

**Programme of Meetings**

March 20 <sup>th</sup>	<i>New date!</i> President's Lecture: "Restoration of the Round Tower at Windsor Castle" by Kim Candler
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	"Winchester Prison" by Mark Watts
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Extra QUIZ NIGHT Extra</i>
April 24 <sup>th</sup>	"Refugees in England" by John Richards
May 8 <sup>th</sup>	Afternoon with U3A, Venue TBA "Bishops, Sex and Money" by Tony Strafford
May 29 <sup>th</sup>	"Life & Times of Thomas Hardy" by Diana Goetz
June 26 <sup>th</sup>	"Evening Visit"

**Publications**

**The School**

Published to coincide with the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding and opening of King's Somborne CE School, by the Reverend Richard Dawes in October 1842, the book looks back over the last 25 years since the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, in 1992.

- See how the Sombornes and Ashley are enriched by the active participation of the school community in village events and activities.
- The implications, demands and challenges of introducing and implementing the National Curriculum.
- Discover how the educational values and aspirations of the Reverend Richard Dawes are being exemplified in a 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium Primary School.

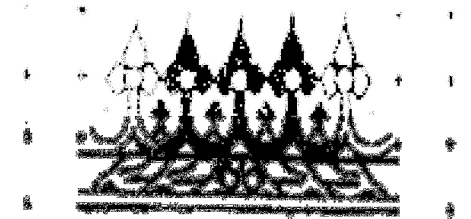
Price £5.00 (+1.50pp)

**Richard Dawes: Education pioneer and Dean of Hereford – Family, Friends and Legacy.**  
**By Norman Denison**

*This book tells the story of Richard Dawes (1793-1867), his origins in the Dales of Yorkshire; his own schooling and further education, his wedding and the couple's arrival in the village where he opened the school. The details of his wife's early life, beginning in what is now Prince Edward Island, Canada and their subsequent life together in Hereford are included.*

Price £6.50 (+1.50pp)

**SOMBORNE**  
*and District Society*



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**DPA 2018 – GDPR Data Policy**

<p><b>What personal data we collect</b></p> <p>The Somborne &amp; District Society collects personal data from its members comprising name, address, email address and telephone number. Occasionally other personal data may be collected from sources such as attendance lists at events, documentation of personal achievement and publication awards, and records of sales including publications.</p> <p><b>What we will do with the data</b></p> <p>The Society will use this data to send members its quarterly Newsletter, and managing events and meetings. We may also use it to send you mailings relating to news.</p>	<p>We may also use your information for data analysis so that we can monitor membership numbers and location. We do not share your data with other organisations.</p> <p><b>How we will store the data</b></p> <p>The Society will store your data on a database held by our membership secretary and used in accordance with the Society's data protection policy.</p> <p><b>Historical Data</b></p> <p>The Society may also hold historical data for its historical research purposes.</p>
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**Society Publications**

<b>New! The Ongoing Legacy of a School Founder and Education Innovator</b> by Josephine Finch	£5.00
Richard Dawes: Education pioneer and Dean of Hereford – Family, Friends and Legacy. By Norman Denison 2017	£6.50
Celebrating Somborne Hardback Edited by Paul Marchant <i>A History of King's Somborne</i> Paul Marchant (Ed) 1989	£6.00
The History of Ashley Village Kate Gilbert 1992	£4.00
<b>Booklets</b>	
Seven Walks Around <i>The Countryside</i> of King's Somborne Joy Hunt, Steve Rake and George Upton	£4.00
Two Walks Around <i>the Village</i> of King's Somborne Keith Chapman and Gordon Pearson	£1.50
Somborne Remembers, World War I (1914-2014) Mary Pollock and Norman Denison	£4.50
The History of The Crown Inn ( <i>new Revised 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition</i> ) Gordon Pearson	£4.50
The Folks Who Lived on The Hill (The Johnson family of Marsh Court) Mary Pollock	£2.00
Pigskin and Silk (The Story of the Stockbridge Races) Mary Pollock	£4.00
The 6 <sup>th</sup> Bell and Other Stories – Somborne Memories Mary Pollock (Ed)	£3.50

