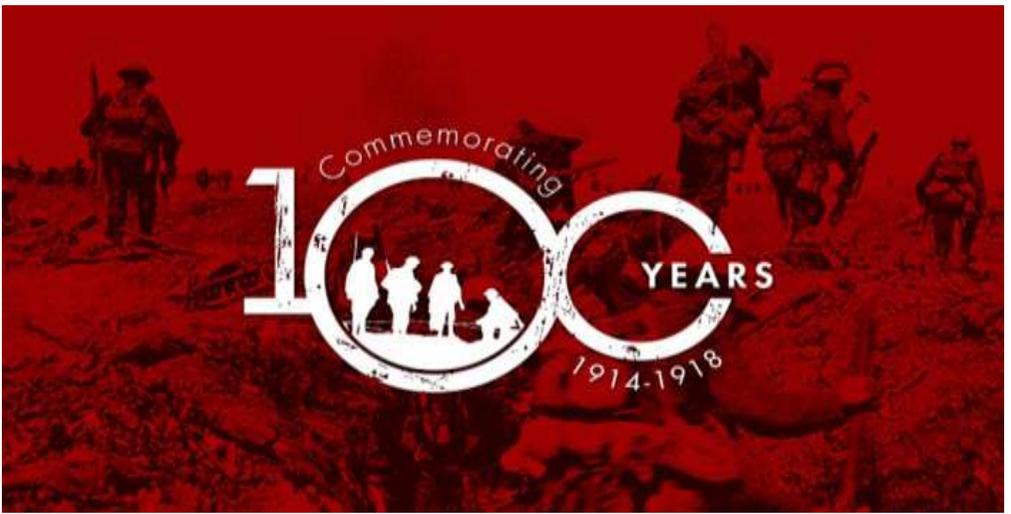


WESTMILL VILLAGE NEWS

Issue No. 6
August 2015



*HARVESTING IN
WESTMILL*



George Cranville

10th August 1915 - 10th August 2015

Introduction

George was born at Great Hormead, Herts in 1888 to George and Lizzie (interestingly, his service record states he was born in Great Orme!). He was baptised on 18 March of the same year.

In the 1911 Census he is recorded to have been living at home in Hall Lane, Great Hormead with his parents and younger brother Fred and sister, Louisa. At this time his occupation was that of Groom.

He married Emma Wick on July 5th and then lived in Westmill.

George was enlisted in Royston and served with the 1st Bedfordshire Regiment in France. George was injured and was evacuated to England. He died of wounds at the King George Hospital for Wounded Soldiers in London on 10th August 1915.

Commemoration

Villagers from Westmill gathered on the evening of 10th August 2015 to commemorate 100 years since George Cranville's death.

The Last Post was sounded and a commemorative wreath was laid at his grave in St. Mary's churchyard.

For The Fallen by Robert Laurence Binyon, Sept 1914

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;
They fell with their faces to the foe.

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

The poem was written in mid September 1914, a few weeks after the outbreak of the First World War. During these weeks the British Expeditionary Force had suffered casualties following its first encounter with the Imperial German Army at the Battle of Mons on 23rd August, its rearguard action during the retreat from Mons in late August and the Battle of Le Cateau on 26th August, and its participation with the French Army in holding up the Imperial German Army at the First Battle of the Marne between 5th and 9th September 1914. Laurence said in 1939 that the four lines of the fourth stanza came to him first. These words of the fourth stanza have become especially familiar and famous, having been adopted by the Royal British Legion as an Exhortation for

