

Europe At War!

“England and Germany are at war at last” began the Bicester Advertiser’s coverage of the declaration of war in their 7th August 1914 edition.

The 3rd August had been a bank holiday, but the unprecedented financial chaos caused by the turmoil in Europe had forced the Government to extend the bank holiday, for banks only, until the end of Thursday 6th to allow the market time to settle. At the same time rising food prices and the ‘panic buying’ rush started. The newspaper even reporting that “One gentleman conveyed the provisions to his house in his private motor car”.

All this was overshadowed when the Foreign Office announced at 12:15am on the 5th August that “His Majesty’s Ambassador in Berlin has received his passports, and His Majesty’s Government has declared to the German Government that a state of war exists between Great Britain and Germany as from 11pm on August 4.”

Huge crowds in Whitehall and Trafalgar Square greeted the news with round after round of cheers. Patriotic feeling in England and the Empire was running high and thousands of people waved flags and made repeated attempts - not always successful - to sing the National Anthem and various patriotic songs.

But in Bicester things were already on the move. By the time news of the declaration arrived on Wednesday morning the local Territorials had been called back from their annual training camp at Marlow, with instructions to await mobilisation orders, and the council order, calling out the Army Reserve, had been displayed in the Post Office, soon attracting large crowds eager to read the summons. On the Wednesday morning the Territorials reported to their headquarters in Oxford and members of the Queen’s Own Oxfordshire Hussars received their call to arms. The Rev. Father Costedoat, of St Edith’s Priory, was also called to the colours by the French, to be chaplain for a hospital in the south of France.

Whilst the men were busy enlisting the women of Bicester also set about doing their bit. Collections were taken in Bicester



and the district, raising £225 9s 11½d in aid of the Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Families Association, to provide financial assistance to the dependents of men who had been called to fight.

A meeting was held in St Edburg’s Hall on Tuesday 11th August, chaired by the Countess of Jersey, to form a working party to aid the sick and wounded men in the war. A large number of women attended and agreed to set up work parties who would both raise money for the Families Association and do work for the Red Cross Association, mainly producing clothing for the wounded men. Rev. O’Reilly offered them the use of St Edburg’s Hall, free of charge, and the Bicester and Stratton Audley Boy Scout groups both offered to help with collecting and delivering items.

But the initial excitement and enthusiasm was quickly hit with reality when news of Bicester’s first casualties arrived in early September. Lieutenant C. M. Hoare, of Bignell Park, was killed in action on the 24th August. He was 21 years old. This was quickly followed with news of the death of Cyril Durrant, serving aboard HMS Pathfinder. Who died when the ship was sunk on the 5th September, the day after his 27th birthday.

- Matthew Hathaway

Contents

New Format Newsletter . . .	2
Bygone Bicester	2
Archive Update	2
Roll of Honour	3
Out and About	3
Marj’s Memories	4
Recent Events	4
Where Are We?	5
Interview with Sally James .	6
New Church, New Times . . .	8
Member News	8
Talks Update	8
Colonial Murder	9
Methodist Bicentenary . . .	10

Dates For Your Diary

AGM and Children & War Talk
15th September - 7:30pm
see page 8

Methodist Bicentenary Weekend & Flower Festival
19th-21st September
at the Methodist Church

Evenley Countryside Walk
21st September - 2:30pm

St Edburg’s Living History Event
27th September - 3pm
at St Edburg’s Church

October Newsletter Submissions Deadline
3rd October

Family History Fair
4th October
see page 5

Lost Railways Talk
20th October - 7:30pm
see page 8

New Format Newsletter

This is the first edition of the Society's new newsletter. It's the fourth iteration of newsletter we've had since the Society formed back in 1986, and the first one to be released on a monthly basis.

Back in the early days it literally was a letter, from the then secretary, Bob Hessian, to the members, keeping them up to date on the Society's events and activities. That eventually

became an A5 booklet and started including pictures.

Then, in 2011, the newsletter was relaunched to "enable members without internet access to be kept informed of forthcoming meetings, events and projects that the Society will be undertaking". And that has continued until now.

