



NEWSLETTER

No. 83

SUMMER 2016

www.dacorumheritage.org.uk

THE HARDEN "STAR" FIRE GRENADE



"35, High-street, Maidenhead March 2, 1885. – Dear Sir, – Some methylated spirit took fire in our work-room and rapidly ignited the floor-boards. It was of the utmost importance that the fire should be instantly extinguished, and this, we are happy to say, was most successfully accomplished by the use of two Harden 'Star' Hand Grenades. Their use was most satisfactory. Their portability allowed their immediate application at a point to which water could only have been carried with difficulty, and their instantaneous action left nothing to be desired. – Yours, &c., J. W. Walker and Son."

"White Lion Inn, High Wycombe. June 8, 1885. Gentlemen, – In putting out the alarming fire in my back premises on Saturday last, the effect of the two Harden 'Star' Hand Grenades which were broken on the flames was simply wonderful. In two minutes or so the whole fire was out, and the total destruction of the whole premises prevented. – Yours truly, W. A. Weaver."

This is one of two fire extinguishers from one of our collections at The Museum Store. Originally it came from Lord Rothschild's house, Tring Park.

The Harden "Star" Hand Grenade Fire Extinguisher is a glass globe filled with a chemical fluid. When broken over or into a flame it was designed to extinguish the fire instantly. These fire extinguishers were hung in the room, so that they were immediately accessible.

We have worked in partnership with Tring Natural History Museum to have the object cleaned and conserved, and we are pleased to announce it will now be on display (until the end of 2016) in the recently refurbished Rothschild Room at the Natural History Museum.

This type of fire-fighting equipment was very popular in homes and workplaces during the 19th Century and later, as the subsequent examples of testimonials from the following advertisement prove:

PUT OUT THE FIRE Before it can get a good hold, and thus SAVE LIFE AND PROPERTY. The Harden "Star" Hand Grenade is a blue glass globe or bottle filled with a chemical fluid, and when broken over or into the flame extinguishes fire instantly. Being hermetically sealed by a Patent Stopper, the exclusive property of this Company, the contents are not deteriorated by age, climate, frost, &c., nor will they injure Person or Property in the slightest. Hung up in your House, Office, or Factory, they are instantly accessible and invariably effective.

Testimonials.
 H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, accompanied by H.R.H. the Duchess of Edinburgh and Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, was present on Thursday afternoon at some interesting experiments by the Harden "Star" Hand Grenade Fire Extinguisher Company, which took place opposite the Savoy Theatre. The proceedings, which specially demonstrated the efficiency of the Grenades in dealing with severe quantities of Fire, were also witnessed by the Duke of Sutherland, Earl of Selsey, Earl of Kentmar, Lord H. Brown, Sir H. Lumsden, and others. —Daily News, May 31, 1885.

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Dear Sir, — By using one of your Hand Grenades a fire in our factory was at once extinguished, thereby saving the whole building and machinery. — Yours truly,
 T. TAYLOR ESQ.,
 EILSTON, March 27th, 1885.

A positive necessity in every Office, Warehouse, Factory, Residence, Farm, Ship, &c.
 Price 45s. per dozen net.

Wire Baskets or Brackets to hang against the Wall, to hold one, two, three, or Six Grenades, can be furnished if desired.

The HARDEN "STAR" HAND GRENADES are the original and only practical and reliable Fire Extinguisher Hand Grenade known. Always ready — Will not freeze — Cannot get out of order — Can be used efficiently by man, woman, or child. AVOID THE IMITATIONS, which are NONE OF THEM HERMETICALLY SEALED, and are CONSEQUENTLY WORTHLESS. The Blue Grenade alone is genuine, and its colour and form are registered.

Exhibitions every Thursday, admission by Ticket, obtainable without charge at

THE HARDEN "STAR" HAND GRENADE FIRE EXTINGUISHER CO., LTD.
 HOLBORN VIADUCT, LONDON.

Photos: Left – Harden 'Star' Fire Grenade from the Tring & District Local History & Museum Society collection cared for by DHT. Right – An advertisement for The Harden "Star" Hand Grenade Fire Extinguisher Co. Ltd. c. 1885 (source unknown).

