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New Additions



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# HERITAGE PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the March 2020 Heritage Project Newsletter. It's been a while since we were last in touch but work has been continuing on the project over the winter months. However, we think that it's worth taking a moment to remember two true Bluntisham "boys" who have sadly passed away this winter. David Godfrey and Eric Wallis.

The photograph below, taken in the 1940s, is of a young David Godfrey driving his tractor through the plum orchards on the family farm, on Bluntisham Heath. He was an arable farmer with a large pig herd.

David William Beldam Godfrey was born in Bluntisham in 1926 and lived in the village all his life, apart from being sent away to school and the army, at the end of the war. David was a Parish Councillor & Feoffee, looked after the village barograph for many years, and was a contributor and supporter of our Heritage Project. There is an interesting article called "The Boys from Bluntisham" on the website, which tells of his early school days. He was a



magistrate, member of St Ives Rotary Club & supported the local Royal British Legion, during his adult life. He was the Rotary Club quiz master in the White Swan when it won first prize in the District wide pub quiz competition.

Eric Wallis died in December 2019 at the age of 88. His Heath Fruit Farm at the top of Wood End, nearest the water towers is still a thriving concern. His family planted the orchard in 1919 and his name will live on in the Wallis Wonder plum and the Perfection apple. Mr Wallis's Grandfather started the family fruit business on the site of where Budgens is now and acquired

the land where the orchard sits in 1919. The orchard covers roughly 60 acres and boasts over 8000 fruit trees.

Mr Wallis was born in Cornwall where he helped his mum make clotted cream and his dad milk the cows. The family moved to Bluntisham to help his Grandfather with the fruit farm and never left. The family took regular holidays back to Cornwall in the Daimler. Eric learnt new skills on the farm and he continued putting these skills into good use until his later years. In the last 10 years he had help with running the fruit farm from Robert Bousfield and at this time a cherry orchard was planted.



The Heritage Project and the school - at the start of the project we were keen to work with the school on a project that linked the heritage of the village in a way that blended with their curriculum and with thanks to the Head Teacher Mrs Walker, class teacher Mrs Horrex and Tracey Davidson we have been able to work together. We are pleased to announce that the Bluntisham Heritage Project has been able to make a contribution to the project of £200 which will go towards a time capsule. Some of the topics and activities have included: village walks learning about the change of land use, different types of properties, flooding and we have a visit to the Old Day School planned for later this month to take a look at what facilities the village school had and to listen to a pupil who attended the school during this time. Thanks to Mrs Sue Everest for sharing her stories.

New contributions include more photographs of residents, many of them working in the orchards. Thank you to Nora Crick and Jane Godfrey for sharing these marvellous photos, please take time to explore in the residents and agriculture section on the website. We have also added articles from Bill Wade about the history of the Water Towers, the Military aviation, history of the area around us, and details of two local sites which were the scenes of tragic air crashes during the Second World War. We are, as ever, more than happy to add more photos and stories to the site, so again if you have anything that you would like to contribute please get in contact with us.

Looking ahead some of the things we have planned are: a village walk, a history of the parish council and the Feoffee's, the floods of 1947, a history of skating, the changing face of the village, the history of some roads and houses in the village and as it's the 75th anniversary of the end of World War 2 we will be looking to compile a history of how Bluntisham folks past and present have contributed to the Armed Forces over the years. If anyone has a particular area of interest that they would like to look in to you are more than welcome to get in contact. We will publish more details of these new topics going forward and will be arranging another open morning very soon.

Please let us know if you would like to contribute to the archive, please contact us via the website [www.bhp-pc.org.uk](http://www.bhp-pc.org.uk) or by phone on 07895 476682, or in person at 9 Bramley Grove, Bluntisham.