

A scenic view of a lake or river with trees and a large tree in the foreground. The water is calm, reflecting the sky and the surrounding trees. The foreground is dominated by a large, dark tree on the left and a grassy bank on the right. The background shows a line of trees across the water.

THE ECTON VIEW

**Issue 59 August &
September 2009**

Parish and Village Organisations

Parish Council

Chairman: Chris Petrie
Tel: 01604 788810

Pre & Primary School

Head: Esther McIntosh
Tel: 01604 409213

Womens Institute

Contact: Margaret Scott
Tel: 01604 414587
1st Tuesday in month
7.30 Village Hall

Youth Club

Contact: Margaret Tinston
Tel: 01604 412233
Margaret@ectonvillage.co.uk
Wednesday @ Village Hall
6.30-7.30 Junior Youth Club
7.30-9.00 Senior Youth Club

Bell Ringers

Contact: Colin Tinston
Tel: 01604 412233

Cricknet Club

Captain: Steve Wheatman
Tel: 01604 401714

Ecton Village Hall

Contact: Rodney Ingram
Tel: 01604 406038
Booking Clerk: Linda Richards 405888

Short Mat Bowls

Contact: Maurice Creed
Tel: 01604 407864

Church Directory

Priest in Charge

Chris Pearson
The Vicarage
72 High Street
Great Doddington
Wellingborough NN29 7TH
Tel: 01933 226711

Churchwarden

Walter Barty
1 East Butterfield Court
Northampton NN3 8JG
Tel: 01604 642117

Churchwarden

Mark Aveyard
01604 811821

Reader

Tony Green
63 West Street
Ecton NN6 0QF
Tel: 01604 407141

PCC Secretary

Mr. Tom Pearson
The Vicarage
72 High Street
Great Doddington
Wellingborough NN29 7TH
Tel: 07745 133867

PCC Treasurer & Churchwarden

Mark Aveyard
28 Clarke Court
Earls Barton NN6 0XX
Tel: 01604 811821

Electoral Roll Officer

Mary Dicks
Field House
West Street, Ecton NN6 0QF
Tel: 01604 407145

**Our Local Police Constable
Elliot Lee. Tel:08453 700 700**

Editors Ramblings

Well its great to be back in Ecton after a month away in South Africa, a great country and well worth a visit. Our excuse for the holiday was to support the British & Irish Lions in their attempt to beat the Springbok. Ecton was well represented by 8 villagers which from a village this size must be unusual. Sadly we could only win one of the three tests, but if we had 5 minutes longer in the first game and 5 minutes less in the second the overall result could well have been different. A must if you go to Jo'burg is the apartheid museum, and allow 4hours for your visit.

Last month saw the BIG LUNCH at the village hall which proved a great success, we being a small part of the National BIG LUNCH that took place on the 19th July, pictures in this issue. The next event is the ECTON VILLAGE BBQ and takes place on the 22nd August at the village hall. The Country File makes an overdue return and articles 'In defence of the combustion engine', 'An Earls Barton man on the Ecton war memorial' and 'Health and safety guidelines for a healthier war' complete the magazine.

For the many newcomers to the village I have copies of the 'Ecton Village Book' for sale at a reduced cost of £10. The book chronicles Ecton's feudal past, its personalities - Benjamin Franklin, William Hogarth and Dr. Johnson were all visitors - and its present.

This magazine covers two months so the next one is the October issue by which time the days will be much shorter and we will be thinking about winter, I hope we do not have the snow of last year. I will be advertising the Ecton magazine Christmas Card which unlike previous will come seperate to the magazine and you will be able to stand it with your other cards. It is an easy and environmental friendly way to send Christmas greetings to your friends in the village, and delivered too.