TIMES PAST IN WESTMILL

Remember the Blessings

We met, and we married a long time ago,
We worked for long hours, when wages were low;
No TV, no wireless, no, times were hard,
Just cold water taps, and a walk in the yard;
No holidays aboard, no posh carpets on floors,
But we had coke on the fire, and didn't lock doors
Our children arrived, no pill in those days,
And we brought them up without any state aid;
They were quite safe to go out into the park,
Then old folks could go out in the dark;
No valium, no drugs and LSD,
We cured most of our ills with a nice cup of tea;
But if you were sick, you were treated at once,
No 'Fill up form' and come back in six months;
No vandals, no muggings, there was nothing to rob,
And we were quite rich with a couple of bob;
People were happier those far off days,
Kinder and caring in so many ways;
Milkman and paper boys used to whistle and sing,
A night at the pictures was having a fling;
We all get our share of struggle and strife;
And we just have to face it, that's the pattern of life;
But now I'm alone, I look back through the years,
I don't think of the hard time, the troubles, the tears,
I remember the blessings, our home, our love,
And that we shared them together,
And I thank God above.

Anon

From an old Westmill Newsletter - thanks to Betsy Burrell

MAYPOLE ON WESTMILL VILLAGE GREEN



Take a look at these fabulous photos my neighbour Frank lent me. His late wife Gillian is one of the group but how many names might you put to faces? Do you remember dancing round the Maypole on the village green in bygone years? Please let us know.



TIMES PRESENT IN WESTMILL

CHURCHYARD TIDY UP

This annual event will take place on **Saturday 10th October** starting at 10.am. lasting about 2 hours. In recent years people of all ages, Church goers and non-Church goers come along.

They arrive with forks, shovels, brooms, strimmers, hedge cutters, saws, wheelbarrows and gloves.

We usually have a massive bonfire.

Refreshments are served during a break in the morning.

If you are a newcomer to the Village, we would be delighted to see you, and it may

give you an opportunity to meet other people from the Village.

We are all very proud of our Village and our Churchyard, please come and join us on the **10th October** and help prepare our Churchyard for its winter rest.

We do have a Grass Cutting Rota and at the moment we have 10 volunteers who take it in turns on a weekly basis to cut round all the gravestones using our Church mowers. This means that each volunteer is called upon about every 5/6 weeks. It takes about a hour to complete the grass cutting. Each year we cut from the middle of March to the end of October. We are looking for more volunteers. Please help us if you can.

Any queries please ring me Michael Thody 01763 271321 Thanks.



Whilst on the subject of grass cutting - if you got a bit hot and bothered about the northern junction out of Westmill onto the A10 you may be pleased to know that I received an email from the Highways Support Team saying "We expect future works on this area to be conducted by East Hertfordshire District Council as part of their routine cutting schedules".

Should we get overlooked again the man to contact is David Pearman on 01279 655 261 or via email at: enquiries@eastherts.gov.uk



Bellringers

During our Village VE Day celebrations when we rang our Church Bells and had a glass of wine to celebrate this very momentous occasion 70 years on, we had a number of people say they would like to learn the art of bell ringing. We were delighted with this news as nationally bell ringing is becoming a dying art. Now after several months of intensive training and practice Helen Cowler, Jan James, Lucia Knight, & John Bowman are becoming very skilled at the art of bell ringing, and will soon be ringing at local weddings, Sunday services and special occasions.

Bell ringing is made to look easy by those who do ring, but there is a long and sometimes quite difficult learning curve to overcome.

Our congratulations go to the four names above for the skills they have achieved in such a short space of time.

Well done and thanks for joining us.

From the Westmill & Aspenden Bellringers.



Deer Deterrent Device

THIS LITTLE GIRL IS IN DESPERATE NEED OF A HOME!



Max is 10 years old, female and neutered.

She is losing both her home, due to her owners relocating to live on a canal boat, and her cat pal Joey who

unfortunately has a terminal illness.

She is small and active for her age and likes roaming in her garden.

Time is running out for Max so if you think you might like to offer her a home please contact:

Lisa 01763 272174 who can provide more information.

On 12th November, was looking remarkably alive!

This scenario proves to me the deer deterrent device works.

