



NEWSLETTER

No. 68

AUTUMN 2012

www.dacorumheritage.org.uk

FAREWELL TO ISOBEL



A holiday themed family activity held in Hemel Hempstead library.



Evacuation Experience workshop with children from Grove Road Junior School, Tring.

Our Curator, Isobel Aptaker left Dacorum Heritage Trust at the end of August to take up the position of Education Officer with Alexandra Palace Museum. This is a very exciting opportunity for Isobel, as she will be developing the new role and setting up an education service, which will centre on the history of radio and television. Having been part of the DHT family for nearly four years, staff, directors and volunteers will miss her enthusiasm and creative flare.

During Isobel's time at the Trust, many new education initiatives have been developed, along with outreach programmes, including ones that targeted traditionally hard to reach groups. Working with the County Museum Development Officer and Herts Library Service, some of our projects have been used by other museum and heritage services within the eastern region. Dacorum Heritage Trust has become renown for the cutting edge outreach and education developments.

Isobel always thought that not having a traditional museum with display areas meant we had to take heritage out into the community and think outside the box and find more creative ways to display our artefacts and tell the fascinating stories that are unique to Dacorum.



Isobel and one of our volunteers, Brian Rayner cleaning artwork.



Isobel writing condition reports on artefacts in preparation for an exhibition.

Everyone at Dacorum Heritage Trust wishes Isobel every success for the future career.

THE DACORUM HERITAGE TRUST LIMITED

Registered Office: **The Museum Store, Clarence Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire HP4 3YL.**

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KINGS LANGLEY CRICKET CLUB'S 1930 CENTENARY

The following club review appeared in a booklet, produced over 80 years ago, to commemorate the Kings Langley Cricket Club's centenary. There must have been first-rate village cricket to watch during the long, lazy Edwardian summers. I wonder if any readers have further accounts of cricketing history in this area handed down to them.



John A Betts



W East



B W Atkins

Few village clubs can claim such a record, nor can they claim association with so many great cricketers of other days. Whilst it is well known that such great players as G J Bonner (Australia), W J Lockwood (England), Rev H J E Burrell (Essex), S H Day (Kent), A P Lucas (Surrey and Essex) and many others one could mention, have often played in the Village XI, chief credit for the flourishing state of cricket in Kings Langley today is due to those who have lived in the Village during the last 50 years.

From 1880 till 1914 it is doubtful whether any village in the country could boast of a stronger XI than Kings Langley and those who remember the battles

between the Village Club and West Herts, Bushey and St. Albans when Harry White, Jack Golding and George Wilders were professionals with the County, will swell with pride when they think of the victories won by the Villagers both on the Common and away. One match stands out in my memory about 1900 when Harry White was in his prime as a bowler the Village played West Herts at Watford and John A Betts and Arthur Lane put up 120 runs for the first wicket and such performances were by no means isolated achievements.

With the coming of the Rev E P Anderson cricket on the Common reached a very high standard and the Cricket Weeks assumed the spectacle of the miniature County Festival. It was on these occasions that many of England's great players were included in the teams Captained by the late Rev "Pat", thereby whetting the appetite of the younger generation of that period.

It is doubtful whether the team, which represented the Village about 1911, was not the strongest which ever played for the Club. With such players as J A Betts, W. East, O J Butler, F H Butler, A E Bliss, B W Atkins and A W Atkins to mention only a few, the team was strong in every department. A E Bliss, now playing in Australia, was perhaps the best slow bowler the Club ever possessed. It was about this time that Gloucestershire tried very hard to persuade Bliss to join them as a professional. For business reasons Bliss turned the idea down and eventually went to Australia thus leaving the field clear for Charlie Parker, who was then on trial for Gloucestershire. W East and J A Betts (skipper for many years) were great wicket keepers and fine batsmen, they both played often for the County. With the coming of the war, cricket in the village almost died out, but thanks to M A Young we can claim that the club never really became defunct.



James Huckle

At 83 years old he still took a great interest in the club, and never missed a home match.



M A Young

Club Secretary 1897-1927; he still played and personally raised over £50 for the new pavilion.

The 1919 Season saw a few of the pre-war stalwarts making a big effort to win back some of the Club's past glories and during



the next few seasons much was done to revive the spark which has now become a real flame in West Hertfordshire cricket. In the last few years enthusiasm was never at a higher pitch and prospects never brighter. With stronger clubs being entertained and the ground having been brought up to a very high state of perfection it was felt that better accommodation must be provided and to that end a strong committee was formed with a view to building a new pavilion.

Since last summer the sum of £350 has been raised, and thanks to Mrs Blackwell, The Lady of the Manor, who gave us every assistance, we have now a beautiful building, its members need no longer feel ashamed to invite players

from any club to play on this glorious ground. We should like to take this opportunity of thanking all the villagers and those outside who have supported us in our efforts to achieve this object. It now only remains for players and supporters to continue these efforts to keep the Club on the crest of the wave.

