

The Goddard Association of Europe

NEWSLETTER

No. 27 - MARCH 1993

RIOTS IN SWINDON

Association members living in Wiltshire should not get unduly alarmed, since I am not alluding to the present! I have recently been sent a cutting from the *Swindon Evening Advertiser* of 15 January 1992 of certain events which took place in Swindon just over two hundred and fifty years ago. Under the headings “The Day the Mob Came to Town” and “Evangelist Had the Last Word”, there appeared the following article by Ron Crafer:

“The former Poet Laureate, John Betjeman, once described Swindon as ‘that bastion of public houses and non-conformist churches’. He ascribes this to the influx of Welsh labourers who came to work for the Great Western Railway and settled around Cambria Place. Although rather unkind, his remarks do emphasise that non-conformity had little place in Swindon until after the coming of the railways.

The evangelist movement of the mid-eighteenth century made two or three forays into the area, but was severely rebuffed. There is no evidence that the founders of Methodism, the Wesley brothers, ever came to Swindon. It is known that John Cennick, who has been described as ‘the Evangelist of North Wilts’ visited the town twice in 1741. According to Cennick’s own journal, his meeting was disrupted by a mob who fired muskets over the heads of worshippers and soused the congregation in mud and water. Cennick’s diary adds: ‘This persecution was carried on by Mr Goddard, a leading gentleman of that place, who lent the mob his guns and bade them use us as bad as they could, only not to kill us; and he himself sat on horseback the whole time, laughing to see us treated.’

It is known that a subsequent attack on Cennick took place outside the town in a lane which is now

Westcott Place, Faringdon Road and Fleet Street, but the location of the first attack is uncertain. However, writer William Morris—who founded the *Evening Advertiser*—suggests it may have been at Wood Street, Old Town, near the site of the present Goddards Hotel.”

And since the Goddard manor house, The Lawn, was adjacent, we may probably conclude that William Morris was right. The head of the Swindon Goddards in 1741 was Pleydell Goddard, third son of Thomas Goddard of Swindon and Mary Pleydell of Shrivvenham, who had succeeded his eldest brother Richard on the latter’s death without issue on 20 August 1732. Pleydell himself died without issue almost exactly ten years later on 18 August 1742, leaving the Swindon estate to his cousin Ambrose – though not without a family dispute. The unusual name of Pleydell was alluded to in the article on Smedmore in the last Newsletter.

LLANELLI ARTIST

Readers of previous Newsletters will recall the talented amateur artist from Llanelli, Association member Frank Goddard. You may also remember that Frank was due to hold a one-man exhibition last summer; this duly took place and proved to be a great success. In a letter to Julie of Newbury Frank himself admits it “went quite well, about 2,800 visitors, sold ten paintings and a few ceramics, so I am looking forward to another, perhaps next [this] year”.



Cuttings from the *Western Mail* and the *South Wales Evening Post* testify to his appeal: “Every picture tells a story.....many of his paintings are based on local scenes which have caught his eye during his travels around the area; others reflect visits to countries overseas.....he has an eye for the unusual and can tell a tale about each of the paintings and pieces of pottery on display.” One of the most popular ceramic pieces was ‘Dai the shop steward’, but the two dozen heads in the collection also included a negro, a red indian, an Egyptian cat goddess and a Welsh miner.

Frank has exhibited all over Wales, and in 1991 he had a painting selected from thousands of entries for the British Painters exhibition at London’s Westminster Hall, as well as having work shown in Boston and New York with the touring Dylan Thomas Society.

CALLED TO CATHAY - 6

Frank and Helen had now been in China for over six years, so they decided to take their first leave and postpone building up a trained staff for the hospital until after their return when they could expect a long period of uninterrupted service. Accordingly they returned to the States, where Stephen Josiah was born in Wilmington, Delaware, on 9 December 1910. While they were away the Manchu dynasty was overthrown, and on their return they found Shaohing in the hands of a former bandit chief; but all was quiet.

The hospital was reopened for continuous service in 1912. Assembling a medical staff took time and it was nearly two years before the first Chinese doctor joined, since Frank insisted on securing graduates rather than 'medical students'. Finding nurses was as problematic, Chinese men being easier to come by than women; but in the autumn of 1912 an American nurse, Miss Alma L. Pitman, arrived – although she had to spend eighteen months learning the language. 1915 was a turning point. It was the first full year of Miss Pitman's service, Frank gained an American colleague for the first time, and the hospital acquired its own electric lighting plant, which worked satisfactorily for ten years until the city produced its own. No longer would a naked candle cause the ether vapour to explode during an operation!

