph book.

Servicemen also left their mark in the guest book of The Castle Hotel at Eynsford.

At Lullingstone Castle it was the staff and nurses from the Canadian Ontario Military Hospital at Orpington who were invited for a visit on 9 September 1916. After a tour round the rooms, tea was served in the dining room. Then the party moved to the church. After seeing the grounds, Sir William Hart Dyke took some of the group for a walk through the park.

AUTOGRAPH BOOK OF THOMAS WILSON, Crockenhill Council School Head



Humour despite all they had gone through from wounded servicemen, Wilson E. Grant and F.R. Harrison, befriended by Thomas Wilson, head of Crockenhill Council School.

Wilson E. Grant, 24th Canadian.
October 1916

Cartoon reads:
Sometimes at the Front we get a
little EXCITEMENT

AUTOGRAPH BOOK OF THOMAS WILSON, Crockenhill Council School Head



By F.R. Harrison

Cartoon reads:

Irate Sergeant: "Standing there with yer 'ands in yer pockets and a fag in yer mouth: d'ye think I'm a fool"

Raw recruit: "Dunno! I only joined up yesterday!"

BEFRIENDING WOUNDED SERVICEMEN

Crockenhill organised a visit of group of wounded servicemen in June 1916, and a poor reproduction of a photograph survived from the event. The men came in the afternoon to watch a cricket match, (perhaps they even made up one team – the caption from the blurred newspaper cutting is not clear on this). Afterwards tea was served outdoors at the ground. The ground was likely to have been the present one, which was acquired as a War Memorial after the war.



SUNDRY MONEY RAISING ACTIVITIES

THE EYNSFORD DANCES

- The Saturday Club - Held weekly for villagers and munition workers in the Drill Hall. The Club President, Lady Emily Dyke, presented a piano, which added to the enjoyment and was of great value to those organising entertainment for charitable purposes, **which are so numerous during the war.**

- 120 filled the Hall each week. The final dance was to be a fancy dress ball at Easter, but this was postponed until peace had been declared.

- In May 1918 the profit of £30 13s 2d was handed to the Eynsford Hospital Needlework Depot for materials to make surgical bandages.

January 1915 - **Wives and mothers of Eynsford's soldiers** were given High Tea at the Drill Hall, which other villagers funded. The entertainment afterwards was thoroughly enjoyed.

Kentish War Prisoners Fund

October 1916 - Door-to-door collection at Crockenhill was well supported.

FLAG DAYS

October 1916 - **Men of Kent and Kentish Men at the Front**

23 April 1917, 1918 – St. George's Flag day for the **Kent Branch of the Royal Society of St. George**

THE DRILL HALL



The Drill Hall (later Institute Cottage), Eynsford, 2014 – built c.1820 and the only public amenity until the Village Hall was built nearby in 1905. It is hard to imagine how it held 120 dancers at the Saturday night dances in the First World War