



**Daresbury Village in
WW1**

A 'narrow' circular walk, on pavements, with one uneven section in woodland including some steps.

Please take great care, and use the designated pedestrian crossing places to cross the by-pass.

Daresbury Lodge. The Ridgway family came to live here around 1910. John Clare Ridgway was a slate and timber merchant and one time Col of the Prince of Wales Volunteers.

His elder son, John Herbert had followed a military career in the North Staffs Reg and when war was declared, went straight to France with his regiment. He was awarded the D S O for actions on the Somme in 1916. Lt. Col. J.H. Ridgway was killed in 1917, at the age of 40.

Frederic Edward, the younger son, served as a Captain in the Army Service Corps in Egypt and Palestine. Their sister Mary volunteered at the Oaklands.



The Quarry was the site of the Rifle Range. Competitive shooting was abandoned during the war as so many members had joined up. However, matches were arranged for convalescent soldiers from the Oaklands and Button hospitals. The Boy Scouts used the pavilion for their HQ.

William Garnett was the landlord of the Ring o' Bells from 1911.

His son, William Sydney (Syd) Garnett, was a Sergeant in the Durham Light Infantry, and was awarded the D C M for his actions in 1918. He spent the last 6 months of the war as a prisoner in Uarmstadt.

Sarah Ellen (Nellie), his daughter, died in 1916, aged just 26 years, after contracting influenza.

In 1916, Daresbury was the destination for a Cycle Club Rally in aid of the Cyclist Prisoners of War

The Vicarage.

John Lindsay Lee-Jones was the vicar's son and a Captain in the King's Liverpool Reg. during the war. His mother, Eliza, and Elsie Mona, his sister, took part in many fundraising activities for the Forces, the Oaklands and Red Cross.

Thomas Thorp Lee-Jones, the vicar, was involved in aspects of parish life and fundraising, as well as urging his parishioners to attend church more often to pray for their loved ones and for peace. He died in September 1918.

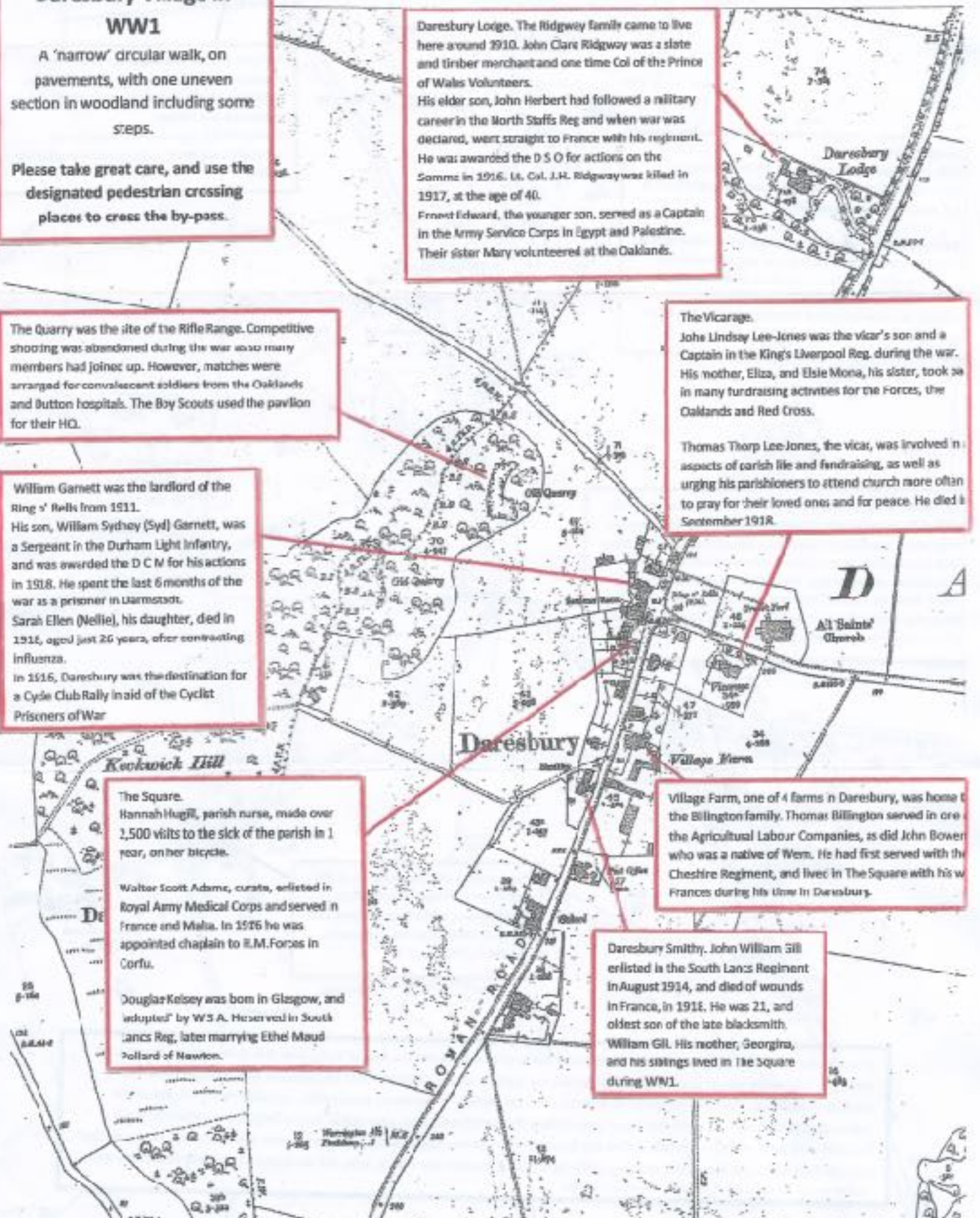
The Square. Hannah Hugill, parish nurse, made over 1,500 visits to the sick of the parish in 1 year, on her bicycle.