About this time Frank unexpectedly became involved in original medical research when he discovered the prevalence in the area of a fluke or flat worm, which often proved fatal. Given a scholarship by the Rockefeller Foundation for his leave beginning in the spring of 1917, he was able to undertake research at the Harvard Medical School in Boston; and the result of his study, published in the *Journal of Parasitology* in June 1919, earned him the degree of M.A. from Harvard. The family returned to China in the autumn of 1918, and the next few years were spent in establishing and learning both to operate and to service a new X-ray machine on the one hand, and to train adequate nurses on the other. As with doctors, male nurses were easier to come by at first, but Alma Pitman's inspirational example soon encouraged Chinese girls to come forward and the first graduated in 1923. As word of the excellent work of the hospital spread, so the hospital itself had to expand, in both space and staff; and, increasingly, able Chinese doctors joined the team so that by the mid-1920s it was possible for the first time to departmentalise the work.

In November 1923 Frank and Helen were due for leave again as the Baptist Mission decided to change the system from twelve months' leave for every seven years spent in the field to six months for every five, on the grounds that the missionaries' work could more easily be covered during a shorter absence. Travel time was not included, so that after nearly six months in America

they came back the other way via England and France, reaching Shoahing on 8 September 1924. And in June 1926 it was the turn of their daughter Margaret, who had now completed high school in Shanghai, to leave for College - always a difficult parting for both children and parents. Fortunately at about this time Helen was offered the post of Principal of the Women's School in Shaohing, a challenging position that she was to hold until their enforced departure in 1938 following the Japanese invasion of China the year before.

But in the meantime they had other troubles to face in the form of the Communist Revolution which began in the autumn of 1926 in the south. As it spread north and the army under the command of General Chiang Kai-shek counter-attacked, all foreign women and children were ordered by their consuls to gather in Shanghai where military protection could be arranged. Frank escorted them there, and then had some difficulty returning as the revolutionary army was near and his rickshaw was commandeered by the fleeing nationalists. In March 1927 he again went to Shanghai, but while there things became more difficult and he was unable to return to Shaohing; the family even spent some of the summer in Japan. In September it was deemed safe for the men to return to their stations, but the women and children remained in Shanghai until the following January.

Soon it was time for their son Stephen to go to the States for his college studies, but for once it was comforting to know that their leave was due in 1929 and so they would not be far behind. This time they travelled via Siberia and Europe, visiting many places and particularly spending time in England with Frank's sister Anna who, with her husband Dr John Jones [our founder's grandfather] and their two sons, had been driven out of Shensi Province in 1927. Not long after reaching America Frank was attached for a year and a half to the Foreign Mission Society's headquarters in New York, and so it was not until 1931 that they returned to China for what was to prove to be their last term of service.

From the beginning this was under the shadow of war, either internal or with Japan. But their work continued, extending to orphanages, prisons, a school for the blind and the poorhouse. Another advance was the increasing financial support from home which helped to provide modern equipment. And in 1936 Frank had the privilege of representing the Foreign Mission Society in Canton at the centenary commemoration of missionary work in China by William Dean. But the war clouds on the horizon drew ever closer, and in August 1937 the Japanese fell on Shanghai. The hospital became flooded with casualties but, with their leave again almost due, the Mission recommended immediate return to America. Frank's thirty-five years in China were over.

BEM

Last year a Mrs Mary Goddard was awarded the BEM in the Honours List. At first unaware that she and her husband Eric were members of the Association, I later wrote asking her what achievement had led to the honour, but she modestly declined to say. I am delighted that she has now written, claiming to have “got over my embarrassment”. “I suppose I received it for ‘services to the community’ as I have been involved with various projects over very many years – how they mount up when you are not looking!

I have been very interested in Guide Dogs for the Blind and have ‘walked’ puppies for them since 1967. By ‘walk’ I mean cared for a puppy from six weeks old until about thirteen months when they are taken back to the training centre to be trained to guide. A walker does some basic training and also gets the puppy confident in as many situations it will come across whilst working i.e. railway stations, travelling, working in traffic, etc., etc. I have also been involved with the fund raising aspect and managed to talk Honiton District out of many £1,000s over the years.