*Copy for The **October** magazine to
Colin Tinston, Rectory Farm House, High Street
Telephone: 412233*

**e-mail: navigator@ectonvillage.co.uk
by 22nd September**

**“For him in vain the envious seasons roll,
Who bears eternal summer in his soul.”**

THE E^CT_ON vILLaGe BbQ



22nd August 7.30pm

at

THE VILLAGE HALL



Bar & Raffle

Tickets £10 from

Margaret Tinston 412233

Kerri Pulford 413585

CALENDAR FOR AUGUST 2009

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Saturday 1st | 10.00am Open Church – time for reflection and quiet – coffee is served |
| Sunday 2nd | 6.00pm Holy Communion |
| Tuesday 4th | 10.30am Holy Communion |
| Sunday 9th | 9.15am Holy Communion |
| Tuesday 11th | There is no mid-week Communion service this week |
| Sunday 16th | 11.00am All-Age Worship (visiting minister, The Rev'd Charles May) |
| Tuesday 18th | There is no mid-week Communion service this week |
| Sunday 23rd | 9.15am Morning Prayer |
| Tuesday 25th | There is no mid-week Communion service this week 2.30pm Afternoon Songs of Praise |
| Sunday 30th | 10.00am Fifth Sunday Joint Celebration Service (hosted this time at Ecton) |

CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 2009

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Tuesday 1st | There is no mid-week Communion service this week |
| Saturday 5th | 10.00am Open Church – time for reflection and quiet – coffee is served |
| Sunday 6th | 6.00pm Holy Communion |
| Tuesday 8th | 10.30am Holy Communion |
| Sunday 13th | 9.15am Holy Communion |
| Tuesday 14th | 10.30am Holy Communion |
| Saturday 19th | 7.00pm Harvest Supper (Ecton Village Hall) |
| Sunday 20th | Harvest Thanksgiving |
| Tuesday 22nd | 11.00am All-Age Worship 10.30am Holy Communion |
| Sunday 27th | 9.15am Morning Prayer |
| Tuesday 29th | 10.30am Holy Communion 2.30pm Afternoon Songs of Praise |

| Church Cleaning Rota | | | Brass Cleaning |
|----------------------|------|------|----------------------------|
| Week | | Team | |
| August | 1st | B | Pat Baylis & Dorothy Creed |
| | 15th | C | |
| | 29th | A | |
| September | 5th | | Angela Allen & Rita Ward |
| | 12th | B | |
| | 26th | C | |

| Coffee Rota | | | |
|-------------|---------|------|----------------------------------|
| August | 6pm | 2nd | No Coffee |
| | 9.15am | 9th | Marian Gleave & Joyce Orford |
| | 11.00am | 16th | Margaret Weddle & Anne Henderson |
| | 9.15am | 23rd | Joy Wilson |
| | 10.00am | 30th | Fiona Major & Sue Bush |
| September | 6pm | 6th | No coffee |
| | 9.15am | 13th | Dorothy Creed & Ingrid Wright |
| | 11.00am | 20th | Nick & Mary Greene |
| | 9.15am | 27th | Marian Gleave & Joyce Orford |

| Sidespersons | | |
|--------------|------|---------------------------------|
| August | 2nd | Margaret Weddle & Marlene Green |
| | 9th | Marian Gleave & Nick Greene |
| | 16th | Brian & Sylvia Saunders |
| | 23rd | Mick & Pauline Cook |
| | 30th | David & Mary Dicks |
| September | 6th | Margaret Weddle & Marlene Green |
| | 13th | Marian Gleave & Nick Greene |
| | 20th | Brian & Sylvia Saunders |
| | 27th | Mick & Pauline Cook |

| CHURCH LOTTERY July | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| £50 | L. Richards |
| £10 | S. Wheatman |
| £10 | G.T Mornington-Sandford |
| £10 | R. Ward |
| £10 | R. Kilpin |

From the Vicarage,

There has been a great deal in the news recently keeping us up to date with the sad losses of service personnel in Afghanistan. It seems that every few weeks we see standard-covered coffins being solemnly carried from a transport aircraft at Brys Norton, but last week there was a consignment of eight (no less), the remains of young men who all lost their lives over a period of just twenty-four hours. This is, of course, heart-breaking for the relatives and friends, but we have also seen the effect upon the local village of Wootton Bassett, where life appears practically to stop on each occasion as people line the route of the cortege to pay their respects. The remarkable thing is that I heard recently that each time the crowd is bigger – there is no sign of these displays of support becoming ‘ordinary’ or losing impact within the area. That is heartening, I think, and helps to keep our faith in human nature at a good level.



