

QUAINTON ·NEWS·

THE PARISH MAGAZINE & VILLAGE NEWSLETTER



Commemorating 70 Years of the Wellington Bomber Crash in Quainton

On 15 March 1944, a Vickers Wellington Mk X carrying nine men took off from Westcott on a non-operational night cross-country training flight. Returning from a French mission was a Stirling bomber. The two planes collided mid-air half a mile east of Quainton Road railway station, killing both crews. Seventy years to the day, a plaque will be unveiled in memory of the fifteen young airmen who lost their lives that night. Turn to page 17 for the full story.

ISSUE NO. 474

MARCH 2014



Holy Cross & St. Mary's Church, Quainton

One of the parish churches in the Schorne team
Vicar: Revd Phillip Mears, The Rectory, Church Street,
Quainton, HP22 4AP; Tel: 655 237



Dear Friends,

The tragic mid-air crash that occurred at 10.30pm on Wednesday, March 15th 1944 will be remembered this month at ceremonies to be held at Westcott Venture Park where a cairn is to be built, and in our own Memorial Hall where a plaque is to be placed. After any tragic accident there comes an awful awareness of what might have happened. The Wellington crashed just a short distance from Quainton village when the pilot, James Lyon managed to avoid the houses in Station Road, and trucks full of fuel in the station sidings.

His own home was in Station Road where his young wife, pregnant with their first child, was sleeping.

There is also great sadness for the cruel waste of the lives of the eight young crew members, all in their early twenties. All had served our country surviving many dangerous missions over Europe, and might have expected to be safe when they were almost in sight of their home base. The seven crew on the other plane, a Stirling Bomber which was returning from a mission to France also died. We extend our sympathy to all relatives taking part in this sad occasion.

But some may not welcome this permanent memorial to a tragedy that occurred so long ago. Do we need reminders from the past when we already have to contend with daily reports of carnage and death far and near? Our modern culture promotes youth and happiness and encourages us to live in the here and now. But the fact of death haunts all mankind and always has. It is said that in ancient Rome when a general was making a Victory Parade through the streets, his slave was made to follow him and to repeat the words: "Look behind you! Remember that you are a man! Remember that you will die! Memento mori!"

Near the end of St. Matthew's gospel, there is a picture of the last judgement, when people are amazed to discover that whenever they had engaged with the pain and distress of others, feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, sheltering the homeless they had been serving Christ. In the Sermon of the Mount early in the same Gospel Jesus says "Blessed are those who mourn." Not because mourning was a good thing to have to face, but because it shows that someone engaged with the pain and distress of others without walking by on the other side. It is evidence of their true humanity.

March 5th is Ash Wednesday and at the 7.30 Service in Westcott Church an ancient ritual will be repeated when a cross will be drawn on each head with ashes from a palm cross and the words said: "Dust you are and unto dust shall you return." I believe we can live more humbly and more generously when we remember that.

Best wishes,
Phillip

Welcome to the March 2014 issue



As we prepare to send this issue to print, there have been a few hints of spring. And, as the weather steadily improves, so the village calendar gets fuller: Lent lunches, wildlife garden clear-ups, evening talks and, at the end of the month, a concert in the church featuring international artists that promises to be fantastic - buy your tickets now!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Linda Chapple for managing the advertising side of *Quainton News* since adverts were introduced a few years ago. This has ensured the financial viability of the magazine and we are all very grateful for her efforts.

Finally, if there are any omissions or inaccuracies in this month's magazine, the fault is entirely mine (Cassie).

Rouise

Cassie

News from Holy Cross & St Mary's Church, Quainton

Lent Lunches

You are warmly invited to attend between 12.30 and 1.30 pm and share soup, bread and cheese at a cost of £3.50. Proceeds will go to FARM-Africa.

Wednesday March 5th	Wendy Mears, The Rectory
Wednesday March 12th	Gill Miscampbell, 15 Upper Street
Tuesday March 18th	Sue Weldon, Denham House
Wednesday March 26th	Annie White, Lower Farmhouse, The Green
Wednesday April 2nd	Sue Wright, Banner Farm House, Church Street
Tuesday April 8th	Caroline Campbell, 10 Upper Street
Wednesday April 16th	Patty Goddard, 56 Church Street

Quainton Sunday Club Bring and Buy Sale: Saturday 1st March

We are holding a bring and buy sale in the church on Saturday 1st March from 2-4pm. We have been donated lots of lovely books, clothes, household and bric-a-brac items which we shall be selling for donations to help towards our sponsor child in Nigeria.

We shall also be serving refreshments with home made cakes so do pop in for a cup of tea and a chat!

Is Saturday 12th July in your diary?

QUAINTON BEER FESTIVAL will be a great day out for the whole family with live music, games and attractions - and, of course, lots of lovely beer! Now in its third year, the Beer Festival is a great way to raise funds for the Church Tower Restoration Project.

GEORGE AND DRAGON

FREE HOUSE

Darren, Charlotte, Jack, Harry and William Curtis welcome you to The George and Dragon

Serving 5 Real Ales.

We are listed in the Good Beer Guide

Freshly home-cooked food is served Tues–Sun 12-1.45pm and Tues–Sat 6pm-8.45pm

Tuesday lunch: **OAP Lunches**. Tuesday evening: **2 steaks for £18**. Wednesday: **Post Office 2-4pm**.

Bank holiday weekend Sundays: **Quiz Night**

We have a meeting room which can be hired out for small functions and meetings etc.