One of my other interests is Abbeyfield, a society that has HQ near London, but is run by local committees throughout the country. A house is bought (or built) to house up to twelve elderly people. They have their own room, doorkey, furniture, and are encouraged to live as independently as they wish, with a kindly eye kept on them by a housekeeper who also provides two meals a day which they eat together in the communal room. I have been on the local committee for twenty-five years, and am now on the committee of an Extra Care Abbeyfield House, which has been converted locally for twenty residents – usually from the surrounding Abbeyfield Houses (in this locality about thirteen) – and where more help is given than in a Residential House.

I have been involved with other things too, such as meals-on-wheels, having delivered to the rural areas for many years. One I would like to promote – as I, at 67, have just become too old – is Blood Donors. I have given over seventy pints during my life, and I hope younger Goddards will now take my place. Very valuable, Goddard blood!”

Many congratulations, once again, Mary.

BAKEWELL SHOW

Last summer, at Bakewell Show in Derbyshire, Albert of Chapel-en-le-Frith spotted a horsebox with the slogan “Sponsored by Goddards Protective Clothing, Lowestoft” on the side. And on the door “Rider – Trina Goddard”. Albert was happy to deliver a pale blue Goddard Association leaflet, which he just happened to have in his pocket! Does any member know anything about this family?

THE FUN OF THE FAIR

The verse below appeared under this title in the *High Peak Reporter* in the 1920s; it has been sent to me by Albert of Chapel-en-le-Frith. Signed “A Bugsworth Poet”, its interest lies in the fact that it was about two brothers who were always fighting and who made quite a name for themselves; their surname was Goddard. It is said that, try as she might, their mother never succeeded in uncovering the identity of the ‘poet’!

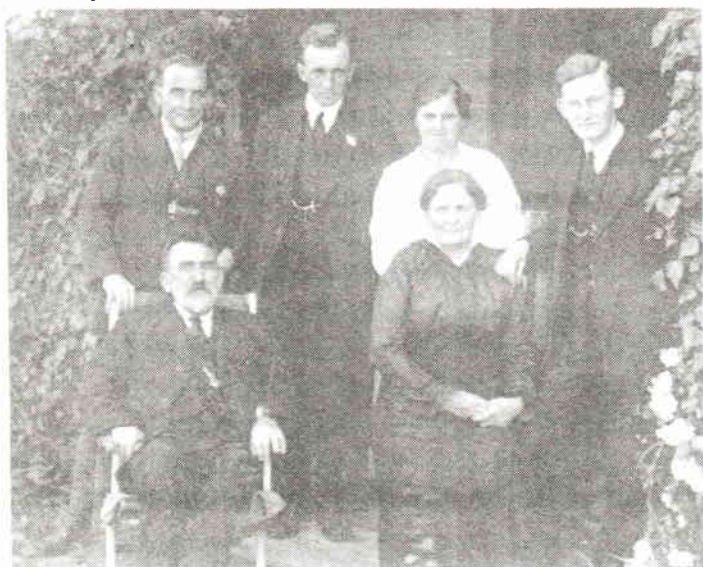
Two young men from Brierley Green
Dress up as if to meet the Queen;
With fag in mouth and stick in hand
They looked like two from a German band;
And had not half a Grecian bend
When going past the Old Bridge End,
And kept it up right into the fair
As the band was playing ‘It’s a Bear’.
Two young women sat in the motors,
Admiring the way of one or two courters,
Suddenly spied the Grecian bends,
Who were pulling a face like two old hens.
“There they are,” said one with a fright,
“We don’t want they on a Saturday night;
Oh, let us both get out of sight,
For them two boys are they that fight.”
But shortly after eight o’clock
Said Grecian bend with eyes like saucers,
“Art goin’ to have a ride on th’ ‘orses?”
The maid replied, “No thank you, sirs,
I think we will go and fetch our furs.
Just play about here or have a run,
We’ll see you two a bit later on.”

SERVING IN YUGOSLAVIA

The article under this heading in the last Newsletter has provoked much interest, and Margaret of Worsley has been in touch with Stuart Goddard of the Cheshires in Vitez, sending him the Newsletter and getting a delightful response. She has also tried to interest local papers in the story, to increase public awareness of Stuart and his colleagues and, equally, not to miss the opportunity to highlight our Association! Under the heading “Albert Replies”, the *High Peak Reporter* has published a brief follow-up to their original story: “The Goddard Association, whose members all share the same surname, rose to a request in the *Reporter* for penpals for soldiers serving with the Cheshire Regiment in the former Yugoslavia. Stuart Goddard from Stalybridge, explained on our Letters page how he and his colleagues love to receive mail from England. His appeal was picked up by Albert Goddard, from Chapel, who made the request for penpals in the last Goddard Association Newsletter.” I hope there may be more to report in the next Newsletter.

