

Source Guide to First World War material held at Bromley Local Studies and Archives



Photo by Nottle, Beckenham.

Early Morning in the Ward.

By Francesca Mould

**for the Heritage Lottery Funded Project 'Caring for
the Casualties of the First World War in Bromley'
June 2014.**

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Introduction to the source guide

This guide is intended to be an introduction to the local studies and archives material held at Bromley Local Studies and Archives. It has been produced to be a first point of call for anybody interested in researching Bromley during the First World War. This guide will showcase some of the sources that are held for the war years as well as provide a general idea as to what sort of information can be gleaned from each source.

The value and worth in the sources cannot be overstated; they are waiting to be explored and engaged with.

How to use the guide?

This guide is divided into two parts; firstly, the local studies material which is on open access and, secondly, the archives material.

If you would like extra assistance and support you are very welcome to visit or contact.

Email: localstudies.library@bromley.gov.uk

Telephone: 020 8461 7170

Address: Central library, High Street, Bromley, BR1 1EX

www.bromley.gov.uk

www.bromleyfirstworldwar.org.uk

www.bromleyarchives.org.uk (to search the archive catalogue)

<https://arena.yourlondonlibrary.net/web/bromley/home> (to search the local studies book and pamphlet collection)

Local Studies material

The local studies material collection comprises of an array of different resources that relates to the past, present and future of the London Borough of Bromley. The material includes published information from books, photographs, pamphlets, newspapers, street directories, maps and minutes detailing and recording the people, places and events that come to make up the history of Bromley. Furthermore, there is a reference and borrowing collection of books.

The collection is open to anyone and is accessible during the opening hours of the library.

Newspaper titles held for the period of the First World War and up to 1920

Newspapers are an invaluable source of information about a place at a certain time. Newspapers were a major way in which news and information were spread during the First World War. Newspaper articles can help to document and reconstruct events at the time, as well as reveal interpretations and perspectives that may have been thought at that time.

It must be remembered that they can include errors and inaccuracies as a result of misreported events; unreliable and untrustworthy sources or political leanings and biases.

Nonetheless, newspapers can help to build up information about the First World War, can tell us a lot about the intended audience of the newspaper, and when they are put in the context of the time are a truly valuable source.

<u>Newspaper</u>	<u>Area of Coverage</u>	<u>Years we cover for the First World War</u>
St. Mary Cray Orpington & District Times	St. Mary Cray and surrounding area	January 1914 – December 1920
Sidcup & District Times	Sidcup and surrounding area	May 1913 – April 1921
St. Mary Cray & Swanley Express & North Kent Observer Continued as St. Mary Cray & Swanley Express. Orpington Express & North Kent Observer	St. Mary Cray, Swanley and North Kent	1914 1 January 1915 – 12 June 1917 – when it was discontinued
Penge & Anerley Express	Penge and Anerley	1913 – 1920
The Bromley Local Guide and Advertiser	Bromley	1914 – 1920
Sydenham & Penge Gazette	Sydenham and Penge	1914 – 1920
Chislehurst & District Times	Chislehurst and surrounding area	January 1914 – December 1920
Beckenham & Penge Advertiser	Beckenham and Penge	3 April 1913 – 30 December 1920
Beckenham Journal	Beckenham	1914 – 1920
Beckenham & District Times	Beckenham and surrounding area	January 1915 – December 1920
Bromley Chronicle	Bromley	1914 – 2 June 1921
Bromley & District Times	Bromley and surrounding area	2 January 1914 – December 1920



(Page from the *District Times*, August 14, 1914)

Local Studies photographic collection

Photographs can generate a whole range of analyses, explanations, interpretations and understandings. Photographs can present information from the time that a written source cannot do; it can make one think about what the photographer was trying to convey and additionally, can capture the actuality and experience allowing the viewer to understand and believe what is seen, really happened. As valuable a source as photographs are, the photographer can manipulate the scene being photographed.

What do we hold?

We hold a variety of images at Bromley Local Studies and Archives including images from the First World War period. The photographic collection has over 17,000 photographs in the form of scans, prints, slides, lantern slides and negatives.

Using the photographic index

We hold an index of the photographic collection which notes whether the photograph is in colour or black and white, the print size, area, building name and road, description, dates, format and notes. Please ask a member of the local studies and archive team for guidance on how to use the photographic index.

First World War highlights

Photos covering the First World War period include those of schools used as military hospitals, Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) hospitals, staff of VAD hospitals, images of the Canadian Convalescent Hospital, war memorials, troops setting off to enlist or leaving for the front and potentially more.