**Electronic Media.**

The Parish Records of King's Somborne CDRoms Baptisms, Burials & Marriages 1700 – 1971	£6.00 each or Online
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**Low Stock - Loan Copies available**

Illustrating Somborne <i>A photographic history</i> (1992)	A History of Little Somborne
<i>A History of Up Somborne and Rookley.</i> Gordon Pearson (2016)	King's Somborne Farmers' Club
A Year in the Life of Somborne DVD filmed by Bill Sutton	The Founding of King's Somborne Working Men's Club

## The Ancient Order of Foresters

## Chairman's Letter

I notice

The society would like to thank Sue Martin from the Corner Stores who has kindly donated a Forester's sash to our archive.

The Ancient Order of Foresters is a nation-wide friendly society which was founded in 1790 by John Smithson, a Quaker. The Foresters operated through a large number of local branches known as Courts. The King's Somborne branch was known as Court John of Gaunt and numbered 6918.

In return for a regular weekly payment, working class residents could make a financial claim to seek medical advice, obtain medicine and receive a small sum if unable to work due to sickness.

Weekly meetings were held in the Long Room (now demolished) alongside the Crown Inn and the court conducted its business in a highly ceremonial fashion. There was an annual parade around the parish with the Brothers in full regalia and members wearing their sash. Each branch had its own design and they were highly coloured in woven fabric, embroidered and decorated with large brass motifs. The parade was headed by the village band followed by the Worthy Chief who carried a banner embroidered with the slogan "I was sick and ye visited me".

State benefits and the National Health Service has largely replaced the need for friendly societies but 190 courts remain.

For further information see "Up Somborne and Rookley" which I published in 2016. The sash will be put on display at one of our meetings.

David St.John

Gordon Pearson

Editorial

David Pennington

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Cover Picture: The aftermath of the Fire, see page 5

Gifts of tobacco and cigarettes were often sent to the troops: The fathers of children in the school who were serving were not forgotten. Every month, two parcels to **Prisoners of War** were dispatched from the village. Sometimes, the parcels contained small bunches of lavender culled from village gardens. A donation of money enabled the girls to sew about sixty sandbags.

When the **War Savings Scheme** was introduced in January 1917, there were 215 members: within a year they purchased £750 of Savings Certificates.

The school normally closed for the day for the annual Sunday School outing, but on the 4th July, 1918, attendance was very poor. The reason lay in Stockbridge where the men of the American Air force were celebrating Independence Day.

Much of the material for this article was found in the school log books, but the books contain no mention of the various efforts of children to help. These must have been recorded in some other book, which sadly has not survived. Thankfully, the various activities by the children were recorded by our village correspondent, who thought the children of King’s Somborne had played a magnificent part in the war effort.

I think we would all agree.

Mary Pollock

life at the school, it would appear that the adults were backing and supporting the efforts made by the children. Mr. Cooper inspired the children to help with the war effort. There was evidence of much fund raising in aid of a considerable number of good causes.

Sadly, one suggestion from the Mr. Cooper did not succeed so well. He suggested to the girls that part of the school playground could be dug up. He would personally pay for seeds so that they could grow badly needed vegetables, but the soil proved poor and the results were disappointing, although they managed to raise 11/9d by selling **marrows**. A number of years ago when archaeologists were examining part of the playground they concluded that at one time the playground had been formed by using clinker from the school stoves. This might be one explanation for the poor soil.

Every Wednesday, the children went round the village **collecting eggs** donated by those villagers who kept hens. Very often, the children wrote their names on the eggs, or added a Good Luck message, before Mr. Cooper took the eggs to a collection point in Romsey. From there the eggs went to France. When I have told people about these egg collections they have tended to exclaim "But weren't the eggs bad by the time they reached France?" Apparently not as the scheme worked throughout the war years. Here is part of a letter written by a local man, *Bert Baker*, who served with the R.A.M.C.