We must never lose sight of the fact that every life lost, on whatever side, is an utter tragedy – just one wasted life is too many, and in connection with that I was struck by something else this week. When relatives and friends speak in the t.v. reports of the one who is lost they always speak of a very lovely person who appears to have been full of virtue, and with no negative qualities whatever. The cynic in me wants to suggest that those lads can’t all have been like that – some must have been difficult, or aggressive, or hard to get along with, or whatever. But shame on me! That’s a most unworthy thought. Much more important is the fact that these reports demonstrate that each one of these men is very special to someone – and often to many people, and I should not insult their grief by such a suggestion.

As Christians we believe in a God who values everyone, and equally. Everyone is special to Him, and what makes us special is the love that He has invested in us and continues to shower upon us. One of the songs we sing with the children runs: ‘I’m special because God has loved me, And He gave the best thing that He had to save me’. It goes on, of course, to talk of Jesus’ death on the cross for us. So we’re right to praise those lads for their contribution, their courage, and their commitment, and it’s fine to concentrate upon their good points because that’s what God does. He is always concerned to emphasise the good in each of us. That doesn’t mean that He turns a blind eye to the rest; it pains Him greatly when we go wrong and He works with us to change those things if we will co-operate with Him. But His greatest concern is always to celebrate what is good and right, and that should be our perspective in life as well.

Now as we enter the holiday month and the children are all off school even Church life calms down a little – but not completely. As the school holidays began we had had two events that very week end. On Saturday morning was a men’s breakfast, shared with our two sister parishes and held in the Memorial Hall in Great Doddington. Eighteen chaps enjoyed a wonderful full English breakfast and this was followed by an amusing and informative talk from Mr. Chris Brett from Bozeat, largely on the subject of effective communication. Then, the following day was the first of our new ‘All-Age Worship’ services at Ecton and we were delighted to have over seventy adults and a dozen children present. We do hope that will grow. The next will be at 11.00am on August 16th. I shall be away on holiday, but we have a visiting minister coming who will work with our local team to provide another lively, active service which, we hope, will be relevant to people of any age.

We also have our annual Holiday Club this year called ‘Showstoppers’, beginning on August 24th, at Great Doddington Memorial Hall. We are delighted that once again it is fully booked. The bookings include a few youngsters from Ecton school but we hope that as the word spreads the number will increase year upon year as we look forward to a great week of fun, friendship, and learning more about our friend Jesus.

In conclusion, we wish all our readers a most happy, restful, and safe August and September,

With very best wishes,

Chris Pearson

Blades

I was interested to read the letter about The Blades from Ms Rapley in the June issue of the parish magazine. Perhaps, for balance, I can explain the position from the Parish Council perspective.

The Blades are the four-man formation team based at Sywell Airport. They practice at around 11 am, 1pm and 3pm each week-day, so usually up to 15 practice sessions per week. They often do displays at week-ends, either in this area or further afield.

The Blades had been in the habit of flying directly over Ecton on their practice runs, and the Parish Council have received a number of complaints about this, from villagers worried about the noise and also the risk if an accident were ever to occur.

Recently, I had a meeting with The Blades and Jim Bass, our Borough Councillor, which was very cordial, and finished with a “gentlemen’s’ agreement” that the Blades would try, so far as possible, to avoid flying directly over the village. We did not try to pick any sort of argument with them, and merely requested a level of sensitivity from them, particularly in the mornings as some people work nights, and need to sleep in the mornings. They have responded by promising to do their best to avoid direct flights overhead, and we agreed to see how things went.

