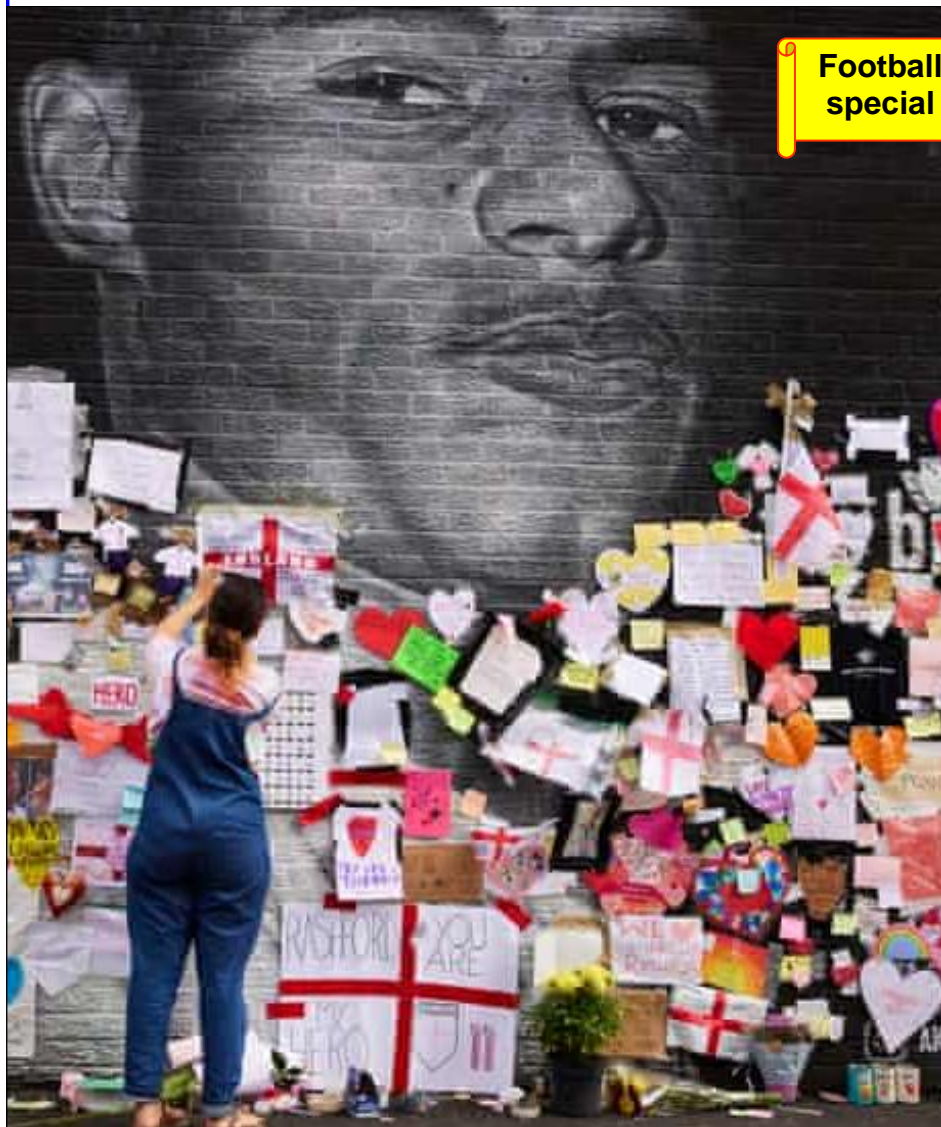


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Paul Butler with Oscar who is doing his DofE. They are laying new sleepers on the south bank to prevent the earth slippage
Children from St Johns School on hastily arranged local activities (p 11)
Friendship Teas restarted in June, in the open air.



It was good to hear Ron Ingamells on Sunday 18th July when he travelled from Norwich to lead our 11 am worship. It was a pity his wife Ann was unable to be with him because of illness, but she had insisted that he honour his appointment with us.