CAN YOU HELP?

Mrs Pat Bisset of 67 Whittaker Road, Kihikihi, New Zealand, who would like to know if anyone can help to identify the Goddards in these photographs. The larger



group was taken in the early 1920s – there are 'Returned Services' badges on the jackets – and gives an address on the back as 4 Albert Street, Hamilton East, New Zealand; mother and two of the sons appear on the other,



probably thirty years later. Pat has recently written to several Goddards in the Hawkes Bay district, and received a reply from Mr Burns of Goddard Security, a firm of locksmiths. He said that a Fred Goddard originally set up business in Wellington as a locksmith. Some time later, perhaps after the war, he moved to Hastings and opened up a business there. The Wellington business, which he had sold, still traded under the name of Goddard and Co. until about five years ago, since when it has been merged into several others. The Hastings business was also sold and passed through several hands before being bought by Mr Burns. Does anyone recognise Fred Goddard as a relative?

Also **Mrs Stella Goddard** of 19 Rockleigh Road, Bassett, Southampton, SO1 7AQ, to trace her late father-in-law, John Thomas Goddard, who died in West-

minster Hospital in September 1931 aged 66. At the time of his death he was living at 12D Peabody Estate, Old Pye Street, Westminster. His year of birth should have been 1865, but he gave his age on his marriage to Elizabeth Bowyer in 1902 as 31, which would have made his birth date 1871 – a difference of six years. Stella has searched for a birth certificate, but there are a number of John Thomas Goddards of that period and she has no means of telling which is the right one. She did not know either of her parents-in-law, and her husband was rather reticent about his family, mentioning some divergence of opinion about a will. This copy of an old



photograph has John Thomas, probably on the left, and maybe a brother; her husband said he was an only child, but there was a gap of four years between his parents' marriage and his birth in 1906. Does anyone recognise this family or can give Stella any help?

ANOTHER SUCCESS

I have matched two people this week. I cannot write members, because Rosemary Abrahams of Andover has let her membership lapse and Brian L. Goddard of Merridien, Australia, does not belong. Rosemary's details remained on file and when Brian wrote I found that they have a common ancestor in a William Goddard who lived at Market Lavington, Wiltshire, and was born about 1780. Rosemary is descended from a son, Thomas, whose family remained in the area; Brian's ancestor, Edmund, moved to Wales, and then his grandchildren went to Australia. Hopefully both Rosemary and Brian will pay a subscription. *Julie of Newbury*

MEMORIAL TO SIR VICTOR

Two small brass plaques recording the lives of the former Patron of the Association, Air Marshal Sir Victor Goddard and his wife, Mildred, have been dedicated in the Church of St Martin's, Brasted, Kent, where Sir Victor and Lady Goddard worshipped for many years. His family had intended to place a stone memorial on the wall of the Church, but while they were arranging for this, a fire seriously damaged the roof and furnishings. They therefore decided to make a more useful contribution to the rebuilding of the church, and presented the fronts of the new choir stalls, to which the two small plaques have been affixed. Visitors to the church will be impressed by the beauty of the reconstruction, which has made it a building fit for worship and for community use in the twenty-first century. Amongst those present at the rededication of the church by the Bishop of Rochester on 15 November 1992 were many friends of Sir Victor, his three children, and our Patron Peter Goddard, his nephew. *John of Nantwich (son)*

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are in order for a variety of reasons to a number of Goddards, some of them members of the Association and some not:

To **Joe Goddard** of Leicester Street, Swindon, who married Nicola Hardy in St Luke's Church last July. To **Dr Brennan Goddard**, formerly of Brinkworth, Wiltshire, who married Sara Jane Rogers of Malmesbury at the end of September; they will be living in Geneva where he is currently working on a research project. And to Committee member Albert's nephew, **John Maurice Goddard**, who married Karen Lesley Mercer in Nottingham on 21 November 1992. To **James Goddard-Jones**, elder son of the Association's late founder and Committee member Janet Goddard-Jones, who announced his engagement to Alison Martin of Launceston on 31 December 1992. To **Malcolm and Lesley Goddard** of Brisbane, Australia, on the birth of their first child, a daughter, Lucy Irene Margaret, on 11 January 1993, weighing in at six pounds. To **Mrs Dulcie Bradley** of New Mills who remarried in January and is now Mrs Wild. And to **Alison Goddard**, elder daughter of the late Mr J. Goddard and Mrs A. Goddard of Camberley, who announced her engagement to Paul Lindley of Sheffield on 25 February.

