



We Will Remember Them

This year marks the centenary of the end of the First World War and Bicester Local History Society has chosen to mark the occasion in a number of ways.

A memorial bench will soon be installed in Garth Park. Dedicated to the men and women of Bicester who served their country during the Great War, it has been entirely funded by the society and embodies our gratitude and respect for their tireless struggle.

In addition to this we are working with the St Edburg's Heritage Group to commemorate the local men who died with a special event in the church on Saturday 10th November.

We plan to display as much information as we can about each of the local men that we know of, a few of whom are shown here. There will also be places for visitors to remember their own fallen relatives and learn a bit more about Bicester during the war.

We would like to get as many people along as possible, particularly any relatives of the men being commemorated, so please spread the word and help us to pay these men the respect they deserve.

For further details about the event please see page two.

- Matthew Hathaway



Captain Guy Bonham-Carter
Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars
He was appointed Adjutant of the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars in February 1913 and went to the front with them in September 1914. He died in action near Ypres on the 15th May 1915, aged 30.



Lieutenant Cadwallader John Coker
Welsh Regiment
He was promoted to Lieutenant in February 1915 and went to the front in March 1915. He was killed in the trenches at St. Eloi by a German sniper on the 22nd June 1915, aged 23.



Captain Bryan Ruston Heape
Royal Field Artillery
He served in France and Flanders from March 1915, taking part in the operations on the Somme, and was killed in action on the 16th May 1917 whilst acting Major in command of his battery at the Battle of Arras, aged 24.

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Dates For Your Diary

- Oxford Castle Talk**
15th October - 7:30pm
see page 6
- St Edburg's Foundation AGM**
29th October - 7pm
see page 5
- November Newsletter Submissions Deadline**
2nd November
- Bicester Advertiser Local History Article**
8th November
- "We Will Remember Them" Open Day**
10th November - 10am
see page 2
- Oxfordshire in 50 Objects Talk**
19th November - 7:30pm
see page 6
- December Newsletter Submissions Deadline**
30th November
- Bicester Advertiser Local History Article**
6th December



St. Edburg's Church, Bicester

OPEN DAY

Saturday November 10th 2018

10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

“We will remember them”

1918

PAUSE, TAKE TIME TO THINK, TO
REFLECT and TO CONSIDER

2018

*Some returned; many did not; find out about
those Bicester men, their wives and families*

St. Edburg's Heritage Group

Bicester Local History Society

Refreshments all day

A FREE EVENT



27th October 1882

BURLESQUE WEEK AT THE EXCHANGE - During the week this town has been visited by Miss Linington's Dramatic and Burlesque Company, who have given entertainments in the Corn Exchange.

On Monday the play "Lady Audley's Secret" was performed before a not very full house, after which the pantomime burlesque of "Aladdin, the wonderful scamp" was given.

On Tuesday there were only about twenty persons present, and the play of the "Colleen Bawn" had to be put off.

On Wednesday, however, the performance of "Jo! the Crossing Sweeper" was given before a crowded house, the people doubtless being drawn through the announcement that the performance was under the patronage of the officers and men of the Bicester Rifle Volunteers, and also that the Bicester Volunteer Band would be in attendance. In this play the part of "Jo" was ably taken by Miss Lizzie Linington herself.

On Thursday the historical drama of "Catherine Howard" was to be performed, but again and almost empty house necessitated its withdrawal.

Tonight the drama "East Lynne" is announced, and on Saturday will be performed the great historical drama entitled "War", founded on the bombardment of Alexandria.

Mr Herbert Lloyd officiates as pianist.

30th October 1908

OLD AGE PENSION - November is practically upon us, and only two months remain in which to perfect the machinery for administering the five shillings per week on January 1st, to those who are entitled to it, under "The Old Age Pensions Act, 1908".

Mr J.W. Poynor, of Bicester, and Mr J.D. Smart, of Brackley, Inland Revenue Officers, who are appointed for the Bicester District as pension officers, are already in the thick of the work of verifying and arranging the applications of those who are entitled, or who think they are entitled, to an Old Age Pension.

The Bicester Sub-Committee, appointed by the County Council to carry out the Act, consists of Mr E. Slater-Harrison, of Shelswell, Colonel A.E. England, of Souldern, Mr J.B. Kingscote, of Stratton Audley, Mr E.A. Burchardt, of Brashfield, Mr E. Greaves, of Upper Heyford, Mr J.W. Hunt, of Bicester, and Mr T.W. Pankhurst, of Bicester, with Mr A.T. Truman, of Bicester, as Clerk.

It is rather curious to note that all the members of the Committee, except two, are Guardians, and, as a natural consequence, are not altogether unacquainted with the duties pertaining to the work.

But, after all is said, is the sub-committee not a Board of Guardians in a new form?

