

# Times Past

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STORRINGTON & DISTRICT MUSEUM  
Preserving Yesterday for Tomorrow

## Museum News



2014 started off at the Museum with a talk by Helen Poole on 'Sir John Gage: the rise of a Tudor courtier'. Sir John lived from 1479 to 1556 and had his home at Firle Place, East Sussex. He progressed through the ranks of the Tudor court serving Henry VII, Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary and Elizabeth I. He was a steadfast Catholic and in such turbulent times somehow he managed to steer a safe course. He died aged 77 at Firle and is buried there. The original Tudor house was completely remodelled in the 18<sup>th</sup> century but retains the shape of the original building and is well worth a visit. It is open from June to September on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

'Operation Sealion', Mark Perry-Nash's talk on 3 February, was about the proposed invasion planned by Hitler in the late 1930s. It was a thought-provoking evening considering the prospect of a German Government in Blenheim Palace, training colleges for Teutonic Knights (with one at Arundel Castle), and the Royal Pavilion at Brighton becoming Hitler's seaside residence.

The AGM on 3 March ratified the election of Lt Col. Eric Gill as our new Chair, following the resignation of Mike Grizaard. Mike stepped into the breach eighteen months ago when we were without a Chair, and we are grateful to him for his support at a difficult time.



Above: two exhibits from 'Transport – a Moving Story'

After the AGM, Queen Elizabeth I and her Lady-in-Waiting (a.k.a. Meg Everitt and Hermín Daley) made a grand entrance, looking striking in their beautiful hand-made Tudor-style dresses, and Meg gave a lively talk on Queen Elizabeth I and her Progresses.

*Eric Gill with the Roll of Honour*



Marion Baker has stepped down as Membership Secretary but we are happy to say that Terry Fraser has taken over from her with immediate effect.

The opening day of the first exhibition this year, 'Transport – a Moving Story', was enlivened by one of Frank Waters' wonderful train layouts, complete with 'Storrington Station' and 'Alight Here for Storrington Museum' platform signs.

The Quiz Night on 15 March was one of our best yet, fully booked and with a lively crowd who enjoyed the home-made supper and helped the Museum raise a much-needed £400. Thank you to everyone who took part.

The next exhibition, 'From the Archives', opens on 12 April and will feature old favourites not displayed for some time and some new acquisitions.

The 'Flower Power' exhibition which follows in June will focus on the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Storrington Horticultural Society and generally will have an horticultural theme.

In August Stuart Duncan is planning a sponsored walk on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and Junior Archaeological Day is on 21<sup>st</sup>. The Old School Reunion is on 6 September and Family History Day with a WWI slant, on the 28<sup>th</sup>. October brings the Sporting exhibition opening on the 4<sup>th</sup>, and a Quiz Night on the 18<sup>th</sup>. And in November we have the WWI Commemoration Weekend on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Art Show and Sale on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, and a Festive Day on the 29<sup>th</sup>. So a pretty busy programme for the rest of the year.

## Eric Gill, our New Chairman

At the AGM in March the membership ratified the election of Lt. Col Eric Gill as our new Chair.

Eric Gill was born in Hove in 1934. He was educated at Brighton, Hove and Sussex Grammar School and took a Teachers Certificate at Southampton University.

He married Sally in 1957 at Amberley Parish Church and they have a daughter Valle. Their son Christopher died in 2002. After an eventful and wide-ranging Army career, Sally and Eric settled in Storrington, but obviously not to a quiet life!

Eric was commissioned into the Royal Army Education Corps in 1961 and granted a Regular Army Commission in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1963. His army career has taken him to Malaya, Aden, Cyprus, Singapore, Borneo, Iran and Germany. He has led several expeditions – overland from Cyprus to the Khyber Pass and Taj Mahal, to Austria (mountain walking), to Iran (exploring the Elborz Mountains), and to the Himalayas. He also led annual training expeditions to Switzerland.

In 1986 he retired from the Army and became National Quality Assurance Manager in the Post Office IT Department.

