

## They shall grow not old...

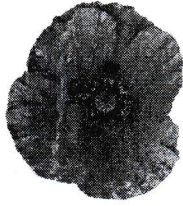
*This year saw the 90th anniversary of the day the guns fell silent when the armistice was declared towards the end of the First World War. Though but a handful of veterans still survive to remind us of the appalling carnage, the huge interest in genealogy and the increasing amount of information available online has led many people to discover much more about relatives who served in that conflict.*



I've known for a long time that I had a great uncle who was killed during the Great War, but Remembrance Day has become more poignant for me since I found out more about him and how he died.

Albert Brunning was born in 1881 into a life that can't have been easy. His mother had already had six children and had sat with two as they died in infancy. His father had left the family to find work before Albert was born and never returned, leaving his wife to bring up a young family alone. When war broke out, he evidently joined up early on, enlisting in the 13th Battalion (3rd South Downs) of the Royal Sussex Regiment. The three South Downs battalions were known as "Lowther's Lambs" having been formed in November 1914 by Lieutenant Colonel Claude Lowther MP, the owner of Herstmonceux Castle in Sussex.

In March 1916, they were sent to the front line in France and in the early hours of 30th June, the South Downs battalions assembled in the trenches of the



casualties was Albert and like so many of his comrades, his body was never recovered and he has no known grave, but he is commemorated on a memorial at the Dud Corner British Cemetery near the village of Loos-en-Gohelle (pictured below).



If you're looking for information about your own relatives who fought and died during wartime, a good place to start is the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Their phone number for enquiries about casualties, cemeteries and memorials is 01628 507200, but you can search online at [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org). This will give you details such as the regiment or service, the unit, service number, date of death etc that will help you to do further research. It was by searching for Albert's name and service number on Google that I found the website of the Royal Sussex Living History Group, whose aim is to keep alive the name and history of the regiment. It

## Happy Christmas to all our readers!

Thank you for your support this year and special thanks to the volunteers who help us to deliver The Village Voice. Membership is now around 450 households, so we are really grateful for your assistance. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

We are still busy putting together the programme for 2009, so we can't give full details yet, but Tuesday Talks will take place on the **second Tuesday of the month** (except for January, August, October & December) and there will also be a couple of Saturday Socials. Look out for full details in the next issue of The Village Voice. Reminders will be sent out by email, so make sure you're signed up if you'd like to receive these. All events will be held at the Village Hall and will start at 7.30pm. Tuesday Talks are **FREE for members**, non-members are welcome at £3 each.

Sat 31st Jan **Annual Party** See below

Tues 10th Feb **How to be a Successful Failure**

Bill Bellerby will talk about his long and varied career

Tues 10th Mar **AGM + speaker**

## FACEBOOK FOR THE UNBELIEVERS

The Queen visited Google's UK headquarters recently to find out about the latest developments in web technology, but she's no stranger to the internet and reportedly keeps in touch with her



to capture the enemy position known as the Boar's Head and make the Germans believe that the real offensive was there and not the Somme.

The first day of the Battle of the Somme on 1st July 1916 is justifiably remembered as a black day in the history of the twentieth century, but the events of the day before were so devastating for Lowther's Lambs, that the 30th of June became known as "the day Sussex died".

On that day, at 3.05am, the first wave of the 13th Battalion scaled the parapet and went "over the top". The Battle of the Boar's Head lasted less than five hours but by the end of it, the South Downs brigade had lost 17 officers and 349 men, more than 1000 were wounded or taken prisoner and the 13th Battalion was all but wiped out. Among the

contains transcripts of war diaries that describe in detail what happened during the battle in which my great uncle died.

It is often more difficult to find out much about service personnel who survived the First World War, because so many records were destroyed in 1940, however The National Archives at Kew (0208 876 3444) have what remains of them and they too can be searched online: [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/militaryhistory/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/militaryhistory/). Records are also available to search and view at [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk).

If you're not sure where to start, try the following site which is an excellent source of information about what's available online and at records offices: [www.1914-1918.net](http://www.1914-1918.net)

*Marian de Kretser*

## Have a magical evening with OVRA!

Make a date in your diary for **OVRA's Annual Party** which will be held on **Saturday 31st January** at the Village Hall.

We've decided to do something a bit different this time and so the entertainment will be provided by professional magician Simon Alexander, who specialises in close-up magic.

Simon is a member of the Magic Circle and in 2007 he was awarded the title of Associate of The Inner Magic Circle with Silver Star for performance excellence. Simon has also held the title of Home Counties Magical Society's Stage Magic Champion, having been awarded the Paul Pearman Cup for Most Entertaining Magical Act.

The evening will begin with a complimentary glass of wine and canapés, followed by a sit-down buffet with entertainment. A licensed bar will be provided and there will be a raffle. Tickets are £10 for members and £15 for non-members. Do join us for what promises to be a memorable evening.

