

The Goddard Association of Europe

NEWSLETTER

No. 85 – JANUARY 2008

JOHN THOMAS GODDARD OBE MC JP Weymouth's Forgotten Hero

Under this latter heading an article on 3 November in a southern newspaper carried an interview with Association member Ronald Knight on the biography he has just published concerning the remarkable life of John Thomas Goddard. As secretary of the Weymouth branch of the Royal British Legion Ronald had not heard of 'Joe' Goddard, as he was generally known, until he fielded an unexpected telephone call from Judge Ann Goddard, one of Joe's grandchildren (so that's settled which branch she comes from – see Newsletters 32, 42 and 58!). She wanted to know if there was still a 'Goddard Room' in Legion House on King Street. There wasn't, but the question set Ronald Knight researching and then turning the fruits of his labours into a fascinating biography.

John Thomas Goddard was born at the then family home at 12 Dudley Street, Wednesbury in the industrial Midlands on Thursday 28 August 1879, the fifth of seven children of William and Catherine Goddard; he had three elder brothers in William, Henry and Moses, and two younger ones in Charles and Frederick, and an older sister Frances Louisa. William, described as a railway labourer on Joe's birth certificate, had been born in about 1837 in Hounslow; and Catherine Clarke had been born in Leamington Spa on 15 July 1846. William had moved to the Midlands and had met and married Catherine at St Peter's Church, Coventry on 21 July 1867; he was described as a porter on the marriage certificate and she was a servant, signing her name with an x. Both were to die in Wednesbury within a month of each other in 1896, Catherine on 19 May and William on 20 June.

Joe's childhood was hard, but



unremarkable. Unfortunately nothing is known of his schooling; nor, indeed, as to what he did for the five years between leaving school and joining the army at the age of nineteen in 1898. But he must have possessed both character and ability, because he joined a crack cavalry regiment – the 14th (King's) Hussars – served for 27

years, was Regimental Sergeant Major for the last ten and the proud recipient of the Military Cross in the Great War. After about a year's training in Ireland, his first theatre of action was the Boer War in South Africa. Reaching Cape Town in January 1900, he was part of the force which relieved Kimberley and captured a Boer army at Paardeberg where, coincidentally, my own father was serving as a medical officer with the Black Watch. The war then degenerated into the Boer guerrilla phase, which was to last for the next two years, a difficult and exhausting period for the cavalry. Joe was awarded Queen Victoria's South Africa Medal with six bars (Relief of Kimberley, Paardeberg, Driefontein, Johannesburg, Diamond Hill, Belfast) and King Edward's South African Medal with two bars (1901 and 1902).

Returning to England in 1903 and stationed at Aldershot, Joe soon met and courted Hilda Constance Margareta Elliott, the daughter of a late confectioner and grocer, and born there on 18 October 1879. They were married at the Presbyterian Church on 2 June 1904 and spent a brief honeymoon in Leamington before the regiment moved to Shorncliffe in Kent. It was there that their first child, Eleanor Pearl Catherine, was born on 12 August 1905. From there the following year the regiment was posted to Bangalore in India; Hilda and baby Eleanor went too. On 4 January 1907 a second daughter, Ethel Louisa, was born; sadly, she contracted meningitis and died five weeks later on 11 February. But on 13 September 1908 a third child was born to them, a son Graham Elliott; and four years later on 4 January 1912 another daughter Audrey. Hilda and the children returned to England in 1913 and lodged with

her mother in Aldershot. They were on the point of returning to India the following year when the First World War broke out, and so stayed where they were. So did the regiment for the time being; only at the end of 1915 did it move to Mesopotamia to form part of the India Expeditionary Force, one of the last cavalry regiments to be used in its original role.

Engagements in Mesopotamia over the next three years were many and various, and Joe was mentioned in despatches. What is most important to us is his award of the Military Cross, a new decoration instituted by King George V in 1914 and given mainly to officers up to the rank of Captain and occasionally including warrant or non-commissioned officers. Announced on 1 June 1918 and gazetted on 10 January 1919, in a group of some 170 recipients, Joe was one of only three warrant officers to be so honoured. Unfortunately the citation is general and does not indicate the specific action, though it is thought to have been one in the autumn of 1917. It reads: "For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He was in charge of the led horses of three squadrons who came under heavy fire. He showed great coolness and resource in making arrangements for safeguarding them. Later, when relieved by an officer, he assisted, under heavy fire, with the evacuation of casualties from the firing line and the replenishment of ammunition from the led horses." He was to receive the medal from the king at Buckingham Palace in November 1919.

