**Frederick William John Fountain**

Frederick William John Fountain, or Fred, as he was known, was born in Bushey in 1881, the only son of William and Maria Fountain. His father was a labourer and in 1881 his parents lived in Paddock Road, Oxhey. His father died in 1896 at the age of 42 and Frederick continued to live with his mother and younger sister, Emily. In 1901, when Frederick was 19, they were living at 73 Villiers Road, Oxhey with two boarders. Frederick was employed as a general labourer and Emily as a laundry maid. By 1911 Emily had married George Eli Bosworth, a bricklayer, and they had a son, George, aged 2. Fred, his mother and two boarders lived with them at 64 Villiers Road, Oxhey. Fred enlisted in Bedford as Private 27823 with the Bedfordshire Regiment, 4th Battalion and served in France and Flanders. He was killed in action on 23 April 1917, aged 36. He is remembered with honour at the Arras Memorial and at St Matthew’s Church in Oxhey.