He retired again in 1992, although it can hardly be called retirement as he has visited India 'about' ten times, is a member of Brighton Rotary, the Royal Philatelic Society, the Cyprus Study Circle, the Helvetia Society...and is Chair of Storrington Royal British Legion.

We are delighted that Eric has agreed to become Chair of the Storrington & District Museum Society, particularly at this time when the main focus of our efforts will be on the WWI Commemoration events. We can't help thinking that the Museum will present a challenge of a totally different nature from anything else he has been involved with, but Eric is obviously a man of wide-ranging abilities and interests and we welcome his arrival.

## Funding for Storrington's Roll of Honour: Stuart Duncan reports

The Storrington and District Museum are pleased to announce that it has been awarded a grant of £9,500 by the Heritage Lottery Fund to research Storrington's Roll of Honour to mark the centenary of the First World War.

The Roll of Honour, painted on three panels by Paul Hardy, a local artist and illustrator, was for many years hung in the High Street on the walls of the Assembly Rooms adjoining the White Horse Hotel. Each panel contained the names of residents of Storrington or closely associated with it who lost their lives in the War as well as former pupils of the 'College' in Church Street. Only two panels have been found.

This funding will enable the museum to research and preserve the history of the Roll of Honour for Storrington and its surrounding villages. An exhibition will be held on the first two days of November.

These are exciting times for the Storrington and District Museum. Last year the Heritage Lottery Fund awarded a grant for research into Storrington's Old School. The exhibition weekend attracted many visitors, and a school reunion will be held on Saturday 6 September. New exhibitions and events are being planned for this year, and there is so much of our local history still to explore.

If you would like to be part of this new exciting project or if you are interested in the history of your village and would like to become a member of the museum, we would be delighted to meet you.

For more information please contact us on 01903 740188 or email, [storringtonmuseum@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:storringtonmuseum@hotmail.co.uk)



Above: The Roll of Honour then and now

Left: The three panels can be seen on the wall of the Assembly Rooms

## Patricia Wilks describes an adventure in Church Recording



*St Mary's Storrington*

Five years ago at a NADFAS lecture:

'Would you two be interested in joining a Church Recording group?'

'Well ... not really... we're not regular church-goers you know.'

"That's all right – it's an exercise in research and recording basically. Quite detailed work. We're starting with St Mary's. Come to a meeting and talk about it further and see what you think."

It's a challenge we thought and something quite different—so off we went to the meeting. And that was the start. How long would this recording take? On average three years. Three years! More like three months we thought in our ignorance. I can recall the group even thought about which church they would record after St Mary's.

Quote from Recorders' Handbook:

**The idea of church recording arose in 1971 when the Victoria and Albert Museum, aware of the vulnerability of the**

contents of many churches to damage and loss, sought the assistance of NADFAS (the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts) members to produce detailed inventories of that heritage before it was too late. Up to now some 1300 records have been presented to churches, and around 3000 recorders complete 60 records a year. As volunteers they are highly motivated to give something back to the community, and enjoy working as part of a team. They have the commitment, discipline and the enthusiasm to see projects through to completion and take great pride in the high quality of their research and Records.

Copies of the Record go to the County Record Office, the Library at Church House, the National Monuments Record, and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

This was beginning to look serious.

According to NADFAS the personal benefits to us would be 'the opportunity to make a personal contribution to preserve and enhance our heritage, to expand intellectual horizons, to acquire new skills.'

This was looking really serious.

So after a couple of preliminary meetings and a briefing on St. Mary's by Malcolm, we began our weekly morning sessions, regularly disturbing the ladies in their dusting and polishing, and working to background music from the handbell ringers.

It was a steep learning curve—Cliff and I worked on the wood section (him technical, me secretarial) and our equipment grew and grew—a specimen record to refer to, notebooks, binoculars for the roofs, camera, tape measure, reference books on church furniture, books on Storrington's history, parish magazines. Any scrap of information was pounced on and we made many visits to the County Records Office at Chichester, which was a treasure trove of information. We took photographs to refer to when writing up the notes but even so we returned to the church time and time again to check details. After three years we knew every nook and cranny of the church and were constantly finding cupboards with more candlesticks or collection bowls. And things were often moved around—something we recorded in the sanctuary would appear months later in the Lady Chapel. Was it the same item or another that looked very like it? Sometimes it was like a detective story. We began to learn the language of church furniture: *prie-dieu*, *Glastonbury chair*, *banc-coffre*, *bench* (not *pew!*), *credence*, *aumbry*, and on and on.

