



## The Goddard Association of Europe

### NEWSLETTER

No. 89 – January 2009

### GODDARDS OF WELLOW

My great grandfather, Alfred Ernest Goddard, served with the 1st Battalion East Surrey Regiment during the First World War. He was called up even though he was in his forties and was posted to France. In late 1915 the Battalion was switched to join the 95th Brigade that was joining the 5th Division from its original 32nd Division, a newly arrived volunteer formation. The idea was to strengthen – ‘stiffen’ in the jargon of the time – the inexperienced Division by mixing in some regular army troops. March 1916 saw a move, with the 5th Division taking over a section of front line between St Laurent Blangy and the southern edge of the Vimy Ridge in front of Arras. During this spell, when out of the line, the Battalion was billeted in Habaroq. This was a lively time with many trench raids, sniping and mining activities in the front lines.

When the Franco-British offensive opened on the Somme on 1 July 1916, the 5th Division was enjoying a period of rest and re-fit in GHQ Reserve. However, this restful time was not destined to last, for a move began towards the battle. The battalion saw action on the Somme, where it suffered very heavy casualties in an attack in late July at High Wood near Martinpuich, and in further action at Flers and Morval. By 5 October the division had left the Somme and moved to the line at Festubert where there was constant threat from enemy artillery and sniper fire. The battalion played a part in the opening of an offensive at Arras on 9 April 1917 when in a snowstorm the Canadian Corps captured the hitherto impregnable Vimy ridge. They were then moved again to what was called the third battle of Ypres, better known as Passchendaele. The entire battlefield was a morass when it moved into the Polygon



Wood. A major change occurred for the 5th division; they were one of five British formations selected to move to Italy. They were then moved back to France to face the final days of the war at the front line to recapture Merville. Alfred Ernest died in hospital from his injuries on the 16 July 1918 and is buried at St Sever Cemetery

Extension, Rouen. He had left behind one young son, my great uncle Reginald, who later in life emigrated to Canada, though where to I don't know!

My grandfather, Alfred Henry Ernest Goddard, was also enlisted and joined up in 1915, but by 1916 had left due to illness. My great grandfather's history I had no knowledge about, and it came as a shock that as a family we didn't know about his bravery. He received the Victory medal, British medal and the 1915 Star.

I have not been able to find any photographic evidence of my great grandfather, but I do have and attach a photo of my grandfather in his uniform. What I would be interested to know is if there were any Goddards out there that are related to the Wellow line in Hampshire that might have some photos. I do know that my grandfather and his brother stayed with family in Wellow during this time as their mother, Catherine Annie (Langley) Goddard, had died of stomach cancer in 1913. It would be good if something could be added to the newsletter next time as I have been in contact with the people that deal with these regiments and they tell me that photos were done by families not the army, so this is my last hope of finding anything about Alfred Ernest Goddard (1873 - 1918).

*Anne Offor*

Ed. If any member can help Anne, please contact her by e-mail on [anneoffor@hotmail.com](mailto:anneoffor@hotmail.com) or by letter at Tree House, 119 Spratling Road, Ross Creek, Victoria 3351, Australia. My apologies to her that this article did not appear in October's Newsletter, where it would have been a fitting tribute to all those who took part in the Great War which ended ninety years ago in November; but unfortunately I did not receive it in time.

## CAN YOU HELP?

**John of Accrington** (contact details on back page) with any information about the following three. Firstly, the family of Ann Goddard, born in Newport Pagnell, who married Edmund Turner in Bletchley on 7 June 1826? Secondly, does anyone have a Felix Goddard in their tree? John has come across a Felix, born in Shaftesbury in 1828, who moved to London and was a tea dealer in Tottenham in 1881. And thirdly, Peter Milsom is trying to find Robert Goddard, possibly born in Laxfield, Suffolk about 1840. In 1861 he was in Colchester Barracks. He married Annie Egan, probably in Ireland, but was back in Suffolk in 1891.

An Australian researcher, **John Rice of Brisbane** whose e-mail address is <jdrice@aapt.net>, with this Goddard query? He is interested in Thomas Horsenail, a convict, who was transported to New South Wales in 1831; ten years later, on 31 May 1841, he married Martha Goddard in Sydney, though there was no issue of the marriage. She had come free to Australia and was the illegitimate daughter of Lydia Sparvill who was christened on 26 June 1791. She herself was christened Martha Sparvill on 23 February 1817, but probably took the name Goddard when her mother married Timothy Goddard on 19 January 1822. Both parents came from and were married at Finchampstead in Berkshire. Brian of Newbury has kindly referred me to the monograph on Yateley, but does anyone else recognise a Timothy or Owen Goddard (Timothy's father) in their tree around the turn of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries?