THE DACORUM HERITAGE TRUST LTD.

Registered Office: The Museum Store, Clarence Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire HP4 3YL.
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WWI – REMEMBERING THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME

The British folk memory of the Battle of the Somme is dominated by one moment: 7.30 am. on 1st July 1916. It was a bright summer's day, the sun well up, and falling from the east on the backs of the German defenders and into the faces of the British. Officers sounded their whistles, and their men scrambled up ladders to get out of the trenches and into No Man's Land. Sergeant R. H. Tawney, with 22nd Battalion, the Manchester Regiment near Fricourt, recalled that:

"[We] lay down, waiting for the line to form up on each side of us. When it was ready, we went forward, not doubling, but at a walk. For we had 900 yards of rough ground to the trench, which was our first objective".



By the day's end 19,240 British soldiers had been killed and nearly twice that number wounded; the total of 57,470 casualties was and remains the highest suffered by the British Army in a single day. This single fact ensures that for most Britons the Battle of the Somme defines what they mean when they talk of the 'tragedy', the 'waste' and the 'futility' of the First World War. Apart from the war's opening and closing dates, 1st July 1916 was the first day picked out for national observance when plans of the commemoration of the centenary were being drawn up.

The 1st July 2016, marked the 100 years since the beginning of the Battle of the Somme. This was one of the largest battles of the First World War fought by the British and the French against Germany. It took place on both banks of the River Somme in Picardy, and is remembered as one of the most tragic episodes in human history.

Edited excerpt from 'The Battle of the Somme' by Professor Sir Hew Strachan.

The following Dacorum fallen were listed on the war memorials throughout the borough that sadly died on the first day of the Battle of the Somme are as follows:

BALDWIN, Pte. George Henry, 2nd Devonshire Regiment, of Boxmoor. Age 38. Son of James and Rebecca Baldwin; born in Bovingdon, and formerly employed as a farm labourer.

COOLEY, Pte. Clifford, 1st Essex Regiment (previously with the Norfolk Regiment) of Potten End. Age 20. Born in Berkhamsted; son of Charles and Emma Cooley, and formerly employed as a chemical works labourer.

CRAWLEY, Crp. George, 9th Devonshire Regiment, of Boxmoor. Age 22. Husband of Isobella of Southgate and son of Daniel and Ann Crawley of Boxmoor. Formerly employed as a paper maker.

FLITTON, Pte. Arthur, 7th Royal West Surrey Regiment. Age 21. Son of Daniel and Annie Flitton, born in Flamstead, husband of Rose, and formerly employed as a shepherd.

FROST, Pte. Arthur James, 8th Royal Warwickshire Regiment of Berkhamsted. Age 34. Born in Marylebone. Son of Mary and Harry Frost (who was the publican of the Crooked Billet, Gossoms End).

GEORGE, Pte. Archibald John, 8th East Surrey Regiment, of Catlin Street, Hemel Hempstead. Age 24. Son of Mr and Mrs W. George. Formerly employed by Herts County Council.

GOODENOUGH, Pte. Edward George, 2nd Royal Berkshire Regiment, of Bennetts End. Age 24. Son of Frank and Emma Elizabeth Goodenough, and formerly employed at Apsley Mills.

HOWLETT, Pte. Walter, 7th Bedfordshire Regiment. Age 19. Son of Lucy and William Howlett of Alma Row, Northchurch, and was formerly employed as a nurseryman's labourer.

MASTERMAN, Lieut. Robert Chauncy, 9th Lancashire Fusiliers, of Roughdown, Boxmoor. Age 20. Son of Alice and the late Henry Masterman. Educated at Harrow School.

MCCARTHY, Pte. Percy, 8th East Surrey Regiment. Born in Islington. Age 25. Son of Frances McCarthy, widow and brother of Thomas McCarthy (Hemel Hempstead councillor). Formerly a barman at a public house in Paddington.

PRATT, Pte. Sidney, 7th Bedfordshire Regiment, of Astley Road, Hemel Hempstead. Age 18. Son of Frank and Emma Pratt, baptised in Leverstock Green Parish Church.