From what I have noticed, there has been a lower number of flights directly over Ecton, with the planes often using the air corridors between here and Earls Barton or Ecton Brook. Some flights still go over the village, though if these are of a limited number only, I am sure complaints will be few and far between. Villagers should still get the chance to see the Blades passing by on a pretty regular basis, though not quite as often as before.

I would take the chance to say that the Blades really are excellent at what they do, and although there is no formal display planned for this year at Sywell, their website does update you on their events. If you get the chance to watch them, do go, they really are very good indeed!

Chris Petrie
Chairman, Ecton Parish Council

Dear Editor

Reference your comments in your ‘Editors Ramblings’ last month, I felt it a little unfair to single out the cricketers for particular criticism with regard to rubbish left around the village hall and perhaps it would be appropriate to remind all hirers of the village hall – individuals and regular groups alike – as to the conditions of hire with regard to rubbish. The hire agreement asks that when the rubbish bins are full hirers take additional bags of rubbish and bottles home for disposal.

Members of the Bowls Club, who meet on Thursdays, ensure that the appropriate bins are put out for collection. Very often of late – but especially after large events the previous weekend – bags of rubbish, bottles and large cardboard boxes are being left alongside the full wheelie bins. Our village hall is an excellent facility; let us all do our best to look after it and take home any additional rubbish for disposal.

Marlene Green
Ecton Bowls Club

Thank you for supporting our

Pig Roast

We had a great day and raised
£1145.00

for
British Humanitarian Aid

We couldn't have done it
without your generosity

Thanks,

Jacqueline, Gary & Mackenzie



Thanks to everyone who contributed and joined in the Big Lunch, I think everyone will agree it was a great idea (thanks Margaret for spotting it) and a thoroughly enjoyable occasion. Special thanks to Carol, Sue, Claire, Margaret and Sally for the planning and organisation and to all the great Ecton cooks. We hope this will be the first of many more village lunches. The money raised by the raffle will go to the village hall to help towards the upkeep of our great facility.

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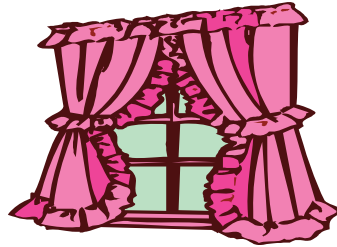
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CONTACT

Derek Geater

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djgartist@hotmail.com

dg
ART

CLEAN's latest on Anglian Water's Composting Planning Application

Thank you to all who objected to this planning application - All of the Parish Councils, Cogenhoe, Great Billing and Ecton have worked together. In addition, a local expert has come forward to help. William Miller is a retired Environmental Consultant who lives in Ecton Brook. His insights and expertise have already proved invaluable.

Because of the strength of the objections, WNDC have ruled that they cannot decide this on the 23rd of July, but has referred this to a public meeting at the end of September. This gives us more time to fight.

In the meantime it is still vital that you complain to Anglian Water (0800 145 145) if the smell comes up into the Village, or if you smell AW when visiting the petrol station or Billing Garden Centre. We all know it is much, much improved, but it is not perfect yet and they have had a few failures while building their new odour systems. **YOU MUST COMPLAIN WHENEVER THEY GET IT WRONG!**

Country File.

So already the days are shortening ! It doesn't seem five minutes since we came out of winter but then it would be very boring if we had the same sort of weather for most of the year. So far this year we have had quite a mixed bag of wet & dry and warm & cold which makes our climate so envied by many other parts of the world.