For more details contact us on 01296 655436 or visit our website

www.georgeanddragonquainton.co.uk

Quainton Village Store

Top of the Green Turn right

6 Church Street. Tel: 655233

Open Mon to Sat 8am to 6pm, Sun 8.30am to 12.30pm

As well as everyday items we sell locally produced honey and eggs: dry cleaning service: greeting cards, coasters and tea towels of Quainton and the local area:

hand made gem stone jewellery: wild bird food: award winning cakes: coal and logs.

ALLISON AND DUNCAN WILL BE PLEASED TO WELCOME YOU

Crawley's Family Butchers

31A The Green, Quainton 01296 655220



Locally sourced fresh meats of the highest quality, fresh fruit & veg, fresh frozen fish, locally produced ice cream, award winning pies, vast array of the best quality cheeses & all your favourite dry goods.

I specialise in handmade sausages and I have loads of intriguing recipes to try.

My signature sausage is the Jack Bull Pork Sausage. This one in particular is probably the oldest existing Aylesbury Vale sausage recipe, first brought to life by my great grandmother's brother.

Jack Bull had several shops in the Aylesbury Vale area, he and only he made the sausages. Now I have the recipe and they are beginning to flourish once again.

We are more than happy to carry out local deliveries to you all.

I am pleased to be here in this wonderful part of the world and I am looking forward to meeting each of you in turn.

Happy Shopping

Quainton Church Concert

Saturday 29th March at 7pm

Concordia Foundation and the PCC's concert committee present

Music in Motion

Satoko Fukuda (violin), Ahmed Dickinson Cardenas (guitar) and Kirill Burlov (choreography/movement).

Exploring the development of dance movements from the Baroque period to the modern day in collaboration with choreographer, Kirill Burlov from Rambert. The second half of the concert celebrates dances from across the globe: Argentinian Tango, Cuban Rumba, Romanian and Hungarian Folk Dances. Music to include, Bach, Bartok, Prokofiev, Piazzolla, and musical excerpt from the Al Pacino film *Scent of a Woman*.

Tickets: £17.50 - or £15 if purchased before 1 March. Children under 16: £7.50

Available from the Village Store, Wendy Mears (655237) or Phillip Goddard (651801)



Churchyard Update

On your winter walks through the churchyard, dodging the showers, you will have noticed how clean and tidy the paths have been looking of late. This is due to the two volunteers who have taken on this task. When Philip died last year, Tony Read (his next door neighbour) and Malcolm Wearn, stepped up and kindly offered to take over the jobs Phil was doing. Everyone is delighted with all they have done and the effect is instantly noticeable. Malcolm's hard work on the cobbled pathways has made an enormous difference, and now Tony is continuing with the other pathways. Thank you both for coming on board and making such a difference.

By the time you read this, we may be getting ready to start the seasons mowing once again. At the moment, there is no petrol down in the tool shed, but as soon as the weather allows, the cans will be filled and ready for use. Unless we hear differently, we will assume our usual mowing team will still be available and thank you in advance for the summers mowing you will be doing.

Our very best wishes, *June and Margaret*



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The Quanton Directory – 2014 Edition

This is a joint venture between the Quanton Village Society (QVS) and the Quanton Parochial Church Council (QPCC) and is published every two years listing local businesses, village groups and organisations with a free one-line listing with telephone number to all residents who have some service to offer.

All existing and previous advertisers have been notified but any local business that has not been approached should contact Sonja Taylor-Lane on email address sonjataylorlane@gmail.com who is compiling the new edition.

The directory is A5 (210x148mm) in size, the same as the *Quanton News*, and advertisements can be quarter page, half page and full page and the cost will be £35/£50/£80 respectively. The desired artwork can be sent by email or alternatively it can be sent together with payment by cheque (made payable to "Quanton Village Society") to Sonja Taylor-lane, The Old Chapel, 48 Lower Street, Quanton, Aylesbury HP22 4BJ.

The absolute deadline for submissions and full payment is 28th March – please note that cheques will not be presented to the bank until the Directory is sent to the printing company.



Quanton Village Society

Social Evening and Talk

Tuesday 18th March 2014, 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall

Members and non-members are cordially invited to attend the Society's social evening. Our speaker for the evening will be Marianne Ford, who was for many years a senior make-up artist with BBC TV. She later ran a very successful garden design business.

On retirement she has become a volunteer with the prison charity Fine Cell Work which started operations in 1997. Today it has 60 volunteers training over 400 prisoners in 29 prisons across the UK.

Their work has been exhibited by the V&A, commissioned by English Heritage, presented to HRH The Prince of Wales and sold to leading interior designers.

Come and discover what Fine Cell Work is all about – it is a fascinating and inspiring story with many happy endings!!

Wine, soft drinks and refreshments will be served. As entrance to this event is free of charge any donations will be gratefully received.

Registered Charity No 802608, "Caring about the village"

The 32nd Quanton Heavy Onion Competition (Est. 1982)

Can you beat last year's record weight of 8lbs. 2ozs onion?

Go on - give it a try.

This year's entry forms will be available from 1st March.

£7 entry fee, 15+ plants supplied.

2013 entrants will automatically receive an entry form.

Plants will be available on Saturday 5th April.

This year we will be presenting a 'salver' to the entrant who grows the heaviest onion but has never come 1st in the competition before.

Contact Jim 655457 or Bob 655375 for more details/entry forms.



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or email on dave@quaintonelectrical.co.uk
www.quaintonelectrical.co.uk

Richard Allen

Penny and her family would like to thank all their friends in Quainton for their kindness and support, not only during Richard's illness but also for the last few weeks. Your thoughts and prayers have been a great comfort to us. We would especially like to thank Phillip Mears for conducting such a beautiful Thanksgiving Service, and to Charlotte and Darren for looking after us so well at the Memorial Hall. Our grateful thanks also go to Dr Watt and all those who cared for Richard so kindly.