RICKETT, Pte. William George, 3rd London Regiment, of Hammersmith. Age 21. Born in Bucks Hill. Son of William and Esther Rickett of Acton Vale, husband of Daisy and was formerly employed as a porter.

RODWELL, Rfn. Charles Alfred, Queen's Westminster Rifles. Age 41. Born Hayes, Middlesex. Son of Alfred and Agnes Rodwell of Kings Road, Berkhamsted. Husband of Marion who received the news of his death on their first wedding anniversary. Formerly employed a pupil teacher in Berkhamsted and then in a Walton-On-Thames school.

ROSS, Rfn. Charles William, Queen's Westminster Rifles. Age 27. Son of John and Christian Ross of Forest Hill. Memorial plaque in St. Mary's Church, Northchurch.

Photos: Taken 1st July 1916. Public domain.

LOCAL HISTORIAN SCOOPS COVETED AWARD

A leading light in preserving Tring's history for future generations has been recognised for his tireless dedication. Tim Amsden founded the Tring & District Local History & Museum Society, which he has chaired from inception.

On Saturday 14th May, Dorothy Abel Smith, president of The Hertfordshire Association for Local History, presented Mr Amsden the award for Personal Achievement in Local History in a ceremony at Frogmore Paper Mill in Apsley.

Mr Amsden initially set up the society by giving talks on the history of the market town, organising outings and leading local walks. He also began collecting items for a museum, which had to have a permanent home after negotiations with Tring Town Council granted a lease on the premises in Brook Street. Funds were raised with a Heritage Lottery Fund grant before taking time off to supervise the construction.

He also brought history to life in the present day by designing a Tring Heritage Trail app for smart phones.

Shelley Savage, honorary secretary of the society, said: "Tim has led by example, not only in raising money, getting involved in practical repairs and researching the local history, but getting others to work with him. He is a living resource on the history of Tring and the surrounding district, and he is always willing to share his knowledge."

Tim Amsden is currently researching and writing a book on William Huchvale, the Rothschild's architect.

Source: Becca Choules, The Gazette dated Wednesday 18th May 2016 (edited). Image: Dorothy Abel Smith and Tim Amsden.



HERITAGE OPEN DAYS IN DACORUM

As part of this national event, come and explore places that are not usually open to the public - completely free. Take this opportunity to delve into the hidden histories of some of our local heritage sites, many with guided tours.

Berkhamsted School Old Hall & Chapel. Castle Street, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 2BB. (Through the lych gate, assemble in quadrangle near the Old Hall entrance on your left). **Open: Sun 11th Sep. Tours (taken by Old Boys): 10:30 & 14:30 (Book via Jenny).** The Old Hall, built in 1544, the original schoolhouse was the largest in the country, founded by Dean Incent. The 19th C chapel is modelled on the chapel of Santa Maria dei Miracoli in Venice. Unsuitable for under 7s. **Access: entrance steps.**



St. Peter's Church & The Court House. High Street, Berkhamsted, Herts. (Tour: meet at the Church's west door). **Sun 11th Sep. Tour: 15:00 (Book via Jenny). Evening lantern procession to the cemetery.** The Church was consecrated in 1222, reportedly the second largest church in the county, reflecting the importance of the wool trade. Windows dedicated to the poet William Cowper, whose father was Rector. The Tudor Court House was where courts of common pleas were heard; and during the 19th C it housed the National School. Unsuitable for under 7s.