We still aim to cover the Society's news. But we want to bring in more items of local

history and, hopefully, more contributions by members. We've lined up a series of interviews with various members that you'll hopefully find interesting, and a couple of regular contributors. But don't let that stop you sending in anything you think the other members would be interested in. Our contact details are listed on the back page. We look forward to hearing from you.

- Matthew Hathaway

Bygone Bicester

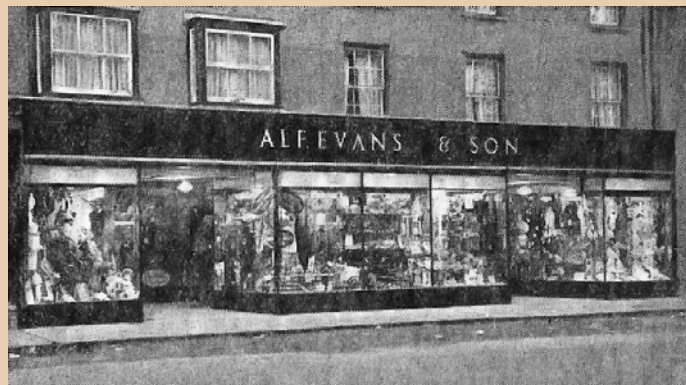
In this section we plan to look back at events in the area 50, 100 and 150 years ago. But this month, by a lucky coincidence, we bring you a double bill of Alf Evans.

September 1914

On Friday 18th Mr Alf Evans, drapery, outfitting and boot stores, of Sheep Street, Bicester, announced that he had taken over the "well-known and old established fancy repository" of the late Miss E Smith, in Sheep Street. Having purchased the entire stock-in-trade Mr Evans planned to carry on the business as usual, as well as to continue his original clothing, outfitting and boot business as before.

September 1964

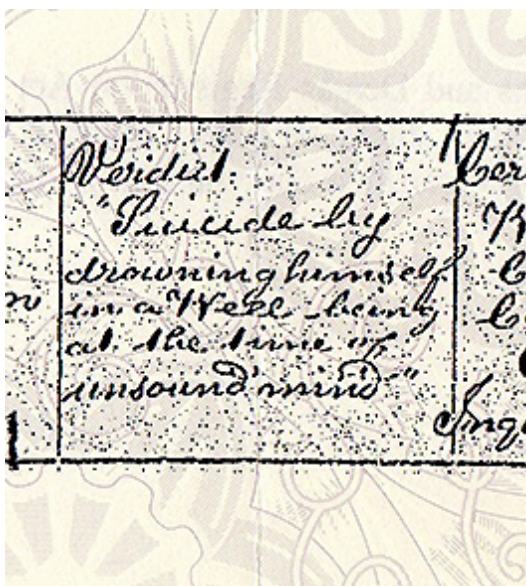
For the week of September 28th the firm of Alf



Evans and Son Ltd celebrated their 62nd birthday with a special sale. Offering 62 cut price bargains.

Mr Evans first opened his men's clothing and footwear store on 26th September 1902. When the opening offers included men's shirts at 1s 11d and children's nailed boots at 2s 11d.

Archive Update



Some birth, marriage and death certificates have recently been added to the archive. Two of the death certificates are particularly interesting as both men died by drowning in a well. Thomas Townsend, wheelwright, of King's End, Bicester, died in May 1866 and James Timms, stonemason, also of King's End, nine years later. The coroner and registrar for both are the same men. They prompt the question of

how many houses, or groups of houses, had wells at that time, and when did they disappear? Any information would be gratefully received.

A few wills have also recently been added. Items such as these, along with other documents, letters, photographs, postcards, flyers, etc. are always welcome. We can borrow, scan and return the originals to you, if you do not wish to part with them. Thank you for your help.

- Gill King

Out and About

This summer, as well as our successful visit to Marlborough, the Society held a number of village and countryside walks.