Soon the harvest will be in full swing again with the usual clouds of dust following the combines depending on how wet the summer has been and hedgerows can then start to be cut and tidied again after the government deadline of 31st July to protect nesting birds. Some of the hedge elm continues to die back from the effects of Dutch Elm disease and some Horse Chestnuts are still struggling with their own disease whereby they have lesions on the trunks that weep and the leaves turn brown. Gardeners have also been busy gathering their own fruit & vegetables and will soon start to get their ground in order before winter comes again. So far most things seem to have grown well despite one or two dry spells. Whatever the weather it is amazing how well nettles & thistles still manage to grow all over the place in some fields. It makes one wonder just what purpose they do serve.

Most of the lambs have gone to market although sadly there have been some instances of sheep rustling from different parts of the village. There was a time when this was an offence which resulted in the culprits being hung !!

Magpies continue their persecution of the small bird population and now wildlife campaigners like The Songbird Survival Trust are calling for action to reduce the numbers of magpies. The old saying about how many magpies seen in a group ends with "seven for a story never to be told". Now it is not that unusual to see 10 or 12 in a group !

Walkers on the western side of the village will have noticed by now that quite a number of the old footpath stiles have now been replaced with 'kissing gates' by the Rights of Way department at the County Council, so at least some good news.

Ecton Men Go Sailing 2008 and 2009

I thought I would start by recalling the time Ecton men went sailing last year. The crew were Ady, Colin and myself with friends Hugh and Steve. From Chichester Marina, in fairly strong winds we sailed to the Isle of Wight and moored at East Cowes Marina. That evening we caught a taxi to Island Harbour Marina's Bistro where the meal was quite acceptable and then on to the Folly Inn to enjoy some live music and watch other geriatrics, as well as younger people, dance on the tables. If you don't believe me go there on a Saturday night during the summer.

And now for the fun part. The following morning we awoke to strong winds and the feeling was 'it was going to be a bit lumpy'. At first there was a few other boats heading our way, but they peeled off heading for Portsmouth. Here there was a decision to be made, either put into Portsmouth and take the train to Chichester, or continue by boat which is what we did. The wind got stronger and was touching strong gale force 9. Did it get lumpy? You bet it did and for those on deck they had to contend with waves breaking over them and at one point the cockpit being swamped.

On entering Chichester harbour the wind and sea subsided. Here the expressions of concern went from faces and replaced with smiles of relief. One crew member commented 'That was awesome' as though they had got off one of those rides in a theme park. Usually at this point there are numerous boats, but this time we only counted another two.

I do believe the right decision was made what with all crew members wearing life jackets and clipping their harnesses and lanyards to deck anchor points and jack stays, emergency flares on hand as well as 3 crew knowing how to operate the VHF radio the risk of injury had been minimised. Mind you I doubt if I would have made the same decision if the mother-in-law was on board, or if I was in a mischievous mood, maybe I would!!

As for this years voyage, and because the above turned out longer than expected I shall leave it for another time.

Liam

Ecton Witches

Picture from the last gathering



In Defence of the Internal Combustion Engine

By Adrian Pulford

The 20th Century was one of immense political, sociological and economic change for all members of the human race. Mankind showed his brilliance in so many amazing ways, that despite the horror of two World Wars and one Great Depression the general advancement of the human condition was as exponential as it was astonishing.

In healthcare the advances are too many to list but penicillin, cancer treatment and general advances in drug know-how have completely transformed life expectancy and quality of life beyond recognition of our 19th Century forebears.

Although it took a dreadful World War [if you accept my belief that WW1 and WW2 were the same war with a 20 year armistice] to achieve the formation of NATO, United Nations, World Health Organisation, the IMF and the World Bank, these institutions have played their part in fostering a sense of unity and fair-play that has protected generations from hardship and poverty in a way that would be seen as remarkable to our great grandparents.

The freedoms we take for granted have indeed been hard-won and we should not underestimate how valuable they are. Freedoms of speech, scientific experiment, sexuality and religion are unrecognisable compared to those of previous generations. Freedom to travel transformed life for millions during the second half of the 20th Century and the benefits to the human condition are profound.

