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Football
New Additions



BLUNTISHAM
HERITAGE
PROJECT
in partnership with
Bluntisham Parish Council

HERITAGE PROJECT SPRING NEWSLETTER



We have all been through a year like no other, the global pandemic lived up to its billing and changed all our lives in one way or another over the past 12 months. We last contacted you back in July, so we have been quiet since then in terms of communicating with you. However, this has not stopped the contributions from coming in to us, be that new photographs, articles and improvements to the website itself.

So, despite two lockdowns we have had contributions from various people and we are very grateful to them all. Some of the contributions that we have since July are listed below:

- Marian Land's impressive work on commemorating everyone from the village who was involved in the First World War, <https://www.bhp-pc.org.uk/bluntisham-cum-earith-war-memorial/>
- Wendy Cox and Helen Starling have shared more photos, have a look at the school and village life sections
- Ivan Gibbs has shared more lots of new photos, amongst them is our new favourite, the Prince of Wales Ladies Football team (above)
- David Gedye construction photos of Bluntisham Village Hall
- Liz and Mike Pinnock have recently provided us with a history of their home Bunyan Lodge
- Also the work that Melvyn Sibson is doing in sharing videos of events in the village on the you tube channel. These and more are all now on the site <https://www.bhp-pc.org.uk/videos/>

Thank you to everyone who has contributed, we now have over 1000 "exhibits" on the site, and we are always happy to add more, contact us at info@bhp-pc.org.uk

A fond Farewell – Sue Everest

When the heritage project was initially spoken about and then set up there was one member of the team who really helped get it off the ground and that person was Sue Everest. Tragically Sue passed away unexpectedly in 2020 and we miss her very much at the Heritage Project. She was a constant source of information, leads and suggestions. She would forever be contacting people and getting them to get in touch with the project and passing on information that they wanted to share. She herself, had lived in the village since the 1950's and appears in many of the photos of the village school under her maiden name Sue Ripley. Her passion for all things Bluntisham was very evident and was involved in many aspects of village life during her time here in Bluntisham. Her enthusiasm, knowledge and charm worked wonders for the Heritage project and her passing leaves a void that will be difficult to fill. She was a real gem and we miss her very much.



We would also like to mention Jerry Pingree and John Dench, both of whom were contributors to the project who passed away since our last newsletter. Both were big characters who had been involved in all things Bluntisham for many years. We are delighted that we are able to continue to share their contributions with the current and future folks of Bluntisham. Thank you to both Jerry and John and their families.

Reunited after 100 years – Mr. Duggins

Back in 2019 one of the first articles that we published on the website was about the Old Day School. Written and researched by Elaine Gebye it covered the history of the school from 1899 to 1905. The article covered many aspects of the School, its pupils and the teachers, including the head master Mr Duggins. Interestingly we were contacted after the article was published by Mr Duggins' great grandson who lives in Suffolk, he was very moved to have found the article and even paid a couple of visits to the village to visit his Gt Grandfather's old haunts.

In February of this year we received an email from a Carole Clark from Cambridge who had a photograph taken of a class at the Old School that was dated 1912. This postcard was one that she found in the family archives. She found the heritage site online and contacted us to offer to share the photo on the site.

The photo on the postcard sent by the Landlord of the White Swan Frank Munns to his sister Annie on her birthday in 1912. It shows the children and a male teacher. One of the children in the photo is Violet, Frank's daughter.



Elaine studied the content of the photo & knowing that he was still at the school in 1912, concluded that the man in the photo was Mr Duggins. Elaine contacted his Great Grandson and shared the photo with him, and that she suspected it was his relation. This was the first photograph that he had ever seen of his Gt Grandfather and admitted to shedding a tear and was able to show his 93 year old mother, who confirmed the likeness between our Mr Duggins and her own late husband. We were delighted to put all parties in contact with one another. A great example of the value that the site provides wherever you are and whatever the circumstances!