



NEWSLETTER

No. 92

AUTUMN 2018

www.dacorumheritage.org.uk

'COMMEMORATING PEACETIME IN DACORUM'

Our pop-up exhibition will take place in the former Goldsmiths shop in the Marlowes Shopping Centre (opposite Evans and Sports Direct) from 20th – 31st October and then at Berkhamsted Civic Centre on the 9th and 10th November.

We wanted to highlight how the role of women underwent a huge change during the Great War. With men on active service, women were called into nursing, factories, farming and many jobs that they would previously been excluded from; this signalled a vast change in how women were valued and ultimately led to all women getting the vote.



Hemel Hempstead 20th - 31st Oct

Berkhamsted 9th + 10th Nov

Over the summer we have been obsessed with origami dove folding. You may have folded a dove or two for us, or are just curious – then come and visit our pop-up exhibition in Marlowes Shopping Centre. See our unique art installation, which consists of well over a thousand white paper doves, signifying 'peace' and each dove commemorates the sacrifice of a fallen Dacorum soldier, sailor or airman who was listed on a war memorial within the Borough.

We wanted as many people to participate in creating our exhibition to mark the armistices, as possible. It has been lovely to meet so many folk with their own Great War family stories of sadness and bravery, there can't be many families who were not touched by the ultimate sacrifice in the 'war to end all wars'.

In going out to many events, including Armed Forces Day and Chipperfield Village fete, local libraries and schools we visited many community groups including Brownies, Girl Guides and a number of U3A groups. We hope that perhaps we have made a greater effort to remember those that did not come back, reading all the names and sharing a little insight into their short lives with the numerous people who folded doves, we really feel we have remembered them.

Even if you have no family connections locally please come along as an act of remembrance to honour those who fell, and a celebration that peace had finally come.

Image: – Part of our flier featuring a colourised image of Christopher Cox and family of Kings Langley, just after he received his Victoria Cross for gallantry in July 1917, which he proudly wears.

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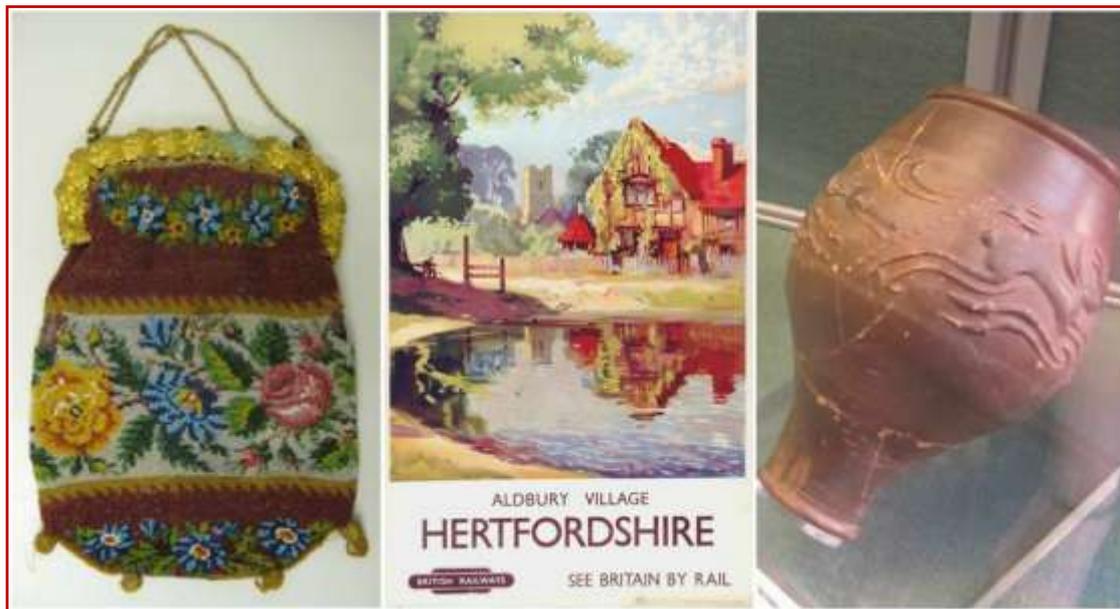
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DHT IN 25 OBJECTS

Early in September, Dacorum Heritage Trust celebrated its 25th anniversary. As part of our reflection on the past years we asked staff and our volunteers who regularly work in the store, to identify their favourite items in the collections. We have chosen the most popular 25 artefacts from those nominated. Some you will recognise and others have not been

on display before. Here are just a few, you can view the remaining on our website.



