

When It's Spring Again

Winter has passed – hopefully – and it's time for the Spring edition of your newsletter.

Before moving to Glemsford, nearly eight years ago, I remember 'Googling' Glemsford History Society and finding the village had more groups and societies than I expected. Now, as editor, I have access to some of the early newsletters from the 1990s and good interesting reading they make.

One of those involved in the early days was a Mr Norman Hill. Our Chairman, Patrick Currie forwarded an email to me, regarding this past member – read about him in this edition. I'm sure there are many established members who will remember Norman Hill.

The newsletter continues to recall those men from the village who gave their lives, in this period of 1915. With the continuing remembrance of WW1, I think it rather poignant that the last workplace connection with that time has gone. I wonder if any of those who died, had been employed at Downs Engineering?

I have given you an email address, to make it easier for those with access to a computer to send in any contributions, ideas or questions for the newsletter: glhsnews1@hotmail.com Alternatively, any contributions on paper can be handed in at our meetings.

Jenny Wears, Editor





Remember those, listed on one or both of our War Memorials, who died within this period.

1915:

30th January: George S Brown. Private 1st Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment. Born in Glemsford, enlisted Darlington. Died of wounds. Buried Bailleul Communal Cemetery, Nord, France.

18th February: George W Clarke. Lance Corporal. 1st Battalion Suffolk Regiment. Born Glemsford, son of Oscar, 6 New Cut. Killed in action aged 22. Listed on the Menin Gate.

18th February: George Honeywood. Killed in action aged 19. Named on the Menin Gate.

24th March: George Clarke. Private 2nd Battalion Suffolk Regiment. Died of wounds. Buried Bailleul Communal Cemetery, Nord, France.

On the 12th November 2014, Anna Watkinson with her daughter and son-in-law visited the Menin Gate. They laid a wreath of poppies, on behalf of Glemsford Local History Society, in remembrance of those men and possibly women, of Glemsford, who gave their lives in the 1st World War.



Harold Daynton

At Glorious Glemsford last year, a Mr Arnold Daynton gave the Society a description of his father's experience during WW1, with relevant photographs, These were on show, among other items related to the 'Great War'.

Harold Penrose Daynton was taken prisoner in the big German offensive of 21 March 1918 on the Somme. The men were herded into cattle wagons and taken miles away into Germany to a POW camp. First night conditions there were terrible with thousands of new prisoners, Dutch, English, French, Canadian, USA, Australian, New Zealanders etc.

At Appell next morning the Germans called for 10 British carpenters for 'other duties'; Harold and nine others stood forward. They were assigned to four German guards, with whom they stayed until Armistice on 11 November 1918. Their task to be taken back to the Front, and to make safe captured Allied buildings for German use, ie. to get rid of booby-traps etc.

The Germans were themselves short of food and most of what they had to eat was stolen from fields or gardens, but on the whole it appears they got a relatively easier time, and certainly more healthy diet than the POW camps.

Harold Daynton was born in Glemsford 31st December, 1898. He lived at Hunts Hill House until the family moved to New Cut. He had two brothers, the elder was Claude the younger Selwyn.

He joined the Army voluntarily, lying about his age by altering his birth certificate. He served with the Queens Own Royal West Surrey Regiment. With Officers and other ranks, he was on the run in Arras when captured in the first few days following the 21 March. He returned home to England, on 2 December 1918, having walked from near Maastricht to Calais, to be met by Queen Alexandra at Dover docks when leaving the ship.



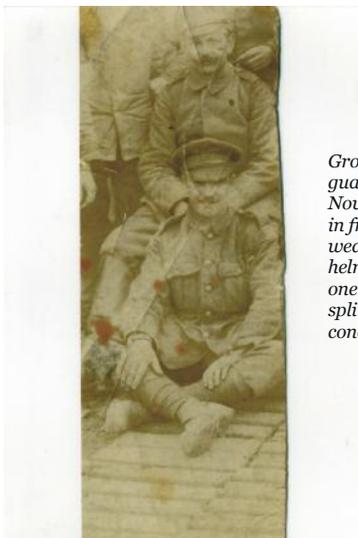
Taken at base before capture somewhere on the Somme. Harold sitting first on left.



