

This cutting was found in the "Comrades of the Great War" Minute book of the Shrawley Post, Worcestershire. ("The Shrawley Post of the Comrades of the Great War" was formed on 19th September 1919 for all local discharged and demobilised soldiers and sailors. It was closed on June 15th 1921 and re-opened on the same day as "The Shrawley Branch of the British Legion" as by then all ex-service men's organisations had united under the British Legion Banner). There is no date on the cutting but this event took place in January or February 1922 and was recorded by a journalist from the local newspaper.

Shrawley War Memorials

Completed Roll of Honour

On Saturday an event of great interest took place, organised by the Shrawley Branch of the British Legion. In response to invitations, some seventy persons took supper in the school. There were in the first place practically all of the ex-service men living in the parish, and also a large number who had lived there and whose names were on the Roll of Honour during the war. An ample spread was provided by Mr. Cook of Lenchford, and some dainty dishes were also sent from the Wood House. The guests of the evening were relatives of the fallen, and some staunch supporters of the Legion, and they included Mrs. Belaribi, Mrs. and Miss Grosvenor, Mr. W. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. E. Powick, Mrs. and Miss Rowley, Mr. H. Spragg, Mr. and Mrs. Stallard, Miss Everett, Rev. J. B. Frith, Mr. E. Teasel, Mr. W. Turford, Mr. Lucas, and Miss Gittens.

Quite a number had to journey long distances in order to be present. The Rector, Rev. H. T. Boulton, temp. C.F., presided, and besides the loyal toasts the following other toasts were proposed: the Royal Navy by Mr. H. Brooks (R.M.L.I.), and the Army and R.A.F., by Lieut. H. O. S. Pilkington of the Worcesters and R.A.F. As president of the Branch he urged the importance of sticking together and keeping up the comradeship learnt during the war. Mr. Frith, who was Rector during the war and served as Chaplain with the Worcesters in France and Italy proposed "Absent Friends", and Mr. Teasel, who was for many years headmaster and through whose hands many of those present had passed, proposed "Prosperity to Shrawley".

An adjournment was then made to the Parish Room for the principal event of the evening to which the parishioners had been invited. The rector read a list of apologies, and gave some details connected with what had taken place. He asked everybody to stand in silence for a minute while they remembered those who had made the great sacrifice, and then all joined in singing "O God our help in ages past". He then called upon Mr. Frith to unveil the two last parish memorials. Nearly two years ago a tablet in the church and a wayside cross were dedicated in memory of the fallen, and these were to commemorate the service of all who went from the parish. Thus a complete record has been made for all time, as complete as will be found in any parish in the country, which will stand as a reminder of gallant service and loyal response to the call of King and country. Mr. Frith in a speech which combined humour and pathos, reminded those present of 1914, and the following years, and recalled several of those unexpected meetings which so often happened "over there". Then he unveiled the Roll of Honour, presented to the parish, by Mrs. Allen of the Wood House. It is a wonderful example of illuminated work, done in gold and colours upon the finest

parchment, in the form of a Triptych, or three separate panels framed together. In the centre is a beautiful Celtic Cross and the words "Laudemus viros gloriosos" – (We praise noble men). Upon the roll are inscribed the names and rank and regiment of about 80 men, all closely associated with the parish, together with their war service, wounds, and the countries where they served. It is a brief and yet sufficiently full history of their service. The roll was devised and made by Miss Christopher St. John, of London, who is one of the leading artists in this kind of work. The frame is of solid oak, and was made by Mr. Mason of Worcester. As the Union Jack fell from the roll, there was an awed hush, followed by loud applause as the full beauty was realised; it is a worthy memorial of brave deeds. Mr. L. Dixon then sang the song of the Worcestershire Regiment, as a fitting sequel. Then followed the unveiling of the group photograph, a composite group containing the head and shoulders in an oval of 83 men and women who had served. Although of a very different character, this, too, is of considerable interest, and it does great credit to the skill of Mr. Drew, who had to enlarge or reduce all kinds of photos in order to obtain a balanced result. It makes a striking pictorial record, and framed in oak, is a not unworthy companion to the roll.

This group was photographed and enlarged, and a mounted copy was next presented to each man whose photograph was in the picture, by Mrs. Belaribi, who made a short but appropriate speech. Copies were also given to relatives of the fallen, whose photographs are placed in the centre, and to Mr. Teasel from his old pupils, and to Mr. Thomas, the present Headmaster, to hang in the School.

There followed a short concert, and during this the Chairman handed to Mr. Dixon from Mrs. Allan an enlarged photograph of his little daughter, as a memento of his saving a boy from drowning in the River Severn, last month. Mr. Thomas proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Allan, and Mr. Pilkington to Mr. Frith, both of which were received with great applause. The proceedings ended with the singing of the National Anthem.

The page was signed by H. O. Pilkington