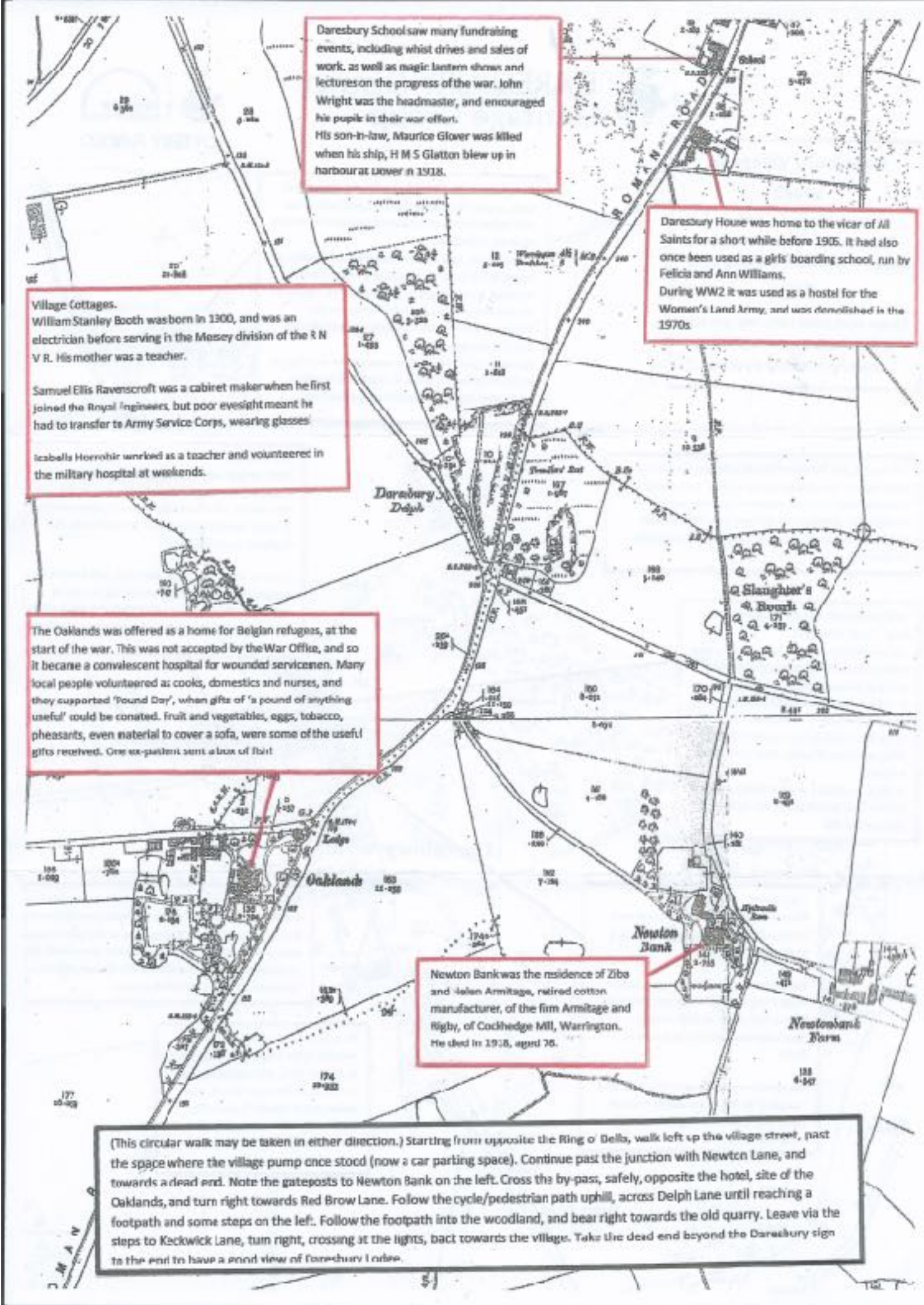
Walter Scott Adams, curate, enlisted in Royal Army Medical Corps and served in France and Malta. In 1916 he was appointed chaplain to R.M. Forces in Corfu.

