



NEWSLETTER

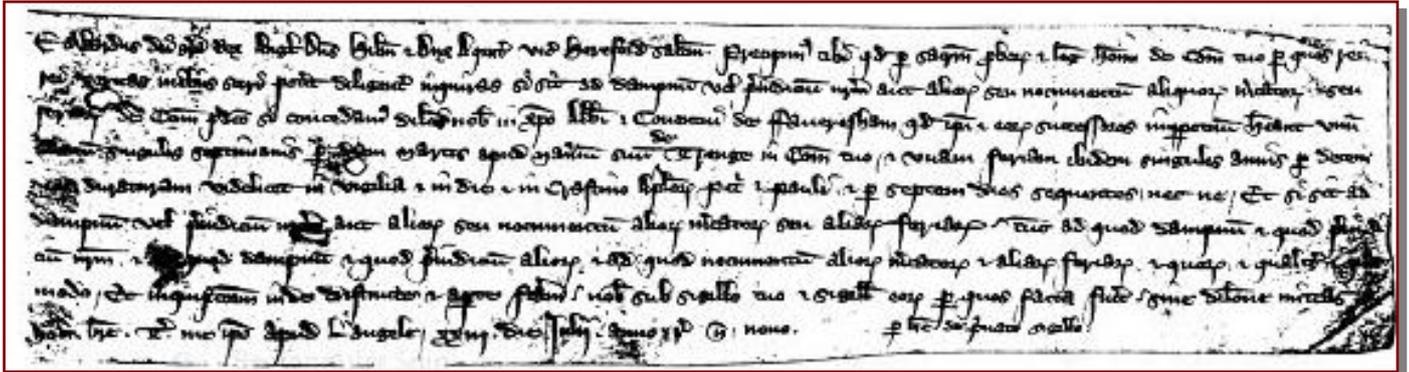
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SUMMER 2015

www.dacorumheritage.org.uk

TRING MARKET CHARTER 1315 - 2015

In June and July Tring will celebrate the 700th anniversary of the grant of the market charter in 1315. The celebration will involve numerous events to correspond with the ten days stipulated in the charter, beginning on Monday 29th June.



The Church and the Lord of the Manor controlled every aspect of people's lives. By the 14th century Tring was an established market town, and a predominately agricultural based economy, with an increasing demand for goods and services and with the rising prosperity the Abbot wanted to encourage local trade. Peasants reaping corn is pictured on one of the famous 'Tring Tiles', which date from about 1350; copies can be seen in Tring Local History Museum.

The Manor of Tring was gifted to Faversham Abbey in Kent (which was founded by King Stephen in 1147), by Queen Matilda. In 1315 the Abbot petitioned Edward II to grant a market charter, to enable the monks to take advantage of the increasing prosperity of Tring.



The charter granted the right to hold a weekly Tuesday market and an annual 10 day hiring and trading fair. The charter gave the market and fair legal protection for the traders and from attempts by nearby market towns to close them down. It also gave the charter holder the right to prevent the creation of rival markets within a day's travel from the town.

The charter confirmed Tring's status as a prosperous market town, free from the control of the Lord of the Manor. The weekly charter market is still held, but now on a Friday.

The 700th anniversary grant of the charter is a reminder of the central rôle of the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul and its patronal festival in the life of Tring in 1315 and throughout the

following centuries. Although so much has changed over the years, the Church continues to serve the town on a daily basis and this will be recognised on 29th June.

Martin Wells
Programme Secretary, Tring & District Local History & Museum Society

Photos: Top – Facsimile of the Charter dated 1315. Above – Engraving entitled 'Old Market House of Tring' by F. G. Kitton dated Sept 1899, from Tring & District Local History & Museum Society collection, cared for by Dacorum Heritage Trust.

THE DACORUM HERITAGE TRUST LTD.

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VE DAY - 70 YEARS ON

On 7th May 1945, Germany surrendered and the War in Europe was over. Two days of national holiday were announced and the following day was declared 'Victory in Europe Day'. The initial celebrations were spontaneous as people danced in the streets.



Although the official end of the blackout was not until 15th July, bonfires were lit and one at Wigginton could be seen for several miles. A captured Nazi flag was laid across the road in Berkhamsted for people to drive and walk over and another one was set alight in Nash Mills, Hemel Hempstead.

