



1966- 2016

Alresford Historical & Literary Society



**Newsletter June 2018**

## **WW1 Horse Remount Service**

**with Phoebe Merrick**

**of Romsey History Society**

**Wed 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

7:30 Methodist church Jacklyns Lane, Alresford. Visitors Welcome: £3:00 at the door.

### **Synopsis**

Horses were still a major means of transport in the First World War. This talk discusses how the horses were obtained and trained for service in France, using a Remount Depot in Romsey as a case study of the work involved – the horses, the men, the camp. Eight million horses and countless mules and donkeys died in the First World War. When war began in 1914 the British army possessed a mere 25,000.

Phoebe discovered the joys of local history when a student at King Alfred College, and has been studying the history of Romsey and its district ever since. For many years she has been chairman of the Romsey Local History Society and has written and talked extensively on local history matters.

### **Winchester College 18<sup>th</sup> July**

Members are invited to register their interest for a guided visit to the Winchester College Treasury.

We meet at the Porters Lodge at 2 PM.

Please let Trisha Ferris know if you would like to come. Tel 01962 732054 or email her on [ferrist@btinternet.com](mailto:ferrist@btinternet.com)



**Newsletter.** Latest copy date for the July issue is June 29<sup>th</sup> 2018

Please send Copy to Robert Fowler 01962 734125 email to: [secretary@alresfordhistanlit.co.uk](mailto:secretary@alresfordhistanlit.co.uk)

## Review of Roy Weller's talk

### 'Pestilence, Penitence and Putrefaction: a History of Medicine in Winchester'

Roy Weller expertly surveyed Western medicine from the Ancient Greeks to the present day, highlighting landmarks in Winchester's medical history.

The ideas of Hippocrates and Galen (a second century Roman) remained influential until the middle of the 19th century.

Until then surgeons lacked such modern essentials as effective anaesthetics, antiseptics and sterilisation. In their absence operations such as Samuel Pepys's now famous 'cut' for a kidney stone in 1658 were agonising and dangerous.

In Winchester the Church played a leading role in community health. Its several hospitals included St Cross and a leper hospital on Morn Hill, while until the Reformation, St Swithun's healing powers brought thousands to his shrine in the Cathedral.

The Black Death (1348), the worst of repeated plagues, almost halved the population and led William of Wykeham to establish Winchester College and New College Oxford to replenish the depleted priesthood. The plague continued to afflict Winchester as late as 1666.

In the following centuries it was realised that the city's low-lying streets and with adjacent rivers harboured disease and needed draining. Florence Nightingale, famous for innovating hygiene in military hospitals, therefore recommended that Winchester's county hospital be moved from Parchment Street to its present hilly location.

Draining the city helped to undermine the Cathedral's foundations, which were restored by William Walker, Winchester's heroic diver.

Jane Austen died in Winchester from an unidentified disease. Her interment in the Cathedral followed customary practice but cathedral burials were abandoned for health reasons in 1865.

Today we benefit from increased life expectancy, antibiotics and advances in genetics and molecular biology but new challenges such as dementia confront us. BT

## Executive Committee to April 2018

Chair: Glenn Gilbertson	732726
Secretary & Membership: Robert Fowler	734125
Treasurer: Vic Prior	733380
Newsletter Editor: Robert Fowler	734125
Speakers Secretary:	Vacant
Hall Steward- Andrea Sutton	736584

### Other Committee Members:

Brian Davies/ Nancy Webb/Brian Tippett

## Recommended Reading.



"The Girls who went to War"

By Duncan Barrett & Nuala Calvi

One of the 'Girls' was Margery Harley a Member of our Society.

Recommended by Brian Davis

## Alresford Articles & Publications;

**We still have a small number of our latest Publication: Alresford Articles number 7. Priced at £5 with a discount to £4 for members.**

**These will be available at the entry desk on the 20<sup>th</sup> June**

**Not Just a Name:** This unique reference book of Alresford and District's war dead is now available again. Please contact Glenn Gilbertson [glenngilbertson@btinternet.com](mailto:glenngilbertson@btinternet.com)

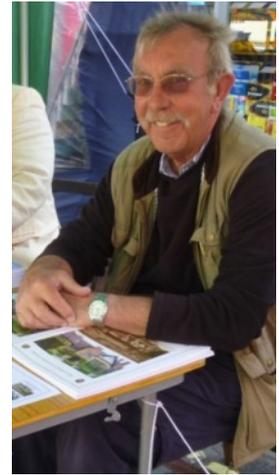
## Brian John Rothwell 1949 – 2018



Young Brian



Brian & Sue



Selling Alresford Articles

Born in Luton, Brian was a leadership consultant, author, researcher and enthusiastic sportsman. He will be well-remembered by all who knew him, and our Society will be the poorer without his great work on the committee and the editorial team of *Alresford Articles*.

At school and university he was a skilled rugby player and excellent wicket keeper – for years he continued to play cricket to a high standard and in later life he followed the England Cricket Team on many trips abroad.

He first graduated from the London School of Economics, where he met his soul mate Sue Harris, the happy couple marrying in 1972 and parenting a son and a daughter. The children cherish their memories of an energetic childhood full of sport and encouragement to try new things, moving from Sittingbourne to the Wirral then Chandlers Ford before settling in Alresford. They report that their parents' bond was so strong that Sue was unworried by Brian's inability to dance or buy her a present that was in the least bit romantic!

A career in insurance was followed by setting up his own business consultancy running well-regarded leadership courses, writing his first three books, *The X & Y of Leadership*, *Leadership 101* and *Serving to Lead*. His work took him to London, Europe, the USA and Russia.

Retirement allowed Brian to pursue his love of history, graduating from Winchester University in 2011 with an MA in Historical Studies and in 2015 as a Doctor of Philosophy for his thesis on the 1883 Municipal Corporations Act. Arguably he had become the country's expert on Town Trusts. Sadly, ill health cut short a potential new interest as a lecturer at Winchester University.

Brian was a diligent researcher who wrote prolifically for the series *Alresford Articles* and was a valued member of the editorial board. With his wife Sue he wrote *The Streams of the Itchen*; this covered the river from source to Alresford and was published by our society. Tragically, Sue passed away in 2013 just before the book could be published but her pictures secure her memory. Brian had finished writing a second volume covering the next section, and it is hoped that it will be published.

Now re-united with his beloved Sue, Brian is survived by his children Steve and Jen, and three grandchildren with another due soon.

Glenn Gilbertson May 2018