Flower Festival at North Marston Church

I have been asked by a Mrs Valerie Price if anyone on the flower rota in Quainton is interested in helping with the above festival. It is to take place on June 14th./15th. with the decorations going in on Thursday and Friday 12th./ 13th.

If you would like to be involved perhaps you would ring me and I can forward your expression of interest to Mrs Price.

Marian Swain, 655642.

Poppy Appeal 2013

I am pleased to be able to let you know that last years Poppy Appeal in Quainton raised a Grand Total of £2,129.36. Thank you to all the street collectors and everyone who donated to this very worthy cause.

Andrea Wearn - Poppy Appeal Organiser

Quainton Monday Day Centre

A special "THANK YOU" to everyone who supported our January fund raising event by donating, attending and buying. You enabled us to raise a valuable £198.50, helping to ensure that we can continue to provide a Day Centre service in Quainton. Once again, thank you!

Quainton to get weekly spot in *Bucks Herald*

Quainton and all the organisations in the village have an opportunity to get more exposure.

Villager Keith Sutton has been appointed as the Quainton correspondent for the *Bucks Herald* and hopes to include a wealth of news and information on forthcoming events in the paper's Neighbourhood News section.

But to do it he needs your help. If you would like to publicise a forthcoming event in an effort to attract more visitors or if you have a piece of news, which you would like to share with others please get in touch with him.

Phone 01296 655430 or email [kandpmarketing today@btopenworld.com](mailto:kandpmarketing.today@btopenworld.com)

RBLWS Whist Drive

Friday 21st March
at Quainton Memorial Hall
Doors Open 7pm, Start 7.30pm
Admission £3.00



Quainton Parish Council

Chairman: Arthur Evans. **Vice-chairman:** Nick Heirons

Mrs C Lucas, N Butler, M Lewis, J Knox, Mrs E Phillips

Clerk to the Parish Council: Mr D Warner, 8 Torbay, Quainton, Bucks, HP22 4AX. 01296 651354 or quainton.pc49@btinternet.com

The Chairman Reports...

Swan and Castle: Some of its loyal customers have been working hard to secure its future as a public house and have uncovered several issues, some very complicated. It is to be nominated as a community asset, a decision which has to be made within 6 weeks by AVDC, although there are worries that developers may try to pre-empt such actions. Further concerns were engendered by news that the George and Dragon is for sale. Fearing the village might have no public house left, nomination as a community asset has also been submitted. If declared a community asset the community then has six months in which to negotiate a purchase although the owner is not compelled to sell to the community. While the G and D will almost certainly be sold as a public house plans for the S and C do not point in that direction. Plans submitted for housing on part of that site are still on the table, as at mid February.

Loud Noises: Several residents have asked about the explosive noises heard from the A41 direction in the daytime in late January. Those who have lived in Quainton for some years will not have been puzzled for at one time such explosions occurred frequently. The latest roars were the result of rocket motor testing at Westcott Venture Park, with 3 companies working independently on such projects. Usually tests have been conducted in vessels with no noise heard just recently outdoor tests have resumed. No more outdoor testing is scheduled for some time. Quainton Scouts may be visiting the site so they will be able to give first hand information.

Local Crime: Several residents have reported thefts of heating oil from their tanks. For information on security see www.stopoiltheft.co.uk Those on Quainton Alert will already be aware. Are you on the Clerk's list. If not do contact him to be included.

Streetlighting: A specialist is to survey ours as we intend to update. We may, as some communities do, still have the lights on all night but dimmed for part of the time.

Waddesdon Police Station needs volunteers to staff its desk so that it can open more times to take note of people's concerns or queries. A few hours a week would help. Please leave details on 101 for Sergeant Bryn Scott.

Mains Gas Supply: It has always struck people as ludicrous that there is a large mains gas pipe running through our parish on its way from The Wash to the south coast (red and white roadside poles denote its route) yet we have no mains supply. About five years ago we asked about the possibility and were quoted about £2,500 per property if sufficient households would commit. Following recent oil thefts we again asked about the possibility of mains gas supply to Quainton. The prohibitive answer – minimum of 157 properties needed to commit at £9,300 per property, incl. VAT.

Doctors' Surgeries in the Memorial Hall: We have been asked to point out that some patients have wrongly assumed the doctor will be present for a particular length of time. Doctors leave after they have seen the last patient present so it is wise to arrive for the given starting time of 11am for Waddesdon surgery (Tuesday and Friday), 2.15pm for Whitchurch (Wednesday and Friday).

Station Crossroads: Very few people have forwarded details of recent accidents or near misses at this site. Without that information it is difficult to exert much pressure for changes to the signage or road markings.

New house in North End: Jarvis Contracting will have started work on clearing the garaged area before constructing a new 3 bedroom house for VAHT. They will be monitored against a Code of Constructive Practice. North End residents should have received notification of how to raise any questions or concerns.

HS2: Comments on the Environmental Statement have taken hours of several people's time and energy. Negotiating for Station Road to remain as near to its present route as possible seems destined presently to run into the buffers.

Gulley clearing, road repairs and sewage: The kerbside sweeper has paid one visit but there has been no sign of the gulley blaster so all reported problems with blocked drains and kerb weirs remain, and have been added to by other sites now also experiencing flooding. Some of the grass verges have been badly torn up by traffic driving over them, most noticeably in New Road, the culprits seemingly ignoring the damage. In North End some faced the possibility of sewage seeping into houses after one of the utility services breached the waste pipe. Fortunately neighbours rallied and the horror was averted. Incidentally in case of a sewage blockage it may be handy to know that responsibility for clearing is only on the householder to a point where any other household's sewage pipe joins, for then it becomes the responsibility of the water board, Thames Water for Quainton, 08459 200 800.

