

Commemoration of Leonard Roberts

A service was held on Easter Sunday, 5th April 2015, at the grave of a young soldier who lost his life in the war and who was the first serviceman to be buried in a Marlow cemetery. At midday and with the sun trying to break through the clouds, a small group of people from the Marlow Remembers World War One Association gathered around Leonard Roberts' grave to hear the Rev John Bustin commemorate his life. Shaun Murphy from the Royal British Legion told us about Leonard's life and we learnt that Leonard was working as a Carter at Harleyford Farm when war was declared, having moved there from Kingsclere, Hants, the family home. At the outbreak of war Leonard enlisted with the Royal Berkshire Regiment, embarking for France in November 1914. Sadly, he returned home to Marlow to recover from illness or injury and died on 5 April 1914. He was buried in a military grave in Marlow Cemetery.



To conclude the commemoration two members of the group read a poem each. The first of these poems, 'A War Memorial' was particularly poignant having been written by George Cubitt who lived in Marlow before joining up to fight in the war. After the reading of the second poem 'Here Dead We Lie' by A.E. Housman, Jamie Farrell, a student in Marlow, placed a commemorative cross by the headstone before the Rev Bustin concluded the proceedings. Also placed by the headstone was a photograph of Leonard and a small rose.

Very few of the war dead are buried in local cemeteries; most are buried in the fields of war where they died. To commemorate those who are buried in Marlow and the surrounding villages Marlow Remembers World War One will hold short services at each grave on the anniversary of their deaths. Further information about these services will be available on this website and in our newsletters.