**Tickets are on sale now: see the form overleaf or ring Marian on 07726 952466.**

For more about Simon Alexander, including some glowing testimonials, visit his website: [www.simonalexander.net/](http://www.simonalexander.net/)



*If you're not tempted to follow Her Majesty's lead, don't worry, we've no intention of abandoning the printed word just yet, but we are keen to use the web to widen OVRA's appeal, so we're planning to set up a trial Facebook group. If the very mention of it hasn't put you off, but you're still unconvinced, here's a teenager's-eye view of it to help persuade you.*

So here we are, in an age where online networking is a teenager's lifeline, where making friends and sharing photos in mere seconds has become the norm and a website that makes it all possible is Facebook: a place where most of the adult population dare not click. But with an inviting smile and helping hand I will welcome you into this highly accessible world.

If you asked me to define social networking I would tell you that it is for developing networks of friends and associates; it forges links between people and provides a huge source of information.

Facebook members are very diverse in terms of age and though the more adult members may prefer to take the backseat, many find it helpful and even enjoy the use of it time and again. Enter my father, a keen Facebooker, continually intrigued by the notion of being technologically sound. More importantly than that, journalists throughout Britain turn to Facebook as a supplier of up to date information produced by other professional journalists.

Facebook was set up by Mark Zuckerberg during his time at Harvard as a means of creating an online community for students and staff alike as they joined the school year after year. Only after a rather large investment and considerable backing by Microsoft did Facebook take off as a global phenomenon, now serving more than 80 million members.

Now for your part in all this – Onslow Village Residents' Association has a large number of members and is looking for a way of making

*Continued over*

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# COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

If you would like to tell Onslow Village residents about your group's forthcoming events, or issues that might interest them, please email [mdk-ovra@ntlworld.com](mailto:mdk-ovra@ntlworld.com) or ring 07726 952466. Next copy date: 25th January.

## Guildford Evening Decorative & Fine Arts Society at Onslow Village Hall

Wed 14th January **English Arcadia: The Development of the English Garden** England excelled at creating beautiful gardens: from Tudor knot gardens to "Capability" Brown's landscapes and Lutyens and Jekyll to the modern lakes and vistas by Jellicoe at Sutton Place.  
Speaker: Mrs Barbara Peacock MA FRSA, lecturer for The National Trust

Wed 11th February **The Duke of Wellington and the Treasures of Apsley House** The Duke of Wellington's military career illustrated through his fabulous art collection. Speaker: Shirley Turner, lecturer at The V&A. Entrance to this lecture will be free to all visitors.

Wed 11th March **The Secret Life of Painting** The language of objects in painting will be revealed.  
Speaker: Clare Ford-Willie, lecturer at The National Gallery and The V&A.

Wed 8th April **Working Miracles at Assisi – The Basilica of St Francis** What happened after Giotto's famous frescos were damaged by earthquake? Speaker: Elizabeth Gordon, lectures in Britain and in museums in the USA. Refreshments are available at all the above from 7.15pm and talks start at 8pm. New members and visitors are welcome. Visitors' entrance fee: £5.

Saturday 25th April By popular request we are holding our **Quiz Night and Supper**  
Tickets £12 available from 01483 571807  
Contact Membership Secretary: Angela Logan  
01483 532223

The Committee look forward to welcoming you to the Hall.

## Keep Christmas Crime-free

Christmas shopping, particularly with the 'credit crunch', can be stressful enough, so Surrey Police are reminding everyone to be on their guard at this time of year as thieves target motorists and householders with the aim of relieving them of their precious goods.

communication between all as easy as possible. Many of you will already be using the internet and email daily. Why not expand your horizons and join OVRAs online community?

Facebook means that you can connect with other OVRAs members in seconds and address important topics, review previous events and RSVP to future events with no hassle at all.

When you open a Facebook account you will be in complete control of your own personal profile, but the real fun begins once you have joined the OVRAs group. The great thing is, it is so easy to join – all you have to do is pass your profile name to whoever is leading the group and then accept their invitation to join.

A huge issue that arises for all online services is privacy and in this day and age you have got to be careful with what you allow others see. With Facebook you can let people see as much or as little as you want. Only accepted friends will be able to access your profile and even then you can control how much of it your friends will be able to see.

Linking into privacy is security, which is another predominant issue, and Facebook has addressed this. Your personal profile is only accessible through the correct entering of your email address and personal password and only you can change the information that is placed on your page.

Another great thing about Facebook is that you don't have to keep logging in to check up on updates because it is linked to your regular email address and an automatic message will be sent to you to update you on any events that have been posted.

Other than posting events and comments, you can also have a little fun and even promote discussion, by posting photos and videos you have taken that might be of interest to other members.

On top of this, the website is extremely simple to navigate, even with the huge number of different applications available.

Online media is the future and by embracing it you can open a huge number of doors that will expose you to a world of instant communication. Not only will you find Facebook easy and secure to use, but you will also be helping OVRAs move into the future and maybe even expand its membership by giving a clearer picture of the interesting Association that you belong to.

