World War 1 Medals: Women at War: Horses in Battle: Drive Sale Report
Parish Council Contacts and Meetings: Church and Village Hall Events
Local Businesses: Puzzle Page: Serial - The Cat That Came Back
Firstly a huge thank you to Jonathan Bye who send me the photograph of Charlotte Dring on Lightening at the Village Green. What a fab shot that is Jonathan as are all the lovely pictures you send me. Keep on sending! Also on the front cover - clockwise from the right: Parish Church Flower Festival - Avis Senior enjoying an afternoon cycle - Martin and Elaine Thomas with Jem, Ben and Nelly on a morning walk down Taylors Drove - An impressive line up of trucks from Paul Roffe at Peterbrough Truckfest - and the ladies of the Church flower festival tombola stall enjoying their day. As autumn arrives there is much more to look forward to with hot suppers and quiz nights and Halloween to enjoy. I am always happy to receive your photographs. Some might even find their way onto the front cover but also feel free to send in news of births, deaths, anniversaries, birthdays and other family events you would like to share. This is your magazine so send me your news, pictures and anything interesting you would like to share.

PLEASE NOTE:- The price for adverts in this magazine is £10 per single and £25 per set of four Issues.

Contact: Wendy Priestley - Editor: Sutton St James News - By Tel: 01945 440 726
By email: mothertrucker@hotmail.com : By Post to Rosanda: Broadgate: Sutton St James: PE12 0EL

Deadline for articles and adverts for inclusion in the Winter Edition is October 30th 2014

Chairsman - Cllr W A Harrison
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Secretary - Mrs Lin Pilcher
Tel. (01945) 440 762

Sutton St James Parish Council

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Cllr V G Campling
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Cllr D J Brown
Tel. (01945) 440 691

Vice Chairman - Cllr P Hinks
Tel. (01945) 440 677

Cllr A Barton
Tel. (01945) 440 028

Parish Council Meetings - 7.30 Sutton St James Village Hall
18th September - 16th October - 20th November at 7.30

Details of changes to the scheduled dates of any meeting will be given at least three working days beforehand.
Details of the agenda at any meeting may be obtained by applying to the Clerk to the Parish Council.
Members of the public are invited to attend any of the above meetings.

The annual Sutton St James Drive Sale in aid of the Lincs Air Ambulance was once more a huge success. A big thank you to Tina and Peter for organising this very popular event and of course thank you to all who took part or made donations, helping to raise a wonderful £484 for the Air Ambulance. A further £354 was donated to the Air Ambulance from our Village Hall Auction organisers Annette and Michelle, raised through weekly raffles and a guess the sweets in the jar game held on drive sale day. As Always the Baptist Church Flower Festival coincided with the Drive Sale, so hot food, teas and cakes were served to all comers in the church where visitors could enjoy a full lunch or a snack while admiring the lovely flowers on display between browsing the sales. Well done the Baptist ladies for all their hard work and for providing such lovely food.

SUTTON ST JAMES BOWLS CLUB

An invitation to give bowls a try for FREE, at Sutton St James Indoor Bowls Clubs’ OPEN DAY on Saturday 13th September 2014 - 10 am to 4 pm
People of all ages and abilities can turn up, have a go at bowls, or simply have a cup of tea and a chat.
Club members will be on hand to help, share tips and give advice.
For further information about the club please contact Catherine on 01945 440234.

Volunteer Trustees Required
The Parish Council are looking for Volunteer Trustees to oversee the distribution of grant monies to local causes.
If you are interested please apply to Mrs L Pilcher, Clerk to Council, Five Acres, 196 Baulkins Drove, Sutton St James.
Tel: 01945 440962 - email parishclerk@suttonstjamespc.org.uk

Informative Talk for All - History and Drainage of the Fens
Talk and Slides by Paul Sharman - Chief engineer of North Level Drainage Board
Church Hall: Bells Drove on Saturday 13th September at 7pm - All Welcome
Only £3 per person including light refreshments
Contact - F Rose 01945 440 230 - C Collins 01945 440 319 - P Stebbings 01945 440 285
By September 1914 the first world war was in full swing with lives lost and medals awarded. Campaign medals are different to gallantry medals and denotes that someone saw service in a theatre of war. In WW1 there were only four (if the Victory Medal is included) of which a serviceman (or woman) could earn only three plus a ‘clasp’.

