**Benjamin Eastlake Leader**

Benjamin Eastlake Leader, born in 1877 in Pershore, Worcestershire, was the son of Benjamin Williams Leader RA and his artist wife Mary Alexandra Eastlake. He was educated at Charterhouse and Cambridge. He came to Bushey in 1898 as a student at the Herkomer Art School and then went on to the Newlyn School in Cornwall. He sold his first painting in 1904. From 1911 – 13 he lived at Oakhill and then built a house called Rosemerryn in the style of a Cornish manor in 1914-15. He loaned his cottage at Oakhill to the well-known Cornish artists, Laura and Harold Knight when he and his wife, Isabella Leader, moved on to their new home. He had little time to enjoy it as he served as a Captain with the Royal West Surrey Regiment and was killed in 1916 on active service in France at the age of 39. He is commemorated at the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing.

[](http://www.cwgc.org/dbImage.ashx?id=12686)