Back in June we kicked off with a countryside walk, led by John Roberts, around Hampton Gay and Hampton Poyle (pictured below), which was a pleasant day even with a few too many stiles to negotiate!

The first village walk was in Middleton Stoney on the 29th June. Led by Martin Greenwood we started at the Church, in the grounds of Middleton Park, and finished in the cricket pavilion for tea. We learnt about the village having been moved from around the church to its present location, and about the unusually high number of schools that the village once had.

Bob Hessian guided us around Bletchingdon on the 27th July, providing us with some interesting information about the old village, its coaching



inns and old properties. We even got a look at the gardens of the Old Rectory (pictured above).

This was followed with a countryside walk from Lower Heyford to Northbrook and back again on the 10th August. We were very lucky with the weather that day as we'd had some very heavy downpours in the morning, but the sun came out and the only rain we had was a short shower whilst we sheltered in a barn on the farm at Northbrook, which gave Bob a chance to explain the history of the area, its link - via the Dashwoods - with Kirtlington and the lost manor house.

The last "village" walk for this year was a guided tour of Brackley, led by a member of the Brackley History Society. More about that in the next issue.

For the last countryside walk of this year John will take us around Evenley and Mixbury on the 21st September, and we hope to see you there.



Roll of Honour

These are the local men who died in the Great War, 100 years ago this month and last.

Lieutenant Charles Morgan Hoare, of Bignell Park, Chesterton.

Died: 24th August 1914 Aged: 21 Served in: 15th (King's Own) Hussars

Engine Room Artificer Cyril George Pople Durrant, of Priory Road, Bicester.

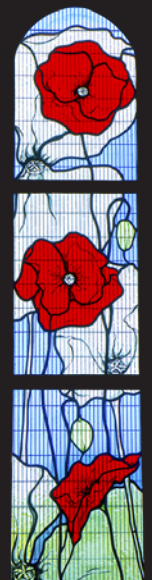
Died: 5th September 1914 Aged: 27 Served in: Royal Navy - HMS Pathfinder

Able Seaman Thomas Hudson, of Field Street, Bicester.

Died: 22nd September 1914 Aged: 36 Served in: Royal Navy - HMS Hogue

Lieutenant John Cadwallader Coker, of Bicester House.

Died: 26th September 1914 Aged: 27 Served in: 1st South Wales Borders



Marj's Memories

Mr Whetton

The Gardening Teacher

Mr Whetton was the Gardening Teacher for St Edburg's Senior School. He was often referred to as "Chucky Whetton", but not for him to hear! He lived in Field Street with his wife and daughter, Mary. He had a Bicester accent and was good to listen to.

The gardening class took place over the far side of the sports field, a prefab type building surrounded by garden, fenced off with a gate leading onto the

sports field. There was a class for the boys and a separate class for the girls.

He often started with "When you've got 'omes of your own" or "Everything goes back to earth". It probably did in those days because it was before manmade fibres came onto the market. There were no worries about disposing of polythene bags and plastic containers. Housewives took cloth shopping bags and baskets to the shop to carry home the goods.

I don't remember doing much outside gardening in Mr Whetton's class, but it did take place. I know, in one of the classes with older girls, a girl stabbed her foot with a gardening fork and this made another girl in the class faint and fall into the cabbages!

I remember he told us that when we were grown up he would be in heaven looking down on us and watching us doing our gardens. But he is probably too busy up there to be watching us!

- Marjorie Dean MBE

Recent Events

Bicester Local History Society has put on a couple of displays at recent events.

The first being at Bicester's Big Lunch, back in June, where we displayed a collection of photos from the "Bicester Through Time" book. We had a fair amount of public interest, with some people looking up their own houses or shops and others passing on information relating to the First World War. We aim to take part again next year, so remember to drop by and say "Hi".

