

Mary King & Standish V.A.D. Hospital

Before the War the King family had lived in Standish House but had moved to Newark Park, Ozleworth. In 1914, Mary King asked Lord Sherborne if Standish House could be used as a hospital. He agreed, paid for alterations, and the first wounded soldiers arrived on **13 May 1915**. From then on, locals began to see some of the horrors of war.

- Mary was involved in the Red Cross including in the training of nurses.
- During 1914, Standish House was empty. In anticipation of war, Mary asked its owner, Lord Sherborne, if he would loan the House for use as a hospital.
- Lord Sherborne agreed, had the House decorated and fitted with electric lights, additional baths and toilets
- Mary was 62 when the V.A.D. Hospital received its first wounded soldiers in May 1915.
- She oversaw the running of the Hospital and the training of volunteer nurses.
- She was awarded an O.B.E. for her work.
- The V.A.D. Hospital closed in March 1919, having treated a total of 2292 sick and wounded soldiers.



Mary King,
drawn by V Allford,
a soldier at Standish.



The ground floor of the Hospital was divided into 3 wards: Berkeley, Painswick and Dursley, each staffed mainly by volunteers from these places. Volunteers travelled to work at the Hospital by walking or cycling there.



Soldiers in "hospital undress" - blue woollen suits with white lapels and red ties. This was to remind everyone that they were still serving in the Armed Forces.