## RECYCLING NEWS

It makes sense in the present climate, with a credit crunch and rising prices, to do all we can to help ourselves save money and make best use of what we have.

### Food waste

As you may have heard we throw away a third of the food we buy. If food that could be eaten was not wasted, at least 15 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions could be prevented each year by removing the need for unnecessary food production and the resulting landfill.

Research has shown that food waste is caused by:

- Lack of planning when food shopping – buying more than is needed
- Poor food storage knowledge
- Lack of confidence about cooking – not using up leftovers and getting portion sizes wrong
- Confusion over date labels e.g. 'use by' and 'best before' and when to ignore them. Dried pasta is a good example of a foodstuff that will not usually go off: if it looks and smells OK it probably is OK
- Reduce the waste that goes to the tip – keep a caddy in the kitchen to take your uncooked food waste like potato peelings, which can be put on your compost heap or just buried in the garden

You can also save money if you grow your own, even if it is only a window box for herbs and salads. There are two guides produced by Surrey County Council 3Rs team (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) to help you cut down on waste: the "Green Kitchen Guide" advising on how to use leftovers, understanding the difference between best before and use by dates and giving many helpful tips, and the "Green Shopping Guide" giving advice on what you could be hiring rather than buying and many other ideas. Both are free and can be obtained by telephoning 08456 09 009 or emailing: [contact.centre@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:contact.centre@surreycc.gov.uk).

### How to keep warm this winter

To combat a very cold winter it has been suggested that we consider moving in with someone. Friends who each have their own home could halve their fuel bills by staying



- Don't leave bags on view in cars
  - Be alert even when putting shopping in the car boot
  - Beware of pickpockets – keep purses and wallets secure and out of sight
  - At home, keep those beautifully wrapped gifts out of sight of passers-by and always ensure doors and windows are shut and secure when leaving the house, even if just popping out for a few minutes
  - Never leave car keys near an open window or even by the front door – opportunist thieves have been known to steal car keys by hooking them out through the letterbox and calmly driving away the family saloon parked outside
- Also be aware that thieves have targeted sheds and garages in this area recently. Make sure they are secured with a strong padlock.
- These few precautions will prevent most thefts and burglaries, but anyone unlucky enough to become a victim should report it to the police at once.

with each other during the winter months. There would also be a saving in the cost of food and cooking it. But be careful whom you choose to spend the winter with: you don't want to lose a friend. And don't forget to turn your water supply off at the stopcock or you will get back to frozen/burst pipes!

**Don't throw it away; could someone else use it?**

Are you considering throwing away items which may be of use to someone else? There are web sites such as www.swapitsurrey.org and www.freecycle.org where you can advertise items to give away and possibly ask for other things in return; alternatively save them up for the Bring and Take event (no electrical items please) organised by Onslow Recyclers which will be held next Spring. Watch out for the flyers.

For further information on any of the above please contact Lesley on 01483 533762

Oliver de Kretzer

Look out for updates about OVRA's new Facebook group in the New Year.



**Call for Articles**

We would really welcome contributions of articles for The Village Voice. We're especially interested in subjects with a local flavour, but anything would be considered and it doesn't have to be a written piece: photos, cartoons, tips for coping with the credit crunch, favourite seasonal recipes – just send them in! Please email your contribution to mdk-ovra@ntlworld.com, or send it (preferably on CD) to 17 Friars Gate, Guildford GU2 7PQ.

**BOOKING FORM FOR ONSLOW VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL PARTY ON SATURDAY 31ST JANUARY 2009**

I would like to book tickets for the following OVRA Members:

- Name: ..... Address: .....
- Name: ..... Address: .....
- Name: ..... Address: .....
- Name: ..... Address: .....

*(Continue on a separate sheet if necessary)*

Number of tickets required for Members (list names above): ..... @ £10 each £.....  
 Number of tickets required for Non-members: ..... @ £15 each £.....

**Total payment enclosed:** £.....

I would like to reserve a table for ..... people.

Return the completed form and payment to Onslow Village Residents' Association, c/o 17 Friars Gate, Guildford GU2 7PQ by **25th January at the latest.**

NB: Tickets will be delivered to the first person on the list.

If you have not received your tickets by 27th January, please ring Marian on 07726 952466.

**VILLAGE VOICE 15 REPLY SLIP**

- Name: .....
  - Address: .....
  - Telephone No:.....
  - E-mail address: .....
- You can unsubscribe at any time and we will not pass your details to any third party.

**Membership (runs from 1 April–31 March)**

I would like to join/renew my membership and enclose £4 per household. (Please make cheques payable to OVRA).

**Comments/views/suggestions:**

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 .....  
 .....

Please hand this form in at a social event, send it to OVRA Secretary, 68 High View Road, Guildford GU2 7RU or email your comments to **mdk-ovra@ntlworld.com**.