

Introduction

“The village of Whitchurch abounds with historic associations”. These are the words with which Mr GW Wilson introduced his “Chronicles of Whitchurch” in 1909.

In 1985 I have attempted to continue a record of this history of our village by extracting information from the Whitchurch News reports in the old editions of the “Bucks Herald”.

I am extremely grateful to the Editor and staff of this paper who have allowed me to use their archives to compile this Diary and I wish to publicly thank them for their help and allowing me to produce this volume.

With kind permission of Mr Harry Durley I have been able to use some photographs from the historic collection of the late Mrs Joyce Durley whose reputation as the village historian will, to a degree, live on in these photographs.

My thanks to relations and friends who have read through the script and put up with the rattle of my “two finger” typing, to Mr Leonard Richardson who has helped me to select and reproduce photographs for this Diary, to Mr and Mrs Alan Orr for typing and processing the finished script.

In offering these reports to the public I am indebted to the Whitchurch and Creslow Community Association who agreed to get it produced and I trust will benefit from the sales.

This 1910 - 1920 volume will I hope be the first of further reports that are still on tape, and I hope that if after reading this you are reminded of events that took place during these years, you will let me have them in writing for adding to future editions.

Maurice S Foulger - March 1985.

1. Parish Church
2. Bolbec Castle Mound
3. St John's Gate
4. The Old House
5. Old Court House
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
9. Cock Inn
10. Tudor House
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.

14. Greenbank Cottages
15. Church School House
16. Manor Farm
17. Whitchurch House
18. Crabsgrove Farm
- 19.
20. Bolbec
21. Quaker Barn
- 22.
- 23.
24. Yew Tree
- 25.
- 26.

Do you know the missing place names?

ILLUSTRATIONS

Plate I MARKET HILL. Lower End.

This photograph taken in 1905 shows very little change today. Quaker Barn then had steps up from the pavement, and windows and a door have been inserted into the part nearest the camera. No.3, now the home of Dr and Mrs Alan Yates, has had the front door filled in and an entrance made at the side. Other minor changes have also been made to the side of No.5.

Plate II WHITCHURCH SCHOOL.

This picture was taken in 1911 outside the school.
It is possible some people may recognise themselves or perhaps their parents.

Plate III MARKET HILL / CASTLE LANE.

Dated 1910, the only noticeable change today is that No.5 is no longer a shop.

Plate IV SCOUT GROUP.

No information for this picture. Can anyone help?

Plate V HIGH STREET. Looking North.

Centre building is the Chandos Arms, a well known beer house. De-licensed in 1957 when the landlord was Mr Rickard. The bay windows have been removed. The old sheds next door have been demolished for the building of Simond's Garage. On the other side of the road is the Rev Tate Medd.

Plate VI MARKET HILL.

Joe Evans outside his shop at No.12. The small child is one of his family, but the others are not known.

Plate VII TOP OF MARKET HILL.

Chapel Anniversary taken in 1910.

PLATE VIII HIGH STREET.

The Cock Inn. Owned by the A.B.C., it was a coaching house and fully licensed. It was de-licensed in 1917 and put up for auction. Mr Frederick Parrott purchased the premises and moved in from No.9 High Street (now the Baker's). The outside has only had the shop window and door inserted on the extreme left (out of picture) to form the present Parrott Bros. What happened to the horse trough?

1910

JANUARY The first Annual General Meeting of the Whitchurch and District Nursing Association was held. Mrs TJN Cannon, the honorary treasurer, announced an income of £80.5 shillings and an expenditure of £78.5.2. The honorary secretary of this Association was Miss Nelis. The meeting agreed to arrange a Whist Drive to provide funds.

14th. The Parish Church Choir and Sunday School were entertained to tea. Songs were sung by Mrs E Blowfield and Rev H Wood.

MARCH 19th. A Point to Point took place at Creslow; the course extended between Creslow, Aston Abbots and Weedon. There were a few falls but no serious injuries.

APRIL Parish Council elections: There were 15 nominations for the 7 seats. Successful candidates were TJN Cannon 90 votes, W Young 70 votes, GW Wilson 67 votes, John Blowfield 54 votes, J Biggs 52 votes, George Welch 52 votes, and George Beasley 45 votes. Mr J Blowfield was elected Chairman, Messrs T Cooper and W Young the Parish Constables. It was agreed to erect notices in the village to warn motorists of dangerous corners. The Council agreed to find out if it would be possible to divert all traffic down the Main Street instead of Market Hill. Mr Young gave notice that at the next meeting of the Council he intended to propose that every effort should be made to obtain a recreation ground for the village.

MAY King Edward VII died.

27th. A Parish Service for all denominations was held in the Parish Church to commemorate the life of the late King.

AUGUST 18th. An entertainment was held in the garden of "One Ash" to raise money for the salary of the Church organist; this was organised by Mrs Wood and Miss Wall and raised £7.13.6.

OCTOBER Centenary of Methodism in Whitchurch. A Methodist Circuit of Churches was formed 100 years ago with Whitchurch as its centre; the membership of the Circuit was 630 members.

6th. Harvest Thanksgiving services when the collections of £ 7.3.11 were donated to the Royal Bucks Hospital.

DECEMBER 3rd. The Whitchurch and District Nursing Association obtained the services of Nurse Frances Hill as District Nurse. Over 90 people attended a Whist Drive to raise funds for the Association.

9th. A Cinematograph Show was given by Mr Samuels of Aylesbury to raise money for the Church Restoration Fund, a collection of £10 was taken.

31st. The Band of Hope Temperance Society, that had been in existence for many years, held an evening of entertainment with songs, recitations and duets given by members; the evening was arranged by Mr F Elmore.

1911

JANUARY. The Liberal Club held a seasonal entertainment In the village.

