

# KNOWLTON, KENT

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In 1914 Knowlton was adjudged the *Bravest Village in England* in a competition organised by the Weekly Dispatch for sending the largest percentage of its population to the colours. Out of a total population of only 39 men 12 joined up and all of them returned from the war. To mark this achievement a 17 ft. high memorial, still standing today, was paid for by the Dispatch. Designed by George James Frampton, this took the form of an octagonal column on which is perched a cushion, on top of which is a crowned orb being similar to his design for the Wittersham War Memorial.

## George James Frampton 1860 - 1928

Born in London in 1860 George Frampton studied at the Lambeth School of Art and RA Schools 1881-87, won the RA Gold Medal and Travelling Scholarship, studied in Paris in 1881 and became Joint Head of London County Council Central School of Arts and Crafts in 1894.

For twenty years, (1892-1902) he produced many works in various media including the *Mysteriarch*, now in the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, the *Head of a Girl*, bronze reliefs of *The Lady of the Lake*, *Alis La Beale Pilgrim*, and of *Sir Walter Besant*, which is in the crypt of St Paul's Cathedral. A statue of *William Rathbone*, in Liverpool, a bronze and ivory bust *Lamia*, a silvered bronze, copper and enamel panel *Mother and Child* and the bronze *St Mungo, Patron of Art and Music* is held in Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. He produced the *Jubilee Monument for Queen Victoria*, at Calcutta, the *Sailing Ship* and *Steamship* for Lloyd's Registry, a statue of *Queen Victoria* for Newcastle and the figures on St Mary's Church Oxford. After the Boer War came the *Bury* and the *Radley School Boer War Memorials* and a white marble memorial to *Sir George Williams*, in the crypt of St Paul's Cathedral.

In 1911 he sculpted a statue of *Sir Andrew Henderson Leith Fraser*, now in the Victoria Memorial, Calcutta, to which was later added one of two statues of he made of *Queen Mary*.

1912 saw him complete his famous bronze of *Peter Pan* in Kensington Gardens, copies of which may be found in Camden, America, Brussels, Belgium, Halifax, Canada, Liverpool, England and Perth, Australia.

Over the next six years he finished the *Sir James Fleming Memorial Plaque*, the bronze relief of *W S Gilbert*, in Victoria Embankment Gardens, the *Pearl Assurance War Memorial* in Holborn, very similar to that of his *Maidstone War Memorial*, the *Captain Francis Mond RAF* memorial and the bronze death mask of *Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree*.

He most criticised piece, completed in 1920, was *Edith Cavell* which can still be seen outside the National Portrait Gallery in London.

Knighted in 1908 Frampton died in 1928. An English Heritage Blue Plaque marks his house at 32 Queen's Grove, St John's Wood, London. A self-portrait in pencil drawn in 1894 is held in the National Portrait Gallery.