Daffodils: Thanks to volunteers all daffodil populated verges will now be studied for gaps in the spring. We will then require volunteers to plant new bulbs in September.

The Bucks Herald: A resident has volunteered to act as village correspondent.

Security Online: As fast as one scam is revealed up pop several others trying to outwit you. In the latest you are notified you are scheduled to appear for a court hearing. Specific dates, times, location and reference numbers are given and you are asked to download a copy of the attached "court notice". Don't. The zip file lets in the virus. Further information is on the BCRC (Business Crime Reduction Centre) where you can use their online fraud reporting tool, or call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

Church Field: How pleasing it was to see the stile in New Road so promptly replaced by a new kissing gate, making the public footpath to the church more accessible.

The Boundary Commission: Electoral areas for AVDC are under review. Quainton's linked parishes will be joined by Granborough. For details visit www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/buckinghamshire/aylesbury-val-fer

Over 50?: There is an information giving Conference on new legislation and welfare benefits at The Oculus in Aylesbury on 26th March, 9.30 to 2pm. Places limited to 120. Contact Debi Game on 0300 77 2711 or debi@suco.org.uk

Sports Bursaries: Up to £500 available for coaches or talented athletes. Visit www.buckssport.org/avbursaries

"Where is Torbay Hospital?" was asked recently of a resident at the bottom of The Green by a taxi driver. When told that it was probably in Torquay the next question was, "How far away is that?" "About three hours," came the reply, "how far have you come?" Suffice it to say that the taxi had come from a town a good hour away.

Next Parish Council Meeting: Memorial Hall, Thursday 13th March at 8pm, a public meeting. For full minutes of meetings please see the P C notice board at the bottom of The Green.

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Quainton C of E School News

There is no need to tell anyone how wet things have been of late! The weather has affected us, though not unduly, and it has been a time of reflection, thinking of others who are suffering as a result of flooding. Children have thought particularly about schools in areas of our country and the wider world that are not as lucky as we are; many children are experiencing severe disruption to their school life.



The 02 massed choir was a truly spectacular event. 7,300 children gathered at the 02 in London to sing a specially arranged and choreographed programme. It was an experience that I am sure they will not forget in a hurry and many have already asked about our plans for next year!

Our sports teams have continued to play, despite the rain and mud, and there have been some great individual and team performances.

We are currently awaiting a date for the installation of our new library. Before the new furniture arrives, volunteers will be painting the library. We are also having new exterior doors fitted to further improve on security and insulation. We look forward to inviting members of the community to our opening ceremony.

Members of our school community are being asked to donate a book to add to those we are purchasing. If you would like to take part in this then please contact the school office for further details.

There are a number of other changes that we are eager to finalise in the forthcoming months, not least a new outside learning area for Key Stage 1. We are also eager to complete works begun last summer on the front of the school – we are hoping for the dry season to arrive soon!

A date for your diary: You are welcome to join us for our Easter Service in Church on Friday 4th April at 2.00pm. Also, our **Summer Fete will be on Saturday 28th June**, from 11.30am until 2.00pm. We are hoping this will be a chance for the whole community to support the school.

Gareth Mirams, Headteacher

Quainton Showcase

Sunday 23rd March, 2–4pm, Quainton Memorial Hall

Discover local businesses, buy local goods.

Find out about societies and clubs in Quainton

Tea, coffee and cake

Businesses or organisations wishing to book a place at this event should contact
Kath Heirons, 01296 651886 or email villagehall@quainton.net

Race Night

Saturday 29 March at Quainton Memorial Hall

Doors open from 7pm

Free Entry - Bar available - Free nibbles - Raffle with great prizes

It's the traditional race with wooden horses, a huge track and dice to decide the moves.

This is a family friendly event and all ages are welcome.

Proceeds in aid of Quainton Football Club

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Oil theft

We have had reports of two oil thefts in the village in recent months. One victim advises that locking the cap at the top does not help as they just cut a hole in the side meaning you need a new tank. Please be on the lookout for dodgy looking oil tankers and pass on the word. If a tanker is not from a familiar company, they should be challenged or photographed with their number plate. Clearly everyone needs to be vigilant, particularly during the daytime on week days.

For useful advice on preventing such a theft, visit www.stopoiltheft.co.uk

A letter of thanks.

I would love to take this opportunity to send a quick note of thanks to the thoughtful person who considerately left their dogs mess on the pavement just below Townsend Cottage on the morning of Monday the 10th February.

Your kind and caring actions meant that I was reminded of a few of the good things in my life:

1. My love for my son which I instantly felt as I opened the door to find the cheerful chap who had headed off to school, now five minutes later sobbing on my doorstep. The strength of maternal instinct and anger that I felt reminded me once again of the overwhelming force of love for ones family.
2. Modern cleaning products: what a joy to have to hand all the chemicals and cleaning cloths and tissues required to remove the obnoxious stinking mess from my son's shoe. Utter bliss.
3. The fantastic community of Quainton, some of who stopped to commiserate and empathise with me when I returned to the scene with aforementioned cleaning products to remove the reminder of your dogs mess - also giving me the opportunity to stroll through our beautiful and clean village.

So thank you. I had my nose rubbed in my good fortune - which come to think of it is actually the part of your anatomy I would like to rub in your dogs mess if I was ever given the opportunity.....