FEBRUARY. At a meeting of the Parish Council a letter from Mr Heath was read requesting the Council to use its influence to keep the by roads free of rubbish. An Inspector from the Thames Conservancy Board made a request to meet representatives from the Council with regard to clearing the ditches in Castle Lane and Weir Lane.

MARCH 11th. A meeting was held in the village which was attended by representatives of the National Service League, who expressed their objectives to enable every man in the British Isles to have some military training and discipline. Rev H Wood presided over a good company of villagers.

30th. Parish Council. Mr J Blowfield elected Chairman with Mr J Biggs Vice-Chairman.

MAY 11th. It is now two years since the inhabitants of the village decided to restore the Parish Church at the estimated cost of £2500. Now most of the householders have made their contributions and over £1500 has been raised.

JULY 1st. Coronation of King George V and Queen Mary. The village festivities began with Holy Communion in the Church Schoolroom (now the Legion Hall). Because of restoration work the Church could not be used. A peal of bells was rung and a united service took place in the Vicarage garden. Sports were arranged for the children and this was followed by a tea. A "repat" for "all classes of adults" was available. The events of the day were arranged by the "indefatigable" secretary Mr TJN Cannon. The children each received a souvenir cup and medal. It was decided to place a new clock in the tower of the Church at the cost of £60.

AUGUST 6th. Cricket Match. Whitchurch v Hardwick and Weedon. Result was a win for the home side; C Foster scored 17 and took 7 wickets.

DECEMBER 2nd. Extracts from a letter sent to the Bucks Herald from a London visitor to Whitchurch "Quite recently on a visit to this village I was astonished to find that the local authority had not yet succeeded in lighting the footpaths I had to walk the thoroughfare in utter darkness and found it impossible to avoid knocking over children several times and stumbling over objects I could not see and severely damaging my clothes. My host informed me that if his memory served him right, some 10 years ago the Parish Council had seriously considered placing a few candles in suitable locations in the main thoroughfare, but after deliberating for some hours failed to come to a decision. Half the Council had voted for wax and half for tallow candles and the Chairman had declined to give his vote to either side because of the expense of employing men to prevent young boys from extinguishing these illuminations I note that the renovation of the Parish Church is nearly completed and great things are expected in the future to help light those in spiritual darkness is it too much to ask that the Parish Council will profit by the Church's example and seek to lighten the darkness of the wayfarer passing along its streets such a boon would benefit residents and visitors alike and bring prosperity to the village".

H.W.A. London Nov 22 1911.

1912

JANUARY 16th. The local Liberals held a Coffee Supper in the Gladstone Hall (Castle Lane). 50 sat down to a splendid repast which was followed by an entertainment by friends from Oving. It included selections on a Gramophone given by Mr Adamson. At 10 p.m. the proceedings closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

MARCH 23rd. The village carrier died, Mr Caleb Sheffield aged 66 years. For 59 years he was a very earnest preacher in the Primitive Methodist Church.

March meeting of the Parish Council: The Parish Constables are to be provided with handcuffs and staves. The Council precept for the year was £20. The Westcar Charity provided £12.11.0 to be spent on the poor of the village.

Easter Monday: A Boy Scout Group has been in existence in the village for 2 months under Scoutmaster Bond and his assistant L Duthie. The two patrols presented an entertainment for the village which included the song "Be Prepared"; recitations were given by Patrol Leader Pipkin and Scouts Clarke and Massey. Patrol Leader George gave a violin solo. The following adults helped with the entertainment: Mr Biggs, Mrs E Blowfield, Mr A Heath, Miss Mudge and Mr Parrott. Mr Anstruther thanked all who had taken part and explained that the Scouting Movement was not intended to train boys for the army but to make them self-reliant citizens in whatever trade or profession they eventually followed.

Easter Day: There were 50 communicants at the Parish Church, the offering amounted to £11.3.4.

SEPTEMBER. A house to house collection was made for the Royal Bucks Hospital and £2.7.1~ was collected. The collection was made by Misses Impey and Batson.

26th. Harvest Festival. At this service the Vicar made an urgent appeal for support of the Royal Bucks Hospital and raised £3.19.7~. At a Tea on the following Thursday the Vicar thanked the choir for their valiant voluntary service and expressed a desire for sympathy of all bodies of Christians who were facing much indifference to their Christian faith.

NOVEMBER 30th. Lord 's Staghounds met at Hardwick. The Stag ran towards Weedon, crossed the brook and then crossed again to make its way towards Whitchurch and Creslow Great Ground. It was eventually caught at Hogshaw.

DECEMBER 6th. At a Unionist meeting held in the village; the Speaker dealt at length with the Insurance Act.

Prices for some Christmas Foods: Stilton Cheese 1/4 per lb. Cheddar 11d per lb. Tin of Tongue 1/4. Raisins 5~d. per lb. Glace Cherries 1/4 per lb. Tin of pineapple 8~d.

Report on the census taken in 1911:

Whitchurch population 1901 619

Whitchurch population 1911 625

1913

JANUARY 11th. Boy Scouts Rally held at Whitchurch with other Troops from Hardwick, Swanbourne and Quainton. Dr MacFarlane was the chairman and introduced the speaker Hon TF Freemantle who presented Second Class Badges, Service Stars, and enrolment certificates. An entertainment was given by the Scouts arranged by Scoutmaster L Duthie and assisted by Mr Biggs. Interesting items included signalling and ambulance displays.

18th. Mr Lionel de Rothschild, a prospective Parliamentary Candidate, visited the village and spoke at a Public meeting on the political situation.

29th. A Social evening took place in the Gladstone Hall. 69 persons sat down to a meal prepared by the ladies of the Hall Committee. Mr Adamson was in the chair and Mr J Rickard of Manchester gave an address. The proceeds of the evening were to go towards the purchase of a Bagatelle table.

25th. Death of Dowager Lady Anstruther, mother of Mr HT Anstruther, a Director of the Suez Canal Company.

