

DAYLIGHT SAVING – from SUNDAY 20 MAY 1916

Daylight saving, putting clocks forward an hour in Spring, and back an hour in Autumn, was introduced after 2 a.m. on Sunday, 20 May 1916.

Aim - To work within daylight to save the cost of artificial light.

The idea had been promoted since 1900 by William Willett.

" 19 | At the close of afternoon school the
clocks were advanced one hour.

19 May 1916 Log Book entry of Crockenhill Church School
– first time clocks altered



William Willett

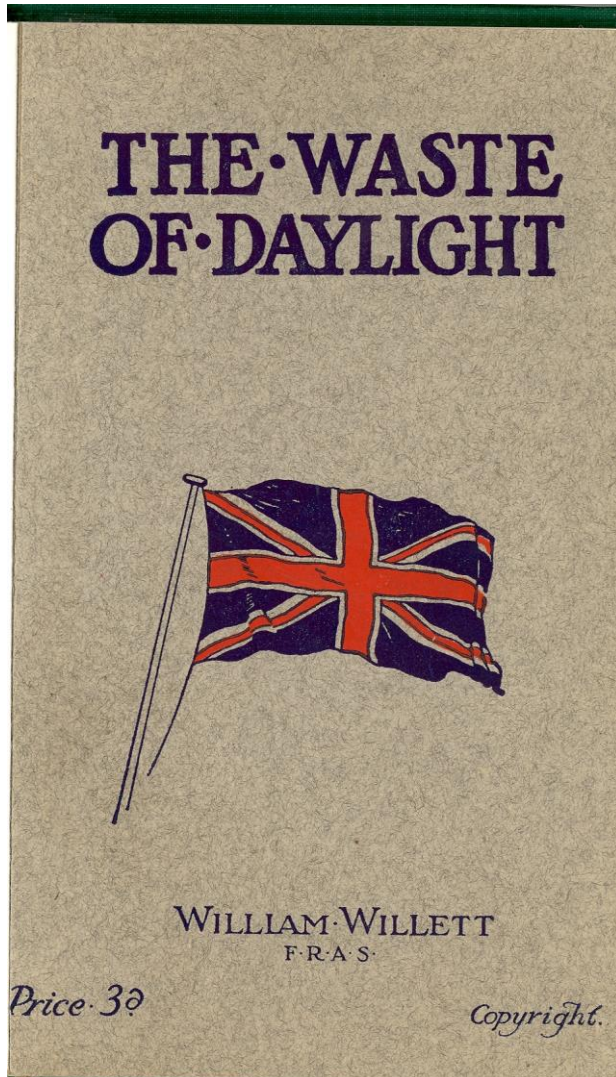
Joseph Larter in Eynsford and Elsie Clements in Crockenhill noted the change in their diaries.

Elsie commented that she did not notice it very much. Later entries show that her husband put the clocks back on 30 September 1916, and on 23 March 1918 she noted putting clocks on an hour. However, on 6 October 1918 the household forgot to alter the clocks and all were up an hour too soon.

WILLIAM WILLETT

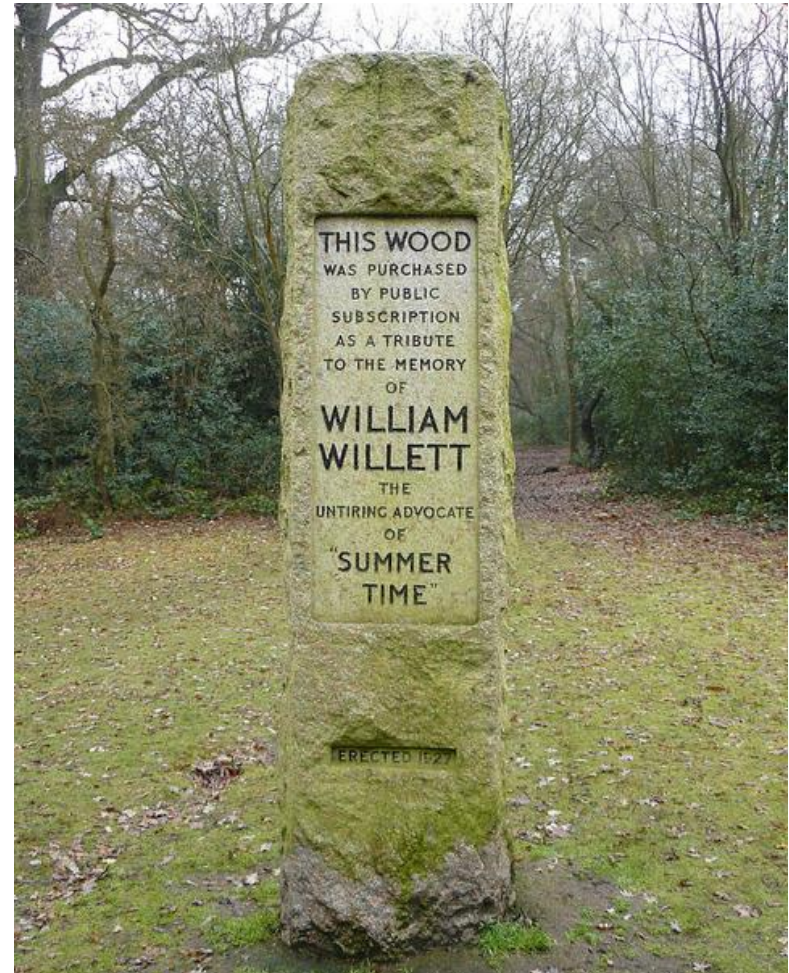
Pett's Wood resident and builder.

Willett died on 4 March 1915, so did not live to see his idea put into practice.



One advantage he said would be to increase the opportunities for rifle practice for which, 'the nation may, someday, have cause to be thankful.'

Daylight saving saved fuel because railways and munition factories were able to operate in daylight as long as possible.



William Willett memorial on Chislehurst Common