

Please Help Celebrate Twickenham's Special 1WW History

*Twickenham
and
Richmond
upon Thames*

*Commemorate
Twickenham,
St Margarets'
and Richmond's
Belgian
Community
of 1914-18*

*Led by the
East
Twickenham
Centennial
Group*

Richmond and Twickenham have a unique 1WW history !

We gave a home in 1914-18 to a massive Belgian refugee community, the largest in Southern England, and our towns developed a real Belgian character.

We were called **"The Belgian Village on the Thames"**.

We want to celebrate our Belgian connection with a memorial at the place where most of the Belgians worked.

This is not about war, but international friendship.



Young Belgian women from Richmond record their friendship for Great Britain.



A row of Belgian shops in East Twickenham

The Richmond and Twickenham Belgian Refugee Memorial Fund has been opened by the East Twickenham Centennial Group, a voluntary group set up to commemorate Richmond and Twickenham's Belgian Refugees.

East Twickenham was the focus of the Belgian community, as most of the refugees worked here in a Belgian munitions factory beside the river.



M. Charles Pelabon, owner and director of the factory.

Belgians in Twickenham & St Margarets 1914 - 1918



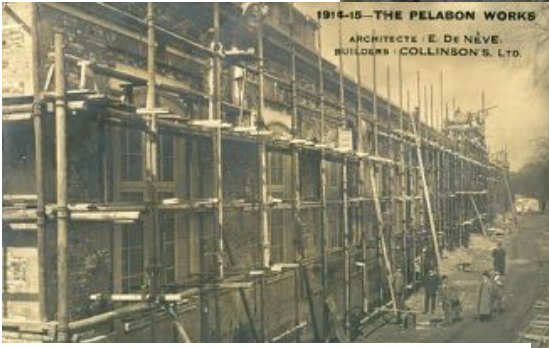
Above: The workforce of the later Pelabon Factory, East Twickenham.



Top: Delivery of a boiler for the new factory at Twickenham Station.



Above: Belgian workers (men and women) working in the East Twickenham Factory.



Building one of the Pelabon workshops, 1915. This building later became Richmond Ice Rink



Left: More Belgian shops, East Twickenham. The buildings look much the same today.



Above: St Margarets. All the Belgian children in Twickenham went to Orleans School (bottom left; the small infants' building still stands. Belgians lived in all these streets and some streets were 100% Belgian.

Right: Crown Institute, Crown Road, St Margarets: formerly Highshot House but now rescuing girls from "sweated labour", it housed destitute Belgian mothers and children.



L: St John's Hospital, Amyand Park Road, Twickenham. A Pelabon worker died here after a dramatic accident in the railway goods yard.



R: His funeral was held in St James Catholic Church, Popes Grove, Twickenham. All Twickenham Belgians went to church here.



The Barons, St Margarets. Almost all the houses were multi-occupied by Belgian refugees who worked in the Pelabon factory.





The memorial will be a work of art in its own right.

It will be in the form of a standing stone, as found in both UK and Belgium: a bit like this one, 5' 5" high.

It will be made from Belgian Blue Stone, carved by a stone-cutter from Belgium.

What the Memorial Will Look Like

There will be a poetic message in decorative writing spiralling up the stone, translated into the three languages of the time: French, Dutch

What It Will Say

Memories flow through me like a boat flows down the river

This message was written by a young girl from Orleans Primary, St Margarets, where all the Twickenham Belgian children went to school.

The memorial site at the centre of Warren Gardens. M. Pelabon donated these lands for public enjoyment in 1925.



The memorial will be on East Twickenham riverside outside the Belgian 1WW factory buildings.

Where It Will Go

The view outward from the memorial. It will be seen by thousands along the river.



We need £8400 for the memorial, on top of our £5000 grant from Richmond Council.

Please help us pledging on
www.crowdfunder.co.uk/1ww-belgian-refugee-memorial-1/
open Sept 19 – Nov 13 2015

Bank transfer: East Twickenham Centennial Group
Account Number: 40876054
Sort Code: 20-72-17
Reference: Memorial + name & phone no

Rewards :

- £10 Your name on the Roll of Honour in our forthcoming book**
- £20 Also a copy of a watercolour of the memorial site with the memorial inscription in decorative script**
- £50 Also a "Then and Now" guided tour of key sites by a local historian.**
- £100 Join the Special Guest Reception. Also a signed copy of our book and your name beside the memorial.**