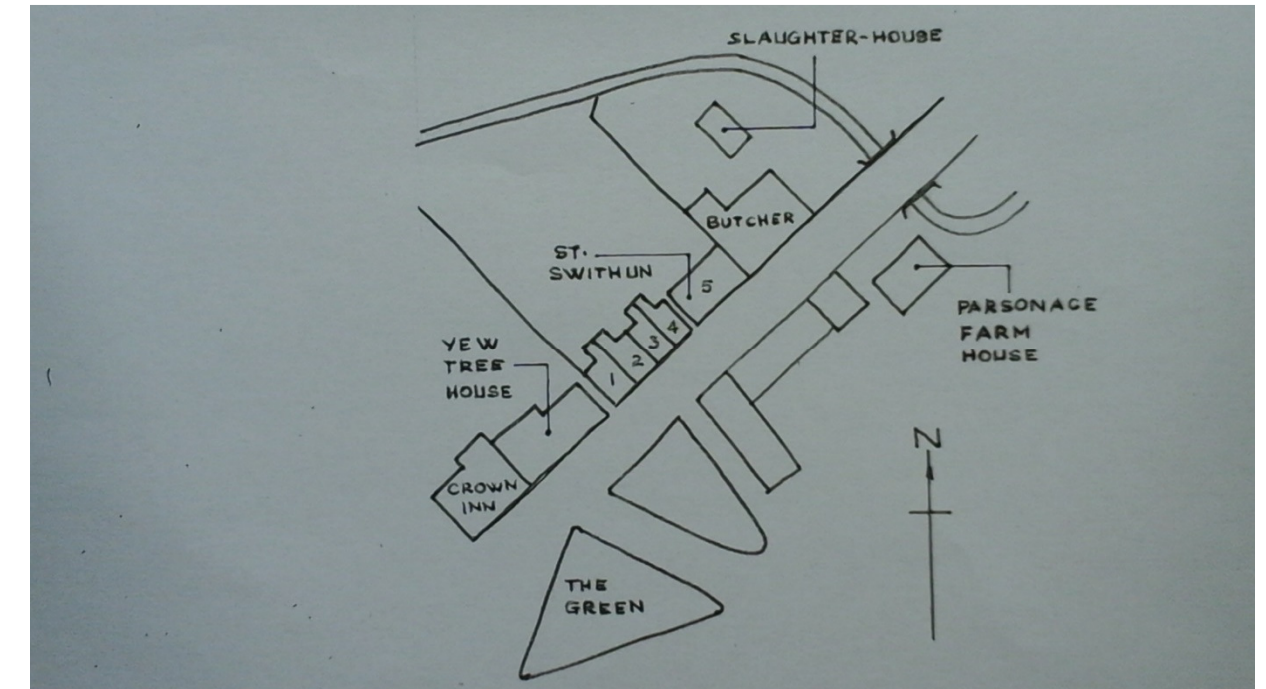
The letter is to his parents who lived in Romsey Road. '*...I was rather surprised the other day on going to the stores to get some eggs for the officers, to find King's Somborne School written on them. Some had names such as **Richardson, Howard, Newell, Woods**. It was rather strange that they should have been brought on the train that I was on. All the wounded had some for tea, and thoroughly enjoyed them, so you can tell the children that the wounded had them just after they left the trenches.*' By the end of war, thousands of eggs were sent this way.

Sometimes the wounded wrote back to the children and little **Mabel Browning** sent flowers and cigarettes to a soldier in Wandsworth Hospital who had written to thank her for an egg with her name on it.

The enterprising Mr. Cooper begged the use of a shop window from **Mr. Mayfield** who ran the Cross Stores, to arrange an exhibition of horse comforts and veterinary prerequisites for all the children who sent money for injured horses. In fact they raised money for an amazing number of good causes, such as on a Saturday in June, 1917, when they were out on the streets all day selling flags in aid of the Y.M.C.A. Hut Fund. Some of the flag sellers were very young.

## King's Somborne Butcher's Shop Fire: 1933

For some years, Charles Marsh and his second wife Ina ran the village butcher's shop which once stood alongside the stream opposite Parsonage Farm House in Romsey Road. Numbers 6 and 7 Crown Cottages now stand on the site.