Street directories held for the period of the First World War and up to 1920

The street directory is a great source for those who want to discover more information about a place, build up a picture of daily life or trace the history of a particular area. They contain introductions to areas giving insight into the history and development as well as information into what is going on at the time. Some pages of the directory are home to advertisements.

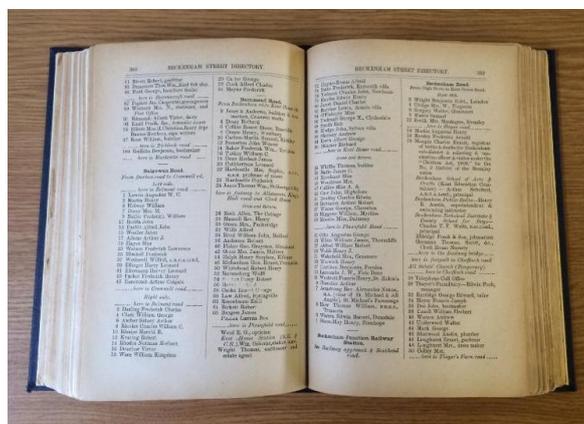
What information can be found in a street directory?

The directories provide lists of residents arranged by street, businesses and tradespeople arranged by field and alphabetically for each parish which can help in discovering information of a particular person or inhabitants of a particular street.

Some directories may contain a diary of the year or visitor guides to areas that the user of the time may choose to visit. What's more, the street directories would have been the go to place for the inhabitants of Bromley as they are home to local information, postal arrangements, pensions, tax, insurance and to a summing up of the registration act. The information that one can discover through the street directories can be very valuable.

First World War

The directories can help to paint a picture of the local area during the war years, seeing who lived where, where which businesses were located to what the people of the time were trying to be sold in the form of advertisements.



(Beckenham Street Directory)

The Parishes in Each Directory:

<u>Bush's Directory of Bromley 1914</u>	<u>Kelly's Directory of Bromley 1914</u>	<u>Kelly's Directory of Bromley 1915</u> (same as 1914)	<u>Kelly's Directory of Bromley 1916</u> (Beckenham not included)	<u>Kelly's Directory of Bromley 1918-19</u>
Bickley	Bromley	Bromley	Bromley	Bromley
Bromley	Beckenham	Beckenham	Bickley	Bickley
Chislehurst	Bickley	Bickley	Chelsfield	Chelsfield
Farnborough	Chelsfield	Chelsfield	Chislehurst	Chislehurst
Grove Park	Chislehurst	Chislehurst	Cudham	Cudham
Hayes	Cudham	Cudham	Downe	Downe
Keston	Downe	Downe	Farnborough	Farnborough
Shortlands	Farnborough	Farnborough	Foots Cray	Foots Cray
	Foots Cray	Foots Cray	Grove Park	Grove Park
	Grove Park	Grove Park	Hayes	Hayes
	Hayes	Hayes	Keston	Keston
	Keston	Keston	Knockholt	Knockholt
	Knockholt	Knockholt	Mottingham	Mottingham
	Mottingham	Mottingham	North Cray	North Cray
	North Cray	North Cray	Orpington	Orpington
	Orpington	Orpington	Shortlands	Shortlands
	Shortlands	Shortlands	St. Mary Cray	St. Mary Cray
	St. Mary Cray	St. Mary Cray	St. Paul's Cray	St. Paul's Cray
	St. Paul's Cray	St. Paul's Cray	West Wickham	West Wickham
	West Wickham	West Wickham		

Electoral registers held for the period of the First World War and up to 1920

What is an electoral register?

Electoral registers list the people registered to vote of an area. The lists are arranged by parliamentary district and by road name. Electoral registers for the First World War period reveal the names of persons at an address who were entitled to vote and the qualification of the voter to be on the list such as, residence, business premises or naval or military voter.

Who could vote?

It was only in 1918 that all men aged 21 or over and women over the age of 30 who were married, had property or were a graduate in a university constituency could vote and be listed on the register.

As electoral rolls are taken annually, they can allow for the tracking of people's movements and can tell us how many people within an area could vote.

First World War registers.

Registration was suspended during the First World War and so no registers exist for 1916 and 1917.

In 1918, a general election year, an absent voters list was produced which listed details of men, aged over 21, who were in the army.