The regiment returned home in the late spring of 1919; Joe had not seen his young family for almost six years. The Great War had been sad for him in other ways; brother Moses was killed on the Somme on 8 March 1917, and brother Charles also on the western front on 15 April 1918. Happier news, however, came in February 1920 when a fifth child, Jessie Beryl, was born. Army life returned to peacetime training and sports, at most of which Joe excelled, at Tidworth in Wiltshire, before the regiment was posted to the Rhineland at the end of 1920 until October 1923.

Joe retired from the army in 1925, and began the last phase of his life by becoming a publican in Weymouth chosen, it is said, because a former sergeant of the regiment had already successfully followed that route. He first ran the Prince of Wales Inn in Park Street, before moving in May 1930 to the Royal Adelaide Hotel in Abbotsbury Road. After only two years in Weymouth he became Chairman of the South Dorset Licensed Victuallers Association, a post he was to retain on and off for eighteen years.

He also found time for many other bodies such as the Magistrates, the Ancient Order of Foresters, the British Legion and the Freemasons.

But in November 1931 his life took on a new dimension when he entered politics, being returned unopposed for the Wyke Regis ward of Weymouth Town Council. Seven years later he was elected Mayor. 'Cometh the hour, cometh the man'. Never was an adage better exemplified. Joe Goddard took over the running of the town at a dark hour in our history, twice welcoming King George VI to the area. The fact that he was re-elected on six consecutive further occasions until the great conflict was over demonstrates the esteem in which he was held. He proved himself a hard-working and tireless leader of the community, ably supported on all occasions by his wife Hilda as Lady Mayoress. But there was one instance during the war when his mayoralty almost came to an abrupt end. On 1 November 1941, just after Joe had gone to bed, a bomb fell on the Royal Adelaide Hotel demolishing one end of it and burying Joe in the rubble; fortunately he was not seriously injured. And in the New Year Honours List of January 1942 he was awarded the OBE. He retired as Mayor in November 1945, becoming Deputy Mayor and an alderman. Early in 1946 it was suggested that he be given the freedom of the borough in recognition of his outstanding wartime service, and this was duly passed at a special meeting of the Town Council on 31 October. Joe was already a sick man and sadly did not live to receive the honour personally, dying a month later on 28 November; his widow Hilda received it on 15 February 1947. She herself died on 3 August 1948.

Several memorials to Joe Goddard were forthcoming, probably the most prominent being the room dedicated to his memory in Legion House by the Weymouth Branch of the Royal British Legion. Subsequently this room went out of use, but on 15 September 2001 it was rededicated by his granddaughter, Her Honour Judge Ann Felicity Goddard Q.C. Unfortunately through lack of support the Legion Club in Weymouth has recently ceased trading, but it is hoped that more suitable premises will soon be found and that a new room can then be dedicated.

Members wishing to acquire copies of this excellent little biography can obtain them by applying direct to the author, Mr Ronald D. Knight at 18 Manor Road, Redlands, Weymouth, Dorset, DT3 5HR. Please include a cheque payable to R.D. Knight for £12; this includes packing and postage.

CAT SAVAGES POSTMAN

Several members spotted and kindly sent me the story which made the national press just before Christmas (they were obviously short of other news!) of the cat which usurped the traditional role of dog and attacked the postman. The cat in question, Georgi by name, belongs to Ben Goddard, a 27 year old land surveyor of Derby, and his 24 year old wife Sarah, a nursery nurse. Recently married, they were surprised that their supply of congratulatory mail was



very meagre and that other mail seemed to be drying up. Seeing the postman one day, Sarah was horrified to be told that their 'dog' regularly attacked him and had recently left him bleeding so that he would no longer deliver. Indeed, they subsequently received a letter to that effect, but have resolved the issue by putting a new box for deliveries at the end of their drive. Sarah pointed out that they only had a cat, and wondered what the postman was doing putting his arm through the letterbox in the first place!

