

# *The Extraordinary and the Everyday*

## A Year in the Life of a Rural Community, 1914-5



*Members of the Warwickshire Yeomanry Leaving Stratford, August 1914*



*William Winthorpe Watts, grandfather of current Avon Dassett resident (and member of the Local History Group), Reg Watts, enlisted in January 1915. Follow the blog to find out his story and those of other Avon Dassett residents during World War I.*

### **Avon Dassett Local History Group Secure Funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund**

Following the success of their village history, *A Chronicle of Avon Dassett*, the local history group started work on a new venture. The idea of group stalwart, Mike Lewis, the project is based on a blog of daily events in the village during 1914-5. Group conveners, Jill Burgess and Sarah Richardson, applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund for £3000 to fund the new project. In April the group found out that the grant application had been successful and immediately started discussions with Stratford District Council to develop a new-look village website to host the blog, as well as starting research into the ordinary and not so ordinary events in Avon Dassett at the start of the war. The website and blog will be launched at the beginning of August 2014, exactly 100 years after Great Britain entered the war with Germany.

The history project will take the form of a diary in real time showing the impact of the war on the life of the village alongside newsworthy items about the progress of the war and information about the men of Avon Dassett who were involved in the conflict on the front line.

Villagers will have the ability to comment on the blog, share family stories and add documents and pictures if they wish.

**Follow events on our blog: [ww1.avondassett.com](http://ww1.avondassett.com)**



## AVON DASSETT VILLAGE WEBSITE

HOW IT ALL STARTED

In 2007, Stratford District Council invited parishes throughout the district to apply for an Awards for All grant to create their own village website. Avon Dasset was one of the first villages to secure the £5000 funding and we launched the website at the Parish Plan Feedback event in the Reading Room in October 2008. During the six years the website has been active it has regularly been used as an example of best practice and has been showcased by Stratford District Council for their Beacon Award for digital inclusion. The website is run by volunteers from the village.

### WWW.AVONDASSETT.COM

The new village website will be launched alongside the local history project at the beginning of August. Along with information on clubs and groups, planning and the parish council, there will be an option to subscribe to the events calendar to get regular updates and reminders. All material from the existing site has been migrated to the new website and users will automatically be redirected.



## AVON DASSETT LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

We are a small group interested in the history of our village. As well as regular research project we also mount displays for occasions such as the Dasset Country Show, the Heritage day at St John the Baptist Church and the Parish History Network organised by Warwick University. Everyone is welcome to join us to help with research. No previous experience is necessary just an interest in the village's past events and people. For more information contact Sarah (drsarahrichardson@gmail.com) or Jill (jillburgess09@gmail.com)

### THE EXTRAORDINARY AND THE EVERYDAY: A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF A RURAL VILLAGE 1914-5

LAUNCH EVENT. AUGUST 3<sup>RD</sup> 2014

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, 2-4 PM

Please drop in for an informal chat and refreshments to learn more about the new local history project. As the lights went out all over Europe, how did Avon Dasset respond? What happened to the Avon Dasset lads who enlisted in the first year of the war? Follow events by subscribing to our blog at [ww1.avondasset.com](http://ww1.avondasset.com). We would love to learn about your own family's experience of the war too.

