

# Hello Heritage...

## Centenary of the Diseworth WW1 War Memorial

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Dedication of Diseworth War Memorial, Sept. 1921

The year 2021 sees the Centenary of the dedication of Diseworth's World War 1 War Memorial. One of the matters discussed by the newly constituted PCC (Parochial Church Council) at its inaugural meeting on April 5 1920 was the provision of a War Memorial to commemorate the local men lost in WWI.

The Memorial was dedicated on 25 September 1921, at 3pm. The Vicar, Rev J.A. Palmer said prayers, the lesson was read by the Rev A. Dalton and the address was given by the Rural Dean, Rev W. A. King. It was then unveiled by Mr. Charles Bowles Shakespear of Langley Priory and dedicated by the Rural Dean.

66 men with Diseworth connections had enlisted, of whom 22 died. Only Arthur Chapman is not named on the Memorial. A member of the RAMC, he did not die of his wounds until 1919 but is one of only two men with Commonwealth War Graves Commission memorial headstones in Diseworth churchyard (the other being John Allcroft).



Military Funeral of Private Arthur Chapman, 1919



Those who died are listed in the central column of names. Those who served and survived are named in the two outer columns.



Many of the men were from long established local families, several of whom suffered badly – three Orridge brothers died, and the Mayes and Palmer families each lost two sons. However, three further Orridge sons survived!



Some men had relatively tenuous links with Diseworth. Trained at an Industrial School in Norfolk, John Allcroft had been happy working on a local farm and asked to be buried in Diseworth while being treated for his wounds in Kent.



Armistice Day is remembered every year by the Diseworth branch of the British Legion. This is the 2018 service for the centenary of the end of WW1.