Here was someone who has devoted his life to furthering the Kingdom of God, and it showed. Characteristically he had torn up his prepared sermon just before the Service because it did not seem right, and instead spoke without notes. His text was the passage from Matthew where the mother of two of Jesus' followers had asked him to favour them by placing one on the left and the other on the right of his throne when he became King. Jesus' response was essentially that he came not to rule but to serve.

Ron drew parallels with the black England footballers who had missed penalties in the European Cup Final. They had carried themselves with dignity through adversity and gained in stature by their humility.

In fact all three are practising Christians, coming from families with deep roots in Pentecostal churches. Marcus Rashford, the one with the highest profile, came in for the most criticism. A mural of him was defaced. One MP unwisely tweeted that he should have spent more time perfecting his game rather than playing politics. A comedian "joked" that black footballers must be worse than white ones at taking penalties.

Happily these negative acts were overwhelmingly rejected by the British public. The defeat was forgotten swiftly and replaced by a wave of support for the three men. The Rashford Mural was covered with stacks of tributes (front cover). The MP grovelled. The so-called comedian had shows cancelled. Children from a school in Potters Bar hand delivered letters of support to Bukayo Saka who lives with his parents in Brookmans Park. So in the end Good came out of Evil.

One man at least was relieved when England lost. Giles Coren, writing in the Times ahead of the game gave numerous reasons why defeat would be the better outcome. His last one was that he would be watching the match away from home and the journey back by car after a win would be "simply appalling".

More football stuff on pp 8/9 & 14

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AUGUST

- 1st** 8 am HC. Rev Susan Marsh
11 am HC. Rev Fiona Souter.
Readings: Exodus 16. 2-4, 9-15 and John 6. 24-35.
- 8th** 8 am HC or MP. Leader tba
11 am HC led by Fr Darren Collins
Readings: 1 Kings 19. 4-8 and John 6. 35, 41-51.
- 15th** 8 am HC or MP. Leader tba
11 am MP led by Rev Roger Chapman
Readings: Proverbs 9. 1-6 and John 6. 51-58
- 22nd** 8 am HC or MP. Leader tba
11 am HC led by Rev Sue Stilwell
Readings: Joshua 24. 1-2a, 14-18 and John 6. 56-69
- 29th** 8 am HC or MP. Leader tba
11 am MP or HC. Leader tba
Readings: Deut 4. 1-2, 6-9 and Mark 7. 1-8, 14-15, 21-23.

SEPTEMBER

- 5th** 8 am HC Rev Susan Marsh
11 am HC led by Rev Sue Stilwell
Readings: Isaiah 35. 4-7a and Mark 7. 24-37
- 12th** 8 am HC Rev Susan Marsh
11 am HC led by Rev Fiona Souter
Readings: Isaiah 50. 4-9a and Mark 8. 27-38
- 19th** 8 am HC Rev Susan Marsh
11 am MP led by Rev Roger Chapman
Readings: Jeremiah 11. 18-20 and Mark 9. 30-37
- 26th** 8 am HC Rev Susan Marsh
11 am HC led by Bishop Michael of Hertford
Readings: Numbers 11. 4-6, 10-16, 24-29 and Mark 9. 38-50

Search for new Vicar

Our PCC has been working hard. One meeting was held with Father Darren and a facilitator to work out a vision for the Church. A similar one is due with St Michael's PCC. A Vacancy Meeting with Bishop Michael will take place in mid-September, and then both PCCs will prepare a Joint Parish Profile. When that has been completed, the vacancy will be advertised in the Church Times. Please pray for both PCCs as we undertake this important task.

Alzheimer's Society

Jackie Spry writes " Can I say a huge thank you to all who helped those who came and all. who donated to the Alzheimer's Cupcake Day on 25th June. We raised just over £500 , truly amazing ".

Our own Poet Laureate, Ted Webb has written a special poem to celebrate the occasion:

Cup Cake Day

Cup Cake Day has come and gone. This year it was a special one. Despite the Covid and the weather



in bright sunshine we came together for Alzheimers to raise some cash, and together we did it, with panache.

Cakes by Jackie, and the rest, 'twas hard to know which one was best.

