In the ‘Great’ War military camps sprang up all over the Chilterns, training hundreds of thousands of new troops. For five years, small and sleepy Berkhamsted became a garrison town, as 14,000 would-be officers from all over the then Empire stayed for training after joining the Inns of Court Officers Training Corps. Close and lasting ties were engendered between the town and its visitors.

Continued on page 8

included inside this issue:

- Wartime women in Wycombe
- Berkhamsted remembers...
- Chilterns war memorials
- New museum named after WWI ace

an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Shirley Ann Judges 1949 - 2014

The Board was saddened by the death of Shirley Judges in July following several months of illness. Shirley was one of the first members appointed to the Chilterns Conservation Board. During those 10 years she made a fantastic contribution. Her tireless efforts to stop the ravages of High Speed 2 were matched by her desire to share her passion for the history and archaeology of the Chilterns, especially the hillforts of the area. We have lost a dear friend and will miss her enthusiasm, dedication and infectious humour.

Why 'Chilternsaetna'? Most English place names are of Anglo-Saxon origin. 'Chilterns' is a rare example of a name enduring from pre-history. The Romans called the inhabitants of this area the 'Chilternsaetna' – the tribes that dwell in the Chilterns - and this inspired the name of this newsletter.

Buckinghamshire remembers

'Buckinghamshire Remembers' is a freely searchable website which documents Bucks casualties who fell in the Great War and whose names are inscribed on the county's War Memorials. Such memorials are situated in a variety of locations such as village greens, churchyards, headstones, schools, clubs and places of work and sometimes in unusual positions - fonts, lecterns, chandeliers, church gates for example. Historians, June and Peter Underwood have investigated some 8,000 names listed on over 400 memorials, recording where possible such information as photograph, rank, regiment, service number, age, place of enlistment, place of burial as well as personal details of their families.

Even though Buckinghamshire is a relatively small county, this has been an intense and time consuming undertaking. One aspect the Underwoods soon realised was that verifying Great War records is far from being an exact science. Names on War Memorials are often difficult to read because of erosion, initials of forenames are sometimes used rather than the full names found in official documents. Casualties often changed rank, number and regiment during the war and Memorial names appear occasionally to have been misspelled.

June and Peter are grateful to several 'specialist' collaborators who have helped them to unravel the instances of confused casualty identities. Their thanks also goes to over 400 supporters who have sent photographs and other items of vital information. Indeed, one of the highlights of their work has been to build a collection of nearly 900 casualty photographs.

Recently June and Peter's co-worker Clint Lawson has included his 'Roll of Honour' within Buckinghamshire Remembers. This database contains the details of source references to about 44,000 individuals - not only those who lost their lives but also those who survived. References to reports in local Bucks newspapers are also included and have been indexed.

Finally, it is hoped that this website will be of interest to military historians, family historians, and schools as they undertake historical projects; and to those groups who, mindful of the centenary of the outbreak of war, are currently preparing detailed studies of the casualties in their locality.

June and Peter are keen for everyone to maintain their research impetus because they feel they owe it to those men, and some women, who never returned to enjoy the broad fields of Buckinghamshire.

June Underwood

Lance Corporal Alister Leslie Munger, of the Royal Fusillers, who died on 9th April 1917. His name appears on Weston Turville War Memorial.
Wartime women in Wycombe

Before the Great War the traditional female role was confined to domestic work; either in their own homes, in domestic service, or employment in certain types of jobs such as in schools or in the clothing trades. For example in Great Britain in 1911 of the approximately 24 million adult women, around 1.7 million worked in domestic service, 800,000 in the textile manufacturing industry, 600,000 in the clothing trades, 500,000 in commerce, and 260,000 in local and national government, including teaching. The British textile and clothing trades, in particular, employed far more women than men and these jobs were regarded as ‘women’s work’.

Women filled many of the jobs brought about by wartime needs. Their involvement on the Home Front during the Great War tended to depend on their social class, because Britain was still a class-based society. Working class women tended to work in manufacturing industries such as munitions. They chose this industry due to a mixture of the patriotism they felt for working and helping their fathers, brothers and husbands with the fighting, and because the wages received were double what they had previously earned. Munitions factories produced supplies for the men on the front including tailoring, metal trades, chemical and explosives, food trades, hosiery and woollen and worsted industries.