Thanksgiving services were held and church bells were rung. The bells of the parish church at Kings Langley were rung by four of the bell ringers who had performed the same duty at the end of the First World War.

The bells of the St. Mary's Church, Hemel Hempstead, rang from 2 to 5 pm. on the second day of the national holidays.

On 6th August, the United States of America dropped the first nuclear bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. The Japanese surrendered three days later, when a second bomb destroyed Nagasaki. 'Victory over Japan' or 'VJ Day' was celebrated on 16th August, but the mood was rather quieter. A number of organised events were held in September and October to celebrate both VE and VJ Days.

A year later, in May 1946, the Government announced that it was to spend £380 million on creating 20 New Towns, which would house one million people. One of these towns was Hemel Hempstead.

Photos: VE Day party in Puller Road, Hemel Hempstead. Image from DHT's own collection.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW MUSEUM SUPPORT OFFICER

My name is Sophie Dimond and I have recently joined the team at The Dacorum Heritage Trust as the part-time Museum Support Officer.

I have a Masters and a BA (Hons.) in Conservation and Restoration of Historical Objects, both from the University of Lincoln. This included carrying out practical treatments to preserve and repair objects as well as gaining a well rounded understanding of Museum Studies related topics such as collections care, pest management topics and also ethics. Whilst there, I worked to conserve a variety of items including a Royal Worcester ginger jar, a veneered wooden mirror frame from Belvoir Castle and an oil painting of a Fisherman.

During my studies and since graduation, I have worked and volunteered with several heritage institutions to gain useful practical experience and knowledge. This has included working here at The Dacorum Heritage Trust, the Wedgwood Museum in Barlaston to catalogue their collection, at National Trust property Belton House where I assisted with the winter cleaning and also in the conservation department at Verulamium Museum, where a particular highlight was vacuum-cleaning a taxidermy owl before the owner came to view it!

I am really looking forward to learning more about the intricacies of the collections and also getting to know everyone involved in caring for them, in the near future. I am also excited to be involved in projects that will get our objects seen by the public, such as the display I am currently putting together for the Hemel Hempstead Civic Centre and also to have the opportunity to put my knowledge of conservation and restoration practises to use if needed.

Thank you all for the warm welcome!



DACORUM DRAGONS' APPRENTICE CHALLENGE

DHT had the pleasure of working with a group of Year 12 students from John F. Kennedy School in Hemel Hempstead. The team who called themselves "Profit Makes Winners" (PMW), and was one of three from JFK who raised a magnificent £677 for DHT. The funds raised are designated to go towards Museum and Art Gallery project at The Bury. The fundraising was part of the scheme called the Dacorum Dragons' Apprentice run by Connect Dacorum. <http://www.connectdacorum.org.uk/dragons-apprentice>



The challenge recruits teams of school students (the Apprentices), assigns them a business mentor (a Dragon) and then pairs them with a local charity. The dragon and charity provide advice and support to their team to help achieve their business goal and fundraising target as well as the initial £100.

Our dragon was Gary Livesey of Martin Browers the international logistics company based in Boundary Way, Hemel Hempstead. The students were very keen and committed and all had set responsibilities. They had to produce a business plan and, financial summaries and a final summary report.

'PMW' ran various fundraising initiatives throughout the Autumn term including a FIFA 2014 tournament, selling sweets, refreshments and other merchandise at several Christmas Fairs, local lighting-up ceremonies, church events and school bazaars.

It has been a privilege to work with such an enthusiastic group of young men who were definitely 'in it to win it'. We were also very lucky to have a large and very focused international group with Martin Brower as the dragon. Not only are they keen to help develop young people in the world of business and support the local community they have been extremely supportive and arranged site visits for us and also hosted meetings. However, perhaps the biggest help was providing the team with circa 1,500 free drinks to sell at the various events which went very well.

This was the first time DHT had been part of the Dragons' Apprentice Challenge we were fortunate enough to be paired with a great team. We are hopeful we can participate again later this year and wish the members of our team well in their studies and future careers. They were certainly a credit to themselves, their parents and their school.

Thank you PMW from all at DHT!