30th. The Vicar gave a talk on the "History of Christianity in Britain before the coming of St Augustine."

FEBRUARY 7th. At the Annual General Meeting of the Whitchurch and District Nursing Association it was announced that there was a reserve fund now of £20.

14th. A Service of Confirmation was held at the Parish Church. It is now over 50 years since such a service was held in the Parish Church. There were 59 candidates, 14 were from Whitchurch. Bishop Corfe took the service.

15th. Death of Mr George Wilson. He was 62 years of age and was the Corn Merchant of Tudor House. He was the village assessor for many years and was Chairman of the Parish Council for some time. His "Chronicles of Whitchurch" have recently been published and its profits donated to the Parish Church restoration fund in which he showed great interest.

28th. A Unionist meeting was held in the village. Messrs Edmund brothers gave a talk on the "Home Rule" question.

MARCH 6th. Rural Deanery meeting when Mrs Smith Masters gave a talk on "Poetry of the Anglo Saxons".

22nd. Parish Meeting for the election of 7 members for the Parish Council. The following were elected. Messrs T Biggs, TJN Cannon, J Evans, LP Thorne, FE Parrott and WS Blowfield. 40 parishoners were present.

APRIL 1st. An entertainment was organised by Mrs H Rickard and Miss C Wall for the Church Organ Fund and raised £6.15.0. The entertainers included Miss A Moxom, Mr T Biggs and Misses A Rose, B Giddings, I King and A Williams who sang "Gay little girls of Japan", they also performed figure dancing in costumes made by Mrs H Rickard.

19th. At the Parish Council meeting Mr S H Rickard was appointed deputy clerk to the Council and Messrs C Foster and W Wood were appointed overseers. Messrs Elmore, Evans and Thorne were nominated to serve as School Governors.

MAY 17th. A May Fair was organised by the Wesleyan Methodist Church to aid their renovation fund and this day the local Member of Parliament Mr Lionel de Rothschild attended to open the Fair. It is intended to reseat the Church, build a new Schoolroom, Classroom and Library, a Church Parlour and Minister's Vestry. The estimated cost including the land was £950. £100 had already been raised in previous years. The premises are considered to be out of date and inadequate for rural England.

JUNE 19th. The Vicar, Rev Hugh Wood, played cricket for Stewkley and scored 71 runs not out. He took 5 wickets in the first innings and 7 in the second. Although regarded as a veteran ... "he hasn't lost the skill that made him a member of a strong Cambridge University team ... what a pity there is no cricket ground in Whitchurch".

AUGUST 2nd. Property belonging to the late Mr Hart was sold by auction, 36 acres of land sold for £4500. "The Lawns" the home of Dr MacFarlane was bought by Mr T Cannon for £810.

9th. The Scout Troops of Whitchurch and Hardwick camped during the holiday weekend in the grounds of St Jonn's Lodge at Stone. Lady Smyth who had a keen interest in the movement did all she could to make the boys at camp as comfortable as she could.

25th. A Tennis Tournament was held in the village for the benefit of the Church Restoration Fund. The lawns of Rev H Wood, Mr Wall and Mr T Duthie were used. The winners were Miss Neal and Mr B Jackson who defeated Miss N Wood and Mr Orchard. A Carnival was held on the Vicarage lawn in the evening; Mr H Beasley was awarded the first prize in the Fancy Dress, he was a Red Indian, Miss Fincher was second dressed as a Nun; over 50 people paraded in Fancy Dress through the village to music played by the North Marston Band. A Dance was held in the Church Schoolroom to the music of Mr Edwards of Aylesbury at the piano. The debt of £180 on the Church Restoration Fund was

reduced by more than £15.

OCTOBER. North Marston Band paraded through the village streets collecting for the Royal Bucks Hospital, they collected £2.12.8.

NOVEMBER 14th. At the Annual General Meeting of the Unionist Association 80 people sat down to an excellent repast provided by Mrs Rose of the "Cock Inn". The Chairman was Mr W Murray, and a Gramophone loaned by Mr McDonald enlivened the proceedings.

22nd. Mr L de Rothschild addressed a crowded meeting at the School and dealt with the political situation.

DECEMBER 26th. The Aylesbury Rural District Council have considered 2 sites for the proposed village sewage scheme, one is off the Cublington Road and the other is at Dunn Mill. After inspecting both sites the Engineers recommended that the Cublington site be selected.

1914

JANUARY 22nd. The 5th Annual General Meeting of the Whitchurch and District Nursing Association was held.

24th. Boy Scouts entertainment. One of the chief items was a Camp Sing Song led by Mr A Heath and accompanied by 5 Scouts, one with a Banjo. Mr Heath and Harvey Ridgeway, dressed in Chinese costume, sang "Excelsior" in pidgin English.

FEBRUARY 3rd. The Parish Church Choir gave a Concert to raise funds for repairs to the Organ. Mrs E Blowfield arranged the music and trained the Chorus. Songs were sung by Mr G Moxom, Mr H Ridgeway, Mr G Massey, Mr S Rickard and Miss C Beasley. £3.6.10 was raised by the collection.

21st. The Parish Council have received estimates for the village sewage scheme: £5250 for the Cublington Road scheme and £ 5055 for that at Dunn Mill. Mr T Cannon thought that for a village the size of Whitchurch a sum of almost £6000 was a lot to find and would mean an additional 2/6 on the rates. This expense would touch every householder, cottagers as well as the large householders and he regarded this as a very serious matter. The Council agreed to go ahead with the scheme.

MARCH 14th. The Seed, Cake and Corn Merchants business of the late Mr G Wilson will be taken over by Mr T Loader of Aylesbury.

17th. Two applications for allotments were received by the Parish Council, unfortunately at the present time no land is available.

APRIL. Advertised locally Eating Potatoes 3/9 a bushel.