The women working in these factories were called Munitionettes and the work was long, exhausting, as well as hazardous to their health. Much of the work consisted of making gun shells, explosives, aircraft and other materials that supplied the war at the front. This was dangerous and repetitive work because the women were constantly around toxic fumes. Also they were handling dangerous machinery and explosives with little training.

They were brave and hard working women who knew their lives were in danger. They worked through illness and the dangers of their work to do their part in the war, becoming the heroines of the Home Front. They also had to take on responsibility for managing the home. This significantly raised women’s self-esteem as it allowed them to begin to realise their full potential and do their part in the war.

During the war the furniture factories in High Wycombe converted their production to both munitions and to the new aircraft industry. Aircraft propellers were made as well as components such as aircraft wings. Local entrepreneur Aleck Stacey even went so far as to build a large factory for the assembly of complete aircraft. Unfortunately these hopes were dashed when orders from the Government for new aircraft ceased completely after the Armistice was signed - aviation was still mainly a military activity at that time, civil aircraft were still years away. Wycombe’s involvement in aircraft component manufacture was not revived until 20 years later for WWII.

This article originally appeared in the Bucks Free Press newspaper on February 14, 2014. The Nostalgia page in this paper continues to feature articles describing the experiences of men and women in the Great War. Men who served and survived the war are particularly remembered.

Mike Dewey
Wycombe in World War 1

Exhibition at Wycombe Museum

“...an excellent exhibition...”

In this anniversary year, discover what World War 1 meant for the men, women and children of Wycombe District. It explains how, why and where it was fought and also includes less well-known Wycombe District stories such as aircraft production, training trenches and War Poets.

“...I never realised...”

The artefacts range from the slightly bizarre to the truly poignant. A biscuit left behind when the 1/1st Bucks Battalion left for France and the last dispatch notes sent by Robert Dashwood from West Wycombe Park just before he was shot by a German sniper. There are many more items including trench art, postcards and medals, each one telling the story of a local individual or family.

“..fantastic and ignited my child’s imagination..”

The reconstructed trench gives an idea of what life was like on the front. Enter if you dare to hear the sounds of artillery, spot the trench terrors such as rats and flies and learn what you would need to help you survive. Also find out why school children were given time off to collect blackberries and conkers to help the war effort and why it was harder to watch football during the war.

There is also a memories book for visitors to record their own WW1 family stories.

Hedgerley historians' research continues...

In the last edition of Chilternaetna, we introduced Hedgerley Historical Society’s research project about Hedgerley during the Great War.

Their study is looking at the lives of the 10 men who were sadly killed during the conflict or died later as a result of their injuries and are listed on the plaque in St Mary’s Church, Hedgerley: William Joseph BIRCH; William F BODDY; Christopher William BOWDEN; George COX; C HARRIS; Thomas HEARNE; J HOBBS; Francis Edmund PINER; George Herbert STEVENSON and PJ STOCKWELL. They are also researching into the Church of England Waifs and Strays Home at Court Farm and the lives of the 23 lads from the Home who are listed on a separate War Memorial in St. Mary’s Church.

The study is also looking at the impact of the Great War on day-to-day life in Hedgerley. Of particular interest is the information that one of our researchers unearthed from the Bulstrode Park Wages Book during a recent visit to the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies in Aylesbury about George Cox, who according to the report on his death in the Middlesex and Bucks Advertiser, had worked at Bulstrode for at least 19 years.

The wages book in January 1914 indicates that George Cox was employed as a Garden Labourer on a daily rate of 2 shillings (10p), which is worth £30.73 today according to www.measuringworth.com - roughly equivalent to two thirds of our current minimum wage.

George Cox was still employed after the start of the war as he is listed in the wages book of December 1914.

December 17th 1915 is the first date that George Cox does not appear in the Bulstrode records. Perhaps he had enlisted voluntarily as conscription was not introduced until 1916.

Research into these 10 men and 23 lads is continuing and the team would be very grateful to receive any photos, letters or any other information that relates to these men or their families in Hedgerley.

© Hedgerley Historical Society.

Contact Hedgerley Historical Society Study Group, John Lovelock on 01753 647187, email: jdlovelock@btinternet.com or at 13 Coppice Way, Hedgerley, Slough, SL2 3YL.