Karl brought his keyboard and sang with Edie, helped to raise money for the needy. Alzheimers is a bad disease; it has supporters, we're some of these.

We raised three hundred pounds and some; they tell us that there's more to come.

They'll sell the surplus cakes on Sunday, Jackie goes to the bank on Monday to bank the cash that she collected. Was it more than we expected?

Looking forward to the count!
Will it be a huge amount?
Be it a lot, or just a bit,
Alzheimers benefits from it.
Christians to the fore again.
Long will that attitude remain.

The total's in, four forty eight!
I think we'd say that's really great.
So thanks to all who came to eat
the cakes which really were a treat.
Now on your waist-line they'll
appear!

Parish Magazine copy date for the next issue: **20th September**

Weddings returned in style to St John's on Saturday June 5th. A cloudless day saw Jess Wager marry Max Alden in the first ceremony held here since before the pandemic. The Reverend Roger Chapman was conducting his first nuptial in his new ministry and the marriage was the first to be entered in the new Register Book.

What certainly was not new was the tradition of the family of Jess marrying at Lemsford. Her mother, Janice, walked up the aisle here in 1973 and both of Janice's sisters (Frances and Mary) were also married at St John's. Jess' grandparents, Eva and Charles, married here in 1941. Charles "Charlie" Wager was a churchwarden and also a bellringer. Going further back, Jess' great-grandmother, Lizzie, was the first of four generations to marry at Lemsford, in the idyllic, pre-war days of 1905. Jess even has a cousin, Naomi, who married at St John's in 2001.

Jess and Max's wedding was in no way diminished by the limit to guest numbers. The choir sang their hearts out to Tim Armstrong-Taylor's organ accompaniment. The bells rang and the church (decorated by florist, Twisted Willow) looked ravishing in the June sunlight.

Four generations and counting.

With thanks to Janice Tucker, Mother of the Bride





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Limping to the Finish Line

I read some interesting statistics today, though I didn't really need to see them to know that they were accurately conveying reality. In the week of the 1st of July 8.5% of children in England were out of school self-isolating due to having Covid or because they were a close contact of someone with Covid (normally somebody from their class).



In the following week the number was 11.2% and for the week of the 15th of July the number had risen to 14.3% of all school children. Perhaps, most significantly, in that last week secondary school attendance nationally was 67.3%. Imagine taking a register in the morning for a class of thirty and having nine or ten students missing, for day after day. The summer holiday couldn't come soon enough – we needed a Covid fire-break!

The last few weeks of term did see some positive developments – the students were able to resume trips, for example Geography fieldwork trips for years 10 and 12 could take place, though as day trips rather than residential visits. The Government-funded scheme to provide additional tutoring for children that have fallen furthest behind with their learning during the lockdowns has also begun, though the number of sessions per pupil is limited, and there are far more potential students than there is funding provided.

As we look ahead, in the next few weeks we will see the GCSE and A-level results published, a process that is bound to be riddled with controversies. With some schools assessing grades solely from coursework, others using a combination of coursework with some additional examination assessments, and yet others using a full set of examinations only (essentially a full set of school-set GCSE and A-level exams) there will be plenty of scope for complaints about whether an A-grade earned at one school is equivalent to an A-grade earned elsewhere. A record number of appeals may be the outcome.

When schools return in September all students will again need to take two lateral flow tests at school in the first few days before switching back to home testing. We only hope a new, more effective, system for coping with close contacts and the need to self-isolate can be put in place in order to reduce the absences that have become such a feature of school life recently.

Kevin

A Football Chaplain interviewed

Rev Matt Baker is Sports Chaplaincy UK National Director for England & Pastoral Support Director in English Football



Matt, you've been Pastoral Support Director in English Football since November 2009 – what does that role entail?

I work with the Premier League, English Football League and the Professional Footballers' Association to bring some accountability, training and oversight to football chaplaincy. I support chaplains by visiting them at their clubs, connecting them with other chaplains and providing ongoing training. This includes areas such as bereavement support, handling addictions, mental health awareness and dealing with the media. I also help clubs find new chaplains.

