

## **Notes from the Parish Council Meeting held on**

**2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017**

**Youth Facilities.** The first part of the youth facilities are in place. The keep fit equipment , for which there was a queue to use, along with the shelter and additional goal post have been installed. We hope that they have many years of use and provide a meeting place to create memories and an opportunity to live a full healthy life. We will update when more is known for the installation of the zip wire.

**West Berkshire Community Champion,** If you know of a person who has made a contribution to West Berkshire then have you considered nominating them for an award ? There are several categories, Community Group of the Year, The Pat Eastop Junior Citizen of the year Award, Volunteer of the Year. And finally, The Lifetime Achievement Award.

Full details of the awards and method of nomination is available at [www.info.westberks.gov.uk](http://www.info.westberks.gov.uk) or by calling the **Community Champion Team on 01635-519083**

PLEASE BE AWARE THE CLOSING DATE IS 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017

**Thank you,** following on from the previous item we feel it is important to thank those who have worked , often quietly , without full recognition for the time, effort and energy into making the Parish what it is. From fun Scarecrow

competitions to social events that bring us together, even the act cutting of footpaths . Also, those who have served on the Parish Council , attempting to balance the wants and needs of the community whilst operating within a small budget.

We feel sure that the Parish as a whole would offer their sincere thanks to :- Mr Fred Brown, Mrs Lesley McEwen, Mr Philip Leijten , Mr Alex Cother and Mrs Antonia Jones.

Many of these individuals have, or are withdrawing from the works that they have done for the Parish in pursuit of their own dreams and we wish them every success in the future.

If you would like to join any of the groups that make a difference or would just like to become more involved in the Parish, to make friends if you are new to the Parish or have free time that you would like to fill then please look at [www.beenhamonline.org](http://www.beenhamonline.org) where you can find a full list of groups with contact details. There really are a wide range of activities to suit all.

**Planning.** Application for consideration **17/02548/CON2:** The Council has been informed that the application was a condition on a previous application and has already been approved.

**Additional correspondence 17/00351/FULD.** The Council have received a notice of an appeal against a decision by West Berkshire Council. Site address, Barn south of Butlers Farm, Beenham. Councillors to react individually if they desired, but generally , no objection.

## Lest We Forget

This series by Chris Curry commemorates the men of Beenham who gave their lives during The Great War. Each article is published both on the village website and with the Parish notes, in the same month as they died 100 years ago. St. Mary's church bells will be rung on the anniversary of each man's death. A copy of these biographies is held in The Six Bells.

### **HARRY MILLSON**

**Driver**

**Royal Horse Artillery and Royal Field Artillery**

**2nd/1st Bty (Berks) Royal Horse Artillery**

**Service No: 616378**

**Died: 14 November 1917. Killed in Action**

Harry Millson was born in Beenham in 1896 and baptised there on 1 March; his birth being registered in the first quarter at Bradfield. His name does not appear on the war memorial. Harry was the fourth of six sons born to Henry C. Millson and his wife Caroline. The 1901 census shows Harry living with his family in Rotten Row aged 6, together with siblings George Henry 10 (b1891), Charles William 9 (bp 3 Sep 1893), Albert 6 (bp 1 Mar 1896), James William 3 and Arthur 2 suggesting

that Harry and Albert might have been twins. At this time Harry's father 30 was a bricklayer, born in Standford Dingley, whilst his mother Caroline 29 was from Bucklebury. With the exception of James and Arthur, all of the children were born in Beenham. The extensive Millson family appear to be well established in the Bradfield area at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Ten year later in 1911, the family have moved to 1 Glen Cottages, Chapel Hill Tilehurst and Harry is working as a kiln labourer with his older brother George. Henry and Caroline have had three more children, Kathleen aged 7, Thomas 4 and Edward 4. By this time had been married for 19 years and had had 11 children, 2 of whom had died.

Harry enlisted in Reading with the Berkshire Royal Horse Artillery which was a Territorial battery formed in Berkshire in 1908. The second line battery, 2/1st Berkshire RHA, served on the Western Front in 1917 and 1918 as part of an Army Field Artillery Brigade. The Royal Horse Artillery was armed with light, mobile, horse-drawn guns that in theory provided firepower in support of the cavalry and in practice supplemented the Royal Field Artillery. The horse-drawn Royal Field Artillery was the most numerous arm of the artillery was responsible for the medium calibre guns and howitzers deployed close to the front line and was reasonably mobile. It was organised into brigades.

Berkshire RHA formed a 2nd line in 1914, initially designated as the Berkshire (Reserve) Battery RHA and later designated the 2/1st Berkshire Battery, RHA.

Some batteries of the division were quite unready for war. Three had no horses, the fourth had just 23; three batteries had over 200 men on average, but the other just 91. The Berkshire battery was only issued with sights for its 15 pounders in December 1915, but had no ammunition. On 17 January 1916 it received four slightly more modern Ordnance BLC 15-pounders, eight ammunition wagons and 210 rounds of ammunition per gun.

The 2/1st served in the UK up to 24 May 1917 when it went to France, disembarking at Boulogne and serving for the rest of the war in 158th Army Brigade RFA which had been formed at Heytesbury on 13 April 1917 and now equipped with 18 pounders.

Exactly how and where Harry was killed is not known but he is buried at Dochy Farm New British Cemetery, Belgium. Two weeks before Harry's death on 31 October the Brigade was in the Gravenstafel area, near Zonnebeke. Fighting in Ypres area was still intense and a note in the Brigade diary reports that ground conditions at Gravenstafel were simply appalling as they continued firing on the Passchendaele village area.

Harry was awarded the **British War Medal and Victory Medal**.

**Your Parish Councillors are :-**

**Your Parish Councillors are :-**

Graham Bowsher, Field Barn Farm

TEL: 07557 967 575

Peter Mc Ewen, The Vicarage, Picklepythe Lane.

TEL: 07717 718 608

Glynis Harman, The Six Bells.

TEL: 9713368

Jackie Johnson/ Southdowns, Church Lane.

TEL: 07922 068 646

Graham Bragg, Puffins, Picklepythe Lane.

TEL: 9713688

Tanya Bunce, 3 Bourne Cottages.

TEL: 07962 985 592

Sadie Jones, 5 Shire Cottages.

TEL: 07734 314 902

**Parish Clerk** Lucy Rumens, 46 Maple Crescent, Newbury

TEL: 01635 45487

Next Meeting will be on Monday 6<sup>TH</sup> November 2017 , 7pm  
at the Community Room( Next to Beenham Primary School)  
Beenham