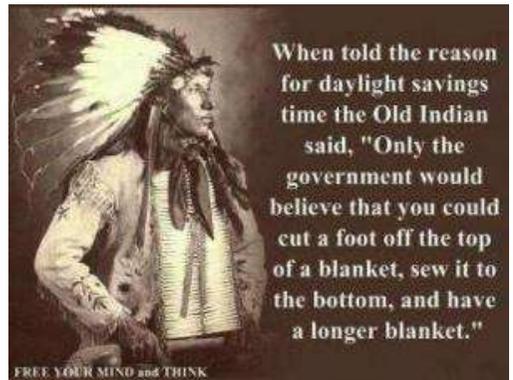
For £8 - I think it's worth it.

www.querkity.com

Lucia Knight



2.00 a.m. on Sunday 26th October



GREG TRUST UPDATE

Village Hall

The trustees are pleased to report the village hall has recently had the complete hall floor refurbished, sanded and treated. This together with new hall curtains that were specially made, have improved the appearance of this important village asset.

Recreation Field

Westmill Football Club have recently held some fund raising events to generate cash to finish the interior of the pavilion. Work has been progressing, so showers and toilets have been fitted and are ready for use with the new football season about to commence.

WFC has arranged for the main field grass to be cut throughout the growing season and Andrea Bowman from the village, appointed by the trust, has done a good job of cutting back, trimming hedges and surrounds to the pavilion area.

The club are to hold a match between Westmill 1st and 2nd teams, followed by an official opening of the pavilion on Saturday 5th September. Kick off 2.00 p.m.

Children's Playground

The playground has just had its annual Safety Inspection carried out by an independent specialist company and other than some minor recommendations, which have now been dealt with, we have been awarded an overall 'Low Risk' status for another year.

With the trust arranging for the grass to be cut weekly, this facility looks inviting and has certainly seen more people using it and enjoying the benefits of the new play equipment which was installed last summer.

Trust Overview

The trustees communicate on a daily basis, with the objective of continuing to manage and maintain the properties and sites for the benefit of villagers and visitors to our lovely village.

WESTMILL PARISH COUNCIL

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for the 18th September, at 7.30pm to be held in the Village Hall.

The agenda is in the process of being drawn up, which will include an update on the A10, Speeding traffic, Planning, signing in a new Councillor, Village matters and Finance, etc.

Following this PC meeting we will provide a brief overview in the next newsletter

Mike McRae
25/08/15

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, WESTMILL

Church Services

SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER 2015



6 th September	9.30 Morning Worship
13 th September	9.30 Holy Communion
20 th September	NO SERVICE (services held at St Mary's Aspenden and St Peter's Buntingford)
27 th September	9.30 Harvest Service with Communion (all contributions of packets, tins, bottles gratefully received. Please bring to the Church on that day or leave at the back of the church)
4 th October	9.30 Morning Worship
11 th October	9.30 Holy Communion
18 th October	NO SERVICE (9.30 Holy Communion service at St Mary's Aspenden and 11.00 am Communion at St Peter's Buntingford)
<i>St Luke's Day</i>	9.30 Holy Communion
25 th October	
<i>Clocks change</i>	
<i>Bible Sunday</i>	
1st November	9.30 Morning Worship
<i>All Saint's Day</i>	
8th November	9.15 Holy Communion
<i>Remembrance Sunday</i>	Preceded by Act of Remembrance - PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME FOR THIS SERVICE
15th November	NO SERVICE (9.30 Holy Communion service at St Mary's Aspenden and 11.00 am Communion service at St Peter's Buntingford)
22nd November	9.30 Holy Communion
<i>Christ the King</i>	
29th November	NO SERVICE (9.30 Holy Communion service at St Mary's Aspenden and 11.00 am Family Worship service at St Peter's Buntingford)
<i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>	

ALL VERY, VERY WELCOME

We are still seeking two Churchwardens at St Mary's Westmill. Please give Rector Ian Hill a ring on 01763 274072