And we became experts on stretchers, legs, feet, mouldings, collets, plinths and finials, cornices, friezes, piercings, brackets, scrolls and spandrels. Every wooden door seemed to be constructed in a different fashion with varying furniture and frames. Types of print came into our orbit too when we needed to describe inscriptions.

The final, really big challenge, which I left entirely to Cliff, was to describe the roofs. I didn't actually see him lying flat on his back in the aisles to get a better view but sometimes this must have been the only way of getting accurate photographs.

I suspect that we became dinner party bores on the subject. But even that was a new experience for us—at our age dinner parties can turn into medical conferences!

The wood section was a small part of the whole record. Other groups were working on the monuments, windows, textiles, library, metalwork, and so on. Our notes were checked over and over again, first by the Collator who had a massive job of collating all the information into the correct format. Then groups checked one another's work, and eventually the

Church Recording Area Representative had the final say.

The work we did to create the record pales into insignificance when compared to the work done by Heather and Chris Cotton in getting all the notes and photographs together for the final printing and binding. The whole project could easily have lapsed at several points but their perseverance was remarkable. Various delays and setbacks meant that the three years of recording extended to five years before the final volume was produced.

On Sunday 8 December last year, at a special service at St. Mary's, the record was formally handed over to Malcolm Acheson.

Are we proud of our part in such an achievement? We most certainly are. Would we do it again? Well .....



*Window depicting St George and the Dragon in St Mary's Storrington*

## John Wharmby: Digging up the Family Tree



Above: a modern branch of the Wharmby clan

We have found that many members of the Museum are interested in their family trees, but how many are interested in knowing who was the grandfather, great grandfather, etc. of other members? Not many. However, if we cast our eyes down from the top branches of the tree to the roots then very often hidden characteristics are found, of interest also to the neighbouring gardeners. If members have discovered how their name/roots of the family tree began then let us hear about it.

Roots may be found connected to people, places and often, to things (see *Names and History* by George Redmonds). However, some names are so diverse (e.g. Smith), places so extensive (e.g. Dorsett—guess where from?) and things so distributed (e.g. Waters; Hill) that it is very difficult to find *your own root*. But keep trying! To kick off this series I will describe my findings of the Wharmby roots.

The **Wh** is a Cumbrian/ Lancashire diphthong which was pronounced like the Yorkshire **Qu**, and even today the spelling is interchangeable, e.g. Whernside or Quernside—the mountain ridge on the borders of North Yorkshire and Cumbria.

In 1066 the Normans took over Britain and occupied the land, usually with no quarter given, but Yorkshire and other parts of the north resisted and rebelled against the new king. As a reprisal William the Conqueror devastated parts of Yorkshire, and great numbers of the population either perished by the sword or famine. By 1087, as shown in the Domesday Survey, most of Yorkshire ‘belonged’ to Ilbert de Laci (one of the most prominent supporters of William I), a typical Norman baron from Lassi, a town in Normandy. However, most of the districts were governed by their previous Anglo-Saxon owners as vassal tenants. We therefore find the Anglo-Saxon Gamel in charge of Hepitone (Kirkheaton or Heaton); Cornebi (Quarmby); Elant (Elland); Witelaia (Whitley); Mirefelt (Mirfield) and many others.

This situation persisted for quite a time until the Norman lords, Beaumont and Adam Fitz Orni (born 1125 in Normandy) went north and were given land from the Laci family. The Gamel family were disinherited except for Elland, with Fitz Orni giving Heaton to his elder son and Quarmby to his second son, starting the lines of de Heaton and de Quarmby.