Then, in July, we were invited to put up a display on medieval Bicester in St Edburg's Church for their patronal festival and

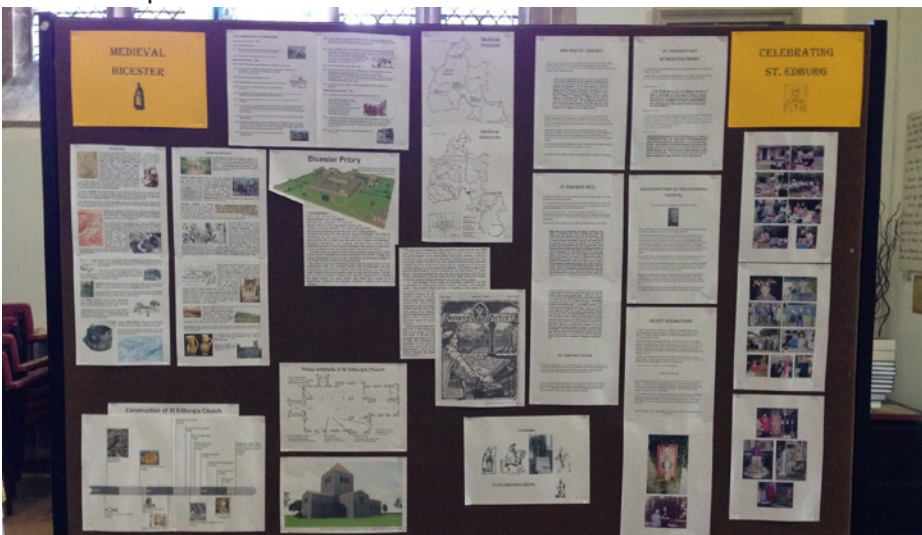


the official opening of their new facilities. (Pictured below)

August saw the anniversary of the start of the First World War and Bicester Avenue marked the

occasion with a Commemorative Event on Sunday 2nd August. BLHS put on a display of World War One information (pictured above), including an original copy of the Bicester Herald, from November 1915, showing Bicester's Roll of Honour. The weather wasn't too good but, luckily, we were provided with a gazebo!

As well as promoting the Society these events are a good way of learning new information from people and signing up new members. If you know of any similar events that you think we should be attending then please let the committee know.



At PRE-WAR
PRICES.

6 $\frac{1}{2}$ D.
EACH.

TOILET ROLLS

6s.
Per Doz.

Obtainable only at
PANKHURST'S
Stationery Stores
BICESTER.

Advert taken from the Bicester Advertiser 1920



Family History Fair
10am – 4pm
Saturday 4th October 2014
The Marlborough School, Shipton Road,
Woodstock OX20 1LP
Free admission – Free parking – Fully accessible
Contact – tel: 01235 799374
email: open-day@ofhs.org.uk – web: www.ofhs.org.uk



Family History Societies
Museum & Military stands
Oxfordshire History Centre
Genealogical Suppliers
Books, CDs and more on sale
Research help:

- on the internet
- local resources
- or just talk

Where Are We?

Can you identify the location from the following details? It's somewhere within the BLHS area and it is related to one of the articles in this month's newsletter. We'll let you know the answer in next month's edition.



An Interview with Sally James

Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

I am from north London so I am not local to here at all, although my children and grandchildren are, so we are beginning to settle in a bit. We came to Bicester nearly 40 years ago now with my husband, Martin's, job. Bicester was a very different place then, because there was only about 12,000 people here, but we liked it on our first visit, and we still like it. I work at what was my children's primary school and I enjoy that immensely and I also love the chance that it gives me to take some youngsters out and about and really enthuse them about the history of their town. And I don't mind looking silly in a Saxton costume!

So what actually sparked your interest in local history?

Well, I would say that I have always liked to have a hobby of some sort, whether it's folk music, learning to play the guitar, very badly, or walking in the countryside. But really what got me into local history was family history. My sister and I have been researching our family history for about 30 years. Because we are doing a family history rather than just a family tree there's a huge amount of local history involved in that and that was really where I started. We like to get out and about and I like to know about people's lives in the past, in this case our ancestors, so the two have worked together. I've also found, since I've been married, where I've lived, I settle into a place if I know a little bit about what has happened there before we arrived, so on a Saturday I would be found in the Local Studies Library going through the old photographs, reading the history books, and poking around the back lanes.