**Julia Davis** whose e-mail address is <juliadavis65@hotmail.com> to trace the relatives of a Peter Holland Goddard. He was a lieutenant serving with the SAS in the Second World War in France alongside the Resistance and died on 3 September 1944 in Burgundy, being buried in the village of Tannay where his memory is much revered. He is thought to have married Bettine Elaine List in Stafford in 1938 and to have had two children, Cynthia and Hugh. Peter's grandfather was Frederick Goddard, born about 1841 in Andover, Hampshire. The 1881 census calls him an Iron Founder then living in Nottingham and married to Clara, who was aged 38. They had six children, all born in Nottingham: Elizabeth (Lizzie) born c.1869, Mabel born c.1870, Annie born c.1871, Sydney F. born c.1874, Henry H. born c.1878, Thomas M. born c.1879. In the 1901 census Frederick is given as a retired mechanical engineer living in Lowdham, Nottinghamshire. Peter's father was the fourth above, Sydney Frank who, in the 1901 census, is shown aged 27 and living

in Lowdham, Nottinghamshire with three brothers and four sisters (so one more of each must have been born after the 1881 census – one was Willie aged 15). The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has the following partial entry: "Lieutenant Peter Holland Goddard, aged 29, 124418, "C" Sqdn. 1st, Special Air Service Regiment, A.A.C. Son of Sydney Frank and Elizabeth Goddard; husband of Bettine Elaine Goddard, of Selsey, Sussex. Chartered Accountant."

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## PLEYDELL

I recently received a letter from Geoffrey Pleydell of The Pleydell Society, a one-family group similar to the Goddards and having been formed at about the same time. They knew that the Goddards and Pleydells were associated by marriage to the Goddards of Swindon, but not exactly how or when. I was able to tell him that Thomas Goddard of Swindon, born 1649, married Mary Pleydell, daughter of Oliver Pleydell of Shrivenham in 1674. They had five children of whom Richard married but had no issue, three children died young, and Pleydell Goddard 1686-1742 died unmarried. The question of who inherited the properties and money was a complicated one, but eventually it was decided that Ambrose Goddard of Rudloe, Box, a first cousin twice removed, was the heir. The name of Pleydell was perpetuated in the family by its use as a first name.

I was also able to give him brief extracts from two Goddard wills, one of which mentioned property in Jamaica held by James Goddard of Sible Hedingham in Essex in a will dated 1741. This will mentions his cousin Pleydell Goddard.

Mr Pleydell was delighted with the information and added some of his own. One of the Pleydells had found a book entitled "Nelson's Spy? Recollections of the life of Rev. A.J.Scott". Rev. Scott had, early in his career, been based in St John's parish in Jamaica and records that in January 1801 "yesterday evening I left the Pleydells". However, no one had yet been able to find a Pleydell family living in Jamaica, or a link to an English family.

Can anyone in the Goddard Association supply the link? Or give further information on the Goddard family in Jamaica? *Julie of Newbury*

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## SWIMMER YET AGAIN

In December 2008 James Goddard, who has featured in these pages many times before, added to his growing tally of swimming medals by claiming gold and bronze medals in the European Short Course Championships in Croatia. The gold was for the 200m medley, and the bronze for the 100m medley.

## GOLFER AGAIN

Luke Goddard, the English international golfer who has featured in these pages before, made the headlines towards the end of last August when competing in the European Amateur Individual Championship at Esbjerg in Denmark. The Hendon player had a bogey-free three under par round of 68 to establish a one stroke lead after the first round, but slipped into second place after a second round of 72. He maintained this position with a third round 70, but unfortunately ended with another 72 which left him in equal third place. It was all the more disappointing as he three putted the last green; a single putt would have forced a play-off for the title, and the regulation two putts would have meant ending in equal second place and have assured him of the bronze medal. But an inferior last 36-hole total, six shots worse than his fellow third equal unfortunately cost him the medal. Not long afterwards, however, he made amends by winning by one shot the South of England Open Stroke Play Championship which was played at Walton Heath. Now aged twenty, Luke regarded this as the biggest win of his career to date.