John Lovelock

Hedgerley Memorial Hall
Marlow archaeologists dig into trenches' history

The Marlow Remembers WW1 Group (http://marlowww1.org.uk/) has been established to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the First World War and its impact upon the town and surrounding area. In collaboration with the local museum, schools, historical and archaeological groups and a wide range of other local community groups, the group has developed a four year programme of research, activities and talks to record and share how the war shaped the town and its people, both those who fought and those who were at home.

Pullingshill Wood, part of Marlow Common, contains the remains of a remarkable set of WW1 training trenches constructed by various troops during 1915 - 1916. These are well known amongst Marlow folk as 'The trenches' and have been used by many later generations as a pleasant place to walk and play.

Archaeology in Marlow (www.archaeologyinmarlow.org.uk) carried out research in the area to provide a record of who was involved in the construction of these trenches and an actual plan of them. They also examined local newspapers of the time and contacted the museums and archivists of the regiments that were involved.

Newspapers revealed that in May 1915, troops of the 3rd and 4th battalion Grenadier Guards were housed in a tented camp at Bovingdon Green, near Marlow. They were involved in firing parties below nearby Quarry Woods and, importantly, trench digging and field exercises. Further troops from RAMC, Royal Engineers and Welsh Guards also came to this camp for training before leaving for the front. The trench digging would probably have been carried out during 1915 and may have also involved local people.

Unfortunately, the various museums and regimental records do not have much further information. It appears that a Colonel N A L Corry, DSO, was involved in the organisation and training of the troops while they were in Marlow and there are many photos of the camps and other activities. About 4,000 troops were trained here between 1915 and 1916.

During 2005, Archaeology in Marlow’s full survey involved creating a complete ground plan at a scale of 1:100. These plans were then combined, and reduced to produce a manageable image of the area. This plan represents a very close approximation of where the edges of the trenches would have been. This has now been incorporated into two site information panels, prepared and installed by the Woodland Trust, who own and manage the wood.

The MOD archaeologist and local military experts have provided interpretation of the design of the trenches, which could have included examples of fire bays, machine gun posts, communication trenches and saps; giving the troops some idea of what to expect when they arrived at the front. The area of the trenches covers about 380 x 90m, their total length is about 1,400m and they were probably originally about 2m deep and 2m wide. Two slightly different types of construction were present, one in each half of the site.

This has provided a record of a unique set of WW1 training trenches before they are gradually eroded and disappear.

Archaeology in Marlow has arranged a talk in Liston Hall, Marlow at 8pm on 18 September on the training trenches in both Marlow and Berkhamsted.

Andy Ford
Remembering the 'Jacks' of Henley-on-Thames

Ten years ago while researching his family history, Mike Willoughby discovered that his maternal grandfather Ernest King had lost a brother during WW1. On visiting the village of Abbots Ann in Hampshire where the family had lived, he discovered a J. King on their war memorial but no-one in the village could confirm who he was. After painstaking research, Mike discovered that this was the great uncle he was trying to trace. He was known locally as 'Jack', had joined the Army in 1914 as John Arthur King, died on 8th July 1916 aged 21, and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial in France. This made Mike realise that there are potentially thousands of 'Jacks' out there whose sacrifice for our country is not adequately acknowledged and so he decided to see what he could do about it.

He began with the men of Knowl Hill, near Maidenhead in Berkshire, the village where he was born. Since then, Mike has spent the last ten years researching the soldiers from the memorials in over forty villages in Berks, Bucks, and Oxon. After identifying each chap and researching others who were not listed at the time, he and his wife visited and photographed their graves either in the UK, Belgium or France - so far, over 2,000 cemetery visits.

In 2009, Mike started researching the men of Henley on Thames and the local villages, from the Town Hall memorial, other town memorials and the memorial originally at the Henley War Memorial Hospital.