Winslow & District Community Bus

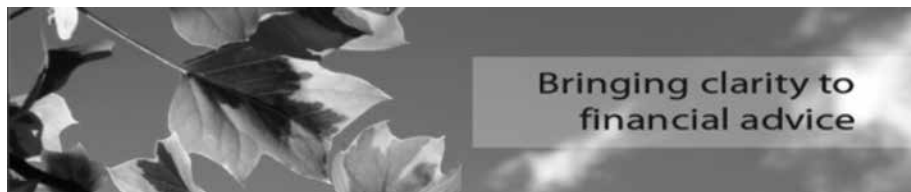


Group Hire

The Winslow Community Bus is available for hire to any non-profit making group in the area. It holds 16 passengers and has disabled access. We have fully trained volunteer drivers and our rates are very reasonable.

Please telephone Sue for more details.

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Note: For extra peace of mind, The Fremantle Trust does not use agency staff but its own CRB checked, highly trained and qualified care workers from its 'Frebank' service.

For more information contact: Sue McLeod on Tel: 01296 393 000
www.fremantletrust.org

Commemoration of 1944 Bomber Crash

On Saturday 15 March there will be a ceremony to unveil a memorial plaque to the crews of two aircraft who were killed when they collided 70 years ago. The Plaque is to be unveiled by Air Marshal Sir Colin Terry KBE CB DL, representing the Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, in the presence of Senior officers from the Royal Air Force, Royal Australian Air Force and the New Zealand Defence Force, local dignitaries and VIPs, including representatives of the Quainton and Waddesdon Parish Councils, relatives of both aircrews and other invited guests and the media.

On 15 March 1944, Vickers Wellington Mark X (LN660: KJ-O, "O" Orange) took off from RAF Westcott at 20:05 on a non-operational night cross-country training flight. After being airborne for two and a half hours, the aircraft was on finals for landing at RAF Westcott when it collided with a Short Stirling Mark III heavy bomber (EH989: WP-P, "P" Peter) of No 90 Squadron, based at Tuddenham, Suffolk flown by Flight Sergeant Joseph Spring RAFVR. The Stirling aircraft, which had been diverted from its parent airfield, was

returning from a mission to the Amiens railway yards in France and was en route to a diversionary airfield when it struck the Wellington from below on the starboard side. The Wellington crashed at 22:35, half a mile east of Quainton Road railway station, and one and a half miles north-east of Westcott, killing all eight crew members. The Stirling, whose crew were on their first mission, crashed at 22.47 at Astwell Park, Wappenham, Northamptonshire killing all on board.



Vickers Wellington Mark X



Quainton Road Railway Station

The memorial plaque is to be erected in memory of the 15 aircrew who died by Mr Bruce Blanche, the nephew of the Wellington's pilot, Flying Officer James Henry Scott Lyon DFC Royal Australian Air Force, a Staff Pilot (Instructor) at Westcott. Mr Blanche's aunt, who was pregnant at the time, lived at 28 Station Road (now 81 Station Road) Quainton.

The plaque will be placed just before the main gate, next to the existing Westcott Airfield Memorial erected by the Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust on the September 2012.



*Flying Officer
Jim Lyon*



An eyewitness account

Research into the crash of a World War II bomber at Quainton has been ongoing, initiated by the pilot's nephew, Bruce Blanche. Before the March 15th unveiling of a memorial plaque at Westcott, and a photographic montage at Quainton Memorial Hall, a small group of people, who have been involved with a little local research were invited to meet Bruce Blanche and a *Daily Telegraph* reporter and photographer on Tuesday 11th February. Here is Peter Cannon's eye-witness account, as reported in the *Daily Telegraph*.



Peter Cannon and Bruce Blanche

During the long dark nights of the winter of 1944, 10-year-old Peter Cannon had grown used to the rumble of planes overhead. His family's cottage on Station Road in Quainton was only a few miles from RAF Westcott. So many aircraft – friend and foe – flew overhead that his father had instructed the family that when the air raid sirens sounded, they should no longer bother to hide under the kitchen table.

Yet at around 10.35pm on March 15, something about the sound of one plane caused the boy to leap out of bed and peek past the blackout curtain in the back bedroom. "I remember this very peculiar noise," says Mr Cannon, now 80. "It was an aeroplane, but one that sounded in a lot of trouble."



*Jim and Margaret Lyon on their wedding day,
Newark 1943*

A devastated Vickers Mark 10 Wellington bomber suddenly lurched into view in the night sky. While on a training flight, it had been struck on the starboard side by a Mark III Stirling bomber, whose crew were returning from Amiens, France, after completing their first mission.

The collision had turned the Wellington into a twisted mass of screaming metal. It hurtled down, past an ammunition and fuel dump, towards the fields surrounding the village. "It was only a matter of moments, then there was this terrific bang and a great fire went up into the sky," remembers Mr Cannon.

He did not know it at the time, but the pilot who had steered the Wellington away from the village was Jim Lyon, the flying officer who lived next door with his pregnant wife – and whom the youngster idealised. He was killed in the inferno, as were seven other crew. The Stirling made it to near Wappenham, Northamptonshire, before it also crashed, killing all seven people on board.

"I used to watch him [Jim Lyon] cycling back from Westcott to his house," says Mr Cannon. "I can picture him now. The pilots were like celebrities to us. That night, he must have known he was going in the direction of where his wife lived and steered the plane away. I felt so sorry for the poor woman expecting the baby. Then, all I heard was that she had moved away."

The plaque is in memory of the fifteen young airmen who lost their lives.