They lived there with their three daughters named Betty, Gloria and Eva and sold only top quality meat. Orders were delivered by young Patrick McConnell on his bicycle. He was known as 'Barney' and lived with the Marsh family but never really felt part of it. Feeling unhappy, he divulged his feelings to his school-friends who advised him to run away from home, which he did.

Around mid-day on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> February 1933 smoke was seen coming out of the chimney of Mr Marsh's shop. It soon started bellowing out at high speed and there was a danger that the thatched roof would catch fire. Police Constable Wykes lived in the adjoining property next door (now known as St Swithun-No.5) and called the Romsey Fire Brigade who arrived promptly with Second Officer H J Ely in charge. Inspector Marshall and P.C. Curtis of Stockbridge Police attended as well as another constable from Awbridge. Early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the village had its own hand-drawn fire cart which was kept by Mr Osborne at what is now the Old Exchange in Romsey Road but by 1933 it was probably no longer operational.

The thatch was soon alight and the fire spread quickly to engulf the whole of the upper floor. Regrettably, water was not easily available as the stream alongside was dry, despite February normally being our wettest month of the year. Villagers had assembled at the scene and were helping to empty the ground floor of its movable property.

The fire brigade attempted to confine the fire within the thatched shop but eventually smoke started to filter through the slates of the attached police house and station next door (St Swithun) and burst into flames. Villagers therefore started to empty movable property from P.C. Wykes's house and office but were driven back by thick smoke. Second Officer Ely said that he was concerned that the entire terrace of the four dwellings alongside (numbers 1-4 Crown Cottages) could go up in flames as the narrow passage between cottage No.4 and St Swithuns was barely adequate to prevent this from happening.



At 3.00 p.m., Second Officer Ely announced that the fire was under control but the wind speed had increased and it was blowing the sparks into the end of cottage No.4 where Syd West was ready to evacuate the property. The other occupants of the terrace, Messrs Charlie Reeves, P Smith and Ernest Pitman must have been extremely worried and probably the occupants of Yew Tree House and the Crown Inn also (Mrs Weston and Mrs Fish respectively) as their properties were thatched.

the children, and his joy when a **supply teacher** came and stayed for a reasonable length of time, is very evident.

The school itself was not as clean as he would have wished, and when he tried to rectify this, the **school cleaner** went on strike!

He often reported that some of the children had dirty scalps and were **verminous** - this sometimes meant that the child had to be excluded. During the summer of 1915, the children were beset by all the childhood illnesses - measles, whooping cough, chickenpox and mumps. Attendance was extremely poor so it was surprising a further outbreak of measles occurred during the following spring. This time the outbreak was so severe that **Dr. Loveless** insisted that the school be closed. By December, perhaps not surprisingly, Mr. Cooper was faced by staff sickness.

Two boys named **Perry**, who lived at **New Buildings**, developed Scarlet Fever, and children who had been contact with them were immediately excluded until all danger of infection had passed.

Happily, Mr. Cooper retained his enthusiasm for the Montessori System and he eventually introduced it in the school. He was granted permission to lecture on the subject to students at the **Hartley University**. (now the University of Southampton.). Students from Salisbury and teachers from other schools paid visits to see the method in action.

Remembering his worries about maintaining educational standards through all the various difficulties, it must have been a joy to him when **E.M.K. Davies** gained a scholarship from Hampshire Council to train as a pupil teacher. He/she had to attend King's Somborne school on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and attend Andover Pupil Teacher Centre on Tuesday, Thursdays and Saturdays.

In 1915, the government announced that older boys would be allowed to take leave to help with **agricultural duties**, such as strawberry picking, hay making and sheep minding. This absence was official, the only condition being that if a boy was under fourteen years of age, his name must continue on the school roll. The log book records one likely lad who "**swung the lead**" in order to avoid school!

Whilst researching life in the village during these war years, I was extremely puzzled because while other villages were busy raising money for various war causes, Somborne appeared to host very few **fund raising** events, but after investigating

Now Where is that - Answers

A Yew Tree Cottage Romsey Rd

B KSWMC, the Cross

C Vicarage Stable from the Cross

D The School's Yurt

E The Trim Trail

F The Triangle, Stockbridge Rd.