BISHOP OF BURNLEY

Rochester's bishop started a controversy recently when he claimed that Muslims made certain parts of the country no-go areas for Christians. While Muslims called for his resignation and some Christians said he had gone too far, he was supported by the Bishop of Burnley, the Rt Rev John Goddard, who said his colleague had raised serious questions about the role of faith, race and culture in British society and started a serious debate. Newsletter 57 of February 2001 refers to Bishop Goddard's enthronement on 7 December 2000 in York Cathedral and his welcome to Blackburn Cathedral two days later.

OBITUARIES

The Association is very sad to announce the death from a brain tumour on Sunday 4 November of former Executive Committee member Marjorie of York, one of the founder members of the Association and its first Membership Secretary from 1987 to 1990. Marjorie was most energetic in the early days of the Association in drumming up members and in spreading the word of the fledgling body, and we owe her a great debt of gratitude. Even after ceasing active membership she continued to send cuttings and information on any Goddards she came across. We offer her husband Dennis and all her family our sympathy in their loss.

We are also sad to note the death of Association member Gerald Goddard of Bude on 22 November, and also of former member Herald Goddard of Leicester on 31 December, and send our condolences to their respective families. In Newsletter 17 Herald wrote a brief history of the company that manufactured Goddard's silver polish or plate powder and of which he was the managing director.

ORONTES

I was flicking through the Freebmd website for someone else when my eye caught the entry for Orontes George Goddard, born in the June Quarter of 1890. Over many years of looking into family histories this was the first time I had come across the name of Orontes and I just had to try to find its origin. Apparently it is the name of a valley in Syria; an important archaeological site. The name came into prominence when it was given to a ship, HMS Orontes, which was a hospital ship which famously brought wounded soldiers back from the Anglo-Zulu War of 1879. Perhaps this was the explanation for the giving of the name Orontes to Orontes Eleanor Batchelor who was born in September 1879. This does not account for Orontes Ernest King who was born in 1885 in Upton in Worcestershire, or Orontes George Goddard five years later, especially considering that he was born in Depwade, in the middle of Norfolk. Depwade Deanery contains Bunwell and Carleton Rode, where many Goddards lived, as Denise Goddard and her cousins have established. One branch of the family moved to London. Orontes must belong to the branch which remained in Norfolk. An incidental Goddard connection can be found in that the Orontes brought back to England the body of Louis Napoleon, the Prince Imperial of France. His mother, the exiled Empress Eugenie, had an English chaplain, Monsignor Isaac Goddard, pastor of St Mary Chislehurst from 1871-92. Julie of Newbury

BURGESS GOTHERD OF ELY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

My maiden name is Tingay, but our family name through the centuries has been found as Tingey, Tingly, Tingye, Tangué and not a few other names. From my first faltering attempts at genealogy nearly ten years ago, I looked at the many different names to find 'my' Tingay family.

However, when I came to research the GODDARD name in my family, I somehow thought that once a Goddard, always a Goddard. That was a mistake that I will not repeat, as after all this time and searching, I have knocked down – with help - my GODDARD brick wall!

I first found my 2nd great grandfather, born 1814, on Boyd's Marriage Index. His name appeared as Burgess GODDARD, as it did on the parish records that I obtained of his marriage. Burgess had married his wife Sarah Cooper on May 15, 1836, in Ely St Mary, Cambridgeshire. Timothy Cross and Caroline GODDARD were witnesses.

I next searched him out on the 1841 census for Cambridgeshire, and found him living in Cats Lane, Ely, Cambridgeshire with his wife and two children, Sarah (Ann) and Henry. All born In County. By the census of 1851, Burgess GODDARD was a chemist/druggist/labourer. On various marriage certificates he appears as a grocer and a warehouseman. He and his wife Sarah went on to have seven children that I know of.

It seemed strange to me that not one of the seven children were registered, even though they were all born after 1837. But, I managed to find all of their baptisms in the Parish Records of Ely St Mary (all under GODDARD), and considered myself fortunate at that.

