

# SGMatters No. 224, 13th November 2024

NOTE: Please refer to <https://www.sgmatters.org.uk/NEWSLETTERS/NEWSLETTER224.pdf> for the pdf version with improved quality of any photographs, maps, etc.

## ARBUTHNOT HALL QUIZ NIGHT

**Lyn Barber reports:** The Arbuthnot Hall Quiz Night on November 9th was a great success with near on 100 people being challenged by Bill's eclectic mix of questions and the unpredictable effect of the 'multipliers'! **Funds in excess of £1500 were raised adding to those raised by all of other successful events of this Autumn / Winter season.**



This annual Quiz Night was extremely popular, indeed oversubscribed, so we are considering holding another one in the Spring. If you think that would be a good idea - drop me an email to say so ([lynbarber@capeconsulting.com](mailto:lynbarber@capeconsulting.com)). Many thanks to all of the helpers who make these evenings so enjoyable for us all.

[Ed.] The Wife had the date in her diary; but did not act soon enough and all the tables had gone. Maybe the redeveloped Hall will provide more space for such events, enabling it to remain a larger; but still Annual, event?

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

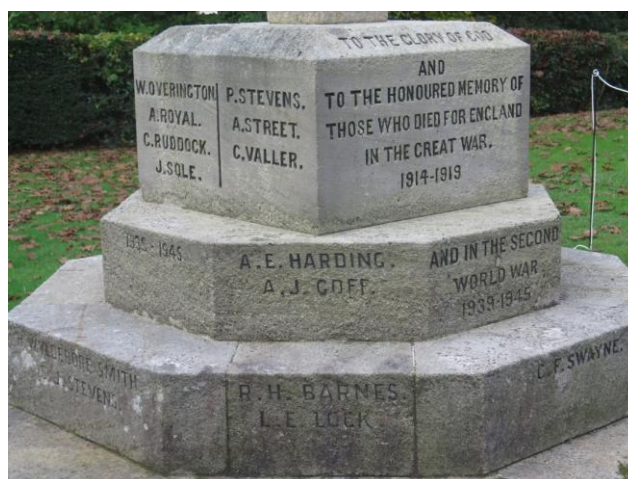


At the War Memorial at Christ Church, after the Remembrance Sunday service and ceremony, the Last Post, the Silence and Reveille, all that is left are the wreaths of poppies and the memories. However there is an additional wreath (second on the right) which was not laid at the same time; but at a second ceremony 45 minutes later on behalf of the Harley Davidson Hogs Back Chapter, who have, with Sally's blessing, adopted the war memorial at Christ Church for their own ceremony since 2007. (Photo below courtesy of Hogsback Chapter UK)



**David Hardcastle, Secretary and Road Marshal, Hogsback Chapter UK reports:** "The ride surpassed last year, with around 50 bikes and trikes, and over 60 Chapter members. The Hogsback Chapter were joined by a number from Thames Valley Chapter, who are now also sponsored by the Guildford Harley Davidson dealership as their own dealer based in Reading closed in September. We were lucky as the weather proved quite mild for Mid November, and stayed dry - without too many slippery leaves on the ride through from Ryka's cafe in Dorking."

### How were families advised of the deaths in action as recorded on the War Memorial?



Late morning on 24<sup>th</sup> May, 1941, the morse code ticker tape machine clattered into action at the Post Office in Shamley Green. At that time the Post Office was located at Easteds within sight of the cricket pitch. The Post Mistress, Mrs Avenell, transcribed the message so that she could deliver it to the intended recipient, Michael Harding's mother. Having transcribed it and aware of the terrible sadness and upset that such a telegram could cause, Michael records that she first headed to the home of his Elliott grandparents in Hullbrook Lane, to ask them to come quickly to Manelhe, as she had a very sad telegram to deliver to their daughter.

Michael remembers: "At lunchtime on May 24<sup>th</sup> there came an unusually thunderous knocking at the front door, which all usual trades people knew we did not use at that time because there was a bed in the hall.

My mother went to the small window adjacent to the door and saw the Post Mistress clutching a telegram. Mum enquired "Is this bad news?" and as she did so saw her mother coming up the drive. Mrs Avenell's reply was "Yes dear I'm afraid it is the worst". Aunty Rob, the wife of a naval colleague of my father and her son Terry were living with us at Manelhe at the time (hence the bed in the hall!). She and my grandmother, Ada Elliott, consoled Mum. Shortly afterwards my grandfather came to tell me that my mother was very upset because something very sad had happened, that I had to be very brave and help her because my father had been killed which meant he would never be coming home. It was just two weeks before my eighth birthday."

[Ed.] Michael respected and followed his grandfather's advice. Michael's father was the third resident of Shamley Green to lose his life in action in the second World War, there were eight more subsequent deaths, all recorded on the war memorial at Christ Church, and all would probably have been reported to their next of kin, at the time, in a similar manner.