Mark Stephens, DHT Volunteer

WWI – VERSES FROM THE FRONT

The following verses were published in the Gazette on 20th March 1915, and was composed while the writer – S. W. Bass, of the 1st Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry – was in the trenches near Messines.

The author is a Hemel Hempstead man, being the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Bass, of Mill-street, Apsley End. After serving in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry he entered the reserves, and went out to Canada, where he joined the Police. He was recalled to the colours when war broke out, and went to the front. He is now, we believe, at home.

A foot of mud twelve inches deep,
A little hole through which you peep,
A short Lee-Enfield which you keep
To pile the Huns up in a heap.
If from the trenches they should creep
And charge us like a flock of sheep,
You'd see us from our dug-outs leap –
"Did you think we were all asleep?
Don't weep!"

And when they pitch their shot and shell
We signal back that all is well –
Until they hit your Sunday pal,
Then there's a different tale to tell.
Their Hunnish noise we have to quell;
We up and at 'em with a yell.
They've been the limit – rung the bell,
And now we're going to give them hell –
Death knell!



And when we rush at Mr. Hun
He doesn't stop to see the fun –
Politely drops his Mauser gun
And back to Berlin starts to run,
To tell the Kaiser that he won
And killed the English by the ton.
He gets Iron Crosses and "Well done!"
Then 'Willie' swears he has begun
To get his place right "in the sun" –
Give him the bun!

JOAN HANDS 1940 - 2015

Joan Hands was born on 9th April 1940 and passed away on 17th March 2015 a few days short of her 75th birthday. She had been suffering with serious health problems since July 2014.

A Service of Thanksgiving for her life took place at the Chilterns Crematorium on 26th March 2015, conducted by The Reverend Michael Macey, Vicar of Boxmoor.

Joan was one of the wide group of people, sharing a deep interest in the local heritage, who vigorously accepted the invitation by Dacorum Borough Council in 1979 to explore whether there was sufficient interest in forming a Dacorum Museum. Joan became an early chair of the Friends of Dacorum Museum, which continues to play an important part in furthering this campaign within the local community.

Joan was a teacher for 42 years at several local schools and, together with several other local teachers ensured that this local heritage campaign included pupils from all local communities who played a part in embracing all generations in the local research. Joan's formal training in drama proved important to the formation of 'Museum Piece' with several friends which brought a new slant on the local heritage through imaginative scripts, poetry and song.

Recently, Joan played an important part in developing the Gazette Heritage Page with welcome support by members of the local museum societies. We are currently exploring appointing a replacement to undertake this important role.

We will all remember Joan as a wife, mother, grandmother and friend, who shared her passions for teaching, photography, local and family history in so many ways. Everyone at DHT deeply regrets the passing of one of its most talented, enthusiastic, long serving and loyal friends.



CURATOR'S CORNER

Tring 700. The ten days of celebrations of the granting of the Market Charter will include:

- Sat 27th June – Medieval themed Tring Carnival and High Street parade.
- **Mon 29th June – 'Charter Day'** Town Crier and Mayor will visit all schools, a street parade from Council Office to Church and Party Time at 7.30 pm. St. Peter & St. Paul's.
- Tue 30th June – Tring Schools Massed Walk.
- Wed 1st July – talk at Victoria Hall 'Aylesbury, Berkhamsted & Tring; three Medieval Market Towns'.
- Thu 2nd July – Tring Lions '700 Quiz'.
- Fri 3rd July – Tring Library Medieval & Heritage Open Day, 9 am. – 6 pm.



**A TOWN IN TOUCH
WITH ITS HERITAGE**

For more information about the celebrations and how you can get involved go to the website www.tring700.org



Our Front Door. A huge and well deserved 'thank you' to John Lee, one of our multi-talented regular volunteers at The Museum Store. We are delighted with our renovated front door.

Talking New Towns – Open Art Competition. Check out the oral history project website, for details of our latest HLF funded project. Artwork inspired by the New Town oral histories will be open to children and adults; the closing date is Monday 16th August and entry is **free**. Follow the link below to see how to enter.

<http://tinyurl.com/ouqetq9>

The Museum Store is open by appointment **only**. For enquiries email Nina our Collections Manager.

Contact the editor to join our newsletter emailing list; inline with the Data Protection Act your details will remain confidential.



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