I traced as much of the history of the seven GODDARD children as I could. Sarah Ann married Thomas John Tungate. Mary Ann married my great grandfather, James Tingey. Henry married Elizabeth Scott. Maria married David Murfitt. John married Eliza Newman. James married Alice Saunders. The last child, Burgess, married Louisa Anne Fallows. Two of the children – Sarah Ann and Burgess – both died young. Sarah Ann at 28 and Burgess at 30.

I continued my search, year after year, for where my 2nd great grandfather had been born, but with no success. However, with all the GODDARD certificates of births, marriages and deaths that I had, I only looked at GODDARD. Then a little message dated 24 September 2007 arrived from Peter Goddard in Toronto, Canada, who I had been in touch with periodically. Peter referred me to a Burgess GOTHERD, whose death certificate he had noted in

the December quarter of 1857, suggesting that this might just be 'my' Burgess.

I immediately looked up the baptisms between 1801 and 1837, under the name of GOTHARD, on the Cambridgeshire Family History Society web site – and didn't find him. But, I then wondered about other variations such as GOTHERD – and there he was, born 1814, son of John and Mary GOTHERD, of Waterside, Ely Holy Trinity. I also found a Caroline born 1817 and a Maria born 1820 – and an Ann GOTHARD born 1808. I cannot be sure of them until I have records of their baptisms.

However, I sent for Burgess GOTHARD's death certificate, and though I may be presuming, I think that I have found my 2nd great grandfather, a grocer's porter at his death at the age of 44, in Ely.

I also looked up the birth registrations for GOTHARD and GOTHERD for a couple of the children; for my great grandmother Mary Ann and her brother Henry. And I obtained the birth certificates. Happily, the parents are correct (Burgess and Sarah GOTHARD), and a puzzle has been solved.

The moral of this tale: always look at variations of names. Pity I had to be nudged (thank you Peter!) into thinking of doing that myself when it came to my GODDARD family.

Mary Collishaw

ROBERT GODDARD

Fame at last – or possibly not! In the University Challenge contest on 27 August Robert's exploits came up in one of the questions asked by Jeremy Paxman: "What award did Robert Goddard win for his novel *Into the Blue*?" Unfortunately the answer "the Thumping Good Read Award" was not known by the bright young students trying to win a place in the next round of the competition. More to the point, Robert really should be in line for it again as his latest masterpiece *Name to a Face* keeps you wanting to turn over the pages and not succumb to turning out the light and going to sleep as you should. Set mainly in Penzance it is, as often the case with Robert's scenarios, a modern drama based on historical fact – in this instance the wreck of Admiral of the Fleet Sir Cloudesley Shovell's flagship H.M.S. Association on the Gilstone Rocks in the Scilly Isles on the night of 22 October 1707, added to which he alludes to the increasingly accepted theory that King Edward II was not gruesomely assassinated in Berkeley Castle in 1227 but lived on, mostly on the Continent, for another twenty years or more. Intrigued by the juxtaposition of these two seemingly incompatible facts? Buy your own copy and start reading!

STOURBRIDGE SCHOOLMASTER

I was recently lent a book *The Story of a School* by R.L. Chambers, which is a history of the King Edward VI School in Stourbridge. In it I was interested to read that the Usher (or Second Master) appointed in January 1859 was one William Grunsell Goddard. Very little is known about him, except that he wrote his application for the post from King's Somborne in Hampshire not far from Winchester, and was the second longest occupant of the office until 1899 when he retired with an illuminated address (now in the school's archives) and a £500 gratuity. As Usher he was the Middle School Master and one of his former pupils describes him as "a striking personality and a born teacher; the only one of the masters, I believe, I ever learned anything from. He was the only one of the masters who took any real interest in his work, or in the school sports, or in the boys after school hours. Mr Goddard had the commanding appearance and character of a Roman senator. His iron grey eye under beetling brow missed nothing. He was a fine disciplinarian and whilst boys feared him they esteemed and liked him, because he was just and impartial. He was highly thought of among the townspeople also, and associated well. I regretted leaving Mr Goddard for the Upper School" which was taught by the Headmaster. And, noting his "clear-cut, sombre, sallow face", another former pupil remembered that at "the far end of the big schoolroom facing the Headmaster's desk reigned Mr Goddard – a forensic-looking gentleman who daily passed my home deep in thought, as though continually pondering mathematical problems. He expounded the mysteries of decimals. The lifting of the lid of his desk was often the prelude to a descent from his 'throne' and a perambulation round the class to whack our knees with a thick cane whenever our brains proved sluggish." Can anyone place this schoolmaster?