Easter Monday. The Annual Vestry meeting of the Parish Church was held. Rev H Wood was in the chair, the accounts were presented and showed a balance of £14. Mr W Wood was nominated Vicar's warden and Mr G Heasley the People's Warden.

9th. A lantern service showing slides of "The Passion" was conducted by the Vicar of Swanbourne, Rev Forrest. Appropriate music was Sung by a quartette ... Mrs E Blowfield, Mrs Bratton, Rev H Wood and Mr H Beasley. Mrs E Blowfield sang the following solos "He was despised" and "There is a green hill". Easter Day services included special music by Edmund Turner "O Death where is thy sting". The organist was Mr GH Knight, there were 57 communicants.

The Easter offering was £6.9.5.

The village Newsagent is now Mr Pitkin,

24th. Six men from the village attended the Annual "Earth Stoppers" Dinner at the "Bell Hotel" Winslow, they were Messrs W Hogston, J Hogston, T Batson, C Kent, C Ridgeway and F Mason.

Parish Council: Mr J Biggs was thanked for his past services as Chairman of the Parish Council and re-elected, Mr Cannon was elected Vice Chairman.

Advertisement: 15hp Studebaker Car £295 new.

Whitchurch Sewage Scheme: There has been a Local Enquiry. The Thames Conservancy Board had taken samples from the streams that drained away from the village and had found them to be badly polluted and so considered the sewage scheme necessary. The Medical Officer for Health Mr AT Morrison reported that from the health point of view there had not been any epidemics of Diphtheria or Typhoid and the health of the village was good. There were 68 private wells and one public water supply from a stream and he reported that all were fit for drinking. The Sanitary inspector reported that there were between 130 and 150 houses in the village and the character of the village was mainly agricultural with a few Hunting people. The population was 625. The Clerk to the Aylesbury Rural District Council reported that the Council needed to borrow £5100 to provide facilities for the sewage scheme and that an agreement had been made with Mr J Rickard, a carpenter, for the purchase of 14 acres of land that were needed, for £1000. Mr TJN Cannon said that 4 acres of land would be sufficient and the rest could be let. The Inspector said that the subsoil was not suitable for irrigation and land should be kept for that purpose. Dr Wall considered that the 3/- rate would be very hard on the poorer people and a less expensive scheme should be considered. The Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr J Biggs, said they did not recommend the proposed site for the village Sewage Works and asked that it be referred back to the Aylesbury Rural District Council. Several of the oldest inhabitants attested that the alleged pollution of the stream in the village had not seriously affected the health of the villagers. Mr T Cannon stated that most of the inhabitants of the village were labourers who were not earning 1? a week. A reporter at the enquiry reported: "The Aylesbury Rural District Council have had their hands forced with the result that Whitchurch is now faced with the expense of a sewage scheme that will cost over £5000, such a proposal is carrying village finance above all reason. The powerful opposition to it, to expect the inhabitants of this mainly agricultural community with a small weekly wage to foot this bill of £5000, was nothing less than an act of intolerable oppression".

AUGUST 4th. War was declared on Germany.

15th. A meeting was held to consider how best the village could help to supply clothing and garments for sick and wounded soldiers and sailors. A good company of ladies were present and they decided to work for the Red Cross. Many ladies offered to canvas the village. Mrs MacFarlane offered to be the Treasurer and Mrs W Wood and Miss S Wilson would act as Secretaries.

29th. Rev H Wood and Mr T Cannon were sworn in as Special Constables at a ceremony in Aylesbury.

SEPTEMBER. Miss Nelis is to be the local representative of the Soldiers and Sailors Families Association and can supply details of allowances.

11th. There was a Public Meeting at the Church School Room for the purpose of advocating further recruiting for the Army and Navy. Residents of the village and surrounding villages were present. The meeting was presided over by Mr Heath, and Major General Swann delivered an address on the present situation. He described the methods that the Germans had adopted over many years for the preparation for war. He reminded young men that the honour of the Empire was in their hands. The meeting ended with the singing of the National Anthem.

24th. A meeting of the Red Cross Society was held to inspect the garments that had been made to send to needy Troops. 109 garments had been made from materials purchased, there were 40 other small items and 73 gifts from lady parishioners, the quality of which was greatly admired. The society had a balance of £8.

OCTOBER 12th. There was an Auction at the "Cock Inn" of two cottages at the South of the village belonging to the late Mr E Gregory, one cottage had a small orchard. They were sold to Mr S H Rickard for £400. Harvest Festival at the Parish Church when the Preacher was the Rector of Drayton Parslow. A collection of £3.19.7~ was sent to the Royal Bucks Hospital.

Whitchurch Sewage Scheme: The Local Government Enquiry did not approve the scheme proposed by the Rural District Council and asked them to prepare a less costly scheme.

31st. Lord Kitchener visited Halton Army Camp.

NOVEMBER 21st. A House to House collection for the Belgian Refugees raised £11.9.0, this was organised by Miss Nelis.

24th. Mr H T Anstruther gave an illustrated talk on the War situation. A full audience joined in with Hymns and patriotic songs. A group of Special Constables prepared the room and acted as stewards. The Red Cross benefited by £3.7.10.

DECEMBER 17th. A Sale and entertainment was organised by the Boy Scouts. The proceeds were for the Belgian Relief Fund. At the Boy Scouts entertainment there were Ambulance Displays, songs and recitations and a "Bun" Race that caused much merriment. A Dumb Bell competition was won by Scout L Pitkin. The play entitled "Their good Queen" was acted by Scouts Blowfield, H Young, J Tomlin, L Pitkin and W Sherman. An enjoyable evening concluded with the National Anthem and a display of the Flags of the Allies.

1915

Some present prices at the beginning of a New Year: 3lb Strawberry Jam 1/2. 2lb Marmalade 8~d.

JANUARY. Village Sewage Scheme was expected to compulsorily purchase the land needed, but there doesn't appear to be any hurry. Mr T Cannon had tried to contact the engineers but there seems to be little chance of work starting this year.

