**William Box**

William Box was the youngest son of Thomas and Eva Box from Oxhey, who had eight children. Eva grew up in Villiers Road, Oxhey, where her father, Frederick Windsor, was a shoemaker. She became a domestic servant and in the 1880s she married Thomas Box from Merry Hill Terrace Cottages, Bushey. Thomas was a plasterer and they made their first home in Merry Hill Lane (later called School Lane). All their children were born in Bushey and when they left school they became tradesmen or domestic servants. By 1911, the family had moved to 20, Upper Paddock Road, Oxhey. William Box was 16 and working as a yard boy for a coal merchant.

When war broke out William enlisted as Rifleman 3796 with the London Regiment (Queen Victoria’s Rifles). He died of wounds received fighting in France on 11 September 1916 and was buried at La Neuville British Cemetery, Corbie near the Somme. He is commemorated on the St Matthew’s Church memorial, on the plaque inside Bushey and Oxhey Wesleyan (now Methodist) Church and on his parents’ grave in Bushey churchyard.