With others on the 'other duties' – Harold standing on left.



Showing the group of 10 'volunteers' with German guard outside a captured British Hut. Harold sitting second from left.



Group with their German guards shortly before 11 November. Harold sitting in front of German wearing the Picklebauer helmet. There was only one photo so they had to split it up for each man concerned.



GLEMSFORD STATION 1943-1951

A CHILD'S-EYE VIEW – Part 2

*Some time ago, Steve Clarke received this material from one **Celia Hall**. It has not been published until now, so with thanks and acknowledgement to Celia, we will be serialising her reminiscences over four editions of the newsletter. Should anyone wish to use the articles for research or a project, please mention both the title and author's name.*

THE GOODS YARD AS MY PLAYGROUND

There was so much to do. I balanced on the rusty rails, rode on the crossing gates as the porter opened and closed them, danced on the goods shed platform pretending it was my stage, and practised my tennis forehand and backhand against the goods shed wall.

In 1948, my brother emulated the Olympic shot-putters by putting the shot (a brick) over a measured distance along the track in the goods shed, ran the hundred yards from the goods shed to the coal yard, and made his own high-jump, over which he tried to match the athletes' records.

My job was to measure the shotputs and retrieve the brick, time his 100-yard dashes, and re-set the high-jump bar when he inevitably crashed into it.

When he made a goal and 'became' a football centre forward, I had to pass the ball to him from the wing in such a way that he could score, time and again. I had an inkling then of my assigned role in life!

THE ORCHARD

What I enjoyed most was the big orchard that ran the length of the goods yard. I could climb the

trees, build dens, and eat as much fruit as I wished. Perfect freedom. On Mothering Sunday I always picked violets for my mother from the expanse of them growing under the trees.

FAME FOR A WHILE

I had a swing (railway sleeper and tarry ropes) from one of the trees, and one spring day a reporter from a Sudbury newspaper went by on a train and admired the apple blossom. He asked my father whether he could photograph the blossom for the paper and enquired about whom the swing belonged to. He thought that a child on a swing would add to the interest of the picture.

On a very chilly day I had to put on a summer dress and sit on the swing in a specific way to give the impression that I was mid-swing. After several tries (during which I became more and more cold) he was satisfied. The photograph was printed on the front page of the newspaper under the heading "Celia is swinging her way from Springtime into Summer". (I've often wondered whether the photograph still exists in the paper's archives...)

When my friends saw the photograph in the paper they teased me horribly about it. I decided that what with the cold, the tedium of getting the pose correct, and the subsequent teasing, being photographed was no fun at all!

Norman Hill



Mr Norman Hill, is pictured celebrating his 90th Birthday at the residential home in Salisbury, where he now lives. He was a committee member of GLHS in its early years and remained a member of the Society until leaving the village in 2012.

He was also churchwarden at St Mary's, and made a detailed photographic record of the restoration work of 1992. This was handed over to our treasurer, Rowland Hill, as keeper of our artefacts and documents, in 2005.

Rowland Hill, our treasurer, would like members, in approximately 4-500 words, to describe how they found the village when they arrived here; be it 1930 or 2010, and what changes you've noticed.

Please pass your piece on to him, at home or meeting.

GLEMSFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY News



NOVEMBER WAS our AGM month. It was a great success with 50 members and visitors enjoying a very sociable evening.

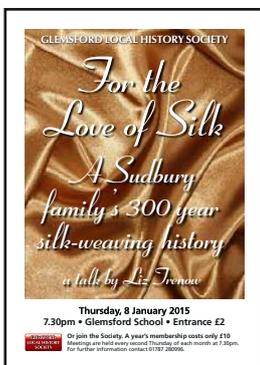
Following the formal business of re-election, notices etc, retired member Robin Ford, was presented with a £50 book token in recognition of 13 years service.

A cheese and wine interlude led to a talk on the 1st World War 'A Poetic Response' by Michael Copp. An erudite talk which included excerpts from poems by English, French and German poets. Thanks were given for such an absorbing and interesting presentation.



IN DECEMBER, Our President's Evening was once again held at the lovely home of our president, George Grover, where members enjoyed Christmas food and drink together with a quiz, a short presentation of historical artefacts, a raffle and much socialising.