FEBRUARY 20th. County Engineers met a deputation from the Rural District Council at another site in the Cublington Road that could be cheaper as a site for the village sewage works.

A Concert was held for the Church Organist Fund. Soloists were Mrs E Blowfield, Mrs F Wood, Mr Bratton, Mr H Beasley and Mrs W Dickens. Singers from Aylesbury sang patriotic songs much to the pleasure of the audience. A farce "Mrs Baxter's Baby" was performed by Misses Giddings and Rose, Mrs Wright and Mrs W Dickens and Mr G Brown. £ 4.15.0 was raised.

MARCH 15th. Parish Council Meeting: Mr T Cooper and Mr W Young were elected Parish Constables. The Overseers for the year are to be Mr J Holt and Mr E Blowfield. £2.16.7 was drawn from the Poor Rate during the year and £1.10.6 was used for working expenses for the year; this included 10/6 for the audit stamp. Mr Ridley of the Westminster Bank was appointed Treasurer. The Clerk was asked to write to the District Surveyor about footpaths in Mr Parrott and Miss Rose's fields. The County Council were to be asked that the lowest speed limit be granted for motorists passing through the village between Whitchurch Hill and Marston Lane.

MAY 1st. At a Concert in the Primitive Methodist Church there were a number of soldiers present.

22nd. The Village Sewage Scheme: The preliminary report of the cost of the scheme on Mr Rothschild's land in Cublington Road would be £1000 less than other schemes; it would be £4060 exclusive of the land. Mr Rothschild was willing to sell 2 acres of land at £50 per acre. The County engineers were told to prepare the necessary plans.

JULY 23rd. Local Red Cross workers met to hear Miss Cottrell who had served as Quartarmaster on a Hospital Ship called "Albion Pride" a yacht requisitioned by the Admiralty; the ship accommodated 2 wards of 11 beds and 15 beds as well as an operating theatre and dispensary. The Ship operated between Boulogne and England. Mrs Lyon Campbell reported that £8 had been sent to Red Cross Headquarters and £10 had been spent on materials, and 296 garments had been despatched for the troops.

SEPTEMBER 4th. 8000 men from the Bucks County Council had joined the Forces. It is reported that Captain Gardner, a village man, serving in the Dardanelles with the 21st Lancers was wounded on August 21st. A Boy Scouts Rally at Hartwell, where Whitchurch Troop and the

Hardwick Troop attended, and carried out Trek Cart Drill. Scoutmaster Gale and his assistant Mr Young were amongst other Scouters who were thanked by Sir Robert Baden-Powell who inspected the Troops. All Scoutmasters were thanked by the Chief Scout for continuing their duties, made difficult by the War.

25th. Memorial Service held in the Parish Church for Lance Corporal Frank Wood of the Royal Bucks Hussars, the younger son of Walter Wood of "The Beeches", Whitchurch.

OCTOBER 2nd. Mrs Spencer, the wife of Dr Charles Spencer who died in 1884 after practising for 40 years in the village, died today.

19th. The Master of the Whaddon Chase Hunt has written letters to all landowners asking them to remove all wire from their fences by November 1st, and hopes to continue foxhunting as far as possible during the War years.

Harvest Festival collections of £3.15.0 are to go to the Royal Bucks Hospital.

NOVEMBER 20th. Miss Nelis in a letter published in the Bucks Herald writes "... I would be extremely obliged that through your columns ... to say that a cardigan jacket has been despatched to every Service man from Whitchurch ... thanks to all whose generosity provided these gifts."

DECEMBER 26th. Over the last 6 months people have been working in the village for the Red Cross and as a result £22.0.9 has been collected and 82 garments including mufflers, mittens and socks have been sent to the Troops.

1916

An officially recognised association for "Voluntary Work for the War effort' is formed. President Mrs Duthie. Secretary Mr TJN Cannon who offered his studio at "One Ash" as a work room. A Group can meet there daily from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. except Saturdays to engage in making comforts for the troops.

JANUARY 29th. Whitchurch and District Nursing Association held its Annual General Meeting with Mrs Duthie in the chair. Treasurer announced that the revenue for the year was £99.2.1. Expenditure was £81.12.0. The School work carried out by the District Nurse met with the approval of the Doctors and the Inspectors. Under the Birth Act of 1907 Nurse Frances was now allowed to undertake home visits of mothers and infants; this service is much appreciated. The committee noted the promptitude with which the Nurse tackles her duties. Aylesbury Rural Tribunal gave a local farm labourer exemption from the Forces for 6 months; by then they hoped the War would be over.

FEBRUARY 18th. A Concert was organised by Mr F Taylor to raise funds for the Whitchurch War Depot. £46.6.4 was raised.

MARCH 6th. A Concert for the Red Cross was arranged by Mrs Gardner assisted by Mrs E Blowfield. A Tableau of Nursery Rhymes was very acceptable and showed very skilful training. Sergeant T Biggs caused great amusement with his courting sketches. £18.7.3. was raised for the Red Cross.

24th. A meeting of the War Agricultural Committee held a meeting in the village when Mrs HM Roberts of Ivinghoe spoke on the need to promote a register of Women in the village who could work on the land. It was pointed out that if the War ended soon the Forces would still need men and they would not be back on the land very quickly. Mr Anstruther, who was the chairman, remarked about the disastrous floods that had made seed sowing late this year. Miss Lucy Heath agreed to act as local registrar. Very severe snow storms with strong winds swept across the district during the last week in March. It was reported that this was the worst blizzard since January 1881.

May 20th. 62 workers at the War Work Depot in the village received badges for completing work for the Army Council. 3 invalid chairs that they had made were now in use at the Military Hospital in Aylesbury.

