**Edward Pritchard**

Edward Pritchard, born in Bushey in 1885, was the son of Edward and Mary Pritchard. His father came to Bushey in the 1870s as a hay binder and he and his wife lived on Clay Hill. During the 1880s his father became the beer house keeper of The Royal Oak, 42 Sparrows Herne and was still there in 1911 at the age of 75. Edward was one of his twelve children, only nine of whom survived. In 1911 Edward was 26 and he and two of his younger brothers, John and George, were single and living with their parents at 42 Sparrows Herne. They were all employed as general labourers. George married Beatrice E Rolfe in 1911.

Immediately war was declared Edward enlisted as a volunteer in London as Private 7776 in the Royal Scots Fusiliers. He served in France and was one of Bushey’s earliest fatalities. He died of wounds on 15 September 1914, aged 29. He is remembered with honour at La Fert-Sous-Jouarre Memorial in France. His name is not included on any Bushey memorial.

The name of George Pritchard is recorded on the Bushey Memorial and at St Peter’s Church, Bushey Heath. It is possible that he was Edward’s younger brother but there are many fatalities with this name on the CWGC records and his identity is currently unconfirmed.