## NEW MEMBERS

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

Mr & Mrs Graham Farmer, 14 Connaught Road, Norwich, NR2 3BP.  
Mr Alan Goddard, 5 Colindale Gardens, Nuthall, Nottingham, NG16 1QS.  
Mr Bryan J. Goddard, 6762 Sandorfalva, Rigo u. 14, Hungary.  
Mr Trevor B. Goddard, 40 Clent Road, Oldbury, West Midlands, B68 9ET.  
Ms Joan Mason, 1436 Aley Street, Kingston, Ontario K7L 4V4, Canada.  
Mrs Jean R. Tomlin, 7 Castle Court, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 1XG.

## 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:

**Mrs Farmer** is descended from Felix Goddard, who was born in Shaftesbury in 1828, son of William, a sergeant in the Dorsetshire Yeomanry. Felix moved to London and married twice – first to Lavinia Horne in 1868, and secondly to Susan Ramsden in 1886.

**Alan Goddard's** family hails from Bathley and

North Muskham, Newark.

**Bryan Goddard's** grandfather came from the Devil's Punch Bowl area and settled in the city of London, living in Queens Park, 1 Lothrop Street and 94 Sixth Avenue W10. Bryan's father, Reginald Goddard, worked at one time for Eliot and Fry as an assistant photographer; during the war years this company was a major portrait photographers and his father was behind the camera many times in Buckingham Palace and took photos of the late Duke of Windsor and also of the Queen and Princess Margaret when they were a young girls. Bryan had two uncles, Arthur and Stanley, and an Aunt Ivy. Arthur worked for many years in the City of London. He was a security guard at the College of London for a time and also at some of the museums in Exhibition Road. During this time he had the availability to study the Goddard name and from what Bryan can remember as a young boy he said that they were connected to the Duke of Rutland by marriage. Stanley, who became Chief Fire Officer of London, had a daughter called Mim, who married John Terrell and moved to Australia in the 1960s. He was a director of PIE television and they lived in Sydney in the same street as Crocodile Dundee. Bryan met them both in the 1990s during a business trip from the USA. They had two daughters, one of whom became a soap opera star; but their names are now lost and Bryan believes that they later all moved to an area called White Rocks. Aunt Ivy also moved to Australia around the same time, but her married name was lost a long time ago. She had three daughters, Rosemary, Gay and Dian. Someone living in Australia may know the name Terrell and know of a soap opera star of that name. Please get in touch with Bryan if you recognise this family (address under New Members). His mother and father moved from London just prior to his retirement to Blythburgh, Suffolk, an area full of relations both distant and close.

**Trevor Goddard** is from a Birmingham family. William born in 1823 married Elizabeth Butler. Their son John was born in 1849 and married Elizabeth Falconbridge and had thirteen children, the youngest Walter born in 1897 being Trevor's grandfather.

**Joan Mason** is a descendant of Prothesa Goddard who was born in East Prawle, Devon, in about 1818. A relative, Mrs Mary Goddard, was a Quaker preacher in the USA at the age of 107!

**Jean Tomlin** is descended from a Suffolk branch starting with William whose son Henry, born in Redgrave in 1841, married Hannah and moved to Islington. Henry's son was Walter Charles born in 1880; and his son was Sidney Alfred born in 1907.

## THE GODDARDS OF BLACKNEST

About a mile to the south-east of the village of Brimpton in Berkshire stands the estate known as Blacknest. Today it houses a scientific institute concerned with studying earthquakes, but formerly it was a country house and farm that for many years belonged to a branch of the Goddards of Brimpton.

*“This important property is desirably situated in a most salubrious spot, and well calculated for the residence of a gentleman devoted to the sports of the field. Three packs of fox-hounds meet in the immediate neighbourhood; game abounds on the estate, and its preservation may be carried on with complete success. Fishing, also, may be enjoyed upon this property, as well as in its vicinity....”*

It seems the original name was Heath House, no doubt indicating the prevailing countryside in the area; even today much of the neighbourhood is wooded, and the location is still called Brimpton Common in memory of the ancient grazing land situated there. George Goddard purchased the nucleus of the estate in 1732 from the heirs of William Berry. It then consisted of a house, a barn, a stable building, a garden, an orchard, 60 acres of land, 6 acres of meadow, 10 acres of pasture, 8 acres of wood and the right of pasture on the Common. The purchase price was £822 12s.