You're also Chaplain at Charlton Athletic FC - what does an average week look like?

I spend two to three hours at the training ground each week, speaking to players and staff as they come off the training pitch, in the canteen or in offices. Most is general conversation as they get to know and trust me so that when a specific pastoral issue arises they will be comfortable speaking to me about it. On home match days I am at the stadium a couple of hours before kick-off. Some players come to me for pre-match prayers and then I go round the stadium speaking with whoever wants to talk such as the press office, security, match day announcer, management & backroom staff and - before the pandemic - some of the fans."It's a privilege to pray with a player before a game but I'm always clear that whilst I want them to win I am not going to pray for a win."

How many clubs have a chaplain?

We currently have about 160 chaplains at various levels in the English game.

What makes a good football chaplain?

Not every church minister or leader will be suited to the role of chaplain. It is about finding the person with the right skill set to support people pastorally and spiritually in a largely secular and highly competitive environment.

What are some of the ways chaplains support footballers?

Footballers experience the same issues as everybody else – family illness, bereavements, mental health issues and the stresses and strains of normal life. A chaplain offers support through this by non-judgemental confidential listening, giving advice if asked and by signposting to organisations more qualified to help. There are also some specific football issues such as dealing with injuries, the competitive atmosphere or concerns about coming to the end of a career. On a more positive note chaplains take dedications of children or baptisms, advise on marriage or take a marriage ceremony for players. There is also the offer of individual prayer or prayer meetings and bible studies. Players struggle to be involved in a local church because of their schedule so on-site spiritual support is vital for some.

Are you ever asked what a vicar is doing in a football club?

Not really, as chaplaincy has become fairly embedded within football. Some players haven't experienced it before, particularly if they have come to the club from abroad or only been at clubs without a chaplain. At my own club at one time we had three managers in a year and none of them had experienced chaplaincy before so I had to start all over again in explaining my role and function at the club.

You've got to know a lot of football players over the years – how do they deal with the pressure of big games?

Everybody is different and there is no single answer to this. Some players might struggle to sleep before a big game. Others are able to zone out and treat it like any other game. Routine seems to be very important, to stick to the same preparation for a big game as you would for a lesser game as far as possible. From a Christian perspective I've always considered it a tremendous privilege to pray with a player before a game. I'm always clear that whilst I want them to win I am not going to pray for a win and this is true of the major games as well as the more minor ones. However, in my experience I have seen it help a player involved in a big game to calm any unnecessary nerves and to know that his worth and identity is not based on his performance on the pitch that day but on the One in whom his faith is placed.

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I am writing this on the penultimate day of the summer term as the Leavers' Service (via Zoom as our Class 4 are sadly having to isolate) approaches and our final morning in school is tomorrow.



What a year it has been but how positive and resilient have the children (and staff) of St John's been! I am so proud of the St John's community who have pulled together during this time of challenge, uncertainty and constant change.

Throughout the summer term we have tried to do as many of our normal activities as we can and have succeeded in having our outside, socially distanced performance of '*Joseph and His Technicolour Dream Coat*' over an afternoon and two evening performances. What a delight it was for the children to have an audience of parents to perform for and for those leaving to have this 'rite of passage' before the end of term and secondary school. It is a biblical story of hope and we all felt that hope and were uplifted by the children's performance.

Sadly our Class 4 residential trip was cancelled by the centre at Hudnall Park as the children arrived at school, the coach was parked outside the church and we were ready to set off for the visit! Children, luggage and sleeping bags were all waiting in the school playground as we received the call that the centre staff all had to self-isolate due to Covid. The St John's staff rallied around and through an excellent team effort we arranged three days of local activities and camping on the school field. What a brilliant lesson in life for our children that despite disappointment, the show can go on and we all had a fantastic, positive time together – such a memorable experience!

The younger children had an outdoor Road Safety Magic Show, also blessed with good weather. We have been continuing our outdoor Collective Worship on a Wednesday with Father Darren, Rev Kathryn, Jo Brooks and John - a huge thank you to them all.