Images: Left: Victorian glass beaded bag, with hinged guilt frame, lined with multi coloured silk, four round tassels on the bottom c. 1860 (Kings Langley Local Hist. & Museum Society collection).

Middle: Poster 'British Railways' advertisement Aldbury Village, by artist Jack Merriott, published 1949 (DHT collection).

Right: 'Hunt Cup', Nene Valley ware, with running stylised hare

design, Cow Roast excavation c. 1972. (Berkhamsted & Dist. Archaeological Society collection). All collections cared for by DHT.

WWI - 100 YEARS ON – AS REPORTED IN THE GAZETTE

Pace at Last! Many rumours had circulated just prior to the conclusion of the war that peace was imminent, but it was as though the entire country held its breath hardly daring to hope. The following accounts appeared in the Gazette, transporting the reader back to that time of celebration and reflection – a historic snapshot in time.

COUNTY COUNCIL'S JOY. The Rt. Hon. T. F. Halsey had the pleasure of announcing the glad tidings to members of the Herts County Council. With loud applause, and speaking with great emotion he announced that a telephone message had just come from the War Office, stating that the armistice was signed at five o'clock that morning and that hostilities ceased at 11 am.

HOW THE NEWS WAS RECEIVED – LOCAL CELEBRATIONS. Great and glorious news on Monday of the surrender of Germany, the signing of the armistice and the cessation of hostilities was received throughout the world with indescribable joy. At last the great world-war started by the ex-Kaiser in 1914 has come to an end, and the nations of the earth breathe freely once more.

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD REJOICING – GREAT SCENES. A few people in Hemel Hempstead were aware of the splendid news soon after 10 am., but it did not become generally known till around 11 o'clock. A great shout of relief and joy went up, mingled with the tears of those overcome with emotion at the remembrance of gallant lives sacrificed.

At Apsley Mills, Kent's Brush factory and all the big works, scenes of the greatest enthusiasm were witnessed. Further work was out of the question, workers streamed forth into the streets, giving full vent to their pent-up feelings. Apsley Church bells were the first to send forth the glad tidings, and Dickinson's Silver Band marched up the street playing patriotic airs. Flags of the Allies flew from all flag staffs and windows, and were waved enthusiastically. Motors, carts, prams, dogs and horses were decorated with emblems,



and everyone sported red, white and blue favours – traders dealing in ribbon and flags must have done a roaring trade. A general holiday was declared, indeed no one could settle down to work on such a tremendous and historic occasion.

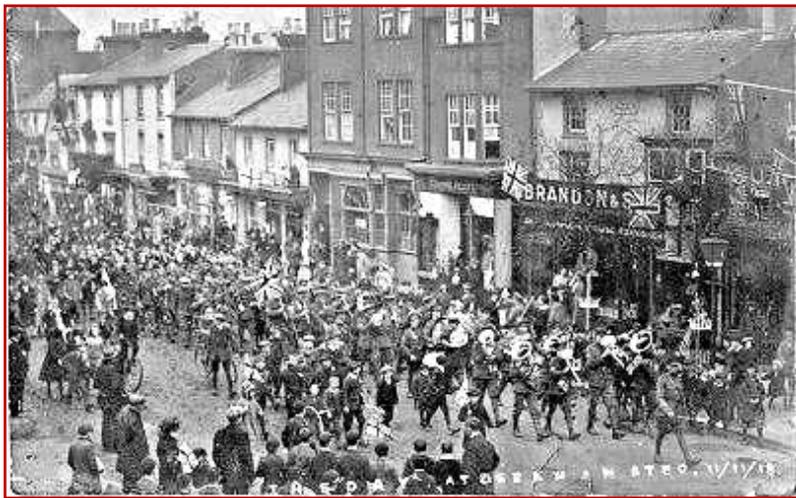
In the afternoon Dickinson's Band marched up to the Market-square, playing well-known tunes to the delight of an enormous crowd, whose feelings could not be damped by the drizzling rain. The whole town presented an appearance of festivity, not known for many years, but with it all there was no "Mafficking", horse-play or disgraceful scenes, but rather a feeling of restrained joy and thankfulness, as though the populace had awakened from some terrible dream.