The ‘trio’ of WW1 medals (the 1914 or 1914/15 Star), War and Victory medals became known as ‘Pip, Squeak and Wilfred’ after a popular music hall act of the time. For those who served only after January 1916 there was only the award of the War and Victory medals, nicknamed ‘Mutt and Jeff’. Only the 1914 Star (pictured first left) was awarded during WW 1, the remainder were issued after the war. One of the most common awards for exceptional service (not always gallantry in the face of the enemy) was the oak leaf indicating that the recipient had been mentioned in the despatches of the General Officer Commanding and was known as the MID for ‘Mentioned in Despatches’. This was worn on the Victory Medal. Additionally, in order to protect men in civilian clothing who had been discharged from the Armed Forces on medical grounds as no longer fit for service were awarded the ‘Kings Badge’, also known as the ‘Silver Wound Badge’. This deterred the often highly enthusiastic people who felt it was their public duty to force every able bodied man into uniform, they would probably present the ex soldier with a white feather (indicating cowardice) if he were without the badge. The Bronze Memorial Plaque (far right) was issued after the war to the next of kin of all who had died as a result of service in the armed forces and was nicknamed ‘The Dead Man’s Penny’. This example was awarded to local man Fred Heanes who died of his wounds in Sutton St James early in 1919 and was given a military funeral in the Parish Churchyard.

Awards shown from left; 1914 star with ‘Mons’ clasp, 1914/15 star, War Medal, Victory Medal, Wound Badge, Bronze Plaque.

The Gunners Store

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Please be aware of companies charging for the renewal of driving licences (Costs in the region of £29.99) In particular - the cost is being added to the renewal of a driving licence for the category – over 70 year renewal. To renew this licence DIRECT with the DVLA is FREE. Please be careful with selecting website addresses on the internet browser and search www.gov.uk and then select the service you wish to use from the main page. Always check the website address in the internet browser before you download content or agree to make payment. If in doubt do not proceed!!! Seek further advice.
When the war broke out in Western Europe in August 1914, both Britain and Germany had a cavalry force that each numbered about 100,000 men. Such a number of men would have needed a significant number of horses but probably all senior military personnel at this time believed in the supremacy of the cavalry attack. But several disastrous cavalry raids quickly proved that they were no longer viable in the then modern warfare, with horses being too vulnerable to guns. But as they were still far better at negotiating the muddy terrain than tanks or other vehicles they were invaluable to the troops transporting ammunition and supplies to the front and pulling ambulances. It was said that having horses behind the lines improved the morale of the soldiers.

One soldier was quoted as saying of his horse “He (Sailor) would work for 24 hours a day without winking. He was quiet as a lamb and as clever as a thoroughbred, but he looked like nothing on earth, so we lost him. The whole artillery battery kissed him goodbye and the drivers and gunners who fed him nearly cried.” It was a huge issue keeping the horses and mules fed and sustained and despite the fact that they were increasingly seen as an asset, more and more died and became difficult to replace.

It is estimated that over the course of the war Britain alone lost over 484,000 horses, a shocking and unfathomable number, along with countless mules and donkeys. The majority of these did not die through warfare directly but died as a result of the conditions at the front—of exhaustion, drowning, becoming mired in mud and falling in shell holes. Other horses were captured after their riders were killed. Horses also endured poor feeding and care, poison gas attacks that injured their respiratory systems and skin, and skin conditions such as mange. When gas warfare began in 1915, nose plugs were improvised for the horses to allow them to breathe during attacks. Veterinary hospitals were established to assist horses in recovering from shell shock and battle wounds, but thousands of equine corpses still lined the roads of the Western Front. In one year, 120,000 horses were treated for wounds or disease by British veterinary hospitals alone. Ambulances and field veterinary hospitals were required to care for the horses, and horse trailers were first developed for use on the Western Front as equine ambulances. Disease was also a major issue for horses at the front, with equine influenza, ringworm, sand colic, sores from fly bites, and anthrax among the illnesses that affected them.

The British Army Veterinary Corps hospitals treated 725,216 horses over the course of the war, successfully healing 529,064. Horses were moved from the front to veterinary hospitals by several methods of transportation, including on foot, by rail and by barge. During the last months of the war, barges were considered ideal transportation for horses suffering wounds from shells and bombs. When the war ended, many horses were killed due to age or illness, while younger ones were sold to slaughterhouses or to locals, often upsetting the soldiers who had to give up their beloved mount.