Freedoms come under attack, often from well-meaning but vociferous minority groups who through well-timed and well-aimed political pressure, gain the tipping point they need to push their often one-dimensional views into mainstream acceptance, usually to the disadvantage of the silent majority. We hardly notice the erosion until it is too late.

One of the greatest freedoms we gained in the 20th Century is the ability to walk out of our homes into a warm, dry vehicle at the precise time we choose, to travel to exactly where we wish, at any time of day or night, arriving safely at our destination untroubled by the weather, horse manure, other members of the public, highwaymen or muggers. Victorians would envy the freedoms bestowed upon us by Henry Ford, his mass-produced vehicles-for-the-masses and the motoring revolution it inspired around the world.

My premise is that the very essence of this freedom has been provided by an invention that is now starting to get such a bad press it almost becomes unfashionable to praise it. Indeed just writing the headline for this piece made me feel like a heretic when I typed in into my keyboard. However, I believe that the internal combustion engine has provided us with the most incredible advances and that it deserves some defence here.

The age of steam was the driver of the industrial revolution around the world, and electricity unleashed incredible advances too. Indeed the very first 'horseless carriages' were fuelled by these sources and early motor manufacturers were as inventive with their ideas as anything we see today. The Otto-cycle four-stroke internal combustion engine which won out as the best motive power for motorised vehicles has fascinated me since I was a youngster and the wonder of it is that it still does.

Induction, compression, ignition, exhaust – ah, just the sound of it conjures up the magic immediately. I'm a life-long fanatic of cars, motorcycles, speedboats, Spitfires and Lancaster's; in fact if it's got an internal combustion engine, it's of interest to me.

Motor sport has a history almost as long as the internal combustion engine itself. Since the sales guys coined the phrase “win on Sunday, sell on Monday” car and motorcycle racing has given millions of fans untold hours of fascination, intrigue and suspense throughout the 20th Century. World-wide interest in motor sport, and the engine technology it develops, shows no sign of abating even in these ‘green and mean’ times, thank goodness.

Think about the reciprocation inside a modern high-revving engine, with four or five valves per cylinder, sipping a fuel-air mixture so precisely injected, with ignition process so efficient and an exhaust gas so cleaned and catalysed that in some major cities the exhaust emissions are cleaner than the air going in. Aren't you amazed at the engineer's ingenuity in creating this masterpiece of refined design to transport you effortlessly, reliably and safely anywhere you want to go? I am.

I think the green lobby should rethink their attack on it, because the internal combustion engine has given us far more than it will ever take away. It's my hunch that there is life in the old dog yet. The cleanest greenest small car on the planet is not an hybrid, electric [ask yourself where the electricity comes from] or solar-powered – it's the Volkswagen Polo ‘Blue Motion’ with, you've guessed it, a highly efficient modern internal combustion engine. [No bias – I'm no longer a VW dealer]

Petrol will inevitably run out, but nobody can predict when. Do not listen to any of the current predications about energy – I am old enough to remember the 1973-4 oil crisis when experts confidently predicted that the world's oil reserves would be completely exhausted by 1985 – this was a ‘fact’. Remember, there are only two kinds of forecasters – those who don't know and those who don't know they don't know.

In fact it's a ‘fact’ that there are now more known oil reserves available [at a price] to us than at any time in history. Far from running out any time soon, the oil producers keep finding new methods of exploration and discovery. Not a very fashionable view I know, but do not underestimate the power of the market to drive adaptation.

Of course I am aware that ultimately, we will run out of oil as it is a finite resource but again do not write off the internal combustion engine. It was running on ethanol [from plants] before gasoline [from crude oil] was discovered to be the efficient, plentiful and cheap fuel it became. The engineers will adapt accordingly.

So before you join in the popular attack on the motive power in the cars we drive, remember the freedoms that we enjoy because of it. Unless you live in an inner-city area well serviced by efficient public transport, as most legislators against cars unsurprisingly do, you will be seriously disadvantaged without your car.

