



# NEWSLETTER

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WINTER 2017

[www.dacorumheritage.org.uk](http://www.dacorumheritage.org.uk)

## BYGONE WINTERY GREETINGS



Having just had some snowy days, we looked at images in our collections and found a chilly and nostalgic scene and a seasonal greeting that we thought you would like to see.

The image on this beautiful card, which is part of a series, is called "Bringing home the tree", and is a reproduction of a watercolour by well-known local artist George Sear.

The card is dated about 1999, and is part of the Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society's collection.

The scene is Northchurch High Street, looking from the George and Dragon public house towards the old cottages next to St. Mary's churchyard, looking towards Berkhamsted.

We also found a hundred year old post card entitled "1908 Greetings from the Capital" in the Kings Langley Local History & Museum Society's collection.

The postcard was post marked Vancouver, Canada on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 1907, and produced by photographer J. Howard A. Chapman of Victoria B.C. Canada.

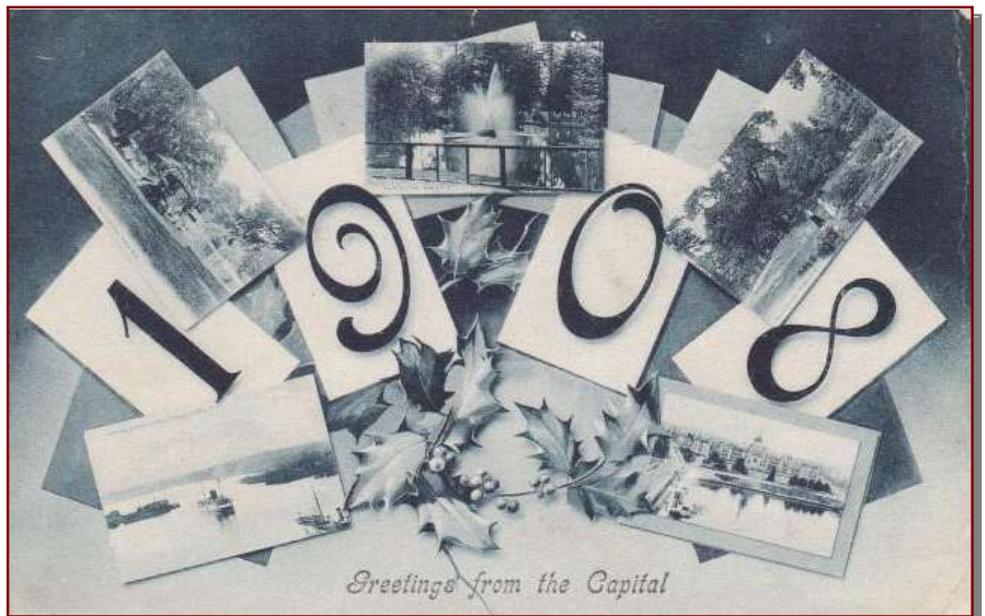
Addressed to Mrs. E. Toms, 'Firtree Cottage', Kings Langley, the message reads:

'Dear Auntie,

We shall be on the rolling main for Xmas once more. Hope you will have a very Happy Xmas & prosperous New Year, we are sailing about 15<sup>th</sup> will write before we go.

Love to all Yr. Affec Nephew. Edrie'

Both post cards are cared for by Dacorum Heritage Trust on behalf of the respective collecting societies.



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## FLINTS AND ELEPHANT BONES

Worthington George Smith was a freelance illustrator and eminent amateur archaeologist. His main interest concerned finding evidence of early man in this area. By 1884, his studies had reached the point when he could publish *'Man, the Primeval Savage'*, a book still in print and referred to and quoted today. He had previously written articles in the Journal for the Anthropological Institute and the Transactions of the Essex Field Club.

In the early 1890s, he found evidence in the clay pits at Caddington of some of the earliest human activity in Britain.



The clay pits supplied brickworks in the Luton area. Below the clay was a layer of flints dating from the Lower Palaeolithic period. He later found similar deposits at Gaddesden Row and Leverstock Green. Mixed in with the flints were elephant and rhinoceros bones. These deposits have since been dated to the last inter-glacial period, between 125,000 BC and 70,000 BC.

His work was meticulous. Each of his flints has a WGS number with the site and find date written on it.

Worthington Smith lived in Dunstable, but managed to regularly visit almost every pit, building site or road excavation in north and east London and much of Essex. His flowing cloak and wide-brimmed hat were a familiar sight on the many excursions of the Geologists' Association, which he either attended or led.

He probably had the largest collection of flint implements northeast of London. Most of the collection was later acquired by Dr. Stuart and can be studied at the British Museum; in 1913 a catalogue of the collection was published.