The crew of the Wellington were:

Pilot - F/O James Henry Scott Lyon DFC RAAF - 408658
2nd Pilot - F/Sgt Donald Victor Roy Francis RNZAF - 41158
Navigator F/O - Gerald Harman Gilbert RNZAF - 429029
Bomb Aimer - F/O Rennie Taylor RAFVR - 152830
W/Op/ Air Gunner - Sgt Robert Kemp RAFVR - 1397621
Air Gunner - F/ Sgt Arthur Goold RNZAF - 414873
Air Gunner - Sgt Reginald Dennis Barlow RAFVR - 1807428

The crew of the Stirling were:

Pilot - F/ Sgt Joseph Vernon Spring RAFVR - 1477332
Navigator - Sgt Thomas Raymond Hewitt RAFVR - 1549452
Air Bomber - Sgt John Henry Bone RAFVR - 1449499
Wireless Operator - Sgt Arthur Henry Estcourte RAFVR - 1176109
Mid Gunner - Sgt William Halkett Ramsay RAFVR - 1570005
Rear Gunner - Sgt William Bruce RAF - 551988
Flight Engineer - Sgt George Edward Collins RAFVR - 1186834

A staggering 7,487 officers and aircrew were killed in training accidents during the war. Indeed, it is estimated that Bomber Command training units alone lost more than 3,000 crew members in accidents, including – between 1942 and 1945 – 183 men at RAF Westcott.

The Stirling Bomber's Mission

The critical stage in bringing a conclusion to the Second World War was the Allied Forces invasion of the European mainland on the Normandy beaches on 6th June 1944 – D-Day. This was greatly assisted by the constant sabotage beforehand to the railway network by the French Resistance workers and the selective bombing of key targets by the RAF.

Many Resistance workers had been captured by the Gestapo and were being held in Amiens Prison to await their inevitable fate. On 18th February the RAF launched a low level precise bombing attack intended to blow down the prison walls and allow the prisoners to escape. This was called Operation Jericho, after the biblical story of Joshua and his Israelite army bringing down the walls of Jericho by blowing their trumpets.



A Stirling bomber

The railway yards at Amiens were also a key Allied target and were heavily bombed by the RAF. The Stirling bomber involved in the collision was returning from Amiens on its first combat operation and had been diverted to land at Westcott.

Laurie Cooper



...talk to Rachel Quigg
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Quainton WI: March Meeting

Thursday 20th March at 8pm

Committee Room of the Memorial Hall

We have a speaker - Alison Nicholson who has been involved in the Spring Hill Farms and Gardens Ltd project. Please come along for this interesting and informative talk.

We are a friendly group, always ready to welcome new members and visitors of any age. Ladies, your first visit is free.

At the January meeting, the names of the members that renewed their subs were entered in a draw for a Denman Bursary sponsored by Quainton WI for £100 towards any course held at the Denman College booked and used before 31.12.14. Maria won this.

Gill Tierney drew out the winning name for us. Members enjoyed an excellent talk by Gill on 'Life in TV' at this meeting.

Contact Deborah on 651926 or google Quainton WI for more details

News from Finemere Wood

I woke to torrential rain on the day of the first Work Party of 2014; were my volunteers going to opt out of a day in the woods? I needn't have worried: there they were, armed with enthusiasm and adverse weather gear. The weather was kind to us, the rain soon moved on, and it was another magical day in the outdoors.

We journeyed back through time as we continued to clear the ancient drovers' ride. There is an overwhelming sense of history in Finemere Wood, which was part of the Royal Bernwood Forest. Edward the Confessor (1003-1066) built his hunting lodge in Brill, the central settlement of the forest. Written records survive from the early tenth century but there is evidence that this area had been settled for hundreds of years before this time. He and many kings and queens after him, hunted in this ancient woodland. Many drovers brought their animals, probably from as far as Brill, along the ride into the heart of Finemere Wood, to graze in Long Close Meadow.



The ride emerges from underneath years of growth. Even at this gloomy time of year, light is flooding in. I wait in anticipation of spring. As the sunlight hits the ground, dormant seeds buried just beneath the surface of the soil will burst in to life once again. What delights await us?

If you would like to join the Volunteer Work Party please contact Charlotte at charlottekarmali@outlook.com

Volunteer Work Party Dates for 2014:

Thursday 27th February

Thursday 27th March

Charlotte Karmali, Volunteer Warden at Finemere Wood

New in at The Village Store

A newly painted unique greeting card of Quainton has arrived – a great way to send a note or message. Also, pretty greeting cards featuring spring flowers are here to brighten up anyone's day.

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Getting Plastered! Historical Plasterwork in Quainton

I'm often asked why 'getting plastered' is understood to mean getting drunk! There is no definitive answer, but there is evidence that Victorian plasterers added 'small' (weak) beer to their plaster mix to make it adhere better. Plastering is a wet trade and thirsty work so it's not hard to make an association with drinking heavily. The latin word for plaster, 'emplastrum', also describes sticking plasters, bandages and casts which were used to medicate, reduce pain and make people feel better....

Having plastered (in the tradesman's sense) some of the oldest houses in Quainton, I have come across centuries-old plaster, much of which is still going strong. Wattle and daub, although rarer, can still be found – 'wattle' is generally a crude lattice of coppiced hazel or willow to which is applied the 'daub', a mixture of straw, earth (plenty of sticky clay hereabouts) and frequently, dung, sometimes slapped on with bare hands. The professional plasterer's primary tools are the trowel and 'hawk'. The hawk is a little square table used to hold the plaster before spreading it with the trowel. 'Hawk' is a little easier to trace – when holding the hawk, the plasterer's arm adopts a position similar to a falconer's as the bird of prey returns to its human perch.

Most historical plaster is lime based and on Quainton's historical houses, this is what gives the village a lot of its character and aesthetic charm. After all, plaster and render (and lime pointing) are much of what you see. Limestone is kiln burnt to form 'quicklime' - a very caustic white powder (in the past thrown into humble graves), which is then 'slaked' (water added) to form lime putty. Sand and natural fibre was added to give the plaster flexibility and 'tensile' strength. Typically the fibre was horse hair, but I have been working at the National Trust's New Inn Farm visitor centre at Stowe recently and the historical plaster fibre there is goat hair. Cattle hair used from untreated (undipped) cattle means there may still be a few anthrax spores lying dormant in the fibres of the plaster of some older houses. I have never heard of a plasterer keeling over as a result of this very minor risk of inhaling poisonous spores when exposed to old plaster, and I do not intend to be the first!

