

# The Extraordinary and the Everyday

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



*This project is dedicated to the memory of the men and women of Avon Dassett who fought and endured the hardships of war at home and in battle and to the three village men whose final resting place is 'some corner of a foreign field'.*

Newsletter No. 9 September 2015  
End of Project

### End of Project Exhibition at the Dassett Country Fair

The completion of the project was celebrated with an exhibition at the Dassett Country Fair on 1<sup>st</sup> August. The displays provided information on 12 of the 31 men who enlisted and details of village life on the Home Front. There was also material from current villagers commemorating their relatives who fought in the war. The exhibition attracted many visitors including current members of the army reserves.



The project officially ended on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2015 and no further content will be added. However, the blog will still be accessible on the project website: [ww1.avondassett.com](http://ww1.avondassett.com). Over the course of the year, the blog has published nearly 500 separate entries and had thousands of visitors. It has attracted attention from the US, Australia, Belgium and France as well as from the UK. **Avon Dassett Local History Group** would like to thank residents for their support and interest throughout the project and particularly the following people for contributing their family stories to the newsletters: **Reg Watts, Steve Mullane, Tony Nixon, Sue Harris, Jill Burgess** and **Audrey Butler**. The project researchers were: **Margaret Maughan, Mike Lewis, Sarah Richardson** and **Jill Burgess**. The project was made possible with grants from The Heritage Lottery Fund, Dassett Country Show and Avon Dassett Parish Council and the support and expertise of Sam Hamilton, Stratford District Council.



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



## AVON DASSETT ROLL OF HONOUR

The list below was found at the beginning of the new minute book for the Parish Council of Avon Dassett commencing 11<sup>th</sup> April 1916.

### ROLL OF HONOUR

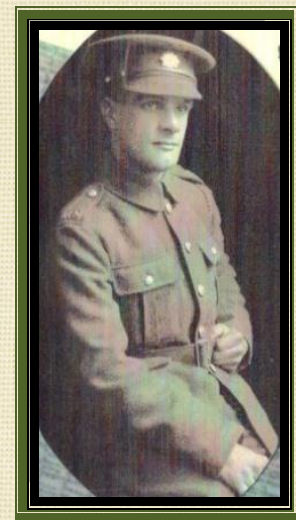
Natives of the village who served in The Great European War

BURNHAM  
 BURNHAM  
 COOPER, ALBERT (killed)  
 COOPER, AUSTIN  
 COOPER, THOS. Sergeant RMC  
 COOPER, ARTHUR M Medal  
 COOPER, WALTER  
 BLOXHAM, ALBERT  
 BLOXHAN, ERNEST (killed)  
 MASON, WALTER  
 GOLDER, CLARENCE  
 GOLDER, HARRY  
 GOLDER, SYDNEY ASC  
 CHECKLEY, BERNARD RFA  
 CHECKLEY, HARRY RVC  
 MASON, JOSEPH Lieut RGA  
 WRIGHT, JACK  
 WYTON, HARRY RVC  
 PIKE RVC  
 SPIKE, PERCY RSC  
 SPIKE, LEWIS  
 WELD, THOS. JOSEPH MC & Bar Capt. Lovat Scouts (killed)  
 INGE REVD NEVILLE  
 HERBERT, HUBERT AMC  
 SEALEY, HENRY AMC  
 WATERS, CHARLES (wounded)  
 STRANKS, G H RE  
 WATTS, WILLIAM W



## OUR FINAL SOLDIER

Throughout this project, current residents of Avon Dassett have shared information about what their ancestors did during the war. For our final piece we thought it would be fitting to come back to Avon Dassett and focus on a soldier whose family still live in the village, thus linking 1914/15 with the present day.



### Private William Winthorpe Watts

Private Watts was born in Leicester in 1891 and lived in Avon Dassett. He was the son of George Winthorpe Watts and Bertha Watts. Bertha died when he was three years old. Before enlisting he was a postal assistant and in the 1911 census he was described as assistant boot maker. Later he ran the Avon Dassett Motor Garage with his father. In January 1915, aged 23, he volunteered as a mechanic in the Royal Flying Corps but as he had no apprenticeship papers he was transferred to the Army Service Corps.



**LOTTERY FUNDED**