Petrol or diesel - the internal combustion engine means freedom and fun to the majority of us – so give yourself a break and enjoy a guilt-free drive soon!

THE ECTON BIG LUNCH



An Earl's Barton Man on the Ecton Memorial Roll

George Townley, born in Earl's Barton in 1892 has two connections with Ecton, he was for a time Scout Master here and he was also the Uncle of Marian Gleave. George joined 4th Northampton Regiment on September 9th 1914 at Northampton, his brothers also joined up, Percy(East Surrey Regt.) and Fred (Lothian Regt.). From the moment George enlisted he kept a very detailed diary, covering his training, and he notes the first march from Beyton to Thetford on November 4th 1914 being 17 miles. Three days later he was marched from Thetford to Bury St. Edmunds a distance of 12 miles.

In December he joined the Signallers and was sent to the Dardanelles on the H.M.S. Royal George embarking on July 29th 1915 together with ¼ Northampton Regt, 54 Divisional Cyclist Co. And 54 Divisional Royal Army Medical Corps. They were escorted by the H.M.S. Laverock. In the Bay of Biscay he records two obviously memorable events one, being sea-sick and two seeing dolphins.

Arriving in Alexandria the men had a five mile march round the city with band, native policeman and a scout as guides. From there they sailed via the Greek Archipelago to Suvla Bay where they were given three days rations and a hundred extra rounds making two hundred and seventy per man. They were landed at Kangaroo Point, Suvla Bay and immediately marched to the rear of the fighting line at the battle of Kidney Hill. They then moved during the next few days to support various other units. Being a signaller meant that some nights he was on observation all night; on the 21st August he had the first night's sleep since 13th August.

Throughout all his time he was regularly receiving and sending letters and they seem to get through even in the most adverse conditions. One food parcel which arrived had the cryptic note – food spoilt by pears. There was obviously a Sikh regiment nearby as on 15th September he received some chupatties from Sikhs. After becoming ill he was sent to hospital in Alexandria and then to Queen Mary's Military Hospital, Whalley, Lancs. The diary stops here.

He later went on to serve on the Western Front and after the war went to Lincoln College Oxford. He was ordained and in 1957 became the Suffragan Bishop of Hull. He returned to live in Earls Barton in 1968/9 and became Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Peterborough 1970. He died March 1977 in Earls Barton.

Angela Crabtree.

“Peace is not a relationship of nations. It is a condition of mind brought about by a serenity of soul. Peace is not merely the absence of war. It is also a state of mind. Lasting peace can come only to peaceful people.”

WWI

Health and Safety Guidelines For a Happier Healthier War

Little known facts about how it all began (not necessarily accepted by the average Historian): One August morning the Kaiser called his Cabinet together and announced he was going to Britain. His Chancellor asked him if there was a reason and he replied; that his entire British family was out shooting pheasants and had not asked him to the shoot, shoot lunch or apres shoot activities. This was due to the last time he was there when he thought they said they were going “peasant shooting” and must have upset someone when he bagged a Gillie. So now he was jolly well going over there to show them and he would shoot their peasants as it was fun. The question was then raised about how to proceed without giving a lot of prior warning. It was decided to march over Belgium and Holland and probably take in a bit of France on the way. Make it a bit of a gourmet tour.

Belgium proved to be recalcitrant and refused to let the shooting party over its land. So the Kaiser thought that to save having anymore of his polite requests for access turned down, and as he was bigger than the King of the Belgians; plus the fact that Holland and France didn't have anyone of sufficient royal class to deal with him he would declare war on them. Which meant he could just go and not suffer the embarrassment of having his requests for access and use of their transport refused.

His Minister for Health and Safety then laid down the rules of warfare according to his Department:

Instructions for the use of weapons, in at least five languages, must be included with each weapon kit.