In 2011, the serving Mayor of Henley, Liz Hodgkin, came to the WW1 exhibition at Holy Trinity Church Mike was staging with the help of Reverend Duncan Carter. She saw that among the WW1 fallen there were over 80 names of men who were not recorded on any of the town memorials. The result was that the Henley on Thames WW1 Remembrance Association was formed in 2012 to assist with the project and to ensure that all of these men were properly and fittingly remembered. With a Heritage Lottery Fund grant, donations from the Town Council, the Higgs Group, Henley Lions Club, numerous other organisations and members of the public, the following has been made possible:

- A book entitled Bringing Them Home will be available from 1st August 2014. It will contain the names and details of around 500 local men who died.
- A WW1 exhibition will be held from 2nd to 9th August 2014 in the Old Fire Station Gallery in Henley.
- On Sunday 3rd August 2014 the Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire will unveil a new Memorial Plaque, the ceremony starting at 3pm with a drumhead service in Henley Market Place.
- A WW1 Book of Remembrance with a page for each of the fallen will be available on the Town Hall Information Office computer system for visitors to access.

Follow the events from this four year project on the website www.Henley-lestweforget.co.uk

Tyler's Green memorial trees

Two miles to the east of High Wycombe lies Tyler's Green with its houses scattered around a common dominated by towering lime and beech trees. Those trees were planted to commemorate the 30 local men who were killed in the war. This story had been forgotten, but only a few years ago local people researched the origin of the trees and, in 2009, missing trees were replaced and a re-dedication ceremony held. Today at the foot of each tree is a small memorial plaque to commemorate the fallen - Lest We Forget.

You can read the full story of these trees and the research surrounding them at www.chilternsaonb.org/ccbmaps/578/137/tylers-green-memorial-trees
The impact of World War 1 on the Goring Gap

On 1-2 November 2014 Goring and Streatley Local History Society will be holding an exhibition in Goring Village Hall to mark the centenary of the beginning of World War 1.

The community is an interesting one to study for this period as there are many facets to the story. Not only do the twin villages of Goring and Streatley lie either side of the River Thames, but the other important means of communication, the Great Western Railway, also passes through Goring. The villages were big farming communities, but because of their riverside location and the railway, were the home to commuters and weekend visitors. Goring grew rapidly in Victorian and Edwardian times as a tourist resort and many villas and mansions were built. Wealthy people lived here who employed numerous servants and gardeners and who required a wide range of tradesmen and shops to service their needs. As a result there was probably a much larger pool of young men and women available to join the services than in many rural communities.

During the war, whilst many residents were away at the front, the population was swelled with troops training in the area and the men convalescing at the War Hospital at Basildon Park.

The exhibition will not only pay tribute to the fallen, but also to the many others who served in the war in whatever capacity. It will also explore the effect of the war on the people left behind. Through the response to regular articles on the Great War in the Goring Gap News some interesting memorabilia and photographs have been amassed and research has been carried out on both individuals and the wider picture.

Talks will take place alongside the exhibition and there will be activities for children. Refreshments will be available. A book will be produced in due course to record the findings.

The Society would be pleased to hear from anyone with information on any aspect of World War 1 in the area around Goring and Streatley, or who has relevant memorabilia that they would be willing to lend to the exhibition or have photographed. Please contact Janet Hurst (01491 871022 or email gslhs@w-mark.demon.co.uk)

Poets and heroes

Wilfred Owen MC

*Dulce et Decorum Est* - "it is sweet and fitting to die for one’s country”.

These words by Wilfred Owen are, perhaps, some of the most memorable written by any of the celebrated war poets. Owen was killed at the front in September 1918, but not long before he had spent two miserable years (1911-1913) as a Lay Assistant to the Reverend Herbert Wigan of All Saints, Dunsden Parish, just to the north east of Caversham near Reading. He returned to his family home in Shrewsbury 1913 following a physical and mental breakdown. Despite not enjoying his time in the Chilterns, his parents and sister are buried in the churchyard at Dunsden.

Rupert Brooke

Rupert Brooke was a great walker and often made his way to the Chilterns from his home in Cambridgeshire. The Pink and Lily pub near Lacey Green, to the south of Prince Risborough, was a regular watering hole and to this day commemorates its association in the Brooke Bar, which has been kept much as he must have known it.

Brook wrote a poem called *The Chilterns*

An extract from *The Chilterns*

*YOUR hands, my dear, adorable,*
*Your lips of tenderness*
*Oh, I’ve loved you faithfully and well,*
*Three years, or a bit less.*
*It wasn’t a success.*

*Thank God, that’s done! and I’ll take the road,*
*Quit of my youth and you,*
*The Roman road to Wendover* By Tring and Lilley Hoo,
*As a free man may do.*

Janet Hurst
In January 2013 Chilternætæna reported that, as part of the Chilterns Conservation Board’s Commons Project, volunteers were, for the first time, mapping the 600m of practice trenches still traceable on Berkhamsted Common. Over seven miles of trenches were originally built. Now the mapping is complete and an information board erected.