Lime plaster gains strength gradually during a process of 'carbonation' - as it cures the lime absorbs carbon dioxide, making it much more environmentally friendly than cement. It is breathable, flexible and 'healthier' for older buildings. On internal walls and ceilings the plaster was applied to a background of lath: thin slats of riven chestnut or oak, spaced about a little finger's width apart to allow some plaster to squeeze through the gaps and support the weight of the plaster on the surface.

Increasingly these days, even more 'eco-friendly' lime products are being specified by enlightened architects. Two examples are Hemp lime and Cork lime plasters. Both plasters behave in the same way as traditional lime but the sand and hair have been substituted with these wacky ingredients. Hemp and cork have good insulating properties and so the plaster doubles up as insulation!

Tim Massa

Tim Massa is a Freeman of The Worshipful Company of Plaisterers, the guild and livery company founded in 1501, and works in association with Calch Tŷ-Mawr Lime, Brecon.

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5th	59	J Curtis

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Memorial Hall Events for March 2014

Main Hall

Sat 1st		17:00 Church Fundraiser: Welsh Night	
Sun 2nd		11:00 Old Berkeley Beagles	
Mon 3rd	09:00 Day Centre		20:00 Badminton
Tues 4th	09:00 Toddlers	13:00 Kaso Studios	19:00 Zumba
Wed 5th		13:30 Bridge Club	20:00 Circuit Training
Thur 6th	10:30 Coffee Morning	15:30 Youth Cafe	19:00 Line Dancing
Fri 7th			20:00 Badminton
Sun 9th	09:00 Cyclist event		
Mon 10th	09:00 Day Centre		20:00 Badminton
Tues 11th	09:00 Toddlers	13:00 Kaso Studios	19:00 Zumba
Wed 12th		13:30 Bridge Club	20:00 Circuit Training
Thur 13th	10:30 Coffee Morning	15:30 Youth Cafe	19:00 Line Dancing
Fri 14th			20:00 Badminton
Sat 15th	09:00 Private event		
Mon 17th	09:00 Day Centre		20:00 Badminton
Tues 18th	09:00 Toddlers	13:00 Kaso Studios	19:30 QVS Social
Wed 19th		13:30 Bridge Club	20:00 Circuit Training
Thur 20th	10:30 Coffee Morning	15:30 Youth Cafe	19:00 Line Dancing
Fri 21st			20:00 Badminton
Sat 22nd		13:00 Party	
Sun 23rd	10:00 Club/Society open day		
Mon 24th	09:00 Day Centre		20:00 Badminton
Tues 25th	09:00 Toddlers	13:00 Kaso Studios	19:00 Zumba
Wed 26th		13:30 Bridge Club	20:00 Circuit Training
Thur 27th	10:30 Coffee Morning	15:30 Youth Cafe	19:00 Line Dancing
Fri 28th		13:00 Bridge	20:00 Badminton
Mon 31st	09:00 Day Centre		20:00 Badminton

Conference Room

Mon 3rd	14:00 Craft Club	19:30 Mindfulness
Tues 4th		19:30 QVS
Wed 5th		19:30 Art Club
Mon 10th	14:00 Craft Club	19:30 Bridge
Tues 11th	14:30 Exhibition	19:30 Exhibition
Thur 13th		19:30 Parish Council
Mon 17th	14:00 Craft Club	18:30 Mindfulness
Wed 19th		19:30 Art Club
Thur 20th		20:00 WI
Fri 21st		19:30 Bridge
Mon 24th	14:00 Craft Club	18:30 Mindfulness Tues
Tues 25th		20:00 Hall Meeting
Wed 26th		19:30 Art Club
Mon 31st	14:00 Craft Club	

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Weather Figures for Quainton Averages and Extremes for January 2013



Temperature			Rainfall		
Maximum	14.7°C	20th	Total for month	110mm	
Minimum	-2.3°C	12th	Wettest day	14.7mm	4th
Average Minimum	2.5°C		Rain days	30	
Average Maximum	10.3°C		Dry days	1	
Highest Minimum	7.8°C	6th			
Lowest Maximum	4.9°C	30th			
Wind			Pressure		
Highest gust	47.9mph	25th	Highest	1023.7 hPa	11th
Average speed	6.0mph		Lowest	980.5 hPa	28th

Figures supplied by Mike Beales. For the latest weather at Quainton go to: <http://www.quainton-observatory.net/weather/quainton-weather/>

Quainton Lunch Club

Over 50 or thereabouts? Quainton Lunch Club meets every month at the George and Dragon! Don't eat alone, come and join us for lunch! This month we will meet on Wednesday 19th March at 12 noon for 12.30.

Two-course meal and coffee for £6.50 (drinks extra)

Please phone Marilyn on 01296 658040 by Monday 17th March to book your place.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Winslow Community Cinema Spring Season

All films start 7.30pm, Rose Room, Winslow Centre

For more details see www.cinewinslow.org.uk

Friday 7th March

Museum Hours, Austria/US 2012

A security guard's meditations at Vienna's Museum of Art History and his relationship with a lonely Canadian visitor.

Friday 21st March

Nenette, France 2010

French documentary about 40 year old orangutan, the oldest (and most beloved) inhabitant of a Paris zoo.