<u>Electoral Register</u>	<u>War Years Held</u>
Beckenham	No pre-first world war Spring 1925 to date
Bromley	Between 1918 – 1919 we have an absent voters list of soldiers The last roll before the war we hold is 1913 The last roll after the war we hold is spring 1925
Chislehurst	1912 – 1915 1918 – 1920 1918 –absent voters list
Penge	1902 – 1914 The first roll after the war we hold is autumn 1922

Council minutes for the First World War Period up to 1920

We hold council minutes throughout the war years.

Council minutes are the written records of discussions and proceedings of council meetings. Initially, they detail when and where the meeting of the council was held, as well as who was in attendance. Additionally, they mention the minutes of the previous meeting with the decisions they have discussed and made. The minutes record the plans and strategies of local issues that the council considered and the related decisions they took. Subjects discussed range from housing, town planning, services, reports and repairs to controls.

What can the minutes tell us?

The minutes can give us a sense of the issues that affected the area and how the council responded. This type of source can be particularly useful for understanding the local climate whilst the country was at war, such as the delaying of action to issues until after the war; responses to war damage; to care, training and employment of disabled sailors and soldiers and the relief of distress caused by the war.

First World War

One can find interesting records, for example, in the minutes from 30 July 1918, there was a record of a memorandum for the collection of fruit stones and nut shells for an urgent war purpose from the Local Government Board of which Bromley District Council approved.

We hold minutes for the First World War period for the following councils:

- Bromley Borough Council
- Beckenham District Council
- Urban District Council of Penge
- Bromley Rural District Council
- Chislehurst Urban District

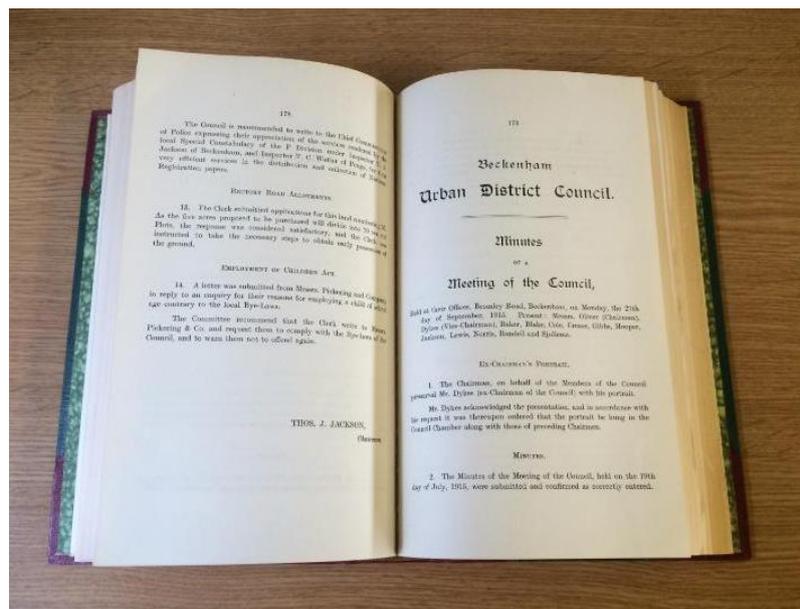
Parish council minutes for the First World War period and up to 1920

The parish council minutes held by Bromley relating to the First World War period :-

<u>Parish Council</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Reference</u>
Chelsfield	4 December 1894 – March 1920	P/C/1/1/1
Farnborough	14 March 1910 – 23 March 1934 16 September 1913 – 21 February 1921	P/C/6/1/8 P/C/6/1/4
Knockholt	15 April 1914 – 1 October 1929	P/C/7/1/1
Mottingham	11 October 1911 – 11 October 1922	P/C/8/1/5
St. Paul's Cray	16 April 1914 – 13 February 1919 17 April 1919 – 13 September 1923	P/C/4/1/3 P/C/4/1/4

The parish councils minutes not held by Bromley relating to the First World War period:-

- Cudham
- Downe
- Keston
- Orpington
- West Wickham



(Beckenham Urban District Council Minutes, 27 September 1915)

Archives Material:-

The collection encompasses parish records, school records and workhouse records which will be explored below, as well as, estate papers, business papers and personal papers.

Researchers are asked to become members of the library before accessing the archives material collection.

Parish Records

The parish records held include baptism registers, marriage registers, burial registers, parish meeting minutes and parish magazines. These are records that were kept and maintained by the local vicar of a parish. Some records hold lots of information for the parish and parishioners, whereas some hold less.