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On Monday 19th July we finally manage to hold our Sports Day with parents in attendance – such a treat to be together celebrating the children’s team and individual efforts.

We are now focusing on our return in September and a return (hopefully) to normal school with no bubbles, our much loved Celebration Assembly re-instated and a weekly worship in St John’s church. Please pray that these things will happen for our St John’s family.

Wishing you all a safe and healthy summer.

Mandy Evans Headteacher

Garden Report

We continue to renovate the bank and the hedges. It is good to have a variety of potential working spaces as some helpers want to focus on the area that surrounds their family graves, headstones, or plaques .

Recently we took two of our grandchildren to RHS Wisley in early July. It is a wonderful garden and so inspiring for the future with its newly built Education Centre.

Where in our garden I might have one or two similar plants, Wisley has 20 - 30 ! That got me thinking, many catalogue offers are for extra plants for little extra cost. Would folk like to donate a plant?

Shrubs would be useful as we begin to sort out the road end of the bank into a manageable, easy maintenance area. This area was cleared for us by the Hahn family before they left us to go abroad.

One of the Wisley staff we spoke to was engaged in collecting seeds for the World Seed Bank. Have you wild flowers whose seeds would enhance the meadows on the north side of the church?

Sharing is spoken about in the Bible. Jesus says ‘it is better to give than receive’. The early disciples shared many things after Pentecost such as meals, which is like the food banks today. The most important thing to share is our confidence in the reality of our faith, to encourage others to join in our worship and to be able to explain this confidence to an unbelieving world.

Mary Douglas



Here is a good Pub Quiz question—who is the Patron Saint of Football? Answer: **Saint Luigi Scrosoppi**, who was canonized a mere 20 years ago.

He lived from 1804-84 and was born in Udine, the capital city of Friuli, which was a contested area on the Adriatic situated between what we today recognize as the Italian peninsula and Slovenia.

After entering a seminary he helped to manage a children's centre run by his brother Carlo, also a priest. He later joined the Third Order of Franciscans and devoted himself to the construction of an orphanage. He gave himself tirelessly to fundraising and was soon running an organization that accommodated 100 boarders and 230-day pupils in a building which became known as the House of the Destitute. He eventually joined the

Oratory of Saint Philip Neri, and became the founder and spiritual guide for the Sisters of Providence, an order of religious sisters approved by Pope Pius IX in 1871. They focused on serving the poor and educating the young, particularly those with physical needs and the deaf. As a result of his good deeds he was canonised by the Pope in 2001.



A few years later the Catholic Church decided that football needed a Patron Saint and started a rigorous selection process. Eventually Luigi emerged as the best candidate because of his consistent care for the young, and his modelling of virtues like fairness, discipline and patience. The Italian national soccer team was recently presented with a carved wooden statue (pictured) of the saint holding an old-fashioned stitched soccer ball. There is also a semi-professional team in Ontario, Canada called “Scrosoppi FC” in his honour.

[Doubtless many prayers were offered in Italy to St Luigi in the run up to the Final of the Euros. Given the Italian Team’s success one might guess that the selection panel feel justified in their choice.]

Sport is not new to the Church. In the very first writings of the New Testament, the Epistles of Paul, the Apostle used sports as a lens through which to understand our own existence. Paul wrote “I do all this for the sake of the Gospel, that I may share in its blessings. Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to obtain the prize. Everyone who competes exercises self-control in all things. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever” (1st Letter to The Corinthians, Chapter 9:23-25).



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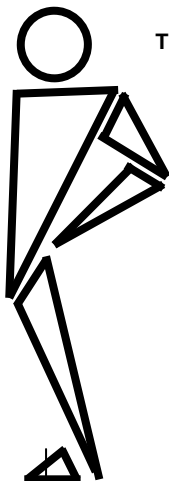
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Lemsford Local History Group

At the beginning of 2021, Stanborough welcomed a new company - AMT. AMT was formed in 1995 by Neil McGawley. He saw an opportunity in the car leasing market and so struck out on his own to become a one-man leasing finance broker. Fast forward 25 years and Neil still heads up the AMT group of companies which today turnover £20m and employ over 150 staff across the country. They have taken over the old Grange building, the former home of the Jaguar and Aston Martin showrooms, who relocated to Hatfield business park several years ago. Lemsford Local History Group welcomed the company by presenting a framed photo of the old Shell garage.