A great Thanksgiving service was held that evening in St. Mary's Church. People gathered in great multitude, Mayor and Corporation, soldiers and civilians, all classes of the community to offer praise and prayers of gratitude to Almighty God for deliverance from the horrors that have oppressed the world for over four years. It was a deeply impressive service, conducted by the Rev. L. H. Boswall. Joy and relief were tinged with a deep sorrow for the many aching hearts, but solace was to be found in the prayers, hymns and the comforting words of the preacher.

In the Rev. L. H. Boswall's address, he said, a three-fold note running through the service – relief, rejoicing and resolve. Relief! The long nightmare had ended at last, the burden of care and anxiety that had been breaking our hearts and crushing us down had been lifted. Side by side with our relief came rejoicing, but no shouting, boasting, but dignified by the thought of those who went out and returned not. Of course there is joy; the happy prospect of the men coming home again, of re-knitting of ties, of love and friendship, the hope of our prisoners coming home to their kith and kin. As our bells ring forth their joyous message they bring also a throb of grief and pain. Resolve, old assumptions seemed to be disappearing, battered and broken by the storm; old-established institutions were toppling. Change is inevitable; things can never be the same. After the address, "O God Our Help in Ages Past" was rendered in a manner which showed how much the preacher's three-fold lesson of "relief, rejoicing and resolve", had touched the hearts. Finally a verse of the National Anthem, sung with patriotic fervour. The congregation streamed out; the organ burst forth the noble strains of "Land of Hope and Glory". A few minutes later the church bells sent out their joyous clamour, as if they too rejoiced at the relief from long restraint. So ended a memorable and historic service.

After the service a large crowd gathered on Market-square. After an address by the Mayor, Cllr. Talbot a huge bonfire arranged by Fire Brigade, was lighted on the Square. It was a beautiful night, dark, but still, and the rain had ceased. The flames were fed with all sorts of rubbish, and when they had reached their height a grotesque effigy of the ex-Kaiser was brought forward and cast into the midst, to the delight of the crowd, particularly the juvenile element.

ST. JOHN'S BOXMOOR. As soon as it was known that the armistice was signed the church bell was rung, people from the neighbourhood and those passing came into the church. A short service of thanksgiving was then conducted by the vicar (the Rev. G. A. C. Smith). That evening there was a special service of thanksgiving, consisting of hymns, a short lesson, and a short Litany of Thanksgiving. The Vicar officiated, assisted by the Rev. C. E. Thomas. There was a very good congregation, the service was most devoutly and heartily entered into by the people; concluding with the National Anthem.



BERKHAMSTED'S JUBILATION – INNS OF COURT CELEBRATIONS. Berkhamsted and Northchurch have been celebrating the surrender of Germany this week. On Monday morning anticipation prevailed everywhere, and a rumour got about quite early that the armistice had been signed at 5 am. At 11.30 am. the Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps (I.O.C.O.T.C.) had received the glad news. It was announced to the battalion on parade in Kitchener's Field and immediately there was an outburst of joy. Rifles were fired, the Waterworks hooter bellowed forth its unearthly noise, East's whistle joined in and there was cheering and happy countenances in every part of the town. It was the signal to "down tools". Workmen left their jobs, the factories and workshops closed down, a good many shops and the schools closed and for the rest of the day everybody gave way to expressions of

thankfulness and gratitude to Britain's fighting men. Immediately flags were flying from every house and building, they were run across the street from house to house and the town was gay – the first time in four years. The Inns of Court (I.O.C.) Regimental Band marched up and down the streets playing patriotic airs, the scholars flung their caps aloft, they ran and shouted, carried some of their masters shoulder high. Hilarious joy was the order of the afternoon. The Commanding Officer (Lieut.-Col. H. L. Stevens) was carried up into the High-street and from a window of the Crown Hotel he addressed the dense crowd. The drizzling rain did not mar the happiness of the I.O.C., taking the opportunity to get fun and merriment out of everything and everybody that came their way. There was singing and shouting: "War is over, Peace has come; Don your mufti, pack up your gun".