<u>Name of Parish</u>	<u>Baptism Register</u>	<u>Marriage Register</u>	<u>Burial Register</u>	<u>Minutes</u>	<u>Magazines</u>
St George, Beckenham	P/19/1/13	P/19/1/24	P/19/1/30	P/19/8/8	No
St Paul, Beckenham	P/19B/1/11	P/19B/1/2	No	P/19B/6/15	No
Holy Trinity, Beckenham	P/19D/1/5 and P/19D/1/6	P/19D/1/11	No	No	No
St. James,/St George/All Saints, Beckenham	P/19H/1/1 (St George) and P/19H/1/2 (All Saints)	No	No	No	No
St Barnabas, Beckenham	P/19I/1/1	P/19I/1/2	No	No	No
St Peter and St Paul, Bromley	P/47/1/12	P/47/1/24 and P/47/1/25	P/47/1/34	No	No
St John, Bromley	P/47B/1/2	P/47B/1/4 and P/47B/1/5	No	P/47B/8/1 and P/47B/8/2	No

Holy Trinity, Bromley Common	P/47C/1/2	P/47C/1/5	P/47C/1/16	P/47C/5/1/3	No
St George, Bickley	No	P/47D/1/3	No	No	No
St. Luke, Bromley	P/47F/1/6	P/47F/1/4	No	P/47F/8/4	No
St Marks, Bromley	P/47H/1/9	No	No	No	P/47H/28/4
St Nicholas, Chislehurst	P/92/1/28	No	P/92/1/19	No	No
The Annunciation, Chislehurst	P/92B/1/3 and P/92B/1/4	P/92B/1/6	P/92B/1/10	No	P/92B/28/16
Christ Church, Chislehurst	P/92C/1/1	P/92C/1/2	No	No	No
St. Paulinus, St Pauls Cray	P/104/1/6	P/104/1/22	P/104/1/16	P/104/8/1	No
St Peter and St Pauls, Cudham	P/107/1/6	P/107/1/11	P/107/1/19	No	No
St Mark's, Biggin Hill	P/107B/1/1	No	No	No	No
St Giles the Abbot, Farnborough	P/144/1/11 and P/144/1/12	P/144/1/8	P/144/1/44	P/144/8/2	No
St Mary the Virgin, Hayes	P/180/1/22	P/180/1/8	P/180/1/30	P/180/8/2	No
Keston	P/208/1/6	P/208/1/8	P/208/1/11	P/208/8/3	No
All Saints, Orpington	P/277/1/8	No	P/277/1/23, P/277/1/24 and P/277/1/25	No	No
St. Mary, St Mary Cray	P/277B/1/7 and P/277B/1/17	P/277B/1/20	P/277B/1/10	P/277B/8/2	No
St John, Penge	P/409/1/9 and P/409/1/10	P/409/1/15	No	No	P/409/28/27 to P/409/28/31
Christ Church, Anerley	P/409B/1/2	P/409B/1/5	No	P/409B/8/1	No

St Paul Anerley,	P/409C/1/4, P/409C/1/5 and P/409C/1/6	P/409C/1/13	No	P/409C/8/4 and P409C/8/5	No
Holy Trinity, Penge	P/409D/1/3	P/409D/1/10 and P/409D/1/11	No	No	No

Baptism registers:-

Baptism registers record every baptism that was performed in the parish.

Each record within the register includes the date of the baptism; the child's Christian name; the parents' names (both Christian and surname), father's profession and address as well as the name of the vicar who performed the baptism.

Marriage registers:-

Marriage registers record every marriage that was performed in the parish.

Each record includes when the marriage took place; the full names of the couple, as well as the couple's age, profession, residences at the time of the marriage and their father's full name and profession. The record includes the names of two people who were present to witness the marriage and the name of the vicar who married the couple.

Burial registers:-

Burial registers record every burial that took place in the parish.

Each record includes the date of the burial, the name of the person being buried, their age, their address and the name of the vicar who performed the burial.

