

## **Sowood WI Poppy Trail-Walk 2- Memorial Ground to Beestonley Lane circular walk** **(unsuitable for pushchairs /wheelchairs) approx. 1.5 hours**

*Start Point: Car Park adjoining Stainland Memorial Recreation Ground*

Go through the gates into The Memorial Ground: – this land was given to the people of Stainland as a memorial to those killed in The Great War. The gates were erected in 2014 by Stainland and District Community Association to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of WW1.

Walk down the path to the memorial stone placed there in 2014 by the British Legion. This area is now the site of the annual Remembrance Day service and recently an historic memorial plaque and marble triptych from the former Providence Congregational Chapel has been placed here beside a Sowood WI Memorial Seat. Whilst in the park, walk down to the bottom of the field, and you will come to an area of wild flowers which were planted in 2016 and form the shapes of large petals. Retrace your steps back to the top right-hand corner of the rec (behind the play area) and exit the park through the side entrance.

Turn right and follow the rough track until you come to a gate with a gap to one side. Go through the gap and turn left, following the track along the side of the wall until you come to the next gateway and stile directly in front of you. Go forward and through into the next field and keeping near to the wall on your left, follow the field round (ignore the next stile on the left which leads to a path back to Stainland) until you come to a wooden footpath marker next to a stile.

Go over this stile and into the next lower field (see yellow footpath marker). Follow the grassy path down the slope until you come to a wall by a group of holly trees. Go through the narrow stile in the wall, not through the gap in the hedge, then bear right, following the path across the next field (can be marshy in wet weather) until you reach a stile which takes you onto Beestonley Lane.

Turn right and walk a little way until you come to “The Old Smithy” opposite the entrance to Beestonley. It is possible that **Pioneer Arnold Jackson (2)** lived hereabouts because the census of 1911 indicates his father to have been a blacksmith. Walk a little further and you will come to Victoria Cottage, home of **Lance Corporal Alfred Wilson Howe (1)**. Victoria Cottage is also where John Alfred Bearder (Founder of the Bearder Charity) lived. Turn around and walk back up Beestonley Lane, past the farm and Scarr House, until you come to Holly Bank which is on the left in the trees; the last house before you go up the hill.

At the time of The Great War, Holly Bank was the home of **Private John Gladstone Pickles (3)** although when young he had lived at Wood Cottage which is located right at the bottom of Beestonley Lane. See **Private Pickles’** story below. NB: in the letter “Barkisland Thanks” attached to the information on **Sergeant Joe Leonard Bottomley (4)**, reference is made to a little girl who sent a scarf to the soldiers on the front and that her name was a Miss M Brayshaw of Holly Bank. No record of that surname has so far been found in the deeds, so possibly she was staying there, or the house was being rented by her family at that point in time.

Across the road you will see a dead-end road which is Broad Royd, home of **brothers Sergeant Joe Leonard Bottomley (4)** and **Private Willie Dyson Bottomley (4a)**. **Willie** worked at Beestones Mill in the valley below Broad Royd, however the mill is no longer there.

Continue up the hill until you reach the former Providence Congregational Chapel on the left, built in 1814. Several of the fallen are found in the burial ground (accessed through Fall Spring Gardens when you reach the village). Walk past the chapel and up Providence Hill where **Private Frank Parker (5)** lived. Further up, the lane becomes High Street which is where **Private Arthur Raymond Culpan (6)** lived.



Continue walking, until you reach New Street on the left. This was the site of an older New Street before the current houses were built and several of our fallen lived here: **Gunner Herbert Helliwell, Private Arthur Lister, Private Arnold Nutton, Private Arthur Rawnsley, Private Frank Haywood, Private John William Watson and Corporal Edward Sykes (7).** **Gunner Herbert Helliwell** was the brother in law of **Private Arnold Nutton**. Somewhere close to New Street there is thought to have been a pub called The Gardeners Arms so it is possible that **Gunner Edward Holroyd (7a)** of "Gardeners Cottage" lived in this vicinity. Also, somewhere close to here is where the old Black Horse Inn was before demolition. **Rifleman Harry Holroyd lived here (7a).**

At the top of the hill is Bowling Green School, which many of the fallen would have attended. Close to the school is a WI bench. Some pupils were actively helping on The Home Front and one young boy is known to have saved up his "firework money" to that end. On the 1911 census, **2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Harry Walker (7b)** lived at Bowling Green.

Cross the road at Coldwells Hill and carry on walking until you reach the junction with the main road. Turn left, passing The Old School built in 1805. The houses on your left as you walk towards Stainland, form South Parade which is where **Rifleman William Carney, Gunner Fred Greenwood and Ordinary Seaman Harold (Harry) Taylor (8)** all lived. Near the library on Westgate is where **Private Frank Carter** lived **(10).**

Cross the road and Fall Spring Gardens and pass the former Mechanics Institute on your left. The Mechanics' Institute was built by the Shaw family in 1883 "to improve the moral, social and intellectual habits of the inhabitants of Stainland." About 50 yards after 1885 The Pub, look across to the right and you will see a sign which says Forresters. This was the site originally of Forresters Terrace where **Private Arthur Shaw (9)** lived.

You should now be back at the entrance to the Memorial Park. Walk past it to Wellhead House on the left, directly behind the post box. This was formerly a post office and shop. **Private Arnold Whiteley's (11)** parents lived here when his death was reported in the Courier in 1916. **Arnold** enlisted in April 1915 and saw 202 days home service before embarking for the Mediterranean in November 1915. His service in the Dardanelles lasted 231 days until the 2nd July 1916 when he embarked for France. **Arnold** was plunged straight into the Battle of the Somme which had started on the 1st July and endured 90 days before he was killed in action on the 30th September 1916. He was just 20 years old. **Arnold's** body was never recovered, and he has no known grave, but he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.

Keep walking down the main road, and you will come to Holroyd Square on your left, which is where brothers **Private Albert Beaumont** and **Private Granville Beaumont (12)** lived. Turn around and retrace your steps back up the road and into the car park.

#### **Additional notes-PRIVATE JOHN GLADSTONE PICKLES**

**John** was a soldier in the 1<sup>st</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> battalion of The Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. He was wounded in Flanders and died from his wounds in hospital in Rouen on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October 1917 aged 19. He is buried in St Sever Cemetery. He was the son of John and Sarah Pickles of Holly Bank, Beestonley Lane Stainland and at the time of the 1911 census, had an elder brother (Douglas) and sister (Dorothy) and two younger sisters, Sarah aged 8 and Mary aged 7. His father, John, was a Woollen Manufacturer and in 1903 bought the land and built Holly Bank which was owned by the family until the 1930's; although it appears that during some of that time, the family lived in Bury and possibly rented out the house. Prior to 1903, as a small child, **John Gladstone Pickles** lived in Wood Cottage (adjacent to Barkisland Mill). The census of 1891 indicates that the family were living in Sowerby before moving there but as young **John** is not mentioned in this census, he was probably born at Wood Cottage.