The questions in the "Claim to Pension", to be filled up by each applicant, are practically of the same nature as those required to be put to applicants for relief under the Poor Law of 1834, now in force; and it seems difficult to believe that the way to an Old Age Pension is not through a course as inquisitorial as that to secure a dole of outdoor relief, and is, apparently, quite as liable to revision

as under the present poor law system, as some of those who will have the five shillings per week may soon find out.

An instance of the inconsistency of the Old Age Pensions Act occurred at the fortnightly meeting of the Bicester Board of Guardians on Friday last. It appeared that an old man who had lived a respectable and upright life for ninety years recently applied to the Guardians for out-relief, which was granted, and he was considerably dismayed to think that this had disqualified his wife and himself from participating in the benefits of an old age pension.

The old man's case is a very sad one, especially as it transpired that after paying rent the old couple had the princely sum of two shillings per week to "live" upon. It seems almost incredible that anyone can exist upon such a sum, and it is a crying shame upon our legislators that such things should be.

We hope that the Guardians will follow the noble lead set by the Camberwell Board, and pay all the persons seventy years of age in receipt of relief the full five shillings, so that they will not miss their old age pensions.

28th October 1932

LIGHTING UP THE SQUARE - An experiment is been tried this week with a view to improving the lighting of the Market Square.

The opinion had been advanced that the present cluster of three lamps, whilst efficient for a limited area, would probably have a more extended illuminating power if they were raised some eight or ten feet above their present level at the top of the fountain lamp standard, and that the beams might possibly project so far as the pavement round George Corner and to the opening into Market Hill.

A pole of that extra height is in use for the test, affixed to the standard, and bearing three temporary lamps, independently switched, so that a comparison can be made between the effects given at the original level and the higher stage. The top lamps are of greater candle-power than the other three at present in use.

18th October 1957

SPUTNIK IN SILENCE - "Heard any good bleeps lately?" I asked. "No luck, so far," replied Bicester radio and television dealer Mr Harry Wadley, of Market Square.

Mr Wadley is, of course, one of the leading amateur radio enthusiasts in the county, and has been working among the wavelengths for about 40 years.

Soon after Sputnik, Russia's new satellite, rocketed into space on October 4th, Mr Wadley set up his equipment in an attempt to hear the familiar "bleep, bleep".

"But with only part success." He told me on Wednesday, "I know where to find the satellite, but haven't heard it yet."

He said a friend of his, also an amateur radio expert, had been successful with more powerful equipment.

Roll of Honour

The following are the local men who died in the Great War, 100 years ago this month.

Rifleman Albert Blencowe, of Bicester.

Died: 1st October 1918 Aged: 41 Served in: Royal Irish Rifles

Private George Thomas Searle, of Ardley, native of Bletchingdon.

Died: 1st October 1918 Aged: 40 Served in: Ox & Bucks Light Infantry

Sapper Cyril Henry Swell, of Bicester.

Died: 2nd October 1918 Aged: 20 Served in: Royal Engineers

Lieutenant William Henry Grimsley, of Bicester.

Died: 6th October 1918 Aged: 27 Served in: Yorkshire Regiment

Private William Thomas King, of Kirtlington.

Died: 6th October 1918 Aged: 33 Served in: Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry

Private William Thomas Penn, native of Islip.

Died: 7th October 1918 Aged: 30 Served in: Wiltshire Regiment

2nd Lieutenant Herbert Joseph Lamb, of Canada. Buried in Bicester.

Died: 9th October 1918 Aged: 24 Served in: RAF

Captain Kenneth Sutherland Rudd, of Souldern.

Died: 10th October 1918 Aged: 24 Served in: West Yorkshire Regiment

Private Cyril Wiggins, of Oddington.

Died: 10th October 1918 Aged: 18 Served in: Scottish Horse

Private Arthur William Lambourne, of Kirtlington.

Died: 22nd October 1918 Aged: 21 Served in: Border Regiment

Rifleman Joseph Spyer, of Bicester.

Died: 23rd October 1918 Aged: 21 Served in: King's Royal Rifle Corps

Private Frederick Henry Tyrrell, native of Kirtlington.

Died: 23rd October 1918 Aged: 35 Served in: Royal Berkshire Regiment

Lance Corporal William Ernest Richardson, of Bicester.

Died: 24th October 1918 Aged: 19 Served in: Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Private George William Dix Dearlove, of Bletchingdon.

Died: 25th October 1918 Aged: 24 Served in: Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Lance Corporal Joseph William Hicks, of Horton-cum-Studley.

Died: 25th October 1918 Aged: 29 Served in: Ox & Bucks Light Infantry

Private Jesse Scragg, of Upper Heyford.

Died: 25th October 1918 Aged: 36 Served in: Ox & Bucks Light Infantry

Gunner Ernest Peverell, of Cottisford.

Died: 27th October 1918 Aged: 22 Served in: Royal Field Artillery

Private Henry Shaw, of Blackthorn.