Have you ever found anything of particular interest in the back lanes?

Well, you just get a bit of a feeling for the town, don't you? If you are round the back lanes, you can see that there's long plots and you can see that there was the back access lane for those plots and all of that, I think you just start to get a feel of the town. That is another reason why I am interested. I like buildings. I am not very good at architecture – I am trying to get better at that – but I mainly like social history. So I want to know how people lived their lives really. The backs are interesting in that respect. You do get a little bit past the modern stuff then, all the modern shops, if you are prepared to poke down the little alleyways and that sort of thing – but that might just be me, I don't know.

Other than that, have you got any specific areas of interest?

Family history because that is ongoing and it is interesting and takes me all round the place and I like to go places, but it is largely social history. I am not quite so interested in pre-history and that kind of stuff. Largely it's how they lived their lives really and how it differs from what we do now that interests me.

Can you tell us about the origins of Bicester Local History Society?

Because, as I said, I have always liked to have a hobby going, I went to an evening class back in 1985 or possibly early 1986, where we were studying the 1851 census - the tutor was Mary Hodges - ultimately there weren't enough students in the class so it was abandoned, but we decided that as a group we would stay together. The suggestion was made – I don't now remember by whom – it may have been Jill Wishart, our first chair – that we start a History Society. It wasn't a new idea, of course, because Miss Dannatt had had her History Circle, but at that time there wasn't a history

One of whom I remember particularly was Gerry Mason, who was ultimately one of our Chairmen, who came to tell us about his house in Henley Gardens that he had done quite a lot of research on and it just took off from there.

And right from the beginning you were treasurer. What attracted you to that?

Well, we had this meeting and I have got a bit of a background in finance, I had always worked for the local authority doing accounts, or the rates, so I thought that was probably a role I would be able to cope with. At the time I had three young children and the following year I had a fourth child, so I thought I would go for something that was very well defined and I would have an idea of what the workload may be. How wrong can you be? It didn't turn out like that at all. Other things came along that needed doing as well, but I still enjoy it and I still think it was the right choice for me. It is a bit defined, I largely know what I am going to be doing – and somebody needed to do it. Another chap did volunteer and say he would be treasurer, and I – very boldly for me at the time, because I was much quieter then – did say 'oh I thought perhaps I might be treasurer', and he said 'OK then', and that was it. I wanted to do something, but I had to consider that I had got young children, and subsequently I have had a job, and those things have got to fit in, otherwise it becomes a burden, doesn't it, if you don't fit it in around your other commitments. It has worked alright I think. The accounts usually balance at the end of the year!

You also organise the speakers for the talks. How long have you been doing that?

Quite some while. That is one of the jobs that attached itself to the treasurer's role over the years. John Roberts and I work together well as a pair doing it. John does the ringing up and I do the emailing, so we are a bit of a devilish team between us. It wouldn't be a job I would want to do on my own. You need somebody to help you, and we really need a bit more input from the members. Other Societies are very good if you approach them and ask them about speakers they've had, but just like in our Society, not everybody is going to agree that a speaker was good. I guess you are only really getting the view of the person you are speaking to, not everybody. So a few times we have fallen



Sally with Bob Hessian & Sally Dexter at the Museum Exhibition in 2013.

foul of that. We once had a man who approached us with a talk, and we have become very, very wary of ever doing that again because he was particularly poor. But people like Tim Healey – he's a really good speaker – but he does three talks and we are having the last one this year so, with the best will in the world, a good speaker is then off the list.

Does anyone else, other than Tim Healey, stand out for you as having done a particularly good presentation?

Well, we have Tim Porter back quite regularly, and Liz Woolley. They are good speakers and we have had those quite regularly over the years. Otherwise we try to mix it up a bit, but if we know that somebody's a good speaker they can virtually be speaking about anything and they would make it interesting, even if it is subject you think you won't be interested in. I like Malcolm Graham, I think he is quite a good speaker.