Rectory Lane Cemetery. Rectory lane, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 2DH. **Open: Sun 11th Sep 14:00 - 21:30. Tours: 14:30, 15:30, 16:30 & 17:30 (Book via Jenny).** Family activities, evening lantern procession 'Seeing the Light' from St. Peter's Church and a firework finale. Unsuitable for under 6s. Enquire for special parking arrangements. **Access: cemetery is on a steep slope.**

Berkhamsted Castle. **Open: Sun 11th Sep 10:00 - 18:00. Tours: 10:30, 12:30 & 15:00 (No booking required).** One of the finest remaining Norman motte and bailey castle in the country. Visitor's Room includes display of the castle's Royal connections. Unsuitable for under 6s. Parking near castle entrance. **Access: limited for wheelchairs, some uneven ground and steep steps.**

Ashlyns School (former Foundling Hospital). Chesham Road, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 3AH. (Meet at the main entrance at the end of the drive) **Open: Sun 11th Sep, 13:00 - 17:30. Tours: 13:30 & 15:30 (Book via Jenny).** The Foundling Hospital opened in 1935, containing stained glass windows, staircase and artefacts from the original 18th C London Foundling Hospital. Unsuitable for under 7s. **Access: No wheelchair access to the Crypt; stout shoes & torch recommended.**

'Walk Into The Past – Berkhamsted Place Successor To The Castle'

The Bothy, Berkhamsted Place, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 1HQ. (Tours start at top of Castle Hill. Friday don't park in Castle Hill, use nearby roads instead). **Tours: Fri 9th Sep 10:00 & Sat 10th Sep 14:00 (Book via Jenny).** Tours incl. the Great Barn & small exhibition. An Elizabethan house built by Sir Edward Carey, Keeper of the Queen's Jewels, using materials from the castle. The mansion was demolished in 1967. Unsuited for under 7s. **Access: slopes, steps & uneven ground - stout shoes recommended.**

Berkhamsted Town Hall. 196 High Street, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 3BA. (Tour: meet at the top of the front staircase). **Open: Sun 11th Sep 10:30-13:00. Tour: 11:00 (Book via Jenny).**

Victorian Gothic building designed by architect Edward Buckton Lamb and built in 1859 restored 1983-1999. Exhibition with old photographs. Unsuited for under 7s. **Access: lift by request and chair lift to Clock Room.**

'Exploring Garrison Town Berkhamsted' - then and now guided walk to important IOCOTC sites during WWI. Meet at the castle side of the railway station (HP4 1HB). **Fri 9th Sep 14:00; Sat 10th Sep 11:00 & 15:00; Sun 11th Sep 11:00 & 15:00. (Book via Jenny).** Tours to a variety of places in the town and surrounding countryside where IOCOTC had front line training. Display of images. Unsuited for under 10s. Tours will take place regardless of weather. **Access: some cobbled pavements.**

The Museum Store (Dacorum Heritage Trust). Clarence Road, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 3YL. (From Clarence Rd, turn left into the council car park, at the bottom on the left find a brown door and ring the 'gold' door bell). **Tour: (approx 1.5 hours): Sat 10th Sep 10:30. Book via info@dacorumheritage.org.uk or 01442 879525, last booking 16:30, 9th Sep 2016.** Come and see why Dacorum desperately needs a museum. Unsuited for under 8s. **Access: unsuitable for those with mobility problems - steep steps to upper floor.**



Piccotts End Medieval Wall Paintings. 132 Piccotts End, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 3AU. **Tours: Sun 11th Sep 10:00 – 16:00 hourly. Pre-booking required (limited places).** Booking: info@piccottsendpaintings.uk or 0783 016 4317 or go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/piccotts-end-medieval-cottage-tickets-24957106377> Website: www.piccottsendpaintings.uk An opportunity to see very rare and fine 15th century wall paintings housed in a medieval timber framed building. Tea and cakes will be available. **Access: Please note that regrettably it is not possible for wheelchair users.**

To book events organised by Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society, please contact Jenny Sherwood directly KSherw9100@aol.com or 01442 865158. Visit: <http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk> for information and listings all the sites that are open nationwide.

Photos: Previous page - Rectory Lane Cemetery gates in Three Close Lane, Berkhamsted. This page - Berkhamsted Place c. 1892. Both from Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society collection cared for by DHT. Piccotts End Medieval wall painting, DHT collection.

CURATOR'S CORNER

Legacy Giving. Help us to safeguard our collections for future generations by remembering Dacorum Heritage Trust in your will. For more information please see our website <http://www.dacorumheritage.org.uk/support-us/legacies/>

Everybody should have a will. Please remember to include a bequest to DHT 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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