Not many people know that Winston Churchill intervened to save tens of thousands of stranded war horses from Europe after World War I. British military chiefs spent more than £36 million during the war to buy up 1.1 million horses from Britain, Canada and the United States. War Office documents found in the National Archives at Kew show that tens of thousands of the animals were at risk of disease, hunger and even death at the hands of French and Belgian butchers because bungling officials couldn't get them home when hostilities drew to a close. When he discovered this, Churchill, then aged 44 and Secretary of State for War, reacted with fury. In a strongly worded missive dated 13 February 1919, Churchill told Lieutenant-General Sir Travers Clarke, then Quartermaster-General, "If it is so serious, what have you been doing about it? The letter of the Commander-In-Chief discloses a complete failure on the part of the Ministry of Shipping to meet its obligations and scores of thousands of horses will be left in France under extremely disadvantageous conditions." Churchill would not let this rest and his intervention led to extra vessels being used for repatriation, and the number of horses being returned rose to 9000 a week. The story is characteristic of Churchill and his love of animals. Those poor horses had no choice but to serve. All we can do in their honour is pledge we never forget their sacrifice and at last a memorial has been built in London to honour these hard working, uncomplaining and unsung heroes.

Horses of WW1 - The Unsung Heroes

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War Horse Memorial London

Horse Field Hospital WW1

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FREE WRITTEN QUOTATION GIVEN: Website: www.tubmaintenance.co.uk Email: adam@tubmaintenance.co.uk
PHONE: ADAM GROOM 0777 076 3787 Our Address: 69 Jarvis Gate: Sutton St James: Spalding: Lincs PE12 0EP

END OF TENANCY: Clean & Tidy Up of Gardens, Odd Jobs Etc
Sutton St James Parish Church Information

QUIZ NIGHT – 4TH OCTOBER IN THE CHURCH HALL – 7.00 FOR 7.30PM. Entry £3.00 per head.
Bring your own drinks and glasses as usual – light supper will be served and teams of 4/6 please. Put your names on the list which will be on the font in the Church approx. two weeks before or you can ring Ann or Mike Milchard on 01945 440391.

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Sunday October 12th - Harvest Lunch in the Church Hall - Following the Harvest Festival at 12 pm

SHEPHERDS PIE SUPPER SATURDAY 15TH NOVEMBER IN THE CHURCH HALL – 6.30 FOR 7.00PM
With entertainment - List will be on the font as usual.

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If you are a Flower Arranger and would like to join us, please telephone Pauline on 01945 440285.

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COFFEE MORNINGS
PLEASE NOTE: - OUR POPULAR MONTHLY COFFEE MORNINGS ARE HELD ON THE SECOND SATURDAY IN THE MONTH IN THE PARISH CHURCH BETWEEN 10.00am AND 12.00. Raffle and small stall.

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CHURCH HALL, BELLS DROVE, SUTTON ST. JAMES.
This hall is available for hire to all. The kitchen and toilet have recently been refurbished. It is best suited for small family gatherings, meetings, exercise classes and children’s parties. Charge is £7.50 per hour.
Contact Jenny Rose on 01945 440 685.

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SUTTON ST JAMES WOMENS GROUP
The group meets at 7.30 in the Church Hall, Bells Drove on the last Wednesday in each month.
(The exception is when we have a daytime or evening outing)
Subscriptions for the year is £10 with a possible extra charge for outings.
For further information contact. Cherril Collins on 01945 440 319 Or Ann Milchard on 01945 440 391

SUTTON ST JAMES TODDLERS GROUP AT CHURCH HALL - BELLS DROVE
Mondays from 10.30 am to 11.45 - Thursdays from 1. 45 to 3 pm
Children from babies to school age welcome. Contact Jenny Rose on 01945 440 685

Sutton St James Preschool Playgroup
We are open Monday and Friday 9 - 12 and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9 - 3
For further details contact :- Caron Bishop 01945 440 000

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Open 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday
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Tel:- 01945 440 226

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Gary J Nye - 16 Fishergate Sutton St James
Contact 01945 440 279 - Mobile 07951 127 717

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Sunday Service every Sunday at 10.45

Coffee Morning each Thursdays 10 am to 12 noon - all Welcome

FELLOWSHIP LUNCH - Last Thursday in the month 12 noon for 12.30 Meal (Pre booking required please.)

OPEN DOORS : Second Tuesday of the Month 2pm to 4pm for Talk, Tea and Cake. Everyone Welcome

For Further information call Pastor Ross Dean on 01406 42 4 556

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WW1 Interesting Facts

The most successful fighter of the entire war was Rittmeister von Richthofen better known as The Red Baron (1892-1918 who shot down no less than 80 planes, more than any other WWI pilot. He died after being shot down near Amiens.
France’s René Fonck (1894-1953) was the Allies’ most successful fighter pilot, shooting down a recorded 75 enemy planes.