Douglas Kelsey was born in Glasgow, and inducted by W.S.A. He served in South Lancs Reg, later marrying Ethel Maud Pollard of Newton.

Village Farm, one of 4 farms in Daresbury, was home to the Billington family. Thomas Billington served in one of the Agricultural Labour Companies, as did John Bower who was a native of Wern. He had first served with the Cheshire Regiment, and lived in The Square with his wife Frances during his time in Daresbury.

Daresbury Smithy. John William Gill enlisted in the South Lancs Regiment in August 1914, and died of wounds in France, in 1916. He was 21, and oldest son of the late blacksmith William Gil. His mother, Georgina, and his siblings lived in The Square during WW1.





Daresbury School saw many fundraising events, including whist drives and sales of work, as well as magic lantern shows and lectures on the progress of the war. John Wright was the headmaster, and encouraged his pupils in their war effort. His son-in-law, Maurice Glover was killed when his ship, H M S Glatten blew up in harbour at Dover in 1918.

Daresbury House was home to the vicar of All Saints for a short while before 1905. It had also once been used as a girls' boarding school, run by Felicia and Ann Williams. During WW2 it was used as a hostel for the Women's Land Army, and was demolished in the 1970s.

Village Cottages.
William Stanley Booth was born in 1900, and was an electrician before serving in the Masey division of the R N V R. His mother was a teacher.

Samuel Ellis Ravenscroft was a cabinet maker when he first joined the Royal Engineers, but poor eyesight meant he had to transfer to Army Service Corps, wearing glasses!

Isabella Horrobin worked as a teacher and volunteered in the military hospital at weekends.

The Oaklands was offered as a home for Belgian refugees, at the start of the war. This was not accepted by the War Office, and so it became a convalescent hospital for wounded servicemen. Many local people volunteered as cooks, domestics and nurses, and they supported 'pound day', when gifts of 'a pound of anything useful' could be collected. Fruit and vegetables, eggs, tobacco, pheasants, even material to cover a sofa, were some of the useful gifts received. One ex-patient sent a box of fruit!

Newton Bank was the residence of Ziba and Helen Armitage, retired cotton manufacturer, of the firm Armitage and Rigby, of Cockledge Mill, Warrington. He died in 1918, aged 76.

(This circular walk may be taken in either direction.) Starting from opposite the Ring o' Bells, walk left up the village street, past the space where the village pump once stood (now a car parking space). Continue past the junction with Newton Lane, and towards a dead end. Note the gateposts to Newton Bank on the left. Cross the by-pass, safely, opposite the hotel, site of the Oaklands, and turn right towards Red Brow Lane. Follow the cycle/pedestrian path uphill, across Delph Lane until reaching a footpath and some steps on the left. Follow the footpath into the woodland, and bear right towards the old quarry. Leave via the steps to Kewick Lane, turn right, crossing at the lights, back towards the village. Take the dead end beyond the Daresbury sign to the end to have a good view of Daresbury Lodge.