GODDARD ARMS

On 25 August 2007 it was announced in the Swindon Evening Advertiser that the Goddard Arms Hotel, where this Association was founded and held some of its first AGMs, in Old Town Swindon, was due to close at the end of the month. It had been bought by the property company George Wimpey South West and is due for redevelopment, although as a Grade II listed building the old part cannot be demolished. It is not clear whether this will remain as a hotel or whether it will be split into apartments among other residential accommodation. I am grateful to Jennifer Walker for this intelligence.

MAYOR

I am grateful to Stephen of Buckhurst Hill for sending me this picture from the funeral directors' magazine *Saifinsight*. It relates to the launch of the Hayward's Heath Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal last autumn, in which the firm of P & S Gallagher bought the town wreath. Pictured from



left to right are: Haywards Heath Mayor, Richard Goddard; Grahame Campbell, editor of the *Mid Sussex Times*; standard bearer, veteran Fred Goddard (often featured in these Newsletters and who is seen holding a copy of his book *Battlefields of Life*); and Paul Masson of P & S Gallagher.

NELSON

New member Ivan Goddard's daughter works for Salisbury District Council and recently came across this in the archives: '10th December 1800 Alderman James Goddard presented the Freedom of the City to Nelson'. Does any member think this might be a relation?

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to those new members who have joined the Association since the last Newsletter:

Mr Ivor Goddard, 45 Hillside Drive, Christchurch, Dorset, BH23 2RS.
Mrs L. Goddard, 43 Langer Avenue, Caringbah, NSW 2229, Australia.
Ms M. Hill, 16 Reading Road, Burghfield Common, Reading, RG7 3QA.
Ms A.M. Wellman, 76 Rollesbrooke Gardens, Southampton, SO15 5WB.

NEW MEMBERS FAMILIES

The information below is given to enable existing members to get in touch with new members who appear to belong to the same branch:

Ivor Goddard is descended from Vincent and Margaret Goddard of a Wootton Rivers, Wiltshire, branch from the 1700s.

Michelle Hill is descended from the Goddards of Sherfield on Loddon, who moved to Shinfield, Berkshire, and she would be pleased to hear from any member with similar descent.

CAMP HILL

Camp Hill, an eight bedroomed house with fifty acres of garden and a further forty-five acres of fields at Baldwin's gate near Newcastle-under-Lyme commissioned in 1827 by Sarah Wedgwood, spinster daughter of the famous Josiah, has just come on the market for £2.5 million. I am grateful to several members of the Association for spotting an article about it in the property section of the Daily Telegraph for 27 October, the reason being its ownership by two generations of a Goddard family for the last seventy years. Camp Hill was bought in 1937 by John Vivian Goddard whose father, John Shaw Goddard, had acquired the pottery firm of Mason's Ironstone China (then trading under the name of Ashworths) in December 1883. John Vivian took the firm over in 1919 and ran it until his death in 1962 when his son John Stringer Goddard inherited. He changed the name Ashworth back to Mason in 1969, but sold out to Wedgwoods in 1973, finally retiring in 1981. He was something of an eccentric and a recluse, living on his side of the green baize door with six servants on the other side, and died aged 90 in April 2007. His family, consisting of a niece and nephew, children of his sister Pat Clive, had not explored the house and garden for thirty years and came across all manner of treasures. The handwritten ledgers of the factory have been given to a museum, but the porcelain and antiques are to be sold at Christies later this month.

NEW YEAR HONOURS

Two Goddards were mentioned in the New Year Honours List recently: Michael Goddard who receives an OBE for services to technology, and in the Army List WO Class 2 Karl Mark Goddard RE who receives an MBE. Our congratulations to both – whoever they may be.