The new proprietor was an experienced farmer. A younger son of Richard Goddard of Hampstead Norreys, George had been baptised at Brimpton on 18 February 1685/6; his grandfather John Goddard had owned property in both Brimpton and Chieveley. Although it is not clear to which branch of the Goddards in that part of Berkshire they belonged, it seems they were closely related to Thomas Goddard who bequeathed property to establish the Goddard Charity in 1680, since Richard is named in the will.

As a boy of about 12, George was apprenticed to Richard Burnell of Woolhampton to learn husbandry. He inherited land at Chieveley from his father in 1716, and settled at Crookham, just outside of Brimpton. The Chieveley property was entailed on Richard Goddard’s male descendants, so rather than sale-proceeds it is likely that the purchase price for Blacknest represented careful saving by George from his farming activities.

When George died in 1750, he left Blacknest to his youngest son, named Richard in honour of his grandfather. Two elder sons inherited land elsewhere, representing respectively the ancestral property at Chieveley and a copyhold estate at Highclere in Hampshire that had come from the family of their mother, Sarah Grace. Richard was then a boy of ten, 4

so Blacknest was probably looked after by relations – possibly his oldest brother, George – until he came of age.

Once he took over Blacknest, Richard set about consolidating and expanding the estate. In 1787 he purchased a further farm at Ashford Hill from William Mount, the lord of the manor of Wasing, paying £630. The Blacknest estate grew to embrace the house and home-farm of 184 acres, 67 of which were leased from Corpus Christi College, Oxford; two cottages (probably the buildings known today as Blacknest Cottage and Blacknest Lodge); the Pineapple Inn and an attached farm of 61 acres, held on lease from Winchester College together with a further five acres of wood noted for its sporting rights; and two more cottages with 11 acres of farmland in the triangle of land between Wasing and the Ashford Hill turnpike. Lists of the field-names survive, suggesting visions of a vanished England: Tanners Pightle, Winding Ground, Cowleaze, Withey Bed Wood. The possession of the estate gave Richard Goddard the right to vote in parliamentary elections for both Berkshire and Hampshire, since it straddled the county border.



The house itself was double-storeyed, and set amidst extensive grounds scattered with mature, ornamental trees. The frontage had three bays, with a large window in each across the top floor; an extended wing ran back from the house, and a stable block stretched along the end of the yard to the west. Smart iron-gates warded the front drive, and a picket fence marched along between the park and the road.

Richard married Catherine, the daughter of John Cane of Kingsclere. They had five sons (three of

whom died in infancy), and three daughters. For some sixteen years Richard served as churchwarden at nearby Wasing, but otherwise he kept a relatively low local profile, apparently concentrating on his estate. More land at North Oakley was purchased in 1789. He died in 1804 and was buried at Wasing.

His successor at Blacknest was his eldest son, William Goddard. Additional property at Brimpton was left to his younger son, George, together with a lump sum of £1,000; a further £1,900 went to his daughters and grandchildren, while his widow was left £60 per annum. William married a Basingstoke girl, Elizabeth Attwood, whose father was engaged in banking and whose mother belonged to the influential May family. While his father had been content to call himself 'yeoman', William adopted the style of 'gentleman', and by the time of his death had advanced to 'esquire'. Despite the injection of cash that marriage to a banker's daughter would imply, it seems that William experienced some financial difficulties. Blacknest was used to raise a mortgage of £3,000 in 1822, and a second such loan was taken out seven years later. In 1830 a further mortgage was secured on the Ashford Hill properties.

He continued at Blacknest until his own death in 1838, when title passed to his own eldest son, William Roger Goddard. It seems that W.R. Goddard did not live at Blacknest – he was involved in the printing business in Yorkshire; his younger brother Richard was tenant in 1839 when the property was placed on the market as part of the administration of their father's estate. It was sold by auction in three lots at the Pelican Hotel in Speenhamland on 4 June 1839. W.R. Goddard's family remained in Yorkshire for a further three generations before returning to Hampshire – further details may be found in the entry in old editions of Burke's 'Landed Gentry' under Goddard of Blacknest. Their papers, including many relating to Blacknest, were deposited with the Berkshire Record Office about twenty years ago [reference D/EX 942].