All in all a lovely evening and we offer our thanks to both George and Ann for being such great hosts in opening up their home to the Society each Christmas time. It is truly appreciated.



IN JANUARY, local author Liz Trenow was the first speaker of the New Year, drawing an amazing audience of well over 70 members and visitors!

Her talk entitled 'For the Love of Silk: A Sudbury family's 300 year silk-weaving history' focused upon the beginnings of the Stephen Walters silk business dating back to 1666 when a certain Mr Walters apprenticed two sons to the Huguenots to become silk weavers.

By 1900 Stephen Walters had acquired the Cornard Road Mill together with the adjacent house in which Liz was born and raised. It was the firm's work during World War II which led to her to write her first novel *The Last Telegram*. This has been followed by two more, *The Lost Seamstress* and *The Poppy Factory*, both proving as popular as her first.

A VERY WELL-ATTENDED February meeting, with a number of visitors and new members, heard Nick Sign give a thoroughly researched and informative talk on 'Boudica: Queen of the Iceni'.

Looking firstly at illustrations of the queen from the 16th century onwards, we saw how her representations changed according to both fashionable and political concepts of the time.

Although mentioned in Geoffrey of Monmouth's 12th century chronicle, it seems the only reliable 1st century documented accounts are those by Roman scribes Tacitus and Cassio Dio.

At that time all of Norfolk and most of Suffolk was controlled by the Iceni tribe. This was the Iron Age and many archaeological excavations have revealed that the tribe ran a monied economy, an advanced civilization capable and skilful enough to mint coins, craft weapons and jewellery in addition to land and crop management.

The Roman invasion of 43AD saw new roads, forts and towns erected; all the British tribes tolerated this. Then, following the demotion of some of their kings to mere 'puppet' rulers, and later Roman dictates which forbade the carrying of weapons, rebellion began

to ferment in the tribal strongholds. This was savagely and fiercely suppressed by the Romans.

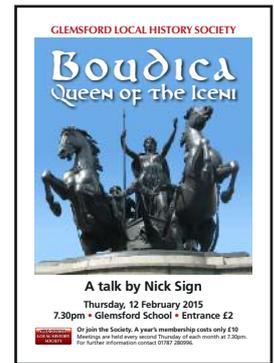
In AD60 after the death of her husband, the Iceni king, Boudica and her two daughters were brutally assaulted by Roman soldiers. Subsequently, for this outrage and many other factors, the entire tribe sought revenge.

They marched to Colchester, ambushing part of the Roman army on the way, before sacking the town and burning its beautiful temple to the 'god' Emperor Claudius to the ground.

London and St. Albans were the next to fall, the carnage only finally being stopped at a battlefield most probably on the junction of Watling Street and the Fosse Way, where the Roman's vastly superior battle strategy proved invincible.

Boudica may well have committed suicide as legend supposes, however it is certain that she was a most resourceful and remarkable woman whose revolt led eventually to an enquiry, greatly improved management and relationships with the conquerors.

Margaret King



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, **David Simmonds** (National Trust):
March 12th The Coast of East Anglia

Thursday, **John Browning**:
April 16th The Story of the Ickingham Hoard

Saturday, **Outing to Bletchley Park**: Entry and fare to be paid at
April 25th March meeting, if not before. Under 60s: £26, over 60s: £24.50

Thursday, **Geoffrey Kay**:
May 14th The Great Exhibition of 1851 and the Crystal Palace

Thursday, **Summer Outing**:
June 11th To be arranged

Thursday, **Summer Function**:
July 9th To be arranged



Finally, two contrasting views of The Broadway/Fair Green. The old view, circa 1900, was bought recently at Long Melford Antiques fair. Downs Engineering, now part of our history, is a prominent feature in the view.

GLEMSFORD
LOCAL HISTORY
SOCIETY

Newsletter | Spring 2015 edition

Annual Subscription: £10.00 **Visitors:** £2.00 per time

We meet on every 2nd Thursday of the month in Glemsford School at 7.30pm. We welcome your continued support and that of others. Please encourage your friends and neighbours to join us.