BOXER

My printer, who is by now well trained in spotting articles of Goddard interest, was rummaging on the top of a cupboard recently when a very faded paper fell off. It was a copy of The Daily Mirror for Monday 16 June 1919, but what particularly caught his eye was the headline on the back page: "Goddard's Best Pal". This was a picture of Frank Goddard, a boxer, relaxing with his pet dog (probably not a boxer) before his big fight at Olympia the following day with a man called Beckett. It stated that the fight was eagerly awaited and would be seen by, amongst other famous people, Alcock and Brown whose exploit of flying the Atlantic had been achieved the previous day and was featured on the whole of the front page of the same newspaper.

FREE GAE MEMBERSHIP WITH CERTIFICATE REGISTRATION

Research Co-ordinator Peter of Toronto reports that he has now received the details of nearly 500 birth, marriage and death certificates. This database becomes more and more useful the larger it becomes and so it is important that as many members as possible submit the details of the Goddard certificates they hold. If you have email facilities contact Peter at pgoddard@interlog.com who will send you out the forms needed to get your certificates into the database. If you don't have email you should send photocopies of your certificates to Peter at the address on the back page of the Newsletter. And here's the big bonus! Members who submit the details of a minimum of 5 certificates get free membership of the Association for the year commencing 1 April 2008!

FRANK OF LLANELLI

Artist Frank Goddard of Llanelli has again beaten fellow competitors and lifted another prestigious trophy. He recently won the Keith Ethridge Memorial Trophy in the Three Town's competition (Amman Valley, Carmarthen and Llanelli), having previously won the Llanelli Art Society winter exhibition five times and several other competitions. He was delighted and says it has "crowned my 80th year". In addition his son Neil, who lives in Trowbridge in Wiltshire, has just won the BBC's Springwatch (West of England) competition and had a photograph published as the front cover and January picture for the BBC Wiltshire Calendar for 2008.

GODDARDS AT OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITIES

Malcolm of Brisbane and Peter of Toronto have combined forces to produce a database of the 97 Goddards who attended Oxford University from 1500 to 1886 or Cambridge University from 1261 to 1900, extracted from Alumni Oxoniensis and Alumni Cantabrigiensis. In most cases the original entry provides a wealth of information. For example, the entry for the splendidly named Horatio Nelson Goddard reads: "Second son of Edward of Cliffe, Wilts., clergyman, Brasenose College, matric 23 January 1824 aged 17; B.A. 1828; M.A. 1831; of Clyffe Pypard, Wilts., J.P., D.L., High Sheriff 1860., etc.". Members who suspect an ancestor might be amongst those listed should contact Peter at pgoddard@interlog.com or Malcolm at mlgoddard@iprimus.com.au or by mail to Peter at the address shown on the back page of the Newsletter, when full details of the relevant entry will be provided.

MURDERER DIES

If you are about my vintage or older you may well recall the Bath child-murderer, John Straffen, who gained notoriety not only for two murders of children in 1951, but his success the following year in escaping from Broadmoor high security psychiatric prison and murdering another child within hours. It was announced by the Ministry of Justice that he had died aged 77 on 19 November in the health care unit of Frankland Prison in County Durham, the country's longest serving prisoner after 55 years behind bars. His original death sentence had been commuted to life imprisonment on the grounds that he was a "feeble-minded person"; many lawyers believe he should never have been tried at all, as he had previously been declared mentally defective and had a mental age of under ten. And the connection to our family? One direct – the second of his first two victims was six-year-old Brenda Goddard – and one indirect: on his escape from Broadmoor he changed from his prison clothing on the corner of the property owned by my cousin, Peggy Chapman (née Goddard) and her husband, Edward, a doctor in Crowthorne living close to the prison. After the escape a siren system was installed in Broadmoor to alert local residents if an inmate was on the loose; it is still tested every Monday morning.