All soldiers under 21 will be issued with wooden guns to avoid them getting hurt.

All soldiers over 21 will have a safety warning on their guns: i.e. this gun will kill if fired.

No guns should be pointed directly at people of either side to avoid accidents.

Anyone losing his or her gun would be sent back to Berlin to throw a six and start again.

Anyone finding a lost gun must carry it barrel downwards until reaching an adult over 21 who could put it back in it's box and return it to the owner.

No-one must pull the pin out of a grenade with his teeth, as it may damage their teeth.

Anyone throwing a grenade must have bowled for Germany at least once.

Ear defenders must be issued to anyone with a weapon making a noise of more than one decibel.

Trenches must be thoroughly serviced each day and chairs provided for soldiers to rest for half an hour after each hour's duty.

Music by favourite composers should be piped through the trench system for relaxation.

Wheelchair access to all trenches.

Toilet facilities to be provided for males, females, and the disabled. Females toilets to include mirrors, non-scented soaps and hand lotions. There should also be more than three female toilets on the battlefield.

Each soldier must have 6' of personal space in the trench and the facility to phone a friend/councillor if he feels lonely/depressed or has other problems.

When expected to “Go over the top” lifts must be provided from the deeper trenches and all barbed wire must have the barbs removed, blunted or covered with foil so they glitter and can be avoided.

Soldiers should be asked politely which are the most convenient days for them to fight upon so they are able to fit in a bit of “me” time. Important to morale.

Name calling of the enemy is preferable to throwing sticks or stones, however referring to the marital status of their parents or having the words teaching, grandmothers, sucking and eggs in one sentence should be discouraged as it might make them really cross.

Soldiers should try at all times to avoid situations where the other side might have legitimate cause to sue the German Government.

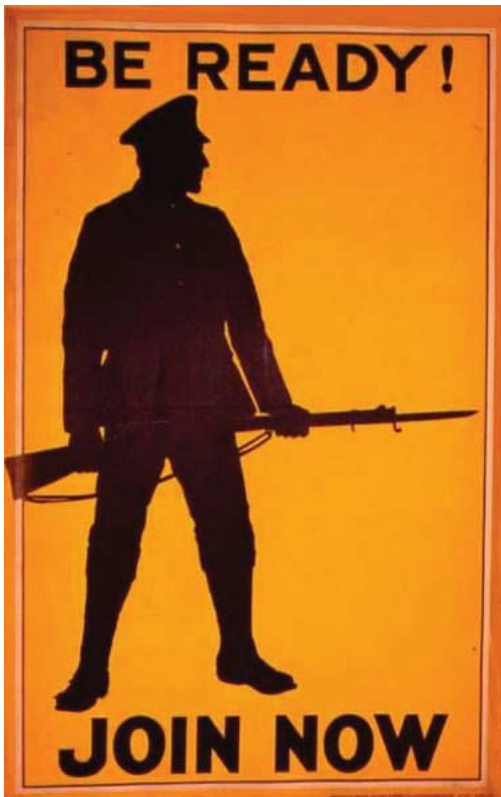
All Government issued clothing should have a label saying that the Government take no responsibility for the consequences of wearing the article on a battlefield whilst carrying a gun. Expecting troops to splash through muddy puddles across No-Man's Land must be discouraged. Due to the difficulty found in previous wars of getting the mud off the boots and out of the uniforms. For cleaning purposes a non-allergy detergent must be provided.

All soldiers must have "5 a day" fruit and vegetables included in their diet and gluten free must be offered.

Weapons of any sort must not be fired during: breakfast, elevenses, lunch, siestas, afternoon tea or dinner.

Hot milky drinks must be available to help sleep during the night and weapons must be silent after 10.30pm.

There was silence after this and then the Minister for Health and Safety, at a nod from the Kaiser, was taken out and quietly shot. So the war proceeded on the usual appalling lines and no one realised how much better it would have been for everyone had the above rules been followed.



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