A contemporary of Sir John Evans and his son, Sir Arthur Evans. Smith and Sir John often worked together on the local flints. Sir John studied the flints, coins and bronzes of the continent and further a field, writing important books on each subject.

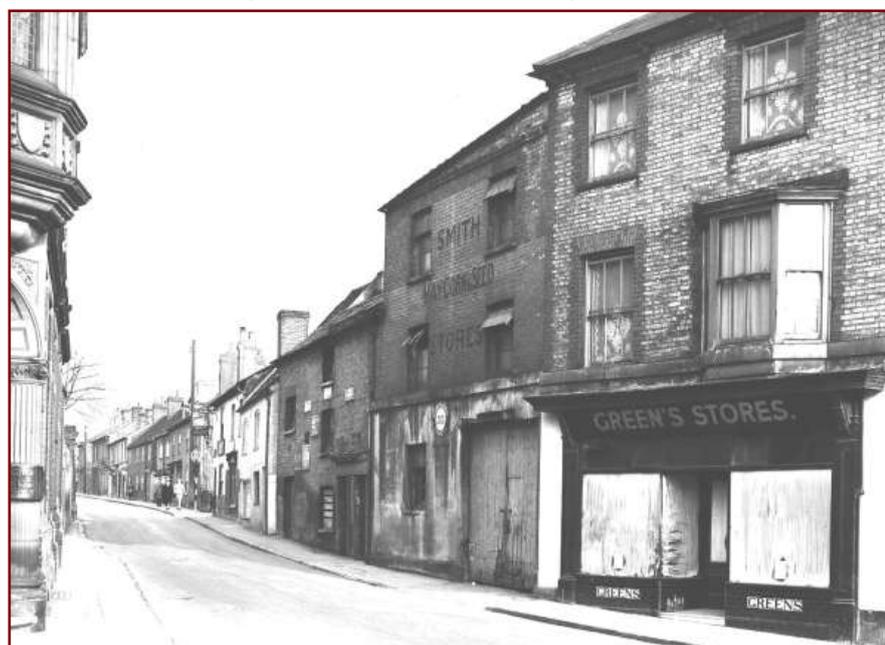
Worthington G. Smith was a great archaeologist who has not been given credit for the enormous contribution he made to the study of flint implements and early man in this area, he and his works deserve to be better known.

*Images: Both images are of ovate hand axes; both found at Gaddesden Row, the top grey one was found in 1901 the lower brownish one in 1906. Both are from the Kings Langley Local History & Museum Society collection, cared for by Dacorum Heritage Trust.*



## QUEEN STREET, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

Queen Street changed its name to Queensway to commemorate Queen Elizabeth's visit to Hemel Hempstead's New



Town in 1952. The image below is dated 1955 just before the old buildings along Queensway were demolished to make way for road widening and modern developments, it is interesting to see how narrow the road was back then.

It would appear that near the telegraph pole and just this side of the people walking down the road one of the white buildings has a public house sign.

The 'Green's Stores' shop windows have been white-washed out. Next door is 'Smith Hay Corn & Seed Stores', which seems to have unusual protruding shades over the windows.

The building on the far left of the image is the doorway to what used to be the bank on the corner of the High Street and Queensway, this is the only building that still exists from this image.

## WWI - 100 YEARS ON – AS REPORTED IN THE GAZETTE

**A** look into life during the Great War, through selected articles from the Gazette a century ago. Local war news is now dominated by reports of those wounded, killed in action or having received awards for bravery, indicating that the war continues to take its toll, both home and on the front line.

### Gazette published 10<sup>th</sup> November 1917. BRAVE BOXMOOR SOLDIER

PRIVATE ARTHUR GLOVER, Herts Regiment, has been awarded the Military Medal for gallantry, acting as “runner” under shell fire. He is not quite 20 years old. He is a son of Mr and Mrs A. Glover, Catlin-street, Boxmoor.

### Gazette published on 24<sup>th</sup> November 1917. LOCAL WAR NEWS

Further information has now been received bearing upon the accident, which resulted in the death of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant J. W. D. Needham, Royal Flying Corp., reported in last week’s “Gazette”. The following letter from his commanding officer explains the sad circumstances:

Dear Mr. Needham,

It is with very great sympathy and regret that I have to write you about the death of your dear son, Joseph, which occurred at about 11 pm. last night (12/11/17).

Your son was engaged on an offensive patrol over the German lines, and apparently lost trace of his comrades and consequently lost his bearings.

Thinking that he was a long way over German lines, he apparently flew West until dusk, when he endeavoured to land his machine.