Anon

TYPICAL FAMILIES 1951 - 2011

What constitutes the composition of the typical family? Modern society may have expanded the definition of family as a support system that now includes single parents, individuals opting to live together and homosexual couples, but according to the BBC in 2007, 71% of “generic” families were still headed by a married couple.



However, the proportion of cohabiting couple families had increased to 14%. The spending habits of the average family are focused mainly on transport, recreation and leisure. As a society driven by increasingly liberal views towards the structure of our families, the “typical” family becomes yet more obscured. So, how does the family of today compare to that of the past? Sixty years ago, as can be expected, family structure was somewhat different.

In a collection of the West Herts and Watford Observer dating from January 1951 to December 1951, an article titled ‘Typical Families’ gives us insight and allows us to reflect upon the typical family of six decades ago.

Meet Chief Inspector Frederick Newcomb, along with Mrs Newcomb, their twelve year-old son Raymond and the family pet. In November 1951, they won a contest for the ‘Typical British Family.’ The family from Hemel Hempstead won a prize of £1,000 after Mr Newcomb shared his belief that one attribute of being a typical British family “must be that of being a happy family.” It is suggested that mutual happiness within family life was not just conceived in the home, but influenced by outside elements such as the town and community, local amenities and work and recreational time.

Therefore ‘the post-war crescendo of marital mishaps which have kept commissioners working longer hours in the divorce courts is still not to be regarded as a typical and inevitable outcome of wedlock, as bachelor cynics would have had people believe. An increased divorce rate might perhaps be more comparable to today, despite being more socially unacceptable then.

Receiving their prize in Brighton, Mr Newcomb commented, “The British take things as they come and that is what we try to do.” When asked how the prize money would be spent, the Newcomb’s revealed that it would be used for Raymond’s education, a spending habit that is much less common now.

The social acceptance of varying family configuration that we now see is rather unlike the more conservative ideals of the 1950s. Yet the ‘typical family’ of Britain continues to change based on lifestyle choices and the influences of our environment.

Laura Lewis

CURATOR’S CORNER



QR Code. This little square is a more advanced kind of bar code which carries more data, you scan it with your smart phone and it will take you to a website page that has been embedded into the pattern.

You can use this QR Code to link to our Facebook page. We will eventually be linking with our new website, when it is up and running. It will, from now on be including this in future publications, displays and communications. Visit our Facebook site and ‘Like’ us.

Wartime Love Letters. We have recently had a large suitcase and two boxes full of wartime love letters donated to us. It will take us a while to go through them all and find out what story they tell. We have recruited two new volunteers from Volunteer Centre Dacorum, to accession the collection, sort them and assess their content.

The Trust has some unusual objects and documents donated from time to time, but this collection must rank amongst our most interesting. We cannot release details of the donating family; we are really grateful for this donation, it will bring the era alive.

We hope to use the glimpse into the past, which the letters provide to enhance our education programme. This is such an interesting window into the social history of a particularly turbulent time in our recent past. We can’t wait for this real-life love story to unfold.



Please Note: When communicating with Nina Glencross, as Acting Curator, please be aware that her workload has increased enormously, and therefore we ask you to email rather than ring if possible. Please don’t just arrive at The Museum Store; we don’t want you making a wasted journey. Please bear with us.

HERITAGE DIARY 2012 - 2013

Constituent Society's Winter Season of Lectures and Events.

September 2012

19 (KL) 'Rickmansworth – its streets & buildings & their history' Margaret Owen.

19 (T) 'Tring – its Plaits and Hats' Veronica Main.

20 (B) 'The Verney's of Buckinghamshire' Colin Oakes.

23 (BH) 2.00 – 4.30 pm. 'Walk Back in Time' a guided walk around Berkhamsted town and castle, booking from Jenny Sherwood (01442 865158), cost Adult £3, Children £1.50.

24 (BA) 'The Real Olympic Games in Ancient Art & Archaeology' Peter Clayton.

24 (N) Security & Policing issues in Northchurch.

15th Graham Greene International Festival (27 – 30 Sep)

See the website (www.grahamgreenebt.org)

For more details or contact Yan Christensen at the office:

9 Briar Way, Berkhamsted, HP4 2JJ.

Email: secretary@grahamgreenebt.org

October

3 (W) 'History of Tring' Tim Amsden.

5 (FoDM) 7.30 pm. Film show of local historic events by Hemel Hempstead Movie Makers. Leverstock Green Village Hall, £5.

17 (BH) 'The Royal Palace of Kings Langley' Richard Boustred.

17 (KL) 'The Battle of Britain' Chris Wren.

18 (B) 'Tudor Hertfordshire' Daphne Knott.