Meeting minutes:-

We hold various parish meeting minutes. The minutes tend to record where the meeting was held; who was present; touch on the last meeting's minutes; perhaps include accounts from

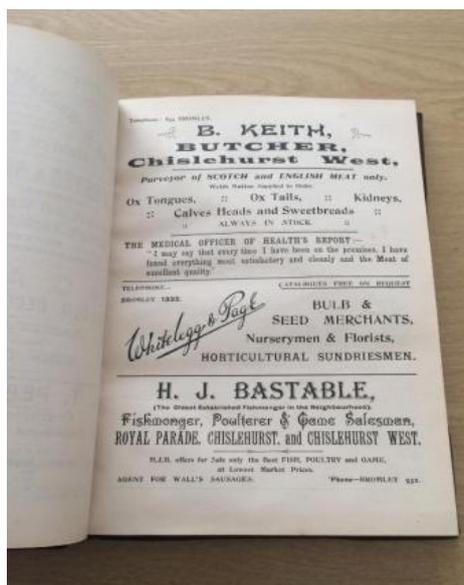
the vicar or parish warden; the issues raised and what was spoken and decided at each meeting.

Parish magazines:-

Parish magazines are magazines that were produced by and for a parish which were sold and circulated amongst the people of the parish. They generally encompass a mixture of religious articles and pieces, community contributions, parish announcements and notices and a calendar of events for the month. Additionally, they would have reported the baptisms and marriages that had taken place the previous month. For parishioners the parish magazine would have been the go to in discovering the latest news and events within the parish.



(Spine of Parish Magazine Book, *The Annunciation Chislehurst* 1915)



(*The Annunciation Chislehurst* Magazine, August 1915)

School Records

Some records within these collections are subject to statutory closures please contact local studies for further clarification.

Name of school	Admission register	Logbook	Staff register	Publications
Beckenham Road School				
Raglan Road School	C/E/S/47/2/1			
Ravensbourne School for Girls	C/E/S/47/5/22/1/1-2		C/E/S/47/5/11 (restricted access)	C/E/S/47/5/5/1/1-7 - programmes, C/E/S/47/5/5/4/2 – prospectus (1916)
Ravensbourne School for Boys	C/E/S/47/6/3/41/1-3 (restricted access)		C/E/S/47/6/3/27 (restricted access)	C/E/S/47/6/4/11 The Bromleian (school magazine) C/E/S/47/6/6-programmes, C/E/S/47/6/4/6 - prospectus
Prickend National School		C/E/S/92/1/2 (restricted access)		
Biggin Hill Primary School	C/E/S/107B/REG/1 (restricted access)	C/E/S/107B/LOG/1 (restricted access)		
Mottingham Council School	C/E/S/136B/1/6 (restricted access)	C/E/S/136B/1/1 (restricted access)		
Arthur Road Special School	C/E/S/394/3/2 (restricted access)	C/E/S/LOG/20/1 (restricted access)		
Melvin Road School, Penge		C/E/S/409/2/1 (girls), C/E/S/409/2/2 (girls – restricted access), C/E/S/409/3/1 (infants – restricted access)		
Oakfield Road Mixed School, Penge		C/E/S/409/4/1(boys – restricted access), C/E/S/409/5/1 (girls – restricted access), C/E/S/409/6/1 (infants – restricted access)		
Addison Road School		C/E/S/LOG/1/1 (restricted access)		

Aylesbury Road School		C/E/S/LOG/2/1 C/E/S/LOG/2/2 (restricted access)		
Bromley Road School		C/E/S/LOG/4/2 (restricted access)		
Bromley Common Infants' School		C/E/S/LOG/8/1 (restricted access)		
Bromley Common School		C/E/S/LOG/9/2 (restricted access)		
Bromley Parish School (Boys)		C/E/S/LOG/10/3 (restricted access)		
Bromley Parish School (Girls)		C/E/S/LOG/11/2 (restricted access)		
Bromley Parish School (Infants')		C/E/S/LOG/12/2 (restricted access) C/E/S/LOG/12/3 (restricted access)		
Hayes Church of England School		C/E/S/LOG/15/1 (restricted access)		
Wellington Road Infant School	C/E/S/REG/277/1 (restricted access)	C/E/S/LOG/22/1 (restricted access) C/E/S/LOG/22/2 (restricted access)		
Wellington Road School	C/E/S/REG/277/3 (restricted access)	C/E/S/LOG/23/1 C/E/S/LOG/23/2 (restricted access)		
West Wickham National School		C/E/S/LOG/24/2 (restricted access)		
Wharton Road Handicraft Centre		C/E/S/LOG/26/1 (restricted access)		
Bromley CE Boys' School	C/E/S/REG/47/5 (restricted access)			
Bromley Wharton Road Girls' School	C/E/S/REG/47/8 (restricted access)			
Chislehurst CE Girls' School	C/E/S/REG/92/3 (restricted access)			
Chislehurst Prickend Girls' School	C/E/S/REG/92/4 (restricted access)			
Hayes Infants' School	C/E/S/REG/180/1 (restricted access)			
Hayes School	C/E/S/REG/180/2 (restricted access)			
Aylesbury Senior Council Girls School		1649/1 (restricted access)		
Quernmore School				1763/1/1-8 - school magazine
Valley Council Special School		C/E/S/LOG/21/1 (restricted access)		

