



# NEWSLETTER

No. 91

SUMMER 2018

[www.dacorumheritage.org.uk](http://www.dacorumheritage.org.uk)

## FAMOUS BERKHAMSTED & ENGLAND FOOTBALLER

In this Football World Cup year when England performed much better than expected, we have looked at the career of a famous Berkhamsted and England footballer, whose sporting career spanned the pre and post war era.



In the 1930s, Berkhamsted Town FC possessed a player who proved to be the most prolific scorer of goals in their 100-year history. Frank Broome, a speedy, tricky winger with a fierce shot. Born in Charles Street, Berkhamsted in 1915, he attended Victoria School; he later went on to work at Apsley Mills. Frank first played for Boxmoor St. John's and it was there that he was spotted by Berkhamsted boss Arthur Gomm, who offered the teenager the chance to join his home town club.

Frank signed for Berkhamsted in November 1933, joining elder brother Reg, who played at inside right. When he joined, the club was second from bottom and had scored 12 goals in eight games. By the end of the season, Berkhamsted's fortunes had improved dramatically, as they were then fifth with 80 goals from 26 games. Frank set a club record that season with an astonishing 53 goals.

The following season, Frank carried on where he left off and it is not surprising that representatives from league clubs such as Tottenham and Luton were soon paying the town a visit. When Aston Villa came to watch him playing against Marlow, Frank had an awful game and did not score, but Villa still signed him in the autumn of 1934. No fee was involved but Villa agreed to send a first team to play at Broadwater. This did not materialise, so the club received a £25 donation instead.

In the season of 1936-7, he was Villa's top scorer with 28 goals. The following season he helped gain Aston Villa's promotion from the Second Division (the club had been relegated in 1936) and was again top scorer with 19 goals. He stayed at Villa Park until 1946, after scoring 90 goals in 151 league and cup appearances. He won seven England caps, the first coming in 1938 during England's 6-3 beating of Germany in front of a 100,000 crowd, where the ill-advised English players reluctantly gave the Nazi salute at the Olympic Stadium in Berlin. In 1946, Frank was transferred to Derby County for £5,000 and averaged a goal every three games.



He joined Notts County in 1949, where he paired up with Tommy Lawton. Later, he played for Brentford and Derby and, after hanging up his boots, served as manager at Exeter City and Southend United. He also had a spell in Australia until returning to the West Country where he died in September 1994.

**Images:** *Left* – Football magazine cutting, Frank in Notts County strip. *Right* – Back page of 'The Sporting Mirror' dated February 1949, Frank in Derby County strip. Images from the Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society's collection cared for by DHT.

### THE DACORUM HERITAGE TRUST LTD.

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## ARMED FORCES DAY



We had a great time at Armed Forces Day on 30<sup>th</sup> June in Gadebridge Park, Hemel Hempstead; we were so busy there was a continual queue at the dove folding station. We had almost 600 visitors to our mini museum. An amazing 95 doves were folded at the event by people who were keen to have a go at origami.

The doves will form part of our 'Commemorating Peace in Dacorum' exhibition in a large art installation at our pop-up museum in October. Each dove will represent a name of a fallen soldier from the names on the war memorials across the Borough.

We finished folding the 1,087 doves early August and Nina our Collections Manager created a small video, which we posted on social media to celebrate. You can see



our film on our Facebook page. We are now sharing the images of some of those fallen names on social media, the faces behind the doves.

**Image: Left** – Modern servicemen proudly stand alongside our WWI army uniform bridging the century that divides them. **Right** – The Dove Folding Station, our volunteer Tim demonstrating the fine art of origami.

## WWI - 100 YEARS ON – AS REPORTED IN THE GAZETTE

In the editions of the Gazettes published in June 1918, there were many more reports of service personnel being taken prisoners of war, wounded, missing or killed in action.

LOCAL WAR NEWS published in the Gazette 15<sup>th</sup> June 1918.

The deepest sympathy is felt for Mr. and Mrs. Narborough, of Star Brewery, Bury-road, Hemel Hempstead, formerly of the Rose and Crown Hotel, in the doubly sad news they have received of their twin sons, who had only been out at the front a short time. One, Will, has been killed, and the other, Jack, badly wounded. In both cases it happened on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The brothers were well-known locally and were both serving in the North Staffs Regiment. Mrs. Narborough received the following letter from the Chaplain:

B.E.F., France, June 4<sup>th</sup>.

Dear Mrs. Narborough,

I am sorry to say I have a very sad letter to write to you. I am very shocked to have to tell you that an enemy shell came over yesterday and killed your son, Wm. George Narborough, and wounded your other son.

We buried Wm. George last night in a grave on the top of a hill out here, and I

should like you to know that you and his other relations were in our minds as we laid his body in the grave, and prayed that you might be comforted and sustained in this dreadful loss. The only comfort I can offer you about the manner of his death is that it was absolutely instantaneous – he could not have suffered, and that is something to be thankful for.

Your other son was wounded in the calf of the leg. I am sorry to say that the bone was fractured but the wound is not regarded as at all serious. He has now been removed to hospital and is, I hope and expect, doing well. He did not know that his brother was killed but thought he was merely stunned.

I do sympathise most earnestly with you and your relations in this terrible blow. Believe me, Yours sincerely, John J. Wallace, C. of E. Chaplain.