20 (BH) 2.00 – 4.30 pm. 'Walk Back in Time' a guided walk around Berkhamsted town and castle, booking from Jenny Sherwood (01442 865158), cost Adult £3, Children £1.50.

22 (BA) 'The Work of the Hertfordshire Historic Environmental Unit' Dr. Isobel Thompson.

29 (N) 'The Work of the Hospice of St. Francis'

November

3 (LG) 6.45 pm. Firework Display – Westwick Field.

7 (W) 'The Canals' Mike Stanyon.

15 (B) 'Chair Making in the Chilterns' Catherine Grigg.

15 (F) 'Memories of Flamstead During the War Years' Richard Russell.

17 (LG) Winter Fair & Switch on Christmas Lights, Village Hall and Centre from 2.00 pm.

21 (BH) 'Pest Houses and Public Health' Alison Wall.

21 (KL) '40 Years at Kodak' Tony Earle.

21 (T) 'The Black Death in Buckinghamshire' Julian Hunt.

26 (BA) 'Seven Thousand Years Afloat: Early Boats & Ships in Northern Europe' Mike Farley.

26 (LG) 7.45 pm. AGM at the Village Hall.

26 (N) 'The Church Bells of St. Mary's'.

December

9 (LG) Carol Concert at the Village Hall 2.00 pm.

12 (BH) 'The Story of Stained Glass' Alfred Fisher MBE.

13 (B) 'Rudolf Hess Cover Up' Tony Eaton.

17 (BA) 'Temples, Burials & Chapels - The Archaeology of a Hertfordshire countryside' Dr. Kris Lockyear.

January 2013

16 (BH) 'An Abbots Langley Butcher's Day Book of 1828' Professor Richard Simons.

16 (KL) 'How to Research into Local History using Property Deeds' Georgina Ford.

16 (T) 'The Origins of the Tring Hundred' Ned Hunt.

17 (B) Annual Dinner 7.00 for 7.30 pm. Tickets required.

28 (BA) 'The St. Albans Clock Tower' Christopher Green.

28 (N) 'Tring Brewery'.

February

13 (BH) 'The History of Sunnyside Church' Ros Partridge.

20 (KL) 'National Service – What was that?' Derek Sayell.

25 (BA) 'Ballast-Heavers and Battle Axes' John Cotton.

25 (N) 'The Work of Sign Health – The Healthcare Charity for Deaf People'.

March

13 (BH) AGM & 'Talking to Walls: Latimer WWII' Colin Oakes.

20 (KL) 'John Incent, an Astute Local Man' David Pearce.

20 (T) 'Archaeology: Recording the Past for the Future' Jonathan Hunn.

21 (B) AGM.

25 (BA) 'Relics and Reliquaries – Some Resent Finds' James Robinson.

25 (N) AGM & 'The Role of Northchurch Parish Council'.

April

22 (BA) AGM & 'New British Kings from Iron Age Coin Evidence' Ian Leins.

15 (T) AGM & 'Children of the Labouring Poor in the 19th Century' Eileen Wallace.

Contact Details – for more information see the society websites

(BA) Berkhamsted & District Archaeological Society (www.berkhamstedarchaeo.org.uk) Meetings: Music Room, Berkhamsted School, Mill Street, Berkhamsted, 7.45 pm. - Hilary Grevatt 01442 254801.

(BH) Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society (www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk) Meetings: Wellcome Great Hall, Town Hall, High Street, Berkhamsted, 8.00 pm.- Jenny Sherwood 01442 865158.

(B) Bovingdon History Group, Meetings: Bovingdon Baptist Church, 8.00 pm. - Sylvia McClelland – 01442 833136.

(F) Flamstead Society, Meetings: Flamstead Village Hall, 8.00 pm. – Eric Edwards – 01582 804551.

(FoDM) Friends of Dacorum Museum, Meetings at different venues – Margaret Stanyon 01442 248158.

(KL) Kings Langley Local History & Museum Society (www.kingslangley.org.uk) Meetings: Baptist Church, The Nap, Kings Langley, 7.30 pm. - Richard Garnett Harper 01923 263205.

(LG) Leverstock Green Village Association (www.lgva.org.uk) Contact – 01442 268723 or office@lgva.freeserve.co

(N) The Northchurch Society, Meetings: Northchurch Parish Room, 8.00 pm. (AGM 7.45 pm.) - Robert Allen 01442 870537 or robert.allen32@btinternet.com

(T) Tring & District Local History & Museum Society (www.tringlocalhistorymuseum.org.uk/SOCIETY.html) Meetings: Parish Hall, St. Mary's Church, Tring, 8.00 pm. – Shelley Savage 01442 827702

(W) Wigginton History Society, Meetings: St. Botolph's Church, Wigginton, 8.00 pm. – Richard Tregoning 01442 822702.



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The Museum Store, or gasking166@btinternet.com**

Saving Our Heritage

The accuracy of content is the responsibility of the author.
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