POIROT INVESTIGATES

Those of you who are Agatha Christie fans in general, and Poirot fans in particular, will have noticed a Vince Goddard in the credits of the recent ITV series. As Julie of Newbury points out, Vincent is a very old Goddard name, though I don't suppose this one was named for that reason. Does any member claim kinship?

1881 CENSUS

The Association is receiving print-outs of the 1881 census of the name Goddard, county by county as they appear. We have already commented on how useful the one for Cambridgeshire proved to some members. The following are the details from the recently received Rutland sheets:

Household of Edward Idle at **Greetham**

Caroline Goddard aged 38 daughter b. Greetham
Caroline H. Goddard aged 7 grand dau b. Greetham
Elizabeth M. Goddard aged 3 grand dau b. Greetham
Samuel Goddard aged 59 son-in-law Stone mason born Wymondham
Samuel E. Goddard aged 5 grandson scholar b. Greetham
Sarah E. Goddard aged 9 grand dau scholar b. Greetham

Household of William Goddard at **Clipsham**

William Goddard aged 68 Agricultural Labourer born Clipsham
Ann Goddard aged 67 wife Agricultural Labourer born Bury St Edmonds
William Henry Goddard aged 7 grandson scholar born Clipsham

Household of Thomas Goddard at **Clipsham**

Thomas Goddard aged 32 Farm Labourer born Clipsham
Harriett Goddard aged 37 Farm Labourer born Empingham

Household of James Goddard at **Oakham Deans**

James H. Goddard aged 27 First whipper-in born Heapham, Lincolnshire
Dorcas Goddard aged 20 wife born Oakham
James E. Goddard aged 7 months son born Barleythorpe

Household of Edward Brown at **Manton**

Edward Goddard aged 15 Lodger Telegraph clerk born Leicestershire *Julie of Newbury*

NO REPTILES PLEASE!

My aunt, Mrs Winifred Anson, died last September six weeks short of her ninetieth birthday. Sorting through the accumulation of decades, I came across a brass plaque, 6 x 4 inches in size, screwed to a slightly larger polished and solid piece of wood. Engraved on it in alternate red and black lines was the following:

NOTICE

NO

COCKS HENS CHICKENS

OR OTHER

BIRDS BEASTS REPTILES OR FISHES

ARE TO BE BURIED IN

THIS GARDEN

WITHOUT PERMISSION OF

THE OWNER

It did not appear to have been used, and my mother tells me that it had once belonged to a friend of the family who had had it made as a joke.

Richard of Malvern

NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA

The Association's Co-ordinators in countries other than the UK do a splendid job, keeping track of fellow members, obtaining their annual donations, forwarding the Newsletters which are now sent to them in bulk, and recruiting new members whenever possible. Stewart Geddes looks after Australia and he is about to place a notice in the *Genealogist*, the magazine of the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies, in the hopes of attracting one or two additional recruits. A visit to his son in Western Australia has kept him in contact with other members of the Association, but he was sorry not to have been able to see the late Eileen Dunkley when he passed through Busselton about two weeks before she died. On the other hand he and his wife June were able to entertain American member Earl of Palo Alto when the latter visited during the Christmas season. Despite age and several infirmities, Earl certainly gets around; he has been a frequent attender at AGMs in England. Warm greetings to all our overseas members; you are very welcome whenever you can get over to see us.

HAND IN GLOVE

Robert Goddard's latest novel *Hand in Glove* lives up to the reputation the author has already made for himself – it is a thoroughly good story. For instance, when I finally found the time to read it I did so in less than two days, because I could scarcely bring myself to put it down. And, like his other novels, it is an event in the past – in the Spanish Civil War this time – which comes back to haunt the present. But equally, as the dust cover says, “nothing is quite as it seems in a Robert Goddard novel”.

“Tristram Abberley was an English poet of the 1930s whose reputation was sealed when he died fighting for the Republicans in the Spanish Civil War. Nearly fifty years later his sister Beatrix is murdered during what appears to be a robbery at her home, but robbery – it transpires – is only part of the motive that underlies her death. Beatrix is the victim of a dark conspiracy, one that her loved ones are powerless to defeat....In a narrative that moves between Cheltenham and New York, Paris and rural Wales, Tunbridge Wells and wartime Spain, the conspirators themselves are caught up in a chain of dramatic events that are the consequence of meddling in the dark secrets of the legendary poet. *Hand in Glove* is as full of devious and unexpected twists and as compelling as anything Robert Goddard has written.” Try it for yourself!