Wildlife Garden Clear-up: Saturday 1st March, 10am-12 noon

Please come along to the wildlife garden and help us rake up all the leaves! Bring the kids and as many rakes as you can get your hands on. We will have a bonfire, as well as tea, coffee and biscuits at half-time.

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A BIG THANK YOU

– FROM DUNCAN UP AT THE SHOP

Just a quick note to say a huge Thank You to all my friends and family who came to the George & Dragon on Sat 1st Feb to help me celebrate my 50th birthday, I was inundated with lots of fabulous cards and presents, sorry if I didn't get round to speak to all of you, I'm not too well practiced at party mingling. I would also like to thank my beautiful wife Allison who arranged a marvellous day for me, culminating at the George for a meal and drinks with everyone. Thanks to Darren on a superb cake, and to Richard for taking me out for a days racing at Sandown, and being a really great mate. DUNCAN

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Thank you!

Bob and Jen Barnett would like to say a big thank you to everyone who came to Bob's 80th birthday party on 14th December and donated to the Air Ambulance. We are pleased to say we raised £400!

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Quainton News

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Distribution: Mrs Margaret Tooms, 7 Torbay, Quainton, HP22 4AX. Tel: 01296 655306
Quainton News can be sent by post at a cost of £1 per monthly issue although we prefer orders to be for 3 issues @ £3 or 12 issues @ £12. Please send orders with the payment, to Mrs Tooms, as above. Cheques made payable to 'Quainton PCC (QN)' please.

April issue copy deadline: 16th March 2014

Quainton News Online: Do you know someone who would like to receive *Quainton News* but they live outside our distribution area? If so, email us their email address so we can add them to our online mailing list: quaintonnews@gmail.com. We are currently experiencing technical difficulties with the website, but we hope to be back up and running very soon. Website: www.quaintonnews.com. We are also on Facebook!

Village Services

Mobile Library: In Quainton on Tuesday 18 March. Outside The George & Dragon at 1.55–2.25pm.

Quainton Oil Group: Residents wishing to receive regular deliveries of heating oil on group negotiated terms from Pace Fuelcare should phone 01491 613224 requesting to join the Quainton Oil Group. Customers deal directly with the company for payment.

Quainton Dog Warden: Lost your dog or found someone else's? Call Jan Stiegler, our local contact point, on 655800 or 07941 946870 and she will help to reunite lost dogs with their owners.

Post Office visits to Quainton: Waddesdon Post Office visits Quainton every Wednesday from 2pm–4pm at The George & Dragon.

Memorial Hall Bookings: Call Katherine Richardson on 651994 or 07704 851945 or email: villagehall@quainton.net.

Saye & Sele Hall Bookings: Call John Knox on 655275.

Refuse & Recycling Collections:

Fri 7th March	Food bin and Green refuse wheelie bin
Fri 14th March	Food bin and Blue-lidded recycling wheelie bin
Fri 21st March	Food bin and Green refuse wheelie bin
Fri 28th March	Food bin and Blue-lidded recycling wheelie bin



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Services in March 2014

2nd Mar 6.30pm	Sunday before Lent Holy Communion
5th March 7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion, St. Mary's Westcott
9th Mar 9.30am 6.30pm	Lent 1 Family Service Evensong
16th Mar 8.00am 6.30pm	Lent 2 Holy Communion Evensong
23rd Mar NO FAMILY SERVICE TODAY 6.30pm	Lent 3 Evensong
30th Mar 9.30am 4.30pm NO EVENING SERVICE TODAY	Mothering Sunday Family Communion Team Service in Dunton

VILLAGE CALENDAR – MARCH 2014

- 1 Mar** Wildlife Garden Clear-up, 10am-12 noon
 Sunday Club Bring and Buy Sale, Church, 2-4pm
 Welsh Evening, Memorial Hall, 7pm
- 5 Mar** Lent Lunch, The Rectory, 12.30pm
- 12 Mar** Lent Lunch, 15 Upper Street, 12.30pm
- 13 Mar** Parish Council Meeting, Memorial Hall, 8pm
- 18 Mar** Lent Lunch, Denham House, 12.30pm
 QVS Social Evening and Talk, Memorial Hall, 7.30pm
- 20 Mar** WI meeting with speaker, Memorial Hall, 8pm
- 21 Mar** RBLWS Whist Drive, Memorial Hall, 7pm
- 23 Mar** Quainton Showcase, Memorial Hall, 2-4pm
- 26 Mar** Lent Lunch, Lower Farmhouse, 12.30pm
- 29 Mar** 'Music in Motion' Concert, Church, 7pm
 Race Night, Memorial Hall, 7pm

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Baptism 16 February 2014 Emily Rose Clode

Wedding 14 February 2014 David Frederick Morrison and Kaleigh Charlotte McEvoy

Funeral 21 February 2014 Arthur Edward Illsley, aged 78. Cremation

CHURCH ROTAS – MARCH 2014

	2 March	9 March	16 March	23 March	30 March
Morning Sidesman		M Allen			L Richards
Morning Reader		A Allen			Sunday Club
Evening Reader	W Mears	P Ridgway	C & C Prideaux	P Tooms	J Vowles
Evening Sidesman	B Eastoe	D Hoddinott	J Jackson	P Ramsden	P Ridgway
Altar Flowers	NO FLOWERS UNTIL EASTER				
Pedestal Flowers					
Tea Rota		Mr & Mrs Raimbach			Mr & Mrs Turnbull
Church Cleaning		Mrs Fell/Lucas/Shepherdson		Mrs Ewers/ B Davis/ Marriott	

Quainton News – The Parish Magazine and Village Newsletter

Editors: Mrs L Richards & Mrs C Rigg. Contributions: 11 The Strand, Quainton HP22 4AS

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Please note the copy deadline is the 16th of each month.