G Brook House, Old Vicarage Lane

H Vicarage Chimney

I Vicarage Stable from the House

J Martin Stores, Thatch

K Romsey Road

...

Norman Denison

**KING'S SOMBORNE PRIMARY SCHOOL 1914 - 1918**

School opened for the Autumn Term of 1914, with 175 children of all ages on the roll. The headmaster was Mr. **H.J. Cooper**, he was young, enthusiastic and hard working having been appointed to the school in October, 1910. He was very interested by the **Montessori** Method of teaching, and was eagerly hoping to introduce the system in the village school. When the school day was over, he was a Parish Councillor and very active in the village.

At the beginning of this new school year he little realised what lay ahead of him.

His trials, anxieties, and concerns are recorded in the school Log Books. One of his biggest worries was staff shortages, and the difficulty of obtaining Supply Teachers. Some came, taught for a day and then disappeared. Others promised to come. but never appeared. Consequently, he was worried about the effects on

Fortunately, the fire brigade found a little water nearby for use at cottage No.4 which was the most threatened. This allowed the fire-fighters to "Judiciously dislodge the roof rafters as they were partially burned through" which prevented the flames from spreading.

As Mr and Mrs Marsh were left homeless, they applied for the tenancy of a council house in Austin's Cross when one became vacant. A Mr Milbury also applied. He was a newly-married postman who had recently arrived in the village but as he was living in lodgings and therefore had accommodation, the Marsh family was awarded the tenancy. Fortunately, Mr Marsh was still able to continue his trade in the village by renting an empty shop in Old Vicarage Lane and he and his family were still living in the village in 1945.



In due course the ruins of the butcher's shop and its slaughterhouse at the back were taken down and new houses, now numbered 6 and 7, were built on the site. The police house and station were repaired and named St Swithun part of which later became the Midland Bank which closed in 1995.

**Notes:**

1: If a fire fighting unit existed in King's Somborne in 1933, it would have been a loosely organised group of volunteers. Such a group had been formed in Romsey in 1881 and in Stockbridge in 1897, either of which could have been called to the fire. In 1938, the Romsey & Stockbridge Rural District Council took over the fire-fighting responsibility from the local groups and ran them until 1941 when wartime measures dictated that a national organisation was needed. This lasted until

1948 when it was split up and transferred to each County Council where it remained until 1997. Today, it is an independent organisation.

2: Patrick "Barney" McConnell later moved to Mostyn in Flintshire. He visited King's Somborne circa 2002/3 and called to see the late Joan Brown who noted his visit in the Gauntlet.

### Bibliography

Discussion with the late Joan Brown: 20<sup>th</sup> February 2004  
 David Rymill: Hampshire Records' Office: 25<sup>th</sup> February 2003  
 Hampshire Chronicle: 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1933  
 Andover Advertiser: 9<sup>th</sup> March 1933  
 Romsey Advertiser: 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1933  
 King's Somborne electoral register: 1945  
 Photographs from the society's collection  
 Ordnance Survey map 1909

Gordon Pearson

## Lady Rachel

As some of you know, Sarah and I have a 1928 Austin 7. In this we partake in Light Car section events as part of the VSCC. These are called Rallies, but rather than parking up in a field at a country show, these are typically run as Navigation or Regularity events. In these a set of cryptic clues are used to plot a route on the 1:50000 OS map. Grid references, spot heights and map features are used to define the correct route. The setters use "tricks" to catch out the unwary and the shortest correct route is the one to follow. The route typically uses back roads, only once, and the organisers like to include a few fords along the way. The event is almost like a modern steeple chase.



Racing on the road is of course illegal, so the event is run a legal regularity event, where a low average speed should be maintained, less than 20mph, possibly as low as 12mph. The organisers check that the correct route is followed placing route boards along the route, and by installing control points where the time (and hence speed) is monitored. Penalty points are award for missing the route boards or arriving at the controls early or late.

## William Briwere and The Manor of King's Somborne

In July 1903, our vicar, the Revd J H D Creighton wrote a short article in the parish magazine to inform parishioners of the history of the village. The text is republished below with minor adjustments to improve clarity and with my comments in italics, both to bring it up to date in the light of recent research and to give additional information.