So, going back to the early days of BLHS, do you have any particular memories of those times?

My first memory, I think, would be of something I am particularly proud of, and those were the exhibitions we put on in the early days, because that was 1987 and 1988 and I think we were such a new society that we did amazingly well to get those going. They were nowhere near on the scale of the one we had for our 25th anniversary, but to get people to bring things and to publicise the fact that we existed, and get that organised when we were just getting ourselves organised, I think that was really quite an achievement and I am very proud to have been part of that.



Sally with Jill Wishart and Grace at the BLHS Exhibition in 1988.

Martin said to me, looking at those photographs, you have got Grace with you – that's the little one in the photograph – where are the other three children? Bless him, over the years when the children were little he helped a lot with having them and taking me places, because I don't drive, and lugging things around and all of that. It was busy but I was proud to have been part of those things in the early days and to have got it

up and running really.

The other thing, one of our aims has always been to have a museum, and although it hasn't come to fruition thus far, we did work really hard on it in the early days. Bob and Jill had some quite high level meetings,

and some positive feedback, and I do think that if it were not for the change in the financial climate, where councils didn't have the money to finance that sort of thing, there was every chance that we would have succeeded in getting something going. So the fact that we fought for that is a real good memory for me of the early days. I know someone else has taken that on now, and if they are successful that is absolutely great. I would still like to see it happen.

And more recently, of course, you have been involved in producing both the book and the DVD, which must have been very satisfying.

Yes, it was. I would say it was one of the highs really because, to be an author is a thrill. I know that's overstating it – I am quite aware of that – but it has been fantastic and I really am proud of my small contribution to it. Ridiculously proud really, I am showing my children, look there's Mum's name in that! And the DVD – I didn't think we would go that route actually, but we have and it has been absolutely fantastic. I have enjoyed that as well, really good.

It must be satisfying to see how the numbers have increased in the membership.

Yes, it is. I would say one of the lows, if there are any, has been trying to get the membership numbers up, because for

many years it was stuck at about thirty and when it did start to increase it did it so very slowly at a time when the town was growing very quickly. It is gratifying that we have now got more than a hundred members, but we need to keep working at it as we would like more than that really. It's a shame we've got to work so hard at that because it detracts a little bit from other things we'd like to do – the big promotion of the history



The "Take Another Look At Bicester" Exhibition in 1988.

of the town. It would be so nice also to have some younger members, and members who become more involved in the running of the Society, because the day will come when the older members of the Committee will want to step down from having so much involvement.

So if someone has just moved to Bicester, what would you be saying to them to try to attract them into joining the Society, or having some interest in what we are doing?

I think I'd try to get them through the door of a meeting first. Because I think people like to know we are a friendly group and we would welcome them to come. Then I think I would try to find out what their specific interest was in the town, and just get them out and about, on one of Bob's walks round the town, just so they can start to scratch the surface of the history of the place and realise that it does have a big history. That's the thing really, let them know that there's a lot of history out there. I think that really hooks people into a place.

What are your hopes for the future of the Society?

As I said really, to attract new members and get them involved, and existing members as well, get them more involved. That may not be possible but I would like to see that happen, that members are more active in their membership – what they are prepared to do, or want to do.

But generally speaking I think we are doing a really good job at what we are doing and I hope we can continue to build on that. More books, more DVD's, more talks, more walks, anything really that promotes the history of the town, and I think we will continue to do that and get better at it. So I am very optimistic about the future. When I'm old and dodderly and just come to the meetings, I think I shall still enjoy doing that.

New Church for New Times



Saturday 19th July saw St Edburg's Church move into a new era. As well as their patronal festival (celebrating St Edburg's day on the 18th July) the church fete also included the official opening of the new servery and toilets by the Mayor, Councillor Lynn Pratt.

This is the latest phase of work being done as part of one of the largest changes within the building since Reverend Watts completely remodelled the

interior just over 150 years ago.