Although the Blacknest property was sold in 1839, it did not entirely pass out of family hands. The principal purchaser was John Arundell of Mortimer, Hampshire, who acquired 238 acres of the original estate. He had lived at Brimpton House, and farmed at Brimpton under a lease from the Earl of Falmouth. John had a number of reasons to buy Blacknest: he was probably looking for a freehold estate of his own, and he had family ties with the Goddards. In fact, he was related to the Blacknest family both by blood and by marriage. His paternal grandmother was Hester Goddard, the daughter of George Goddard of

Blacknest, while his grandfather Joseph Arundell was in turn the grandson of Joan Goddard of Kingsclere and Brimpton. He had further complicated this by marrying, as his second wife, Fanny Goddard, the sister of W.R. Goddard of Blacknest, in 1838. They were second cousins. It would be interesting to know what part his new wife played in his acquisition of her family home the following year. He appears to have taken full possession in 1841.

When John Arundell died in 1875, he made his only surviving son, Walter, his heir, but since he had also left £3,000 to his daughter Emily, he directed his trustees to sell Blacknest if necessary in order to raise the money. Walter managed to come up with the sum himself, and duly took full possession of Blacknest, the farms, and the Pineapple Inn. He did not enjoy the estate for long, however, dying at the age of 34 in December 1879; he was buried underneath his parents' box-tomb in Brimpton churchyard. Walter's widow, Susan Arundell, was still living at Blacknest at the time of the 1881 census, when 271 acres were under farm; she remarried in 1885 to George Allsop, who died in 1900. By 1903 the estate had passed to Peter Dollar, esquire. *Michael Andrews-Reading*

#### OTHER GODDARDS

GAE member Anne Hockaday lives near Ilminster, Somerset, which was flooded recently after torrential rains. Her house was not flooded but the drainage ditches were full and part of the orchard was under water. Pictures of the floods appeared in the Chard and Ilminster News and Anne noticed that a photograph accompanying the news item was taken by Ian Goddard. Again we ask if anyone knows him?

Long time members will know that I do voluntary work at the Watermill Theatre near Newbury and that I have written before about the actor Ben Goddard, who has appeared there to great acclaim earlier in the year in *Sunset Boulevard*. This version of the musical was adapted to the small stage in the Watermill and the action condensed. It has now transferred to the Comedy Theatre, London SW1 and has received rave reviews by the national newspapers' theatre critics. Ben is going places.

And did anyone else spot that the director of the 2008 Dr Who Christmas Special was Andy Goddard. What a job! All those marvellous actors to direct, the wonderfully imaginative scripts, stunt arrangers, and special effects which are "out of this world". In interviews on BBC3 after the show he explained the difficulties, the high moments and the low.

*Julie of Newbury*

## THE GODDARD ASSOCIATION WEBSITE

<http://www.goddard-association.org.uk>

*Malcolm of Brisbane, Website Co-ordinator writes:*

Following extensive research and hard work by members Maxine Cadzow (Australia), Joan Dibble and Cathy Goodwin (UK), the Association website has again been updated to include additional indexes and databases particularly Australian and British Service personnel from WW1 & WW2, and a full list of indexes currently available via the website appears below; but it should be noted that this list may not long remain exhaustive as new databases are being added as they become available. I would very much like to thank the members above for their contributions and encourage any member who has done similar work (ie: indexing a parish and finding all the Goddard's therein or collecting any indexed type material that could be of use to other Goddard Assoc. members) to contact Research Co-ordinator Colin Goddard or Website Co-ordinator Malcolm Goddard so that all members can benefit from the shared knowledge. Contact information appears on the rear page of the newsletter or on the website.

### **Databases/Indexes and Articles with open access**

Index of articles in the GAE Newsletter (1985-2008)

GAE Newsletter, selected articles

### **Members Only Databases**

Access to these databases is gained by registering your email address and GAE membership number which can be done on the site.