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to those new members who have joined us since the last Newsletter went to print:

Mrs Pamela McKinnon, 143 Haines Drive, Bolton, Ontario L7E 2C5, Canada

Mr Edward J.H. Morgan, The Glen, Stonehouse Lane, Bulkeley, Malpas, Cheshire, SY14 8BQ.

EGYPT AND THE VIKINGS

With a heading like that you may be forgiven for thinking that my historical orientation has finally snapped under the strain of compiling my two-dozen Newsletter! Though, to be fair, the apparent geographical misalliance is not quite so wide of the mark as it might seem, since the Vikings travelled a great deal more extensively than is generally supposed and did, for example, certainly roam the eastern Mediterranean, since they formed the nucleus of the Varangian Guard which protected some of the Byzantine Emperors in Constantinople. But I digress.

I have just received an amusing letter from Committee member Seán of Exeter, who works in the University. He writes: “I’m just back from my excavation in Egypt – not a bad place to spend five winter weeks – and thought I must tell you about one of life’s little coincidences. There I was, on my first day off, annoyed with myself for I had already finished the only novel I’d brought, Robert Goddard’s *Take No Farewell*. What would I do with my idle moments now? It was a good and very readable book and I’m grateful to have RG’s books to choose when confronted by the sea of choice in Dillon’s. Why didn’t I buy two?”

The irony was that I was sipping Malvern water, which I’d bought from British Rail on my outward journey but never used. Stuck in the desert, 50 km from the nearest available water, a pumping station carrying Nile water to the Red Sea, I was bound to think of you at this moment. I would have sent you a postcard there and then, but we were 70 km from the nearest postbox. It is difficult ever to get away from Goddards when they are so often at the front of one's mind: even in Egypt!

Working on the site have been various Danes over the years, and I always ask them whether Danish has a personal or family name that corresponds to Goddard. The answer has always been no. I was desperate to confirm the Viking connection. Well, this year we were visited by the Danish Ambassador to Egypt, so I asked him as well. Again the answer was no. One of them will send me a photocopy of the Copenhagen telephone directory to try to convince me!

Is the Danish Viking connection real?”

ANNUAL DONATIONS

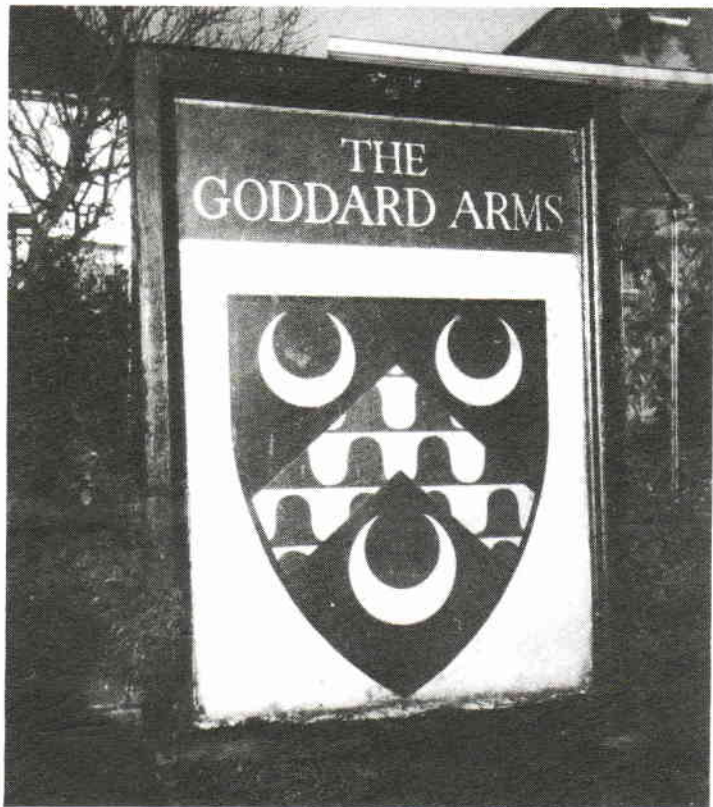
May I remind you that we are near the end of our financial year and that donations for the next year become due on the first of April; the minimum is £7-50 (£5-00 for OAPs), but we are always very pleased if you are feeling generous and exceed the minimum, as it enables us to further research. A reminder slip is enclosed with each Newsletter, apart from those abroad whose Co-ordinator will contact them, if he or she has not already done so.