Back in 1862 the church wasn't big enough to seat the thousand strong congregation, thanks to the Georgian arrangement of privately owned box pews and galleries. This was a common situation in Victorian England at the time and many churches chose to do the same thing. In some of the churches in the local area you can still see plaques similar to the one in St Edburg's (pictured below) which were issued to all the churches that obtained grants to do the work.



Motor Bus for Hire,
14 Seater.
Private Parties taken at Moderate Charges.
Apply **G. CASEY,**
HAMPTON POYLE,
KIDLINGTON, OXON.

MOUNTAIN'S FAMOUS
'FLU MIXTURE
The finest Remedy for Influenza and Influenza Colds.
1/3 per bottle, sold only by
JOHN T. MOUNTAIN,
Ph.C., M.P.S.
The Pharmacy, Bicester.

" THE GREY HOUSE
TEA LOUNGE "
Market Square, Bicester.
Quiet Cosy Meals.
Home Made Cakes a Speciality.
Board Residence.

Adverts taken from the Bicesterian 1927

Member News

We were sorry to hear of the death, last month, of one of our members, John Smith. We send our condolences to his wife, Marguerite, and family.

Talks Update

Over the next few months we have a varied itinerary of talks that should prove very interesting.

Monday 15th September

As well as our AGM (remember to bring your membership fees!) We have a talk by Liz Woolley on **Children & War: Experiences of the Second World War.** Liz looks at how the lives of Oxfordshire children – both those born in the county and those evacuated here – were affected by the Second World War.

Monday 20th October

This month Muriel Pilkington talks to us about the **Lost Railways**

of Oxfordshire. An investigation into the beginnings of the railways in the UK; the development of the Oxfordshire rail network; the heyday of the railways in the county and how and why they declined. All illustrated with a large collection of photographs and maps.

Monday 17th November

This time Martin Way takes us through **Barrels, Barley & Beer.** A potted look at the "mystery of brewing", with reference to local breweries. Covering the brewing of beer, from the hops to the cooper's craft, and the unique tools of the trade.

Colonial Murder

While researching through old Bicester Parish Magazines at the Oxfordshire History Centre at Cowley, I came across an article by Gwendoline Dannatt from 1982, written in response to a Family History request she had received from Australia. This was a letter from Mrs Denise Patman from Queensland, who was looking for information about her great great grandfather Samuel Nelson, who she believed was born in Bicester in 1827, the son of Samuel James Nelson and his wife Elizabeth (nee Taylor). She said he married Elizabeth Goode, daughter of Thomas, a basket maker from Market End.

When I checked St Edburg's Church registers, I found this marriage recorded on 19th March 1848, but I could trace no baptism for Samuel, although Elizabeth had been baptised there on 3rd August 1828. In the marriage record it refers to Samuel's father as James Nelson, and on the 1841 census I found the family living in Chesterton. In the registers for St Mary's Church there, I traced his baptism on 9th September 1827.

On the 1851 census Samuel (now

an agricultural labourer) and Elizabeth were still living in Chesterton, with their three young sons. But times were hard and in 1852 they decided to emigrate to Australia. Sailing on the ship "Parsee", a daughter was born to them during the voyage, named Matilda Parsee, who was Mrs Patman's great grandmother.

In 1857 Samuel joined the New South Wales Police Force. He was stationed in the Bungendore district, where he became heavily involved in local activities and was greatly respected. The future looked much brighter for the Nelson family.

But Samuel was moved to a small town called Collector, which had problems with bushrangers, three of whom - Ben Hall, Johnny Gilbert and John Dunn - were particularly feared. On 26th January 1865 they ransacked the Kimberley Inn and Samuel, the only policeman in town at the time, went out after them. Dunn saw him coming and shot him, once in the stomach and twice in the head - witnessed by two of Samuel's sons.

His murder at just 38 left Elizabeth destitute and she had to endure a visit from the bailiffs when the local store sued for payment. But others were more sympathetic to her



plight and members of the local community clubbed together to buy her a small farm on which to raise her eight children. She was also eventually granted a pension by the Government.