Goddard Birth Certificates held by GAE members

Goddard Death Certificates held by GAE members

Goddard Marriage Certificates held by GAE members

Goddard Probate Index (1857-1958)

Goddard's who attended Oxford and Cambridge

Universities (1500-1886)

Goddard's who served in the Australian Armed Forces in WW1

Goddard's extracted from the Australian AIF WW2 Nominal Roll

Goddard's who served in the New Zealand Armed Forces in WW1

Goddard's extracted from the British Armed Forces service records 1914-1920 index

Goddard's extracted from the British Armed Forces in WW1 pension records index

Goddard's extracted from the British Armed Forces in WW2 medals index

An Index of the Parishes of Kent

Goddard Baptisms in Kent

Goddard Marriages in Kent

Goddard Deaths in Kent

GAE Newsletter (2006-2008)

Goddard Association Monographs and Books

*Executive Committee member Joan Dibble ([JDbbbl@aol.com](mailto:JDbbbl@aol.com)) writes:*

I hope now that all members who have access to the Internet have had a chance to spend time looking at the new website. There is so much information there, especially in the member's only section. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Malcolm Goddard, the website builder in Australia, and we mustn't forget that Peter Goddard in Toronto worked so hard at the end of his life to make sure that much of his research was added and not lost to the association.

Malcolm, who is an extremely busy man, set aside time during his Christmas holiday to work on the website. At the moment he is concentrating on adding my and Cathy Goodwin's Kent research. He started by adding our register of Parishes searched. This is very much 'work in progress' and a valuable document. Having this we can see at a glance the parishes we have searched and what is still to be done. I have transferred our findings to a map of Kent parishes, highlighting them as they are searched, so that we can see immediately if we have missed a parish. You will note reference to 'Squibs'; that is the name I am known by to my friends and family, so that statement will hopefully clear up any confusion.

Also in the pipeline to add to the website is our Kent Goddards BMD (Births Marriages and Deaths) database. All of our findings are registered here. The big one is the History of the Goddards of Kent. This is a truly amazing document that is mostly the work of member Cathy Goodwin. It is a potted history of all of the Goddards that we have found in Kent, indexed by towns and villages. It doesn't include my family tree; that is in a separate five chapter document.

I hope that seeing all of this, members will start offering their research to Colin or Malcolm to add to the website so that in time it will be a countrywide research tool. I hope what Malcolm is adding for Kent will spur members on to share their research. I think Parishes of Kent might be quite comforting to a lot of members as they will see it is un-terrifyingly simple and not in the slightest bit academic. Also the BMD; it's a very simple document and easily produced. I would be happy to build a Goddard BMD database from members research for any county but that is about as much as I can offer. For now I am thinking of making the Goddards of Somerset my next project, so if any members have been researching Somerset perhaps they would like to get in touch with me and pool resources.

## DR. ANNICA GODDARD

Treasurer John Goddard's daughter, Annica, is a 29 year old General Medical Practitioner in Shrewsbury helping to look after some 6,000 patients. Her job involves seeing patients with acute and chronic medical conditions and accessing hospital services for them if needed. She carries out two clinics a day, seeing patients in ten minute appointment slots, and undertaking home visits to patients unable to get to the surgery. She is a keen and active sportswoman in her leisure time. For four weeks



from mid October to mid November 2008 she had the experience of a lifetime as one of six members of a Rotary International study exchange team visiting the United States in Kansas and Oklahoma, mainly based on Wichita. Here, quite apart from experiencing a different environment and culture, she had the opportunity to compare the medical systems of the two countries; and she wrote about her observations in a daily diary published on the internet at [www.ok1210.wordpress.com](http://www.ok1210.wordpress.com) as she moved between city, town and rural communities. A visit to this site would well repay those of a medical turn of mind, as our National Health Service and America's medical insurance systems are currently contentious issues. Quite apart from the professional aspect of the trip, Annica had an excellent time and appears to have gained something of a reputation for sampling more than her fair share of the culinary goodies on offer! Just as well she has her sporting prowess to help redress any residual calorific imbalance.

## OBITUARY

I am very saddened to announce the death of by far the oldest member of the Association – my mother, Mildred of Ramsbury, who was a regular attender at all the Association AGMs until increasing deafness and decreasing eyesight made them less enjoyable for her at the end of her nineties. She died peacefully in her sleep at a nursing home near Upton-on-Severn on 8 December 2008 aged 104, by far the longest lived member on either side of the family. The doctor asked me if I minded if he put “old age” as the cause of death since she was not ill; I said I approved wholeheartedly, since that was the truth – her battery finally ran down. My mother had always been keen on family history, coming on her father's side from two families that she was able to trace to the middle years of the sixteenth century: the Gilbanks of Cumbria and the Addenbrookes of Kingswinford in the West Midlands. Sadly, her mother had died when she was born and she never did manage to discover anything about her other than the fact that she was of Scottish descent. She encouraged my father to research his Goddards and was certainly instrumental in fostering my love of the subject. We buried her in the churchyard at Ramsbury, a Wiltshire village in which she had lived happily for the majority of the latter part of her life.