## CHIPPERFIELD - THREE SONS SERVING

No news has been received by Mr. and Mrs. Spyers, of this village, of their son Private Joseph Spyers, who joined the Kings Royal Rifles in May, 1915, having passed as signaller. He was taken prisoner (not wounded) between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> April. Mr. and Mrs. Spyers have two other sons serving. Private Frank J. Spyers (Canadians) is in hospital in Canada, and now recovering, and Lieutenant James Spyers (Canadians), who has been twice wounded, and is expecting to return for the fifth time.

## KINGS LANGLEY – AWARDED THE CROIX DU GUERRE

Mr. and Mrs. G. Aldridge, of the Home Farm, are rightly proud of their son's success, Sergeant Aldridge, of the Herts Yeomanry (E.E. Force), who has recently been awarded the Croix du Guerre for gallantry. A letter from his Commanding Officer to his parents states:

"I have great pleasure in writing to tell you that your son, Sergeant Aldridge, has been awarded the Croix du Guerre for gallantry in the field during operations at the end of 1917. I know it will please you to hear it, and I may say that I am extremely proud of the fact of having him serving with me. He has always shown himself absolutely fearless under fire and all the work he has to do in the field, and there have been one or two difficult jobs he has done in a way that proves that I shall be able to place perfect reliance in whatever he does. The special work for which he has gained this distinction was on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 1917, when he accompanied his troop officer, Lieutenant Newman, in a difficult patrol, which kept them under machine gun and shell fire most of the day, and the result of the patrol proved of considerable value to the later operations. I may add that Lieutenant Newman was awarded the Military Cross for the same work.

Reginald Abel Smith (Captain), O.C. Squadron, Herts Yeomanry, E.E. Force".

*Image: High Street, Hemel Hempstead. The Rose and Crown Hotel is about half way up the hill on the right hand side, taken c. 1898, from the Hemel Hempstead Local History & Museum Society's collection, cared for by DHT.*

## NEW LOOK FOR GORDON BENINGFIELD'S BUTTERFLY PAINTING

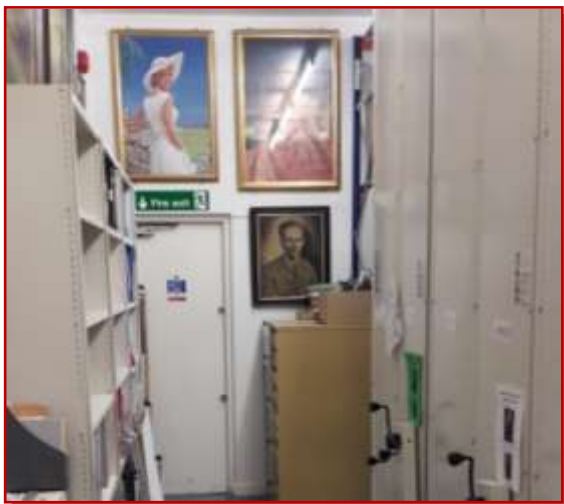
Local wildlife artist, naturalist and conservationist Gordon Beningfield is being remembered and celebrated during 2018. Several charities and organisations close to Gordon's heart arranged a series of events during the summer.

In support of the Gordon Beningfield Exhibition weekend events at the Natural History Museum in Tring, we created an animation of our beautiful painting of a Wall butterfly from our collection. To view this on YouTube follow the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHBRJZ3vfOk>

DHT also had a pitch in the museum's garden on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July alongside other organisations that had connections with Gordon, many of them wildlife and conservation. The turnout on the day was quite disappointing, the event coinciding with the England v. Sweden in the football World Cup.



## HERITAGE OPEN DAYS



Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes of a museum?

Come along to a private tour of our Museum Store on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September as part of Heritage Open Days 2018 to learn more about the objects used and owned by people in your area.

Have you ever held a 6,000 year old axe-head or looked closely at a sampler dating from 1800? These are just some of the fascinating objects stored at The Dacorum Heritage Trust's Museum Store in Berkhamsted.

The tour will commence at 10.00 am. Booking is essential. For further information or to make a booking please contact our Museum Support Officer, Zara on 01442 879525 or at [mso@dacorumheritage.org.uk](mailto:mso@dacorumheritage.org.uk) Please note that there are steep stairs, which are unsuitable for anyone with mobility problems; not suitable for children under 8 years.

## CURATOR'S CORNER



**The Bury Museum Project.** The latest update on this exciting project – we are delighted to announce that at the end of July, Dacorum Borough Council Cabinet approved the proposed expenditure for the project.

The Heritage Lottery Fund grant application was submitted in mid August. We should hear by the end of December whether we have been successful.

**WWI Inspired Artwork.** We have been running a series of art workshops with Berkhamsted Arts & Crafts shop.

All the canvasses created will be on display at our pop-up museum exhibition in October and November.

**Join our team! Museum volunteers required!** We have a number of volunteering opportunities to help us in

a variety of different tasks, full training will be given. If you are interested please contact the Collections Manager.

**'Commemorating Peacetime in Dacorum' Exhibition.** We are delighted to be able to announce the dates for our



upcoming Heritage Lottery Funded exhibition on the First World War, which will take place in October and November.

**Legacy Giving.** Help us safeguard our collections for future generations by remembering Dacorum Heritage Trust in your will. For more information visit our website <http://www.dacorumheritage.org.uk/support-us/legacies/> Please remember to include a bequest to The Dacorum Heritage Trust Ltd. when you make or revise your will.

*The Museum Store is open by appointment only. For enquiries email Nina our Collections Manager.*

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**Deadline: for next issue is 15<sup>th</sup> September 2018.**



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