Within two months of Samuel's death, Hall and Gilbert had been shot dead. A reward of £375 was offered for information to catch Dunn, and he was hanged the following year, aged just 19.

In death, Samuel became a local hero. A memorial now stands as a tribute to him in Collector and they even, rather bizarrely, re-enact his murder. But nowhere does it state that he came from Chesterton, or that his brave widow Elizabeth, who lived to the age of 85, was a Bicester girl.

Are any of their relatives still living in this area? Please get in touch if so. It would be good to bring the story right up-to-date.

- Gill King

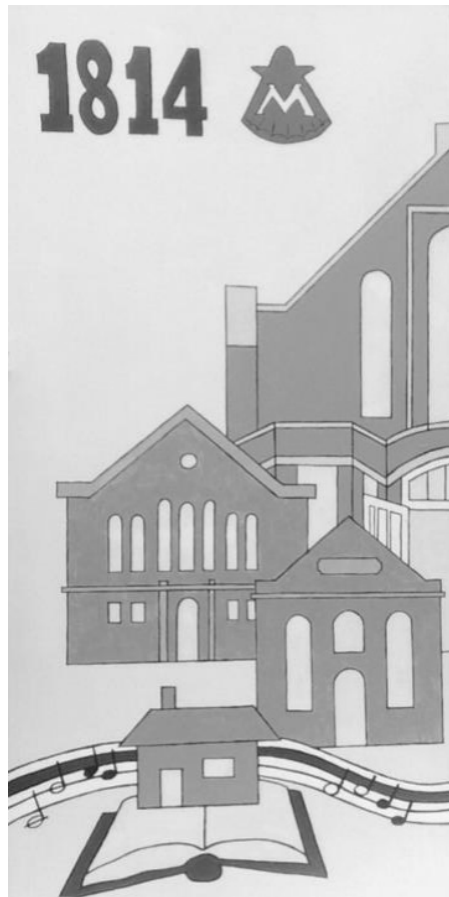


Bicester Methodist's Bicentenary

Since it kicked off in May with a meal and illustrated talk by Pete Chivers, the bicentenary celebrations at Bicester Methodist Church have been many and varied. A huge amount of work has been done, particularly on the research side by Mary Brydon. She was also involved in the making of two new banners, designed by the Revd. Paul Howes, showing the history of Methodism in the town.

The first banner represents the coming of Methodism to Bicester, via the Bowerman family of Brackley, and the later church buildings in North Street (now Weyland Hall) and Sheep Street (Home Comforts shop), through to the current church, which opened in June 1927.

One of the great strengths of Methodism is its music, notably the many hymns of Charles Wesley, but the banner also



celebrates the Red Rhythmics harmonica band, formed and led by Sid Hedges, who was also superintendent of the Sunday School for many years.

The second banner, shows members going out into the world, the current Methodist, CiB (Churches in Bicester) and Love Bicester logos plus the regimental ribbons representing Pioneer Square.

Of all the churches in Bicester,



the Methodist is the most central and visible, and they have been involved in all kinds of events in the town over those 200 years, and seen many changes.

The closing events of the Bicentenary celebrations will take place over the weekend of 19th to 21st September, with a flower festival and guest preacher at the Sunday morning service, Lord Griffiths of Burry Port, to which all are invited.



Committee & Contacts

Editors:

Matthew Hathaway
mathat298@gmail.com
01869 246530

Gill King

Website:

www.blhs.org.uk

Committee Members:

Bob Hessian (*Chairman*)
info@blhs.org.uk
01869 350662

Sally James (*Treasurer*)
01869 243804

Sally Dexter (*Minutes Secretary*)

Peter Crook

Matthew Hathaway

Gill King (*Archivist*)

John Roberts (*Membership Officer*)

Meetings Address:

The Clifton Centre
Ashdene Road
Bicester
OX26 2BH

Postal Address:

BLHS c/o Sally James
14 George Street
Bicester
OX26 2EG