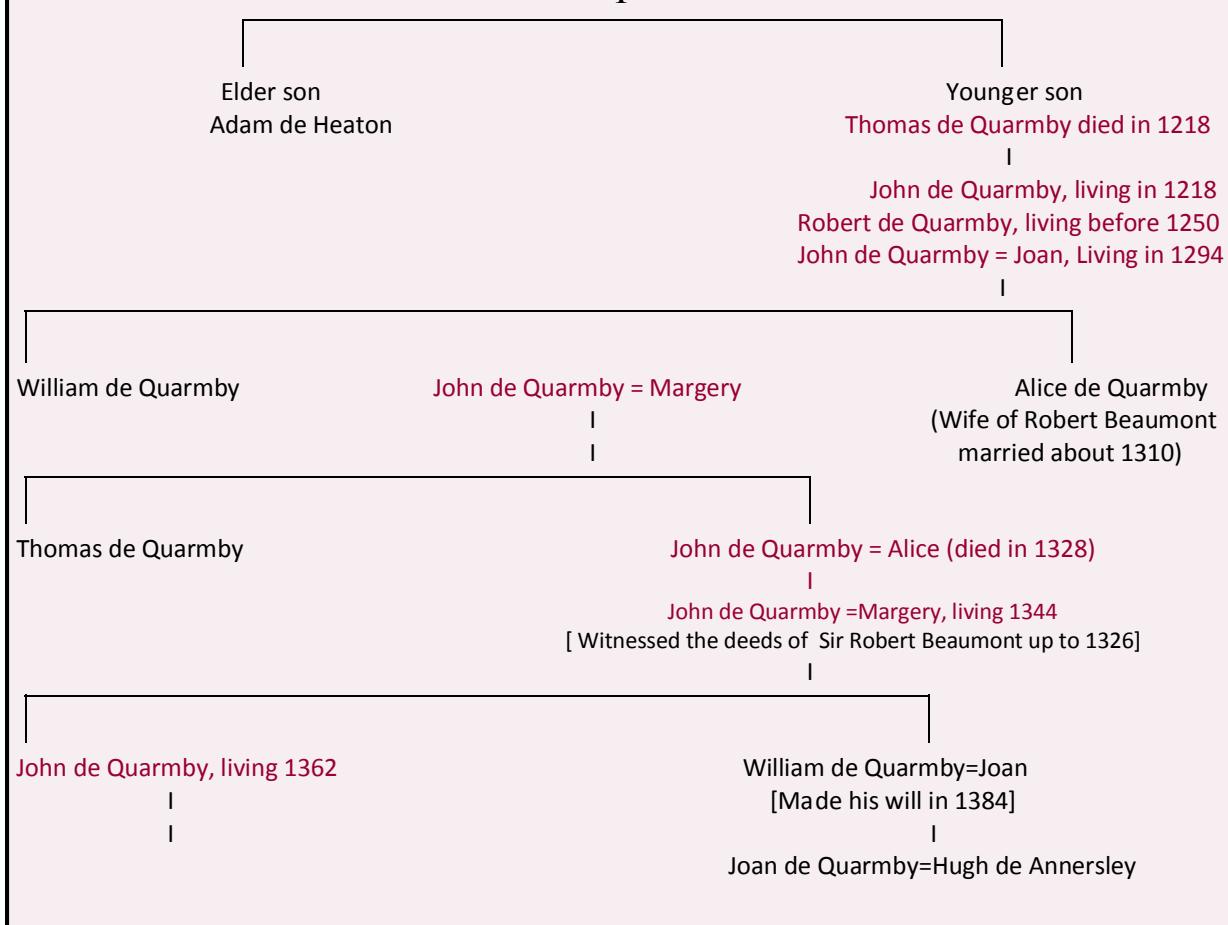
The Gamel family renamed themselves ‘de Elland’, acted in the manner of Normans and built up their reputation by giving money and land to Fountains Abbey etc.. In about 1270 Hugh de Elland was knighted and in 1340 Sir John de Elland was made Sheriff of Yorkshire. So started the Elland Ballard—a story in its own right and a source of actions used in the stories of Robin Hood.