Up to the present I have not been able to find anybody who actually saw the accident, and can only surmise, by judging from the wreckage, that he lost control of the machine in endeavouring to reach a good landing ground.



PRIVATE ARTHUR GLOVER.



From the moment he crashed he was knocked unconscious, and did not regain consciousness again. His observer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Evans, had a wonderful escape, and is, so far as one can tell at present, not in danger of losing his life.

I cannot tell you how sorry and grieved the whole squadron are at the loss of your son, who had been with us for so short a time, and from whom I had expected great things in the future, as he was such a keen and sturdy soldier.

I will let you know as soon as possible when and where your son is buried. Please convey my most heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Needham.

I am, yours sincerely, H. S. Shield, Major, Commanding XXX Squadron, R.F.C. In the Field, 13/11/17.

Lieutenant Needham was buried on the 14<sup>th</sup> inst. at the Military Hospital, Etaples. His flying instructor in this country on being informed of his death wrote:

I cannot tell you how very sorry I am to hear the sad news you have sent me, nor how much I sympathise with you all in your great loss. I had not known Walter very long, but I was a great admirer of his courage, and his death has robbed me of a dear and valued friend. To die as he died in the service of his country is the finest way to die, but poor Walter was so young, which makes his sacrifice all the greater. I hope that time may soon soften the agony of your trouble, leaving a proud and glorious memory of what he was and what he had done.

Mr. Needham received the following telegram from Buckingham Palace:

The King and Queen deeply regret the loss you and the Army have sustained by the death of your son in the service of his country. Their Majesties truly sympathise with you in the sorrow. (Keeper of the Privy Purse).

### Gazette published on 8<sup>th</sup> December 1917. LOCAL WAR NEWS

#### Wigginton – In Memoriam

“Only last month”, says the Deanery Magazine for December, “we congratulated Private Mark Gurney, son of Mr. and

Mrs. Charles Gurney, on winning the Military Medal. Now we have to record with deep regret his death in action, after only about four months' service in France. We offer our very sincere sympathy to all his relations and friends."

### Markyate War Notes

Another Markyate man has given his life for his country John Wright is officially reported to have died of wounds. John, popularly known as "Jummer", was the son of Mr. Henry Wright, of Luton-road, a former member of the football team.

Lieutenant Colonel J. S. Collings Wells was commanded to Buckingham Palace on Wednesday to be invested with the Distinguished Service Order.

### Berkhamsted Local Tribunals – On Hospital Work

Walter Dwight (31), of Shrublands-avenue, was again appealed for by Jesse Dwight, of Berkhamsted Garage, who stated that his brother was a B1 man. A lot of his work was driving wounded soldiers to and from the hospitals; in October alone he had travelled 500 miles with his own car doing this work.

The Chairman (Mr. A. J. Ram, K.C.) said that Walter would have conditional exemption until April 1<sup>st</sup>, and he asked what about his joining the Volunteers. Appellant said he did not see how he could do that very well, he was working all hours of the day and night as well as on Sundays. The Chairman said he must try and do his best.

*Images: Previous page (top) – Private Arthur Glover, picture published in the Gazette dated 10<sup>th</sup> November 1917. Bottom – An unsigned Christmas card dated c. 1916, from the Kings Langley Local History & Museum Society collection cared for by DHT.*

## CURATOR'S CORNER

**New Computer Screen.** We recently sent out a plea via Connect Dacorum, because we desperately needed a new computer screen, as our old one was on its last legs and had started showing its age. We would like to thank the local company Jade Advisory for offering us a very good second-hand screen, which we now use daily, we are very grateful for this generous donation. The image shows one of our volunteers, Kirsty who regularly uses the new screen.



**2017 Video.** We have produced a short video showcasing events that took place during 2017. The Traditional Dacorum exhibition seems so long ago now, to view please follow the link: <http://www.dacorumheritage.org.uk/events/>

**DHT Uniform!** We have just had a delivery of some t-shirts displaying our company name; the image below shows some of our directors and volunteers modelling them. Look out for us at local events around the Borough during 2018. (L-R: Janet, Mark, Tim, Sue, Quentin, Sally, Mick, Judith, Paul and John).



**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.

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		<p><b>EDITOR: Pam Gasking</b> <a href="mailto:office@dacorumheritage.org.uk">office@dacorumheritage.org.uk</a> <i>Like us on Facebook.</i> <i>Follow us on Twitter @DacorumHeritage</i> Authors are responsible for content accuracy. <i>Deadline: for next issue is 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018.</i></p>	 <p>Funded by <b>DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL</b></p>
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