Talks about the Corps, with many rarely seen contemporary photos, are being given by Norman Groves, such as to the Berkhamsted Local History and Museum Society in the Town Hall on 12 November 2014.

With about half of the young officers subsequently being killed or wounded, the images here remind us of this sad and traumatic time in our history.

The Chilterns Conservation Board is particularly grateful to the Trustees of Berkhamsted Golf Club (on whose land the trenches and Inns of Court war memorial lie), advice from various Berkhamsted organisations, and to Alex Thompson and Richard North for the photographs.

Norman Groves
Local society reprints rare book

As one of the events to commemorate the First World War and its links with Berkhamsted the Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society is arranging a reprint of a unique version of 'The Devil’s Own Time', a book produced, probably shortly after the end of the War, in spite of its claim to have been written fifty years later.

One copy of The Devil’s Own Time is held in the British Library, and the only other known copy is held in a collection deposited in the Dacorum Heritage Trust Museum Store in Berkhamsted. This copy has been in the possession of the Berkhamsted History Society, formerly the Berkhamsted & District Local History Society, founded 1950, for very many years, and is unique since it has pencilled annotations made presumably by the donor, a former member of the Inns of Court Officers Training Corps (IOCOTC).

Originally printed on rather thin paper with very fine pen and ink illustrations, the document is now in a very frail condition and should no longer be handled. It has only been possible in the last twenty or thirty years to store it in museum conditions. Through digitisation of the original document, and reprinting, this unique document has been brought to a wider public and saved for posterity.

Through research and the perspective of a hundred years it has been possible to identify many of the officers who would have been familiar to the cadets who were trained in Berkhamsted and its surrounding countryside. The tragi-comedy of this publication has come to a wider public and saved for posterity. Should their significance as a monument to the War be recognised through designation as a Scheduled Ancient Monument? Whilst they are not the best preserved system – better examples survive on Marlow Common in Buckinghamshire – their extent and complexity suggest they evolved as a response to changing battlefield tactics and technologies, particularly with the introduction of gas in 1915. Perhaps more to the point, how should the National Trust maintain and interpret the trenches on Northchurch Common. The project aims to map a representative section to determine their layout and identify specific features used for training purposes. Comparative evidence comes from the 1926 Manual of Fieldworks describing the ideal width (6 feet 6 inches) and depth (6 feet) of a trench. Those at Ashridge have a haphazard plan reflecting contemporary advice that straight alignments could be strafed by enemy plans or shrapnel. Regular 120 degree changes in alignment evidence this, as does the inclusion of ‘traverses’ on the front line trenches. Communication trenches connecting the front line to the reserve trenches incorporate ‘islands’ of undisturbed ground serving a similar purpose to the traverses.

Their survival prompts the issue of how they should be maintained in perpetuity. Should their significance as a monument to the War be recognised through designation as a Scheduled Ancient Monument? Whilst they are not the best preserved system – better examples survive on Magle Common in Buckinghamshire – their extent and complexity suggest they evolved as a response to changing battlefield tactics and technologies, particularly with the introduction of gas in 1915. Perhaps more to the point, how should the National Trust maintain and interpret such evidence and reconcile its survival alongside requirements of nature conservation and public access? The survey work is planned to continue over successive winters. The evidence recorded so far will be used for illustrating an exhibition to be placed in the Ashridge visitor centre (4th - 31st August), and for a guided walk to be conducted at the end of the year (November 8th).

Jenny Sherwood

A monument to the 'Devil's Own' WWI practice trenches on the Ashridge estate

In September of 1914 the tranquillity of Berkhamsted was disturbed by the arrival of the Inns of Court Regiment. Nicknamed 'The Devil's Own' the regiment was made up of trainee officers derived from London's Inns of Court. Approximately 12,000 officers were trained, 2,100 of whom would lose their lives in the conflict, with a further 5,000 injured. The regiment were awarded 2,800 honours, including three Victoria Crosses.