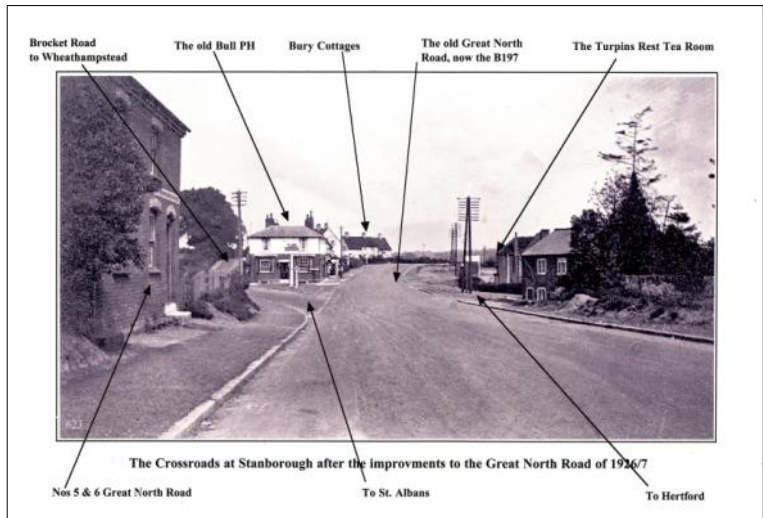


My first memory of this garage was as seen in the above photo as a petrol station. The slip road of the old A1 in the 1970s was opposite number 9 Great North Road. I used this exit to go to the old Lemsford Café in the GNR located next to the Volvo garage after the pubs had shut on a Friday night. For some strange reason, most of the youth of WGC congregated at 11pm on a Friday night for a bacon sandwich and mug of tea at the Café and the queue would be out of the door. The upper image inside the back cover is of Lemsford café from the 1930s and its proprietor Mr Pugh

My next recollection of the garage is in the early 1990s when I moved to the area. It was owned by Ken Brown and used as a second hand car lot with tasteful tinsel bunting and packed with vintage Fords, Vauxhalls and BL models all reasonably priced and many with one owner. Ken Brown moved out in the late 1990s and Aston Martin/Jaguar moved in. A document in the archives from August 1986 shows the owners to be Garden City Garage owned by a Mrs Robinson who sent a letter informing the residents 'Ample staff parking will be available on site'. A promise not always kept by past owners but AMT to date have shown consideration and not parked in the roads around the showroom.

The site where AMT is located is an area well known to the Group and in the archives we have a wonderful photo showing the area in the 1920s.

To compare it to 2021, the two white houses in the middle of the photo are number 7 and 8 Great North Road which are still there. The dirt road is the road we know as the Great North



Road. Brocket Road is the same road that today goes to Wheathampstead and is an exit off the large roundabout in Stanborough. The old Bull was knocked down in 1939 when the new Bull was built on the opposite side of the road. The cellar of the old Bull was uncovered when the roundabout was constructed. The road to Hertford is still there; it is the road that goes under the A1M to Welwyn Garden City. The light railway was part of a network that was used to build the new town of Welwyn Garden City.



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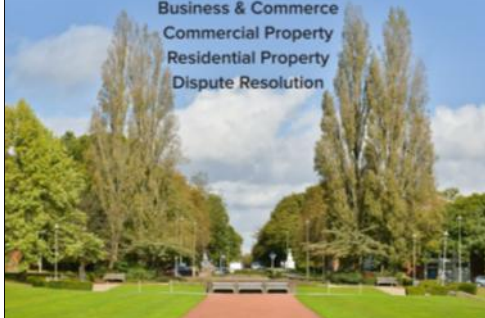
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The Turpins' Rest Tea Rooms

Miss C. Tuke provided non-alcoholic refreshments at the 'Turpins' Rest Tea Rooms' situated on the opposite side to the road to the old Bull PH. It can just be made out behind the small trees on the photograph of the Stanborough Crossroads taken before the improvements of 1926/7. She was still noted as the proprietress in the 1937/38 Kellys Directory.