At night street lamps shone forth a bright light, blinds were not drawn and paper shades in the shops were torn down. It was indeed a new Berkhamsted – the start of a new era – the demonstrations were carried on far into the night.

St. Peter's Church, Berkhamsted, and St. Mary's Church, Northchurch, at night were crowded with worshippers returning thanks for victory and peace. The services were taken by the rectors, and of all the impressive events within those sacred walls none had ever seemed to equal that of Monday night. Services were arranged at short notice but the congregations came; they filled every available seat at St. Peter's; including the gallery, the people that still came were provided with seats

in the aisles. There was silent prayer, and then with what full meaning those hundreds join in the singing of the stately hymn, "Now Thank We All Our God". It was outburst of thankfulness and praise that will long be remembered by all.

Out-door jublations were continued again on Tuesday. Hundreds of the members of the I.O.C. and civilians marched to Kitchener's Field, at 5.30, there was a firework display and bonfire. Later the I.O.C. Band led a procession which visited nearly every part of the town, and the proceedings were kept up until a late hour.

Wednesday night soldiers, W.A.A.C. (Women's Auxiliary Army Corps.) and civilians paraded the High-street, and a big crowd wended its way to Kitchener's Field. Arriving there they pulled down the field works which were constructed long ago for instruction in the I.O.C.O.T.C., then the whole lot of sacks used for bayonet exercise and the timber were heaped together and set on fire, making a big blaze.

KINGS LANGLEY REJOICINGS. Kings Langley was not behind other villages in its demonstrations of joy at the declaration of the cessation of hostilities. Early Monday evening the church bells rung a hearty peal, the Boy Scouts band, paraded the district, playing popular airs. Flags were hung out and the spirit of rejoicing was everywhere manifest. Aeroplanes flew over the district on Tuesday with flags suspended, to the great delight of the young people.

Transcription from the Gazette dated 16th November 1918. To read the unedited version on our website here.

Images: First – Victory street party in Bury Road, November 1918 (Hemel Hempstead Local History & Museum Society collection). **Second** – Post card showing the Inns of Court Band on Armistice Day 1918, High Street, Berkhamsted (Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society collection). All collections cared for by DHT.

CURATOR'S CORNER

'Commemorating Peacetime in Dacorum' Exhibition. We would love to see you all at our exhibitions in Hemel Hempstead and then in Berkhamsted. As well as our dove art installation, there will also be a wall of artwork, mostly created at workshops run by Berkhamsted Arts & Crafts, all canvasses were inspired by our WWI handling sessions and the anniversary of the armistice. Bring your family along and take part in our free children's activities and see what we've been up to this year.

Livestreaming on Social Media. Love it or hate it, the web is now the primary way visitors first interact with museums. It is no surprise, therefore, that museums are now directing more resources into their online presence. For a small museum DHT has a strong online presence and our website, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts are regularly updated and have a healthy following.

With a view to augmenting our emergent social media strategy, Nina and Zara recently attended a Social Media Workshop in Hemel Hempstead where, amongst other aspects, they explored the best ways to further expand and target an audience.

Putting newfound knowledge into practice our curatorial team have started Livestreaming on Facebook, broadcasting live to an audience who can interact with the video in real time. This tactic has already proven efficacious; the first video was watched by c. 600 people.

For a museum such as ours with limited accessibility social media provides a way of breaking free from traditional confines to engage with the community - a form of interactive education, spreading awareness and sharing collections making DHT social on social media!



We're going live on Facebook on the first Wednesday each month. We will be showing objects from the collections, and also answering your questions. Ask the curatorial team and we will include answers to your enquiries in our next live feed session. Find us and follow us online.

Legacy Giving. Help us safeguard our collections for future generations by remembering Dacorum Heritage Trust in your will. For more information visit our website <http://www.dacorumheritage.org.uk/support-us/legacies/> Please remember to include a bequest to The Dacorum Heritage Trust Ltd. when you make or revise your will.

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

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