The animosity between Sir John de Elland and Sir Richard Beaumont, Sir Hugh de Quarmby and Lockwood de Lockwood rapidly came to the boil and Elland decided to revenge past history and strike first. He and his men first went to Quarmby Hall at night, killed Sir Hugh de Quarmby, went on to Lockwood, where Lockwod de Lockwood was killed, and then marched to Crosland Hall, where Sir Robert Beaumont was decapitated. Next day Lady Beaumont (née Agnes Quarmby) fled with her two sons (John and Adam), the young Quarmby, young Lockwood and young Lacey to Burnley, Lancashire, where they stayed for a decade or more in Brereton and Towneley Halls.

The four young men eventually decided to avenge their fathers’ deaths, and returned to Cromwell Bot-

## The Quarmby/Wharmby Family Roots

### Norman Lord Adam Fitz-Orni



tom Wood, near Brighouse, where in 1353 they killed Sir John de Elland on his way to the Court Leet. They then fled to Furness in Cumberland, where they lived as outlaws.

However, Sir John (senior) had left a son (now the new Sir John) who himself had a son, and the avengers decided to remove the name of Elland for all time. They returned to Yorkshire one year later where they killed both son and grandson. Fleeing to Ainley Wood they were pursued by the population of Elland, and Quarmby was killed. The others escaped to Crosland Hall.

A few people, as with all ballads, considered the above story to be just that—‘a story’. However, a few years ago a writ was discovered in the London Record Office which had been sent to Yorkshire on account of the murder of the Ellands.

Many say they cannot understand how the Quarmby (Wharmby) name continued, but considering that the ‘young Quarmby’ resided for about 15 years in Cum-

berland and Lancashire (where his name would have been written ‘Wharmby’), he probably left a family which eventually moved round to live in Derbyshire. Also, in the stories of Robin Hood many writers say that the antagonism between Robin and the Sheriff is difficult to understand. If some parts of the Robin Hood ‘myth’ are taken from the Elland Ballard the antagonism is obvious!

This description is a small part of the Elland Ballard but, together with Pole returns, Wills, Court proceedings, etc., it does give us the roots of the tree as shown, even though there are a few questions like ‘Where is Hugh? Was it John?’.

One interesting feature is the popularity of a few names in the family. My father was Thomas, his brother, Robert, my grandfather was John, his father, Robert and his father, Robert.

Quarmby Hall still exists. Next time we go ‘home’ to Derbyshire I’ll have to nip over to Huddersfield and claim it!

## SPONSORED WALK

To raise funds for the Museum Stuart Duncan is planning a 23 mile walk this summer—provisional date, 2 August—and is looking for sponsors. The route will follow the boundary of the area covered by the Museum. Anyone is welcome to join in, either for the entire walk or for parts of it, and sponsorship forms will be available from the Museum nearer the time, when plans for the day have been finalised.

We are planning to make this a Walking Weekend, with guided historical walks around Storrington Village and possibly a tour of local Mills.

These walks will be tied in with the Museum itself where there will be displays of various kinds, and people (walkers and non-walkers alike) will be welcome to come and go as they like. Refreshments will be available all day.

All we need is good weather and plenty of sponsors to make a great fund-raising day.

Details will be published in the local press and County Times nearer the event, but your support is vital to make this a successful weekend.

## TREASURER

We are sorry that we are losing Mike Grizaard as Treasurer and urgently need someone to take his place.

If you are interested or know anyone who might be, Mike would be happy to explain what is involved.

In the first instance, please ring Patricia Wilks (01903 743437) or leave your name and number at the Museum (01903 740118) and Mike will contact you.

## MUSEUM STEWARDS

Can you spare three hours a month to help keep the Museum open?

Our Stewards work in pairs in three-hour shifts – 10 am to 1 pm and 1 pm to 4 pm on Wednesdays and Saturdays and 10 am to 1 pm on Sunday mornings.

Schedules are issued six to eight weeks in advance so there is plenty of time to swap duties if necessary.

No special knowledge is needed but training is given where necessary.

Please do help if you can—you would be welcomed by a friendly group of volunteers.

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