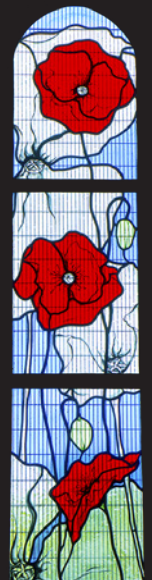
Died: 27th October 1918 Aged: 50 Served in: Army Service Corps

Private William Elliott, of Fewcott.

Died: 28th October 1918 Aged: 32 Served in: Labour Corps

Lieutenant Francis John Smith, of Bicester.

Died: 30th October 1918 Aged: 34 Served in: London Regiment



2018 Annual General Meeting

This year's Annual General Meeting was held on Monday 17th September. The proceedings ran in their usual ad-hoc style and began with the chairman's report.

Bob talked about the various activities and achievements of the society over the past year, including the village walks, outing to Chiltern Open Air Museum, relocation of the archive, and the World War One memorial bench. He finished by thanking various members for their contributions and then handed over to Sally James for her treasurer's report.

Sally explained that the society's funds were looking extremely healthy and proposed that the membership

fees should be kept at their current level of £12 for single and £18 for joint membership, which the members voted in favour of. She also explained that the subsidy for the summer walks was higher than usual, but, as this was a benefit of membership, it wasn't an issue.

Following the treasurer's report the committee members were all voted back on to the committee, and then we broke for tea before Bob took the floor again to give a short talk. Instead of the advertised speaker's talk about the Extraordinary Women of Bicester, Bob talked about the four women that the society had chosen to do their display about at the recent exhibition.

- Matthew Hathaway

Aynho Village Walk



We ended this year's programme of summer walks with a stroll around Aynho on the 23rd of September.

The walk, led by Bob Hessian, was extremely interesting and included a lot of information about the Cartwright family and their estate at Aynho Park, as well as covering many aspects of village life over the years. We ended with a visit to the curiously designed parish church, before retiring to the Cartwright Hotel for tea.

Despite the threat of rain, this year's record of dry and sunny weather for our walks remained unbroken. Everyone had an enjoyable afternoon and we look forward to doing another selection of village and countryside walks next year.

If you have any suggestions for villages you think we should visit then please let one of the committee members know.

- Matthew Hathaway



St Edburg's Foundation AGM

The St Edburg's Foundation are holding their AGM on Monday 29th October at 7pm, in St Edburg's Church.

The guest speaker will be Reverend Alice Goodall, Rector of the Shelswell Benefice. She will be talking about the Shelswell History Festival that ran for three

days in July last year and is planned again for next year.

Both Foundation members and non-members are invited. Those of you wishing to join will be interested to know that membership costs £10 for single and £15 for joint members.

Library Display

The contents of our display space in the library has been changed once again. There are a few First World War items in the flat case, but the main cabinet has been taken over by Pat Tucker and the Launton Historical Society for an excellent display about Launton's roll of honour and the forgotten men who survived the Great War. We strongly urge you all to go and take a look the next time you are in town. And if you have any information that can help their appeal then please contact Pat on: (Bic) 253281.

- Matthew Hathaway

Talks Update

Over the next few months we have a varied itinerary of talks that we hope will prove very interesting.

Monday 15th October

Mark Davies tells us about **“The Bicester Gang” and Other Stories of Oxford Castle.**

Monday 19th November

Stephen Barker comes to talk us through **Oxfordshire in 50 Objects.**

Monday 17th December

This meeting will be our **Christmas Social.**

Marj's Memories National Service at the Arcott Depot

In the fifties, the Depot was a BOD (Base Ordnance Depot); the stores then were small arms and armaments. National Service had been formulated in 1948 and, subject to passing a medical examination, young men of 17 to 21 years old were conscripted to serve 18 months in the Army, Navy or Air Force. In 1950, when the Korean War began, this was increased to 2 years. National Service ended in May 1963 but conscripts were usually on reserve for 4 years after demob.

At that time there were four Battalions of RAOC (Royal Army Ordnance Corps); REME (Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers) in 39 Base Workshops; The Pioneer Corps, Royal Army Service Corps et al.

BOD Bicester served many places in the world where there were conflicts. There was a large Gun Park, visible from the A41 always stocked with guns.

The big 40mm Guns, returned from Korea, were repaired and tested in the REME workshops. The report could be heard from Highfield, miles away.

REME also had a Jeep Assembly Team that performed in The Royal Tournament, taking a jeep apart and putting it back together in record time.

Arcott Depot was an interesting place to work and there was always a lighter side and fun going on with all these 18 to 20 year olds – soldiers and civilians. It was a time of music and dancing. Dances were held in the big Graven Hill Theatre each month with live bands. There

was always an officer on duty that would be watching and keeping things in order. Many romances took place and local girls met their future husbands.

Soldiers took part in many sporting activities such as football, boxing and rifle shooting. Over the years many professionals did their National Service in Arcott.

I remember, as a small child, watching Sidney Wooderson MBE running on the Bicester Sports Ground. He was a Champion then and stationed in Bicester.

- Marjorie Dean MBE



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