"Somborne was one of the demesnes (*estates*) which passed into the possession of Harold upon the death of King Edward, *The Confessor, in 1066* and no doubt it furnished men for the English Army at the Battle of Hastings. In the sanctuary of the parish church is a worn monumental effigy of William Briwere who was a noted man in the reign of Richard 1 (AD 1189). Briwere (*Brewer*) was one of the most trusted councillors of King Richard 1 and he was one of the commissioners sent by the King in 1193 to make peace with the King of France. A fair, which has long since passed into oblivion, was granted to Briwere to be held in his manor at King's Somborne at a place called Strete. This place was situated on the Roman Road near the ford over the River Test, and this fair was an attempt to establish an annual market at a convenient place where local roads crossed the old Roman Road.

*Following research undertaken by Norman Sim (?) in 1922, "Strete" was a tithing (i.e. an outlying hamlet) within the manor of King's Somborne in the 16<sup>th</sup> century but later, it became part of the manor of Stockbridge. Furthermore, we now know that the effigy is of William de Brestowe (William of Bristol) who was our vicar 1305 to 1327.*

At the beginning of the reign of King John in 1199, an Augustinian Priory arose at Mottisfont through the benevolence of Briwere who was the chief Hampshire baron at that time. He was made a sheriff of the county in 1207 and lived *in the manor house* at King's Somborne. He had a brother who lived as a hermit in the neighbourhood and who became popularly known as "the holy man in the wall". *This may be a reference to the hermit's cell in the parish church of All Saints at Little Somborne. The dates certainly coincide.*

Gordon Pearson

## Somborne & District Society

promised- the cost was £250 or a down payment of £62 10/-. And four quarterly payments of £50. Mr. **C.B. Morgan** of Tanners Farm bought one of these early models either in 1918, or shortly after. Its arrival must have given rise to a lot of interest and excitement.

After four long years of war the **Cessation of Hostilities** on 11<sup>th</sup> of November was greeted with relief. Peace was not formally agreed until later. In the cities there were great celebrations, but in the Sombornes, like most of the other Test Valley villages, the news was received quietly and with thanksgiving. Perhaps people in villages lived closer to one another, and felt celebrations were not in order, especially if you knew your neighbour was mourning the loss of someone dear to them.

Christmas must have been a much happier time, although to judge by advertisements in the paper, gifts were perhaps more utilitarian than before - umbrellas and monogrammed handkerchiefs. Turkeys, geese and chickens were available. Messrs. **Parson and Hart**, Drapers, Outfitters and House Furnishers, of Andover, announced that "in order to celebrate this Victory Christmas, we shall close our establishment on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and Saturday December 25<sup>th</sup>. The war was finally over, but a long period of adjustment was only just starting. Men were coming home, many wounded in body, mind or spirit. Many



women were reluctant to return to the kitchen sink, relinquishing their new freedom and the opportunity to earn. Even the horse, which for centuries had laboured in the fields, was in danger of being overtaken by the tractor. One thing was certain - nothing would ever be quite the same again

Mary Pollock

Part 1 (1914-1917) was in September 2018

## Newsletter 162

A couple of years ago at an event near Pershore, we did well, winning our class. It helped that I knew some of the roads from when I was a student working at RSRE Defford. At the annual event last Spring Sarah was present with a cup for our win.

This cup had been "re purposed" in the 1960 and has a list of winners of the Light Car Navigation event since then, a good list of members through the years. The other side of the cup shows that it originally was presented for the 1878 Rufford Hunt 3 mile steeplechase. The worn hallmark looks correct for this date.

For 12 years, starting in 1878 the Rufford Hunt held Point to Point style events near Bolsover at Owlcotes, Heath. The April 8<sup>th</sup> event was their first event here. The Cup is labelled "Lady Rachel", if this was the presenter or the name of the event, or the winning horse is not known.

Know doubt similar cups were awarded at Stockbridge Races.

