

Wilfred Owen 1893 -1918.

I'm sure most, if not all of you have heard of him. The 1st world war poet, born in Oswestry. He was brought up in Birkenhead, Wirral and later Shrewsbury. This was due to his Father's job as a Railway Station Master.

Wilfred was known as a Poet with anger at the cruelty and futility of war and his pity for its victims. His work helped form the foundations for modern poetry. He's studied at Shrewsbury Borough Technical School and the University of London. After not earning a Scholarship to be able to continue his studies he became a voluntary Vicar's Assistant. This involved him tending to the needy in the Parish and expanding his awareness of their suffering. In 1913 he moved to Bordeaux, France. There he began writing Poetry whilst working as a Tutor. This was until 1915, when he joined the British Army and was sent to fight in France. After being hospitalised for "Shell Shock" he voluntarily returned to the front to help his men. He was shot and died aged 25, 2 days prior to the end of WW1.

His Poetry has lived on. For example, being used by Composer Benjamin Britten for his War Requiem. This was a combination of the Latin Requiem and Wilfred Owen poetry. It was used for the consecration of Coventry Cathedral after it was rebuilt, following the destruction of the original 14th century building, bombed during WW2. His work has also been used in film.

I've chosen Wilfred Owen to be portrayed on our bank notes because, unfortunately, despite his efforts to make those blind to reality see, we still live in a world of tension and unrest. He represents thoughtfulness' and a love for man, and a yearning for peace. His face should be seen regularly, in every day life. So that those who may not have heard of him or what he stood for ask...and thnk!

Sharon Sheridan