## SGVA AGM

[Ed.] I attended the (lightly attended) Shamley Green Village Association AGM, at which Eppy Anderson was thanked for her services and Rod Weale was confirmed as the new chair. I will work with Rod and the Editor of the Parish Magazine, to see if we can map a coherent strategy for village communications going forward. Kevin Deanus, Surrey County Councillor speculated about the possibility that the borough layer of local government might be removed, which would result in much greater reliance on Parish Councils. The challenge to the Parish Council is to examine the restrictions under which they currently operate and amend or find imaginative ways round restrictions that hamper their ability to harness leaders from within the community, with the experience and expertise to manage contractors for such matters as trees, ponds and commons, who may even be prepared to fund such. Volunteers within the community should also be harnessed for many of the tasks involved.

There is a fundamental weakness in the Parish Council system. In theory councillors who fail to adequately represent and address local matters would not be re-elected. However in practice such competitive elections rarely take place as there are very few people interested in becoming a Parish Councillor. Indeed many such vacancies are filled by co-opted councillors selected by those already sitting. A further challenge to be faced and resolved.

John Watson, Chair of the Arbuthnot Hall provided an update on the plans for renovation of the Hall and in particular the steps to raise the funds. [Ed.] I had in mind to make two significant pledges towards the funding, one from The Wife and myself and the other from myself. However I was faced with an immediate transfer or a standing order. My current pledge is not to top up the Hall funds; but conditional upon sufficient funds being secured so that the renovation project can proceed. I have asked for this to be addressed. I will then confirm the pledges.

## SHAMLEY GREEN CINEMA

Gary Wicks reminds us of the next showing on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 7 for 7.30pm.



## VALERIE ESPLEN

[Ed.] Very sad to report that Valerie Esplen passed away on November 6<sup>th</sup>. She was in the Royal Surrey following a recent stroke. She will be fondly remembered by many, including, by some, as secretary of the History Society.

## TALES FROM THE WOODS

Contractors have felled about 20 mature ash trees, near power lines in Sandhurst Copse. They were individually exhibiting ash dieback disease; but were also found to have honey fungus at the base. The latter caused one to fall last winter and take out the power line to Green Lane. The main objective of felling the trees without damage to the power lines was achieved. However I should have remained on the site as the felling was not always in the preferred direction where I had removed dense bracken and bramble. An overwhelming task to clear. Some of the large trunks will remain on the ground and left to rot. Nature expects this to happen at the end of life of a tree and for fungal decay to release the nutrients taken up by the tree back into the soil to be taken up by newer growth.



## OUR ALPINE SKIER AIMING FOR THE WORLD CUP



**Jay Blatherwick, Molly's Mum reports:** "Molly's first two slalom FIS (International Ski Federation) races of the season at Storcklinton on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> November have been postponed to this coming Saturday and Sunday due to warm weather earlier. It's freezing now though, minus 5. Saw the Northern lights last night, just brilliant. Makes up for getting up at 4.30am to be on the hill training at 5.30am!"

## OLD CODGER

Hoist by my own petard! Having lectured the Parish Council on the need to actively supervise contractors on the ground, I failed to follow my own advice (see ash tree felling, above) and as a result have a much more daunting task for clearance of the site!

## KEY VILLAGE DIARY DATES

November 16 Arbuthnot Hall, Christmas Craft Day  
November 23 Shamley Green Cinema, "Where the Crawdads Sing"  
November 30 Arbuthnot Hall, Willow Star Wreath Workshops  
December 11 Arbuthnot Hall, Carols on the Green

## USEFUL VILLAGE LINKS

**Road works and closures:** Information on road works and closures is available, in particular with a map of the locations, at <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roadworks>. I find this more useful than the Highway Bulletins.

**Wonersh Parish (Civil) Council,** Shamley Green is a Ward within Wonersh (Civil) Parish. See <https://www.wonershparish.org/our-meetings> for (Civil) Parish Council meetings and agendas including (Planning) meetings reviewing local Planning Applications. For a map of Shamley Green Ward, see <https://sgmatters.org.uk/MAP/SHAMLEYGREENWARDMAP.pdf>

**Shamley Green Parish Church and Parish Magazine,** See <https://www.shamleygreen.church> for information on Christ Church and related events and also a **link to the latest monthly Parish Magazine**. The penultimate page always contains a list of useful contact numbers for activities in the village.

**Cricket Club,** See <https://shamleygreen.play-cricket.com> for fixtures and results.

**Gardening Club,** See <https://www.shamleygreengardeningclub.com/calendar> for a schedule of future events.

**History Society,** See <https://www.sgmatters.org.uk/HISTSOC/INDEX.htm> for reproductions of previous History Society publications, including Michael Harding's meanders.

**Annual Village Fete & Dog Show,** See <https://www.sgvillagefete.com> for information on the annual Fete and plans for the next fete.

**Arbuthnot Hall,** See <https://www.arbuthnothall.org> for events, bookings and how to contribute to costs of running this important community asset.

**Environment Group,** See <https://www.shamleygreenenvironment.co.uk> for environment group initiatives.

Best wishes [Editor SG Matters](#)