JUNE 17th. At the Aylesbury Rural Tribunal a Dairy Farmer appealed that if he went into the army his farm would close down; he was 51 years old. He was granted 3 months exemption. A paperhanger aged 18 asked for exemption on the grounds that his two brothers were already in the army and his mother a widow. He was granted one month's exemption.

Wesleyan Sunday School Anniversary was conducted by Rev Capt WE Woodall; the flowers from the afternoon service were sent to the Military Hospital in Aylesbury.

24th. The Village Sewage Scheme has another setback; a letter from Dr Cheeseman states that he would not sell less than 5 acres of land at £100 per acre. It was agreed by the committee that this would make the alternative scheme too expensive and they agreed it should be dropped ... "it will be a long time before the foundation stone of the Whitchurch Sewage works is laid" - quote from Mr Locke.

JULY 22nd. The casualty lists of War dead and wounded included Private G Streek of Whitchurch.

24th. Notification has been received of the death in action of Pte Everard Evans on July 18th; he was the second son of Mr & Mrs Evans of the "Firs". He was only 19 years of age and had been home on leave in September 1915.

AUGUST 12th. Memorial Service for Capt George Gardner who had been killed in Gallipoli; he was a parishoner of Whitchurch.

DECEMBER 23rd. Sale organised by the War workers realised £212. Since October they have sent 225 pairs of mittens and 50 mufflers to Salonika. The Parish Clerk has received 2 applications for allotments but no land is available at the moment.

1917

Winter Sale at McIlroys Aylesbury: Men's Tweed Trousers 4/11. Suits 23/6. Brown blankets 4/11~. Ladies Hose 6~d. White Aprons 1/0~.

Aylesbury Rural Tribunal: Mr T Atkins, 34 years of age an engine driver employed by Mr W Alderman of Dunn Mill, was granted a continued exemption for unspecified time. An application from Mr Heath for Charles Evans, a milker and ploughman, was dismissed; the man was to be called up 7 days after a suitable substitute had been provided. An application from Mr T Cannon for exemption for Mr SJ Capp 33 years of age and a wheelwright was granted for a period of 6 months. Dr MacFarlane obtained a 3 month exemption for his chauffeur Mr R Evans, aged 31 years, he was asked to find another chauffeur as soon as possible.

MARCH 17th. Mrs Lyon Campbell, the President of the local Red Cross Society, is shortly to leave the village. She entertained the village helpers to tea. In the last 18 months £85.17.4 has been subscribed; £23.1.6 has been sent to the "Star and Garter Home" at Richmond. Over 400 hand made garments have been sent by the local society to the Red Cross Headquarters.

Whitchurch Sewage Scheme: The Aylesbury Rural District had listed this work to be one that could be carried out after the War; the Local Government Board had written asking to proceed with the work. Mr Cannon, the local representative on the Rural District Council, said there were three things needed for the scheme: materials, men and money; and the Local Government Board should know that without writing. The Clerk reported that the village was healthy and there seemed no reason why this matter should be forced upon them at this time.

24th. Aylesbury Rural Tribunal: Mr FJ Parrott aged 30 years, a Butcher and Farmer, was exempt from call up for 2 months. Mr E Blowfield aged 32 years, a Butcher and Smallholder, was not to be called for 6 months.

APRIL 14th. Easter Service at the Parish Church had its usual Joyous character with singing from a reduced choir of "O Death where is thy sting". There were 38 communicants and collections were £1.19.10~. At the Vestry meeting Mr H Rickard and Mr G Beasley were reappointed Church Wardens. The accounts showed a balance of £3.17.3~.

12th. A Rummage Sale was held by the Nursing Association and raised £15.1.10.

A letter received from Whitchurch troops in Mesopotamia: "On behalf of all troops serving here we would like to thank you for your gifts, not only because they are so useful and meet our requirements, but they indicate the time and money spent". This letter was received by the War work depot at Whitchurch, where during the past 16 months the following articles have been made: 958 pairs of mittens, 300 mufflers, 450 cloth helmets, 50 pairs of socks, 8 cardigans, 5 shirts, 50 spine protectors, 200 sunshades, 4 pairs of pyjamas, 30 surgical slippers, 80 "nightingales", 110 pairs of bedsocks, 183 bed jackets, 166 helpless case bedjackets, 75 pairs of operation stockings; these along with 311 garments in stock and ready for despatch, bring the total to 3065 articles. The depot also subscribed for and presented 3 invalid chairs.

JUNE 16th. Aylesbury Rural Tribunal: J Stanger, wheelwrights labourer aged 38 and working for Mr T Cannon, was not to be called up for one month. R Evans advanced another 6 months exemption. C Foster requested exemption for W Tapping, a Baker aged 38; exemption granted on the grounds that the man was engaged on a certified occupation.

AUGUST 11th. The Third anniversary of the War, nearly 100 men by their gallantry have won special honours.

OCTOBER 4th. Harvest Thanksgiving service was held in the Parish Church joined by the Wesleyan and Primitive Methodists to make it an adequate service. Conditions have not been good for the harvest .. "a great deal of rain had fallen during the past few weeks".

20th. Volunteer Regiments of the near villages met for a Service at Fleet Marston. They were inspected by the Earl of Buckingham.

25th. A Rummage Sale and Concert was held for the Organ Fund. No comics took part in the Concert; Mrs E Blowfield and Stanley and Bessie Evans participated. Mr Brown loaned his Gramophone to provide music.

Aylesbury Rural Tribunal: Mr T Loader appealed for JHM Reeves, aged 41 a storeman, on the grounds of the job's importance to agriculture; the appeal was granted.

NOVEMBER 24th. A collection of £38.11.6 was made by the village for gifts for Whitchurch Men in the Forces.

15th. Death of Mr G Barratt who was a local preacher in the Wesleyan Methodist Church for nearly 60 years. He lived for the later part of his life in "Salem". When his farm suffered he was given a home by Mr T Durley who owned "Salem".