Logbooks:-

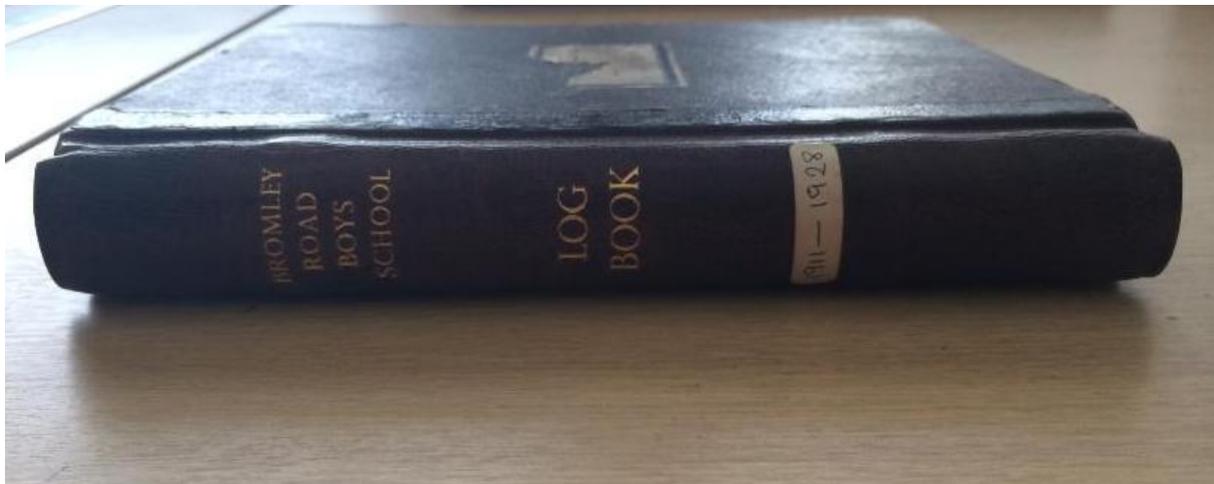
What is a school logbook?

School logbooks are the permanent records kept by the head master or head mistress who logged the events and proceedings that affected and shaped the school each school week.

What information do they contain?

The entries logged can cover anything from school organisation, arrangements, the introduction of new books or apparatus, examinations, courses of instruction, reports by inspectors, visits, absence, illness and special circumstances. They record when the school year commenced, when and why a school would close, the variations in attendance and any deviations from the ordinary running of the school.

Additionally, the logbook holds the record of how the school celebrated special days for example, Armistice Day and Ascension Day. For the most part, the entries are concise and are what the head teacher would have felt deserved to be recorded.



(Spine of Bromley Road Boys School Logbook)

Staff registers:-

Staff registers can tell us much about the people who kept schools going during the war by helping to build up a picture of particular individuals.

For the war years, more importantly, they can be of particular help as they can tell us which members of staff enlisted and whether they returned or not.

What information do they hold?

Staff registers hold a record of the names of members of staff who were engaged in giving instruction to pupils at the school, such as the head master or mistress; regular assistant staff; visiting or occasional teachers and any persons undertaking teacher training at the school.

The register does not include particulars for members of staff who are employed to assist the staff but not giving instruction to pupils, for example, school secretaries or substitute teachers.

What can the registers tell us about individual members of staff?

Each staff register sheet includes the full name of the member of staff; date of birth; date of appointment at the school, date of leaving; schools and colleges at which educated with dates; lists of teaching posts held with dates; particulars of public and university examinations taken and any certificates and degrees obtained or passed with dates; lists of teaching posts held, with dates; particulars of training in teaching, if any, and certificates or diplomas obtained, with dates; state external teaching or official work undertaken if any, in addition to duties in the school; special subject or subjects; state principal duties assigned, and subjects taken; total annual emoluments; particulars of retiring allowance, if any and post, if any, taken up after leaving the school.

Admission registers:-

School admission registers are great for building up a picture of a person. Unlike the staff registers they do not help to identify those pupils who joined up for the military during the First World War, since most people were only at school until they were 12 or 14 years old.