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### GODDARD SERVANT

Yvonne Neal has written to me to say that her grandmother's first husband, Orlando Porter, died in July 1913 from “brain contusion”. Family accounts tell that he was a servant of the Swindon Goddards, a groom or a footman perhaps, and was kicked in the head by a horse. Searches of the Swindon local newspaper have not found any account of the accident or an inquest. As a long shot do any GAE members have any information about the accident or have anything concerning the staff at The Lawns?

*Julie of Newbury*

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### GODDARD TOKEN

I am grateful to my friend, the printer of this Newsletter, for drawing my attention to an item on eBay recently – though unfortunately too late for me to be able to do anything about it. This concerned the selling of a seventeenth century bronze trade token worth a farthing and issued by ‘Ric Goddard in Bridg Streete’ Evesham, Worcestershire. It sold for £14.37 or roughly thirteen thousand times its face value! I should much like to hear from any member who possesses one, or to encourage those of you who are eBay devotees to look out for another one.

## AGM

I repeat the announcement in the last Newsletter that the twenty-third AGM will be held on Sunday 17 May 2009 in the village hall at Whissendine, which is a village on the east side of the A606 between Melton Mowbray and Oakham. Full details will appear as usual in the April Newsletter.

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## HORSES ATTACKED

I am grateful to Margaret of Worsley for sending me a cutting from the *Manchester Evening News* of 21 August, which told the horrific story of some mindless thug who climbed a seven foot high fence apparently just in order to slash the faces of two horses. The stables at Arden Hall near Stockport are run by Miranda Goddard, and her twelve year old daughter Carmen owns one of the horses – Oliver, an American pacing horse. She was naturally distraught at seeing his suffering. A few weeks previously another of their horses was stolen.

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## ARMY DISCHARGE CERTIFICATE

John of Accrington has a photocopy of the discharge certificate of 536298 R.S.M. John Goddard of the 14/20th Hussars. John was born in 1879 and enlisted at Wednesbury in February 1898. He was discharged at Canterbury in July 1925 having served over twenty seven years. He had been awarded the Military Cross and Mentioned in Despatches. His decorations include the Kings and Queens South Africa medals, the 1914/15 Star and the Russian Order of St George, 4th class. This is the John Thomas Goddard, later the long-serving Mayor of Weymouth during the Second World War, so well researched by Ronald Knight and featured at length in Newsletter 85. If any relation would like the copy, please apply to Membership Secretary John (details opposite). I would also remind you that his biography is available from author Ronald Knight at 18 Manor Road, Redlands, Weymouth, Dorset, DT3 5HR at £12 which includes packing and postage.

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## BINGO

Jennifer Walker has kindly send me a cutting from the *Swindon Advertiser* of 12 April 2008, which announced the closure of Swindon's Mecca bingo hall. This outraged many older citizens and led to the signing of a petition by a large number of them, one of whom was eighty year old Barbara Goddard of Eastcott Hill, Old Town, who regretted that the next nearest hall was too far away and that the loss of the venue would leave a great gap in her life. I have not heard whether the petition was successful or not.

## RENEWED PLEA

So far only some two dozen members have indicated to me that they wish to access the Newsletter from the website, so may I renew my plea to those of you who are able please to do so, particularly to our overseas members. This will have two advantages for you, one for the Association and one for me. It will not only enable you to receive it at least a week earlier than by post, but it will also enable you to get such pictures as there are in colour. As far as the Association is concerned, it will help us to continue to maintain the annual subscription for longer at the current level; this is especially important now that we have recently been warned that postal charges in the UK are about to rise steeply yet again. And it will save me from having to stuff and post so many envelopes each time – currently around 300. All you need to do is to send me an e-mail – identifying yourself either by membership number or by postal address – letting me know that you wish in future to receive it in this manner. I will then forward this information to Malcolm of Brisbane and he will send out a collective e-mail advising members that the next issue is available on the website. You can then read it on or download it from the Members Only section as you prefer. From information sent me by Malcolm it would appear that several members may already be doing this, but have not informed me so that they are getting a duplicate postal copy. Please help us to keep costs down as much as possible. Thank you.

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