A significant monument to the regiment’s activities is the extensive network of practice trenches traversing the Ashridge commons. Colonel Errington published an account of the regiment in 1922 and described the excavation of more than 13,000 yards of trench between 1914 and 1918. They were used for frontline training and for simulating gas attacks. The landscape provided ideal training ground, combining a varied terrain of open ground, low hills and woodland. Errington wrote:

‘For the squadron, long treks without touching a road, wide movements, distant reconnaissance; for the infantry, wood-fighting, canal crossings, river crossings, big fights on the open commons or downs, local fighting among the enclosures, every form of open training was available. In the neighbouring villages, Nettleden, Little Gaddesden, Aldbury, Ashley Green, Bovingdon, the awakened villager turned to sleep again with greater security when he realised that the outburst of firing, and the swift rush of feet through the village street, betokened nothing more than a night raid of the Devil’s Own.’

With the aid of National Trust volunteers a project has been launched to record the trenches on Northchurch Common. The project aims to map a representative section to determine their layout and identify specific features used for training purposes. Comparative evidence comes from the 1926 Manual of Fieldworks describing the ideal width (6 feet 6 inches) and depth (6 feet) of a trench. Those at Ashridge have a haphazard plan reflecting contemporary advice that straight alignments could be strafed by enemy plans or shrapnel. Regular 120 degree changes in alignment evidence this, as does the inclusion of ‘traverses’ on the front line trenches. Communication trenches connecting the front line to the reserve trenches incorporate ‘islands’ of undisturbed ground serving a similar purpose to the traverses.

Gary Marshall
Duty and service: Bucks lives in the Great War

This exhibition tells the stories of selected Bucks individuals involved in the war effort through the objects, photographs, letters and documents they left behind. These evocative objects show the human face of the war for soldiers from varying ranks and regiments as well as for Florence Fremantle, a local land girl, and artists John Nash and Alexander Jamieson. Items on display include uniforms from the Bucks Military Museum Trust and a large hanging embroidered by convalescing soldiers at Chequers on loan from the Chequers Trust.

The contrast between the image and reality of war is explored through original WWI recruitment posters. These propaganda images, using patriotism, national pride and a sense of family and civic duty to persuade men to enlist, offer a potent juxtaposition alongside humble personal effects of the soldiers such as a simple silver spoon. Other artefacts, such as the handwritten trench logs and letters home from Captain Lionel Crouch, brilliantly capture his indomitable spirit despite the relentless discomfort of trench life.

Display space has also been provided for individuals and community groups to tell their WWI stories. It is hoped that this area will be continually changing over the course of the exhibition as groups and individuals come forward with items for display.

History and archaeology events 2014

Monday 4th to Sunday 31st August 2014
10am - 5pm daily
Ashridge at War Exhibition
Visit the Ashridge Estate Visitors’ Centre to see how the First World War affected the Estate and its neighbours. Learn about the connection between the Estate and the Inns of Court Officer Training Corps who were stationed here. See a reconstructed trench plus photos and rolls of honour.
More information on www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ashridge-estate/things-to-see-and-do
Or contact Ashridge Estate Visitor Centre, 01442 851227 or ashridge@nationaltrust.org.uk

Saturday 9th August 2014
2pm - 3pm
Talk: First Landing; the first arrival of aircraft on the Halton estate by Francis Hanford, RAF Halton
Bucks County Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury, HP20 2QP
Cost £5 per head. Advance booking required via 01296 331441 or email museum@buckscc.gov.uk

Images: © Buckinghamshire County Museum
In June 2014, a new museum at RAF Halton, near Wendover was opened and named after one of the most highly decorated airmen in British military history, who served at the base as an engineer a century ago.

The James McCudden Air Power Heritage Centre, (JMAPHC) aims to bring alive the story of an estate that has been associated with military training for more than 100 years with stands displaying WW1 artifacts, a recently built Mayfly replica aircraft and a Chipmunk flight simulator for visitors to experience a flight around the local area.

The museum is named after James McCudden (nicknamed ‘Mac’) who came to Halton 100 years ago as an engine mechanic with No 3 Squadron Royal Flying Corps on army manoeuvres. He later went on to train as a WW1 fighter pilot and won the Victoria Cross, two Distinguished Service Orders, two Military Crosses and several foreign awards. He received more awards for gallantry than any other airman of British nationality serving in the First World War, and by his death in an air accident in 1918 at the age of 23, he had amassed 57 enemy aircraft placing him seventh on the list of the war’s most successful aces.