1918

Winter Sale at McIlroys Aylesbury: Aprons 1/0~, Combinations 1/11~, Bodices 1/0~, Japan Silk Blouses 6/11~.

JANUARY 12th. This was a memorable day in Whitchurch. To hear the King's Proclamation read, all three Churches joined together for the evening service; every seat was taken. The Proclamation was read by Mr T Loader, the Roll of Honour was read by Mr T Cannon, the lessons were read by Pastor Thompson and the sermon on the text, "For their sakes I sanctified myself", was given by the Vicar Rev Hugh Wood. A collection of £7.10.10 was taken for the Red Cross.

MARCH 2nd. A Roll of Honour has been compiled. This record of Duty and Sacrifice has been sent to each man whose name is on the Roll. 100 names out of a population of 703 is a record the village can be proud of.

A lecture on "Soils and how to cultivate" them was given by Mr Money. A sample of soil was tasted in front of the audience to show how the lack of Lime and Phosphorus can be detected. Mr Rowland of Creslow thanked Mr Money.

APRIL 13th. Easter Vestry: Mr H Rickard and Mr G Beasley were elected Church Wardens. Elected sidesmen were Messrs G Brown, H Beasley, A Alderman, H Wood and S Giddings. There were 37 communicants on Easter Day, the offering being £4.9.11. Being a Parish of more than 500 inhabitants with an endowment of less than £200 a year, a grant of £24 was received from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

War Maxims: Eat less, Breathe more. Ride less, Walk more. Talk less, Think more. Clothe less, Bathe more. Worry less, Work more.

MAY 3rd. St. Dunstons Hospital for the Blind benefited by £19 as the result of a Concert organised by Mrs Stonill of Hurdlesgrove Farm. Airmen from the Australian Flying Corps took part in the entertainment; Sgt Billy Dick was the pianist, Sgt Lemke sang baritone songs, and Sgt Evershed told some funny stories, Mr Phillips sang "Chorus Gentlemen", Miss B Smith sang "Roses of Picardy". Mrs Woodall, Miss Wright and Master Ronald Sainsbury all sang while Mr Stanley Galpin played the violin.

18th. Aylesbury Rural tribunal: Appeals were made by Mr T Loader for two employees, Francis W Adams aged 36 years and John H Reeves aged 42, both carters and both were granted exemption. Mr Charles Foster appealed for exemption for William Tapping, aged 38, a Baker and assistant on the land; this was dismissed.

25th. An inquest was held at the "White Horse" by Coroner SE Wilkins on the death of a baby boy, the son of John Stanger, an agricultural worker. Evidence showed that the child had died a few minutes after birth, and the jury returned a verdict accordingly.

JUNE 1st. Aylesbury Food Control Committee decided to increase the ration of Butter and Margarine from 4 ounces to 5 ounces from June 2nd.

8th. Aylesbury Rural Deanery Conference recommended that every opportunity should be taken to work with non-conformists on all religious and social work.

14th. All men over 41 years are to be graded for call up for the Forces.

22nd. Sir John Duthie was made a Commander of the British Empire, he lives at "Kempsons" and is the eldest son of the late Mr William Duthie who 100 years ago founded the Duthie Ship Building Company in Aberdeen.

The copy paper for the Bucks Herald is a dull grey, a poorer quality of paper because of the War.

JULY 20th. District Medical Officers report two cases of Scarlet Fever at Whitchurch.

AUGUST 14th. Great Sale at Longleys Aylesbury. Ladies coats and skirts £2.2.0.

24th. Aylesbury Rural Tribunal. Mr William Murray of the "Firs" applied for exemption for Mr George Gayler aged 50. He was Stud Groom and cowman; 3 months exemption was granted.

SEPTEMBER 7th. Sale in the village of Shop, Bakehouse and premises, orchard and garden. The premises are let at £26 per annum. Sold for £400.

OCTOBER 12th. Bucks District Wages Committee agreed that minimum wages for those over 18 years should be 30/- per week for 54 hours during the summer, and 48 hours during the 4 winter months.

19th. Harvest Thanksgiving at the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and the sale on Monday realised £14.

NOVEMBER 2nd. Influenza epidemic in the Aylesbury District.

16th. Parliament to be dissolved on November 25th. Polling day to be December 14th.

11th. The signing of the Armistice was notified to the Aylesbury District by a Telegram issued by the Bucks Herald Office. This news spread like wildfire and flags were raised on shops and offices. School children's lessons were cut short and they marched into the Market Square in Aylesbury and made it ring with their cheers. A half day holiday was given by all employers. Whitchurch man awarded the Military Medal for bravery: JW Blowfield of the 2nd Battalion Oxford and Bucks Regiment has been awarded this medal for bravery when he led a Bombing raid on September 11th 1918. He has since been wounded. He was a member of the Whitchurch Boy Scouts.

23rd. Teacher's Salary increased from £140 to £240 per annum for male assistant teachers.

DECEMBER 21st. The War Work Depot at Whitchurch closed. £35 spent on Christmas parcels for the Whitchurch men in the Forces.

1919

MARCH. At the Whitchurch War Depot 8579 articles have been produced during the duration of the War. These included 2263 pairs of mittens, 1684 cap curtains, 1647 mufflers, 759 bed socks, 131 pairs of operation stockings, 99 day shirts, 88 nightingales, 51 pairs of slippers, 50 sunshields, 45 pairs of pyjamas, 11 cardigans, 11 pairs of cuffs, 2 belts and 3 wheel chairs.

APRIL 12th. A Memorial service was held at Hardwick Parish Church. The Parade marched from Whitchurch to Hardwick and included discharged and demobilised soldiers under Cpl J Blowfield, the Whitchurch section of volunteers under Sgt T Cannon, Special Constables under Sgt T Loader, Boy Scouts under Mr L Pitkin, PC Gale represented the police and there were representatives from Oving and Weedon.