PANTOMIME

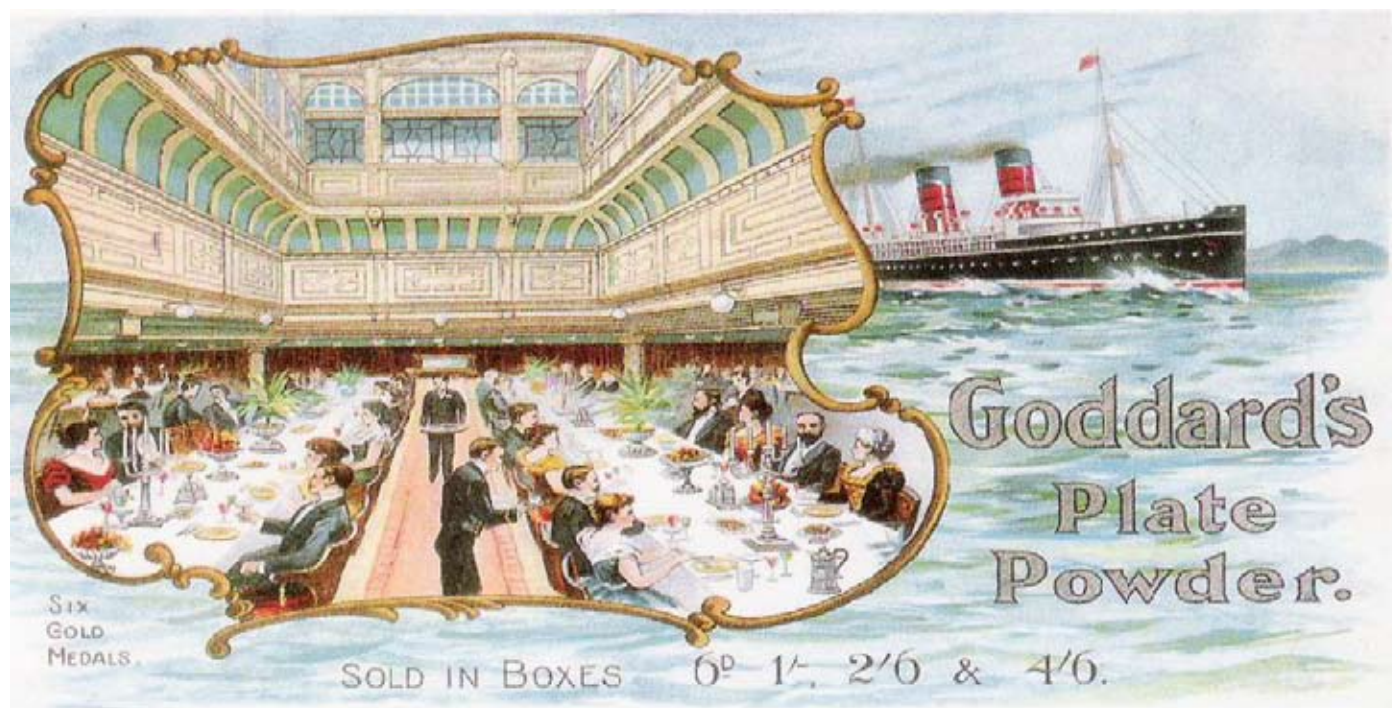
Playing Bobby Bosh in Dick Whittington at Harlow Playhouse over Christmas was Joanne Goddard, having been the Fairy Godmother in Cinderella in 2005, and Terroressa in 2006's Robin Hood. She also has an impressive CV with the Playhouse Theatre Company, starting with Westside Story in 2002 (Ensemble), before moving on to Cabaret in 2003 (Kit Kat Girl), Annie in 2004 (Ensemble) and The Wizard of Oz in 2005 (Dorothy). Joanne has also appeared in St Albans Operatic Society's Anything Goes and Cassio Operatic Society's Elegies for Angels, Punks and Raging Queens. She has completed a BA (Hons) in Musical Theatre, works with children in a day nursery and, as well as singing, dancing, theatre and teaching, is also interested in puppetry. I am grateful to Stephen of Buckhurst Hill for this information.

CRANFORD

Those of you who were following the excellent BBC dramatic adaptation of Elizabeth Gaskell's three Cranford novels on Sunday evenings before Christmas cannot have failed to notice that the name she gave to the village butcher was Mr Goddard. Readers of Newsletter 22 will remember that another fictitious Goddard was the Mrs Goddard who kept the local boarding-school in Jane Austen's Emma.