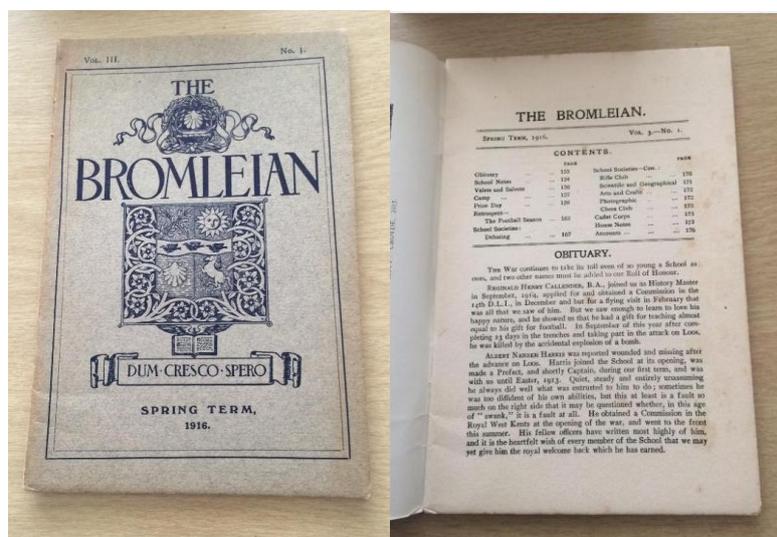
What information do they hold?

Admission registers give an admission number for each child; date of admission or re-admission; name in full; name of parent or guardian; residence; date of birth; last school attended, if any; date of leaving the school, cause of leaving and remarks.

What is interesting from this type of source is that they can show up children who were refugees through the last school attended column.

School magazines

A very interesting source that would have made reference to and have honoured those who enlisted from the school and to those who had sadly died with a comment as to the role they had served; their contribution to the school as well as, appreciation and gratitude. This source could help a researcher who is looking at someone who worked at the school; a person who attended and to how a school carried on despite what was happening Europe. School magazines can let us in on the events that the school would have organised in response to the war effort, such as raising money to remembrance and in general, the running of the school during the war.



(Front cover and inside page from *The Bromleian*)

Workhouse records

What was the workhouse?

The workhouse was a place where the poor of a parish were housed, clothed and fed. Children born into or who entered the workhouse would receive some schooling. In return for the care and help offered the poor would work for nine hours in the winter and ten hours in the summer, as a contribution to the parish that was paying to care for them. The conditions were deliberately harsh and severe so that only those desperate for help and support would turn to them. The workhouse was intended to be a deterrent, a last resort and not somewhere where people could go to avoid working.

Which workhouse records do we hold?

We hold records for the Bromley Union workhouse at Locksbottom that was formed as a result of the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act. It was called the Bromley Union workhouse which was one union made up of many parishes. It was built in 1844 and had an infirmary attached to it. The parishes that the union was comprised of include:

- Bromley
- Beckenham
- Chelsfield
- Chislehurst
- Fooks Cray
- North Cray
- St Mary Cray
- St Paul's Cray
- Cudham
- Downe
- Farnborough
- Hayes
- Keston
- Knockholt
- Orpington
- West Wickham
- (Mottingham and Sidcup joined at a later date)

Creed Registers

We hold workhouse creed registers for the First World War period which record the religious creeds of the inmates in the Bromley Union workhouse. The workhouse master had to record the religious creed of each new inmate so that arrangements could be made in the case of a resident becoming seriously unwell or if they died.

Often inmates would be those who would be down on their luck and often unable to support themselves for whatever reason, for example, the old, the sick, the insane and orphans. The register recorded when an inmate was admitted or was no longer in the workhouse, either that they had died or had been discharged.

Workhouse birth registers

We hold registers for the First World War period which records the births in the Bromley Union workhouse.

Workhouse death registers

We hold registers for the First World War period which record the deaths in the Bromley Union workhouse.

Letters from the Workhouse

The letters are from the workhouse to the Local Government Board.

What information do they hold?

They detail the communication between the workhouse and the Local Government Board, including; requests for sanctions and favours, applications for permission, the movement of inmates, the relief of interned and destitute aliens and verdicts of inquests.

Furthermore, they make reference to workhouse inmates, decisions made and taken and, finally, references to workhouse staff, for example, those on leave who have taken commission in the army, resignations and appointments.

19th September, 1914

My Lords and Gentlemen,

DEPENDANTS OF SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.