In the late 1930s the tea rooms were demolished and at about the same time the Bull was relocated to its present position. Despite the various local references to Dick Turpin he probably did not ply his trade so far south.

The Bull Garage

The lower image inside the back cover shows the garage in the back yard of the Old Bull. The wooden fence (RHS) belongs to number 1 Great North Road.

There is a romantic connection between the Bull Garage and Turpins' Tea Room that was passed on by Ron Forsdike, a much-missed member of the group. He told of us of a love affair between Percival William Sharpe, proprietor of Stanborough Garage at the time (his brother was landlord of the Bull PH) and Miss Emily Beatrice Clark who worked at Turpins Rest Café and resided there throughout the 1920s. She was employed by Miss Tuke, who appeared to be a dominating mistress.

Ron told the story of how Emily Clark would take a bus every Wednesday, her day off, to Potters Bar. Percy Sharpe would then follow her by getting the next bus to Potters Bar. The reason for their romantic tryst was to keep their relationship secret from Miss Tuke. The secret meetings blossomed into a lifelong relationship as the records of the 1939 Register show: "Hedgebrooms, (13) Great North Road, Stanborough, Percival William Sharpe, born 19 Mar 1894. married, garage proprietor and Emily B. Sharpe, wife born 18 June 1896, unpaid domestic duties."

As we start to get back to normal, the group have no immediate plans to meet or hold talks in the foreseeable future.

If you need more information, need help with research of the area or want to pass on images and memories, contact us on info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk



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Over the years we have had quite a few cats, usually in pairs. Our last was a while ago though. When she died of old age we decided that the benefits of owning a pet were outweighed by the practical disadvantages, chiefly the restraint on our activities. We have been clearing out some old photographs recently (to save our children the inevitable chore of tossing them out) and always linger nostalgically over the ones of our cats.



But cats have their down sides. It has been estimated that 16 million birds are killed each year by domestic cats and I can quite believe it. One morning recently my wife called me urgently into the kitchen. A large ginger cat was attacking a wood pigeon on our back doorstep, clearly visible through the full length glass door. I rushed out to intervene but it was too late. The pigeon had been mortally wounded and after a few minutes literally croaked its last.

Regular readers of this column may remember that I am not a fan of woodpigeons. They foul patios, and bird baths, as well as devour plants. This one though deserved sympathy. The worst of it was that the cat was clearly well fed but still had a primeval urge to kill.

Researchers have studied the cat genome thoroughly and concluded that there are only superficial differences between wild and domesticated cats. The best guess is that domestication occurred 9,000 years or so ago perhaps in Egypt where they eventually became an object of worship. Egyptians believed that they brought luck. To honour these treasured pets wealthy families dressed them in jewels and fed them treats fit for royalty. When the cats died, they were mummified. (Perhaps this is why cats are not mentioned in the Bible?). Initially though the relation between men and cats was purely transactional. Men lured cats into their dwellings by offering them food. In return the cats would control rats and mice that were devouring their stored crops.

The researchers concluded that domestic cats regard humans not with love or respect, as do dogs, but as a source of food and shelter. They know full well what makes man tick so have developed endearing traits, such as purring, to keep us in their thrall. Just remember that when one offers its back to you for a stroke.

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First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

1 Timothy 2:1-2

And finally—how we nearly lost our cats



(See Genesis 6-8)

09-16-2011

**YOU THROW THE CATS OVERBOARD AND I'LL
TELL YOU WHERE I FOUND THE BRANCH**



*Lemsford Local History
Group*

*Lemsford Cafe with its
proprietor Mr Pugh*

See page 16

*The garage in the back
yard of the Old Bull*

See page 19





TOGETHER

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