

**1 Start from the *War Memorial on The Causeway.***

Many local people served in the First World War. Out of a pre-war population of about 5,000 almost 250 Marlow men and boys were killed in the conflict. This memorial to them was unveiled in 1920. The names of those killed are listed on a separate memorial inside nearby All Saints' Church.



**2 Look towards the main road from *The Causeway.***

By the side of the road is a statue in memory of Charles Frohman. He was a successful American theatrical impresario who often visited Marlow when in the country. He was drowned when the ship *The Lusitania* was sunk by a German submarine in 1915. The statue is reputedly of the actress Pauline Chase who appeared in many of his productions and was especially famous for playing the title role in *Peter Pan*.

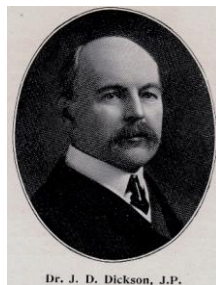
**3 Walk along the *High Street* and turn right into *Institute Road.***

During the War, German submarines attacked ships bringing food supplies to Britain. This meant that certain food items became scarce and more expensive. On the corner of Institute Road and the High Street is a clothes shop that was operated as a communal kitchen by the local Council from December 1917 to ensure Marlow people had access to affordable hot food.

On your left along Institute Road is the building of The Marlow Institute (now the library). After conscription was introduced in 1916, a local tribunal met here to hear the appeals of men who did not want to enlist, mainly because they were involved in important local work or were running one-man businesses that would have to close. Most of them lost their appeals and were conscripted into the Army.



Next to the Institute is a private house called The Gables. During the War, it was the home of Dr. John Dickson, J.P. He was a member of the Appeals Tribunal. His son, David, was one of the first Marlow people to die in the War when he was killed at sea in October 1914, aged 17. Their photos are below.



**4 Return to the *High Street* and cross the road to the entrance of the former *Wethered's Brewery.***

Before the War, Wethered's Brewery was the biggest employer in the town. During the War, it served as a munitions factory, making artillery shell cases, as well as continuing to brew beer. Because most of its male employees were serving in the

armed forces, the brewery employed many local women in the munitions factory. There is an information board in the courtyard and a memorial plaque to brewery employees killed in the War.



**5 Walk up the *High Street* and turn left into *West Street.* Continue to the junction with *Oxford Road.***

During the War, many soldiers were brought to Marlow for training before being sent to fight in France. They marched from the railway station, along the High Street, into West Street (as you have just done) and turned right here, up Oxford Road to Bovingdon Green and Marlow Common where they built and trained in extensive practice trenches (these trenches can still be visited today).



**6 Continue along *West Street* beyond the *Oxford Road* turning until you reach *Sir William Borlase's Grammar School* on the right hand side.**

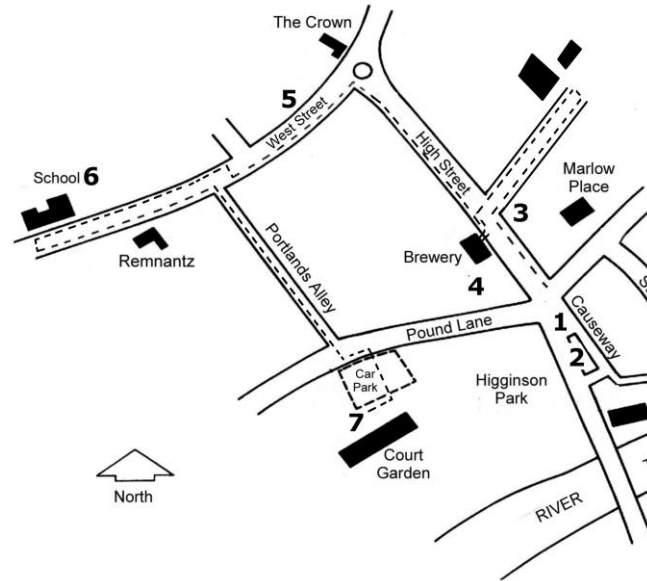
In the early twentieth century, this was a small private school that also awarded scholarships to local boys. Many former pupils and staff served during the War. The school chapel is visible from the road. It became a Remembrance Chapel after the War and includes memorials to the 58 staff and boys killed in the conflict, including one to David Dickson.



Another of the casualties was 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Basil Horsfall, who was killed in France in March 1918. Although he was originally from Sri Lanka, he was a pupil at the school between 1903 and 1905 and was school captain in his final year. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for leading his platoon in resisting a German attack despite being severely wounded. There is a memorial plaque to him on the school wall facing the street.

**7 Retrace your steps along *West Street* and turn right down *Portlands Alley* just before the junction with *Oxford Road*.**

The alley will bring you to Pound Lane car park and Court Garden. Here you can visit Marlow Museum which has a lot more information about the history of the town. Opening times can be found at: <http://marlowmuseum.org>



*The walk should take about 1 to 1½ hours to complete*

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For further information see the Town Tour at

[www.marlowsociety.org.uk](http://www.marlowsociety.org.uk)

# MARLOW

## WORLD WAR ONE TOWN WALK