Adverting to your Honourable Board's circular letter of the 28rd ulto, I have to inform you that the total cost of all the relief afforded to the persons indicated between the 2nd and 29th ulto was 18/-. and the whole of this amount was prior to the 29th ulto, repaid out of the funds of the Soldiers and Sailors Families Association.

I have the honour to be,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. Halliwell

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD,

Whitehall, S.W.

(Letter from Bromley Union Workhouse to the Local Government Board)

Rolls of Honour

What is a roll of honour?

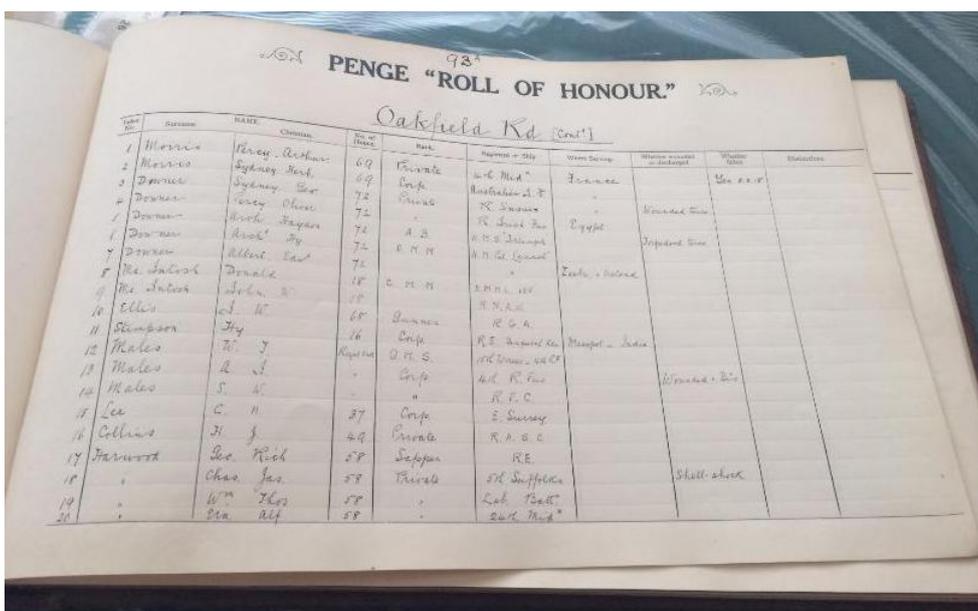
Rolls of honour confirm, list and honour the names of those who served and lost their lives in the First World War. Rolls of honour can take various forms with some being more detailed than others, for example, some rolls can give reference to a rank, regiment or ship, where those included served, whether wounded or discharged and whether fallen, others may only confirm casualties.

Rolls of honour can be compiled for a particular church, town, village, workplace, club, school and so on.

They are a valuable source for they keep the memory of the casualties alive and act as a tribute to their sacrifice for the country.

Further research

To follow up on those soldiers included in a roll of honour, one can look for a Commonwealth War Graves Commission certificate, death certificate, service record, a will or a local newspaper report. A word of caution to note is that not all service records exist, not all servicemen would have made a will and there won't be references to every serviceman in local newspapers.



(Page from the Urban District of Penge Roll of Honour, Oakfield Road)

Image collections

There are a number of image collections within the archives collection. Two collections of note are the Joyce Walker and George William Smith collections.

Joyce Walker slides

The slides, collected by local historian Joyce Walker, show the activities of the Red Cross in Bromley during the First World War. The detailed and fascinating images show us what was going on inside and outside the military hospitals including Christchurch Hospital and Balgowan Hospital. The slides show the nurses, officers, patients, stretcher practice, parades, treatment rooms, operating theatres and kitchens. As primary sources the slides, transport us back in time and allow us to see how Bromley cared for its wounded.

George William Smith slides

The George William Smith slides are a collection of glass lantern slides. Like the Joyce Walker slides in content, they relate to the Voluntary Aid Detachment in Bromley during the First World War. The slides show what was going on inside and outside the military hospitals of the area and how they provided care and treatment to the wounded.



Useful Publications

These are a few books that are available within the archives which would complement any research project on the First World War:-

Ian Beckett, *Home Front 1914-1918*, (2006, Richmond, National Archives), ISBN 1903365813

Geoff Bridger, *The Great War Handbook*, (2013, Barnsley, Pen & Sword Books), ISBN 9781783461769

Joyce Walker, *West Wickham and the Great War*, (1988, West Wickham, Hollies Publication), ISBN 0951165518