19th. Established in Aylesbury in Bicester Road a factory for the Motor Car Industry. W Cubitt and Company will be producing the 15/29 hp Cubitt Car. It will sell at £ 298.

MAY 3rd. Snow fell for a period of 6 hours covering the ground to a depth of several inches. Local Foxhounds: all claims for poultry losses up to May 1st should be made to Mr Murray of the "Firs" Whitchurch.

7th. Primitive Methodist Sunday School Anniversary. Rev Bacock was the preacher and the children sang appropriate songs under the direction of Mr F Rickard. Recitations were given by Miss Lilian Adams, Miss Welch, Joyce Porter, Dorothy Sheffield, Ray Henley, Simon Walters, Francis Andrews and Jack Cheshire. On the Monday the Scholars and their teachers toured the village singing their special Anniversary Hymns, this was followed by a tea in a field lent by Mr T Cannon. A Public Meeting was held in the evening when the Annual Prize giving took place. Empire Day display given by the Boy Scouts and Cubs in the garden of the "Grange" (now called Bolbec Place). Mr Anstruther, as a member of the BP Scouts Association, gave an encouraging address with special emphasis on discipline. The programme contained displays by Scouts and Cubs which included Marching, staff drills, fancy marching with the flags of the Allies. Great interest was shown in the Trek Cart Competition; the cart had to be taken to pieces twice, lifted over obstacles and put together again. The dumb bell competition had joint winners C Blowfield and E Young, with F Hopkins 2nd and N Batson 3rd. The final item was a tug of war between the Lion Patrol and the Beaver Patrol. A collection for the BP Fund for destitute Scouts in Allied Countries realised £1.17.2~.

30th. A Special Constables Dinner was held in the Day School. 80 members and ex members sat down under the Chairmanship of Major Pratt of Oving, who had been their first captain. The dinner had been organised by PC Gale, the money being raised by public subscription, the organising committee being Sgt T Loader, Constables J Evans, R Lloyd and F Mason. A report was given by PC Gale stating that the first 5 constables were enrolled in August 1914, and a week later 43 joined. By September 5th the strength of the company was 82. By the end of 1914 the Special Constabulary at Whitchurch comprised a Captain, 2 lieutenants, 5 sergeants and 74 constables, these were divided into 4 groups, Whitchurch, Creslow, Oving and Weedon. Captain Pratt was the first officer, followed by Capt Rowland and then Capt Rew. 2244 hour duties were performed and the duty cards in respect of these hours were delivered by the Boy Scouts. The duties of the Specials included guarding aircraft, delivering sheep dipping forms to farms, manning observation posts in air raids, and responsibilities in case of invasion. 21 members left to join the Forces, 7 were transferred to other companies, 3 from other companies joined the Whitchurch Specials, 8 joined the volunteers and 19 resigned. 4 had died, F Evans of Whitchurch, WV Brown of Hardwick, G Grace was killed in action in France and L Kimble had died of fever in Egypt. PC Gale was congratulated on the work he had done with the Specials and it was announced that each special would be presented with a certificate to remind them of the wet cold nights when they had been on duty. It is hoped that the Specials will be soon released from their duties. The Royal Toast was proposed by the Chairman. The remainder of the evening took the form of a musical programme presented by Mrs Blowfield.

JULY. Aylesbury Rural District Roadman's wages were 30/- per week. 25 men were employed on the roads, 15 of them were able-bodied.

3rd. A reception in the grounds of the Vicarage was given to the Soldiers and Sailors who had taken part in the War. This took the form of a meal served in a marquee and provided for by the people of the Parish. The following men were present: Privates W Adams, J Adams, S Adams, Bombadier O Alderman, Private F Andrews, Cpl J Blowfield, L Cpls A Blowfield, Brandon, W Batson, J Bibbings, W Cullen, Gunner T Cheshire, Trooper T Clarke, Private S Clarke, Bombadiers W Cheshire, B Cheshire, Trooper D Dwight, Privates R Evans, J Ellis, S Foulger, G Green, F Jones, Trooper C Galer, Privates J Graham, G Gower, S Gower, L Cpl James, Privates G Hammond, W Hornsey, C Kent, Knibbs, F Mason, W Moxom, A Moxom, J Massey, Lambourne, F Lambourne, D Pipkin, A Pipkin, D Price, H Ridgeway, Trooper J Ridgeway, Private P Rickard, Sgt W Rickard, Sgt Major W Sheffield, Sgt T Thorne, Private W Tapping, Sgt A White, Privates H White, W Walsh, F Welch, R Welch, W Young. During the proceedings a Band from Aylesbury played appropriate music.

The names of the fallen were remembered: Capt G Gardner, Private J Dwight, L Cpl W Dickens, Ptes F Tapping, G Grace, H Hogston, F Cheshire, H Adams, Trooper G Hooper, Pte J Young, Pte E Evans, Pte Swift, W Ridgeway, L Kimble. May their names be never forgotten.

AUGUST 2nd. Despite inclement weather the Peace Celebrations went off very successfully. A Cricket match between the Married and Single men was easily won by the Married. There were sports for the children and a Public Tea, and after tea there was a good programme of sports for the adults. The Day concluded with a bonfire, this was followed by dancing in the Schoolroom.

9th. A Pansy Day was held for YWCA. £3.16.4~ was collected by Misses Wood, A Hogston and D Foster.

OCTOBER 11th. Harvest Festival at the Primitive Methodist Church when the Preacher was Rev T Spray. On Monday Mrs Spray opened the Sale which raised £20 for the Church Funds.

NOVEMBER 13th. A Scout Entertainment was organised by Mrs Blowfield. The feature of the programme was a play "Blatherwick's Diplomacy", those taking part included Mrs A White, Misses Moxom, D Foster, A Young, Messrs Brown, Younq and Pipken. The Assistant Scoutmaster rendered some dialect songs and Mr Capp sang some ballads.