



July 2008

No. 84

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Wednesday 17 September    Amesbury Street Names  
A talk by Norman Parker
- Wednesday 15 October    Amesbury, the Great War and The Wiltshire  
Regiment  
Michael Cornwell, Curator of the Rifles Museum
- ~~THURSDAY~~  
Wednesday 20 November    AGM followed by Bill Dunn's short film clips of  
1940s to 1970s Amesbury

All meetings will take place at the Melor Hall, commencing at 2.30pm, due to Wednesday evenings having been booked by the Vicar for a course of lectures.

## The Stonehenge Visitor Centre

Well, the circle has nearly been completed. Over ten years ago, Chris Smith, the then Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport, was advocating that the visitor centre should be located at or near Fargo Woods. This is one of the five sites suggested by the current Minister, Margaret Hodge, in the latest public consultation phase which runs until 17 October 2008. The centre has to up and running for January 2012 in time for the Olympics, when it appears the site will be overrun by visitors! A tight schedule, already showing signs of strain. Make sure you have your say!

## Amesbury Centre Roadworks

There have been many questions, comments and criticisms uttered about the layout of the mini-roundabouts in the centre of Amesbury, such as 'What did it cost?' and 'What would happen if one was so unfortunate as to fall on the islands constructed of upturned bricks?'

However, I was pleased to observe on the litter container between the two seats a cast metal representation of the 1979 Millennium logo. The logo was derived from the seal of the Prioress of Amesbury's religious house, and was suggested by the Amesbury Society when the celebrations were being planned. It has become familiar since then - even appearing on the road sign as one approaches the town, though admittedly it is sometimes rudely referred to as the Nun in the bus shelter...!



M.U.

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## The Amesbury War Memorial

As previously announced, the Amesbury Society has decided to publish a booklet about those who are named on our war memorial and I have been undertaking research on behalf of the society into those from the Great War. Of the thirty-two names, I have been able to positively discover the stories of how thirty of them met their end. However two of those named remain elusive at the time of writing. In the case of one, James Ford, I have managed to identify a soldier together with a possible family that could be him but I cannot be certain. The other is Private Albert E. Chambers who remains a mystery and about which nothing has been discovered (if any one can help me please call me on 622512). So why has it been difficult to trace the stories of these two men?

In the vast majority of cases, the information recorded on the many war memorials scattered around the cities, towns and villages of the country is accurate. Mistakes however do happen; of course these would not be intentional, but they can make research difficult. Sometimes simple transcription errors have occurred by those compiling the list, or incorrect initials or ranks have been used

(there are two examples of this on the Amesbury war memorial). Nick-names were sometimes used rather than a person's formal name, or a person preferred to be called by a middle name rather than their first name (again there is an example of this on our memorial). On rare occasions people are included who had not died and this happened on the Admiralty Civil Servants Memorial. Also, some individuals who did not come from the area at all are included on monuments (there appears to be an example of this in Amesbury).

So how was the list of those who died in the Great War compiled? A committee, normally consisting of the local vicar, councillors, important local families etc., would have been formed and then, from local knowledge and public appeals of various kinds, a list drawn up (again, this is what appears to have happened in Amesbury). Because of the scale of the carnage of the Great War it was inevitable that some names were omitted for a variety of reasons. Some families did not want to be reminded of the loss they had suffered and so did not put the names forward. For others, the scale of their loss was so immense they also declined. A family may have moved away from the area and so did not know a memorial was being erected. Others still clung to the hope that their loved ones, who had been posted missing, may yet return and found it too painful to include their names. Regrettably some were omitted from the list because they were not seen as having a connection with the town although their close relations actually lived in it.

I have discovered a number of individuals who have not been honoured on the Amesbury War Memorial, perhaps left off for some of the reasons stated above, and I intend to include them in our publication.

I feel we owe it to all those young men who gave and who still give their lives in defence of our country to never forget them. I hope that the Amesbury Society's publication will, in a small way, go towards our debt of honour to them.

Bill Dunn

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### **It never used to be like this...!**

The Amesbury we 'enjoy' today is a totally different environment to that of yesteryear. We complain about the lack of 'really useful' shops, and await the coming deluge of supermarkets. In the midst of this, we can easily get to larger towns and beyond, and entertainment is to hand at the press of a button. All taken for granted.

A hundred or so years ago the town was much more self-reliant, the population of approximately 1200 having about 35 professions and trades available. Hence in the Deanery Magazine of June 1905 one would see an account as follows:

*"The Amesbury Glove Industry sent an exhibit to the Arts and Crafts Exhibition in Salisbury and obtained two certificates. Nineteen pairs were sold or ordered of ladies' and gentlemen's gloves. Mrs. Fawkes will be glad to receive orders at Amesbury Vicarage, and hopes to get more workers to do the sewing."*

Four hundred years ago, under the old manorial system, daily life was rather more regulated than today, as this account also from the Deanery Magazine suggests...

*"Probably few Amesbury people have read, or even heard of, the old customs of the Manors of Amesbury: Earls and Priors. They were in use in 1635, as they probably had been for many generations before that time.*

1. *Lands have been letten for 3 lives--the wife of any life to have an estate for the term of her life, as well if she marry as if she marry not.*
3. *If any customary Tenant die . . . within the year before Michaelmas the executors shall enjoy the tenement till Michaelmas; but if he die after harvest, and hath sown any wheat before Michaelmas the executors shall have the corn sown, paying the Michaelmas rent, and yielding such satisfaction to the Lord of the Manor, or the next taker, as shall be adjudged by the Homage.*
6. *If any customary Tenant do cut down any timber tree warrantable he forfeiteth his estate; and if he cut another tree he is fineable to the Lord.*
7. *The customary land may be let for a year; if it be let for more than one year without a license it is a forfeiture of the estate.*
8. *If any customary tenant be attainted for life for felony or treason, or outlawed for the same, his wife shall have the widows estate.*
9. *This fixes the Heriot <sup>1</sup> for a tenement, or a Yard-land <sup>2</sup> or more, at the best beast good of cattle: for a close at 1 bushels of oats,*
10. *If any Tenant do let fall negligently any house or housing he shall forfeit his estate.*
15. *Any customary Tenant may not sue another out of his Lord's court without the debt exceeds 10s.*
16. *No customary Tenant may dwell from his living more than one year and one day without license.*

*1 Fine payable at a Tenant's decease.*

*2 A Yard-land was 30 acres of arable."*