David Pennington



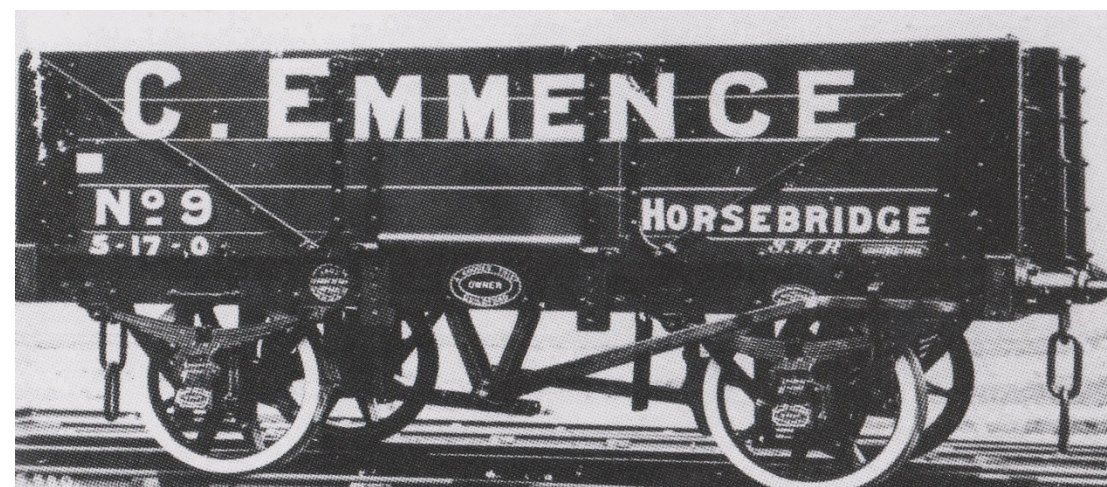
Ref: [www.richardsbygonetimes.co.uk](http://www.richardsbygonetimes.co.uk)

**From the Editor's post bag.**

A fine Lagonda outside Crown Hill Cottage



A Private Open Wagon, C.Emmence based at Horsebridge Station.



**KING'S SOMBORNE. 1914 – 1918 – Part 2**

*The village's "Home Front" during the First World War.*

Information about daily life in the village was gathered for the Exhibition held in the church in August, 2014. Much of the information was obtained by trawling through the pages of the Andover Advertiser and the Romsey Advertiser.

**1918**

In 1918 it was customary for tradesmen to give to their regular customers a small gift or a calendar at the Festive Season. The choice of Mr. **Charles Emmence**, Grocer, Baker, Mealman, and Provision Merchant, of the Stores, King's Somborne, was a truly, patriotic one. **King George V**, in full dress uniform, is surrounded by eminent statesmen such as President Wilson of the U.S.A., Albert, King of the Belgians, David Lloyd George and the King of Italy. Other notable figures included Admiral Sir David Beatty, Marshall Foch, Field Marshall Sir Douglas Haig and General Sir Edmund Allenby.

The war was at a critical stage: no one expected a speedy ending. As a result, people were depressed, exhausted, and war weary, and when later in the year **Spanish Flu** arrived in the country, resistance must have been very low. In the capital 400 victims died in one week in July. Matters were made worse by a shortage of doctors, so many of them busy at the Front. Also, money was short. A war widow with four children received £1.12d. Compare this with the fact that Coalman's Tailors of Andover were offering men's overcoats from 7/9d to 6 guineas.

Grocers in Andover were insisting that sugar cards must be presented - the Co-operative pointing out that their dividend was an added bonus for war widows but meat was unrationed until April. Jars of meat and fish paste were not rationed - small size 7d., large size 10d. **Food Kitchens** were opened where it was possible to buy a meal at reasonable cost. By August there were 623 Food Kitchens available.

On the credit side women suddenly had more spending power and considerably more freedom than ever before. Grave concern was voiced in certain quarters that moral standards were seriously in decline.

The **Fordson Tractor**. Model F appeared in America in 1917. With the entry of the U.S.A. into the war, a large consignment of tractors arrived in Britain to help with the food shortage. There is strong evidence that some of these tractors were unloaded at Horsebridge Station. According to the adverts, immediate delivery was