

BIRCHINGTON & WORLD WAR ONE

4 Hospitals in Birchington

Quex Park – Mrs Hannah Powell-Cotton – Commandant
(wife of the owner of Quex Park)

Opened 14 Oct 1914 closed 31 Jan 1919

+ 37 Nurses

St Michael's (The Thicket) – Miss Denning – Matron
(a Doctor's sister)

Opened 21 Oct 1914 closed 21 Jan 1919

+ 21 Nurses

St Mary's – Miss Hill – Matron

Opened 10 Oct 1914 closed 31 Dec (Belgians only)

+ 8 Nurses

Mansford House – Miss Worthington – Matron
(a doctor's daughter)

Opened 10 Oct 1914 closed March 1917

+ 10 Nurses

Served by 2 Doctors – Dr Harry Worthington & Dr Walter Brunton
There were no lady doctors in England at this time.

Hospital Supply Depot

2 Ladies in charge – Miss Tett

Mrs Lloyd-Jones

Lady Workers – 102

Opened Nov 1915 closed 25 Mar 1919

12,600 articles made and sent to the hospitals in Birchington

And troops abroad

Including – bandages, slings

+ woollen scarves, socks etc (sent to Central Depot in London

These items were sent to Soldiers, Airmen and Sailors

Over £660 was raised locally in donations from subscriptions, entertainments and sales of flowers and collecting of waste paper.

Special Choir for Soldiers' Services

There were 10 ladies in the Choir at the start of the War, as well as 4 civilian men and 12 soldiers (these men changed depending on their army unit postings.)

Miss G Smith

Mrs Worthington

Miss Gatecliff

Miss Phillips

Mrs Holland (founder)

Miss Perfect

Miss Keeley

Miss Jones (Sister Vera)

Miss F Perfect

Miss F B Jackson

There were 18 additional ladies:

Mrs Barber

Miss Botrell

Mrs Brunton

Miss Chapman

Miss P. Gatecliff

Miss O Jackson

Miss P Keeley

Miss Lawrence

Miss Lockyer

Miss Ogilvy

Miss Payne

Miss Poll

Miss Reid

Miss A Reid

Mrs Royle

Miss Whitehead

Miss Woodhouse (Sister Ethel)

Miss Wright

Organists - Miss Lyon + Mr H A Grant & Mr P Pemble

SAFA – Soldiers, Sailors and Family Association

This group of 8 ladies helped Soldiers and Sailors' wives if their husbands money towards their needs was delayed. The SAFA ladies paid the money out of their own funds at first, but later, the Prince of Wales Fund supplied the extra money. They also ran the canteen for the servicemen.

Mrs Serres (vicar's wife)
Mrs Birt
Mrs Dillon
Miss Joyce
Mrs Powell-Cotton (Quex Park)
Mrs Ransome
Miss Reeves
Mrs Reid

Red Cross

Helped raise funds
Sent food parcels to Birchington men who were prisoners of war.

937 parcels sent

After the War – which **ended on November 11th 1918** – on November 23rd 1918, the ladies held a Flag Day for the widows and wounded of the Dover Patrol – over £30 was raised.

Overseas Service

Women from Birchington who served abroad – 18
Served in France and Serbia
as nurses, drivers, clerks etc

Quite a few also served in London, Bromley and Bickley near London

When the War ended, very few women continued to work outside their homes – handing over their jobs to the men who came back from the War. This was very difficult for them, because many of them had enjoyed the responsibility and work they did.