Lord Trenchard, the Third Viscount Trenchard who formally opened the museum, said: “The naming of this Flight Heritage Centre is very appropriate. James McCudden showed the greatest professionalism in consideration for his subordinates and he never forgot his roots as an engine mechanic”. Squadron Leader Simon Batt, from RAF Coningsby, also paid tribute, saying, “My contemporaries in 1913 relied on the skill of their engineers in exactly the same way as we do today; we depend on them to get our job done. It is highly appropriate that RAF Halton, where engineering training took place for more than 75 years, remembers one of the most famous examples of a man who started as an engineer and went on to become a flying legend.”

The JMAPHC has been built by volunteers with exhibits collected from around the country. It has received funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Rolls Royce and the RAF Charitable Trust.

To visit the JMAPHC and Trenchard Museum call the Curator, Mr Francis Hanford, on 01296 656841.

Jane Reilly
History and archaeology events 2014-15

Saturday 30th August 2014
11am - 4pm
**The Great War Centenary Event**
Join Wycombe Museum for a special event in the Museum and Gardens to commemorate the start of World War 1. Visit the recruitment stand and find out if you would have been fit to serve in the Kings Army, sign up and take part in your first drill. Make your own ‘trench art’ or become a secret agent and crack the WW1 code trail. Meet members of the Western Front Association and see their display of personal artefacts and documents. With musical entertainment from The LuLaLas and recipes from the Home Front by Tastertainment, there’s plenty for everyone!
Wycombe Museum, Priory Ave, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 6PX. 01494 421895 www.wycombe.gov.uk/museum

Saturday 13th September 2014
2pm - 3pm
**Talk: Bucks and the Great War** by Professor Ian Beckett, Bucks Military Museum Trust
Bucks County Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury, HP20 2QP
Cost £5 per head. Advance booking required via 01296 331441 or email museum@buckssc.gov.uk

Thursday 18th September 2014
8pm
**Archaeology in Marlow**
*Trenches - Marlow and Berkhamsted*, by David Greenwood and Norman Groves
Main Hall, Liston Hall, Chapel Street, Marlow SL7 1DD
Cost: £4.00 members, £5.00 non-members

Saturday 4th October 2014
2pm - 3pm
**Talk: Brothers in Arms - John and Paul Nash and the art of the Great War** by David Boyd Haycock, writer and art historian
Bucks County Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury, HP20 2QP
Cost £5 per head. Advance booking required via 01296 331441 or email museum@buckssc.gov.uk

Saturday 8th November 2014
2pm - 3pm
**Walk and tea: Northchurch Common Trenches**
Take a minibus from Ashridge Estate Visitors’ Centre to Northchurch Common to see the remains of the WW1 trenches, then continue on to Ashridge House to take tea on the lawn, just as Earl Kitchener was doing here as war was declared. While here he received a telegram, and gave his apologies to his host: “Lady Brownlow, I am sorry but I must leave at once. Do not worry” adding “You will know why tomorrow.”
Cost TBC
More information on www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ashridge-estate/things-to-see-and-do
Or contact Ashridge Estate Visitor Centre, 01442 851227 or ashridge@nationaltrust.org.uk

Saturday 8th November 2014
8pm
**Talk: Propaganda - WWI recruitment posters** by Nick Hiley, British Library
Bucks County Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury, HP20 2QP
Cost £5 per head. Advance booking required via 01296 331441 or email museum@buckssc.gov.uk

12th November 2014
8pm
**Berkhamsted Local History and Museum Society Talk: O! What a lovely Berkhamsted!**
A fascinating talk by Norman Groves, the Berkhamsted Trench Mapping Project co-ordinator.
Wellcome Great Hall, Town Hall, Berkhamsted. Visitors are always welcome. £2.50 at the door (or £1 for holders of Dacorum cards)

Saturday 31st January 2015
2pm - 3pm
**Talk: Infantry Training at Halton 1914-15** by Francis Hanford, RAF Halton
Bucks County Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury, HP20 2QP
All talks are from 2-3pm and cost £5 per head. Advance booking required via 01296 331441 or email museum@buckssc.gov.uk

Contact details
This newsletter has been produced by the Chilterns Conservation Board.

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