THE GODDARD ARMS

It was a dark and stormy night when the telephone rang and a voice said, "Do you want to buy an inn sign?"

A gentleman had been sifting through the stock of a Reading antique shop when he came across the last two, from about fifty signs removed when the South Berks Brewery was amalgamated with the Symonds Brewery in about 1920. All the signs, or so the story from the antique dealer goes, were put into store until they were sold off in about 1970 when the Symonds Brewery was taken over by the Courage Brewery.

Mr Sidney Gold of Reading, as a local historian, had been doing some work for Julie Goddard of New Zealand, and thus knew of the Goddard Association. So when he found The Goddard Arms sign while browsing in the antique shop, and realising that the Association would probably be interested in owning the said sign, he started to barter. Haggling with the store owner, he had the asking price reduced by 40% to a figure that he thought we would find reasonable, and telephoned us. I went to look at the sign a day or so later and purchased it immediately; luckily it would just go into the car, and the Goddard Association is now the proud owner of its own inn sign.



The sign is top hung, about 4 ft x 2 ft 6 ins, with an outer steel band enclosing an oak 'picture frame'. The sign itself is a double sided plain but accurate presentation of the Goddard shield – gules a chevron vair between three crescents argent – without any further embellishments in the way of a crest etc. The sign is painted on two aluminium sheets back to back, and weighs about 60lbs. The sign is generally in good condition, but slightly mottled on one face; the paint is badly weathered and

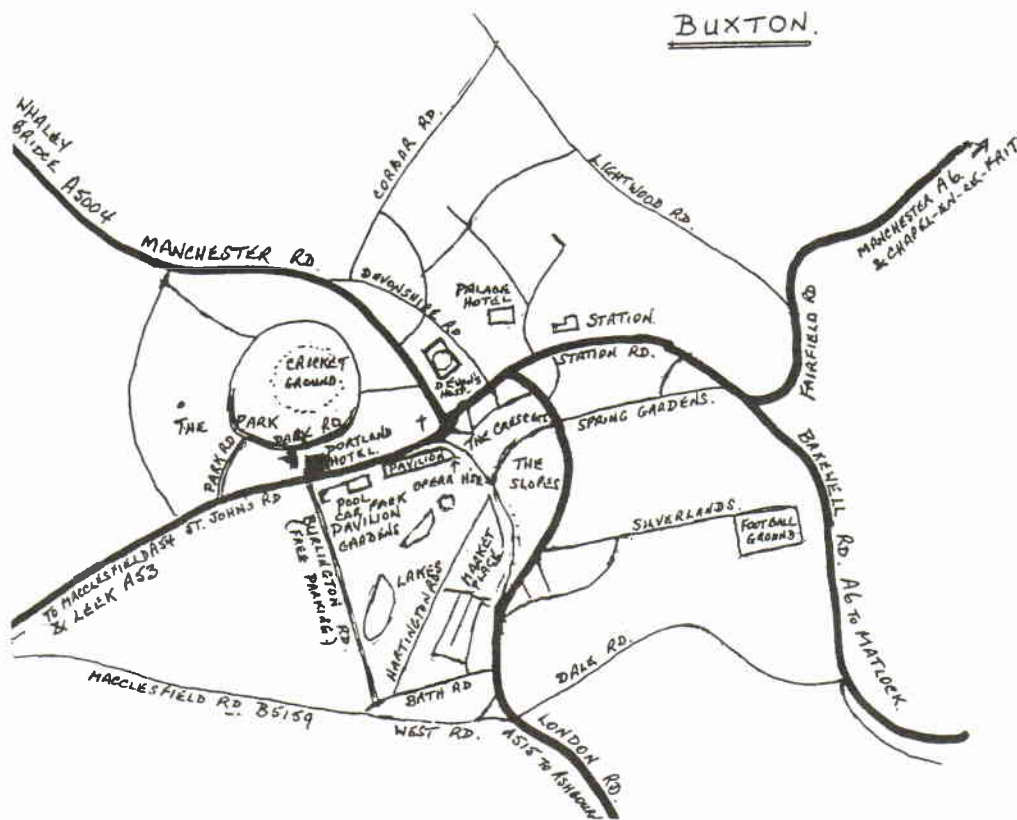
flaking on the other, showing the aluminium base through in a few places. The signwriter has printed his name as N.L. Cowling at the bottom of the face that is flaking. There are signs that ivy had partially covered the sign at some time.