PLATE POWDER

Long-standing readers of this Newsletter will remember that I have mentioned Goddard's Plate Powder before. Newsletter 17 gave a history of the company, written by its former managing director, Herald Goddard of Leicester, whose obituary appears on page 3 of this Newsletter; and Newsletters 32 and 33 showed postcard copies of its advertisements. Now, thanks to Julie of Christchurch, New Zealand, who found it in a shop in the Cotswolds when she was over here recently, I reproduce a third advertisement from a similar postcard.



AGM

The twenty-second AGM will be held in the Memorial Hall at Aldbourne in North Wiltshire on Sunday 18 May 2008 at 2.00pm. Aldbourne is situated on the A419 between Swindon and Hungerford. Turn off the main road on the church side and the Memorial Hall is approximately one hundred yards up Oxford Street on the right hand side, two buildings past the Co-op store and opposite The Paddocks. There is assorted parking just before you get there or, if that is full, by the duck pond or in the Green towards the church. It has been decided not to make catering arrangements for lunch on this occasion, but to let people 'do their own thing'. There are two pubs in the immediate vicinity, the Crown opposite the duck pond and the Blue Boar on the Green.

GRASSROOTS RECYCLING

A new company to solve the plastic collection problem, Grassroots Recycling, is the trading name of Southern Agri Recycling Ltd. This firm offers farmersthroughouttheSouthWestacomprehensive on-farm collection service to pick up all waste plastic and cardboard products. It is based near Warminster, Wiltshire and its Operations Manager is Jason Goddard. I am grateful to Jennifer Walker for this information from the June 2007 issue of South West Farmer.

PLYMOUTH MONUMENT

On a recent visit to Plymouth I stopped on the Hoe to look at the hundreds of names on the Royal Naval memorial of the First World War, recording the names of seamen whose last resting place was in the sea itself. Two Goddards were recorded, both having lost their lives in 1918. One was C. Goddard, a Merchantile Marine in the Reserve Engineers Department; the other was H.T. Goddard, an Engine Room Artificer. I wonder if any member recognises either of these two seamen as a relative?

ANDES TREK

A nurse from Collingbourne Kingston in Wiltshire who deals with multiple sclerosis patients has recently undertaken a trek in the Andes, along the old Inca trails, to raise some £5,500 for the Multiple Sclerosis Trust. Mrs Roberta Crosby was inspired to do this by the brave fight of her childhood friend, Mrs Goddard of Salisbury, in combating the disease. Sadly the latter lost the battle, dying a fortnight before Mrs Crosby set out. My thanks to Jennifer Walker who spotted this story in the Gazette & Herald for 13 September 2007.

DNA PROJECT

I regret to say that the DNA project has come temporarily to a halt, as Dr Denise Syndercombe Court has been under enormous work pressure and has been unable to find the time to meet me to discuss the overall results, which will indicate how closely related – or not, as the case may be – the various Goddard branches represented by those sampled are. However, in the meantime it would be helpful if all those who were tested would let me know what their sample number is (this was sent to you individually by the research team) and, more importantly, if you will give your permission for your contact details to be sent to those other members tested who showed identical or closely related results. For example, my son and I have no qualms whatever in indicating that we are 21832 and 21814 respectively. When you signed the test form you gave your consent for the Association to have access to the results, and in some sense to share the results with other members. However, I think it only courteous and correct to make sure that you are still happy to do this; and I am grateful to those members who have already been in touch and have given such consent. I am afraid that a little more patience needs to be exercised for the moment. Dr Denise has already given her assurance that she will be present at this year's AGM (see opposite for details), and it may be that we shall have to wait until then before we get a chance to view the wider picture and are able to learn more about our fascinating and widespread 'family'.

USEFUL ADDRESSES

Association web page: www.goddard-association.co.uk
Australian Co-ordinator: Ian Goddard, P.O. Box 618, Balcatta, Western Australia 6914. Tel: (08) 9245 4510
Email: franiantpg.com.au Fax: (08) 9245 4540
Canadian Co-ordinator: Peter E. Goddard, 716 Hillsdale Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M4S 1V3. Tel: (416) 481 7132
Email: pgoddard@interlog.com
Membership Secretary: John C. Goddard, 2 Lowergate Road, Huncoat, Accrington, Lancashire, BB5 6LN. Tel: 01254-235135
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