The South Berks Brewery was originally based on the site of what is now the Newbury Building Society Headquarters in Newbury, and supplied public houses over a wide area; the antique dealer said they even supplied a public house in Cornwall. This brewery apparently was slowly absorbed into the Symonds Brewery Company over a period of several years, as the local trade directories of the period show. The Symonds Brewery Company was based in Reading, a few yards from a satellite brewery of the South Berks Brewery. This is where the history of the sign rests at present. We do not know from which inn the sign comes, nor have we been able to find anything more of the signwriter in the Newbury Library or Museum. It is thought that it is likely that the sign belongs to one of the two presently named Goddard Arms establishments at either Clyffe Pypard or Swindon, the latter being the most likely. There is a photograph of the Clyffe Pypard inn from a book of old Wiltshire scenes (*A Wiltshire Camera 1835-1914* by David Burnett), which shows a much more ornate depiction of the Goddard arms with a crest. The quality of this photograph leads me to think it was taken after the turn of the century and unlikely to be an earlier version of our sign. And in this photograph the sign at the Clyffe Pypard inn is shown suspended by hinges two thirds of the way up the sign, not top slung as is ours.

This means that there is a great deal more research to do. The breweries will be well documented in the reference library at Reading, together with researching the local papers for the period. Moreover, it may also be possible to trace the signwriter, as he does not seem to be a Newbury man. Searches in Swindon of the period showing the Swindon Goddard Arms will possibly show the sign in its original site. Who will take up the challenge?

Thank you Mr Gold; your telephone call was much appreciated. It is a dark and stormy night again, but I'm prepared and waiting this time! *Brian of Newbury*

As a footnote to this article, I have just had a cutting sent to me from a Wiltshire area newspaper indicating that the Clyffe Pypard Goddard Arms is for sale on the instructions of Wadworth and Company Ltd. Offers in excess of £100,000 are being asked for the freehold of this "imposing detached public house" which has a "large trading area, car park and trade garden" and "pleasant private accommodation with scope for residential conversion, subject to consent."



AGM AGENDA

I hope this map of Buxton, kindly drawn by Albert of Chapel-en-le-Frith, will enable you to find the Portland Hotel where the AGM will be held on Sunday 4 April at 2.00pm. May I remind you that a three-course lunch is available at £7-50, but that you should ring the hotel (0298-22462) in advance to book it. The Agenda will be as follows:

1. Welcome by the President.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Minutes of the last AGM.
4. Matters arising.
5. Treasurer's Accounts for 1992-93.
6. Research Co-ordinator's Report.
7. Election of Officers:
 - a). President.
 - b). Secretary.
 - c). Treasurer.
8. Election of two Committee Members: John and Albert retire by rotation and are eligible for re-election.
9. Date and Place of the next AGM.
10. Any other business.

The business part of the Meeting will be followed by the presentation of the Howard Goddard-Jones Memorial for 1992. This in turn will be followed by an illustrated talk on Wells Dressing given by David Sanders and his wife.

As usual a raffle will be held during the course of the afternoon, and Association items will be on sale. Please may I remind you to wear your own lapel badge for ease of identification, in the form 'Peter of Petersfield' or 'John of Land's End', since we mostly have the same surname.

If you get bored with the proceedings you can always nip across the road to the Pavilion Gardens where there is an Antiques Fair all week-end! And don't forget that if you are free on the Saturday afternoon Albert will lead a drive round High Peak places of Goddard interest, leaving the Portland Hotel in Buxton at 2.00pm.

CELEBRITY DARTS

An article under this heading has been sent to me from the *Wiltshire and Gloucestershire Standard Times* of April 1992. It described the efforts of Steve Goddard of Lechlade in helping to raise £100,000 towards building a hydrotherapy pool in Cirencester. Steve lost the use of his arm in a motorcycle accident twelve years ago and has a weekly session at a Swindon hydrotherapy pool; he believes the water treatment has helped restore movement to the muscles of his arm and hopes one day to recover full use of them. Now he wants to give more people the opportunity to have such treatment. On one of his visits to Swindon Steve got chatting to another pool user, the professional darts player Bob Anderson, and found that he also supported plans to build one at Paternoster School, which is attended by pupils with special needs. This led to the idea of a 24-hour sponsored darts marathon at the Crown Inn, Lechlade, on 25-26 April 1992. Steve hoped that Bob Anderson or one of his professional colleagues would put in an appearance.

USEFUL ADDRESSES

You may find the following addresses useful for contact: 702-1261

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