The term “dogfight” originated during WWI. The pilot had to turn off the plane’s engine from time to time so it would not stall when the plane turned quickly in the air. When a pilot restarted his engine midair, it sounded like dogs barking.

World War 1 is officially the sixth deadliest conflict in world history and transformed the United Stated into the largest military power in the world.
What WW1 Did for Women

The day the world changed for women was the day World War 1 began. This was a pivotal time for the women who contributed behind the soldiers of the front lines. It gave women an opportunity to prove themselves in a male-dominated society, doing more than cleaning the house and tending to the children. Apart from the obvious choices of women as nurses, there was a large gap in employment and, in response, women came in to replace the men in traditionally male roles.

Some of the more well-known roles of women in WW1 include nurses, munitions factory workers, sewing bandages, and selling war bonds, shipyards and spies. The Women’s Royal Air Force was created, which is where women worked on planes as mechanics.

By 1917 it was surveyed that 68% of women had changed jobs since the war began, 16% had moved out of domestic service, 22% that were unemployed in 1914 now had work and 23% had changed factories (from one factory to another).

Traditional family structure was completely changed by the First World War. Many married women were forced into the workplace after the death of their husbands. Other women were drafted into industries that had been depleted by military conscription. Over the course of the war, 200,000 women took up jobs in governmental departments. 500,000 took up clerical positions in private offices. 250,000 worked on in agricultural positions. 700,000 women took up posts in the munitions industry, which was dangerous work. Many more women did hard heavy work, including ship building and furnace stoking. These types of jobs had excluded women prior to the war. In July 1914, before the war broke out there were 3.2 million women in employment. This had risen to 5 million by January 1918.

The war meant women had to take on a number of traditionally male roles. From farm work to truck driving. Their ability to do this led to a change in attitudes. World War 1 caused the British suffrage movement to split. Emmeline Pankhurst (leader of the Women’s Social and Political Union) called for a temporary ceasefire in their campaign so the country could focus fully on the war effort. Sylvia Pankhurst and her Women’s Suffrage Federation were more radical and wanted the struggle to continue in spite of the situation.

When the war ended in November 1918 8.4 million women were granted the right to vote. The Eligibility of Women Act was also passed in November 1918. This meant that some women could now be elected as members of Parliament.

It’s hard to say whether women workers understood from the beginning that their employment could only be temporary but so it was. Women were dismissed back home to make room for the returning veterans and it is hard to say as to how much resentment this return home generated but at least they now had the right to vote.

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New to Sutton St James

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Over 30 years Experience : References Available
City & Guilds : No Job Too Small
5 Chapel Gate : Sutton St James.

Park House Physiotherapy Clinic

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For further information or to book an appointment contact Deborah Cheetham on 01945 870 515

www.parkhouse-physiotherapy.co.uk

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WW1 Interesting Fact

Artillery barrage and mines created immense noise. In 1917, explosives blowing up beneath the German lines on Messines Ridge at Ypres in Belgium could be heard in London 140 miles away.
**New Family at Red House Jarvis Gate**

*In September 2013 my husband* Julian and I moved into Red House with our daughter Emma, 24, having relocated from Kent, bringing with us our numerous animals which include 6 dogs, 3 Boer goats 4 horses and numerous chickens. Are they mad you may ask? Well YES is the answer to that. Julian is a Master Tiler with over 35 year experienced working with ceramic tiles and Stone. I work in Long Sutton as a Dental nurse and Emma has returned home after working for a Para Rider in Buckinghamshire, she put the horses through their training schedule preparing them for competition or prepared them to be sold on if they didn't have the temperament for the specialist job that lay ahead of them. Emma gained her degree in Breeding & Stud Management BSc & ( Artificial Insemination) but currently works for a newspaper based in Boston and in her spare time she is bringing on her three year old Warmblood (Marshalling) and is looking forward to getting back onto the dressage circuit this summer.

As a way of integrating into village life and making new friends I went onto the Sutton St James web page and found a link to the Lives Charity First Responders, a responder was required for the Sutton St James area, so I applied and completed the courses. There is now a full kit present at the house and I intend to cover this area as much as time will allow. I could do with some more help if anyone is interested in becoming a First Responder or you are happy to just help out with fundraising/treasure or you just fancy a chat & a cuppa, please call in or look for me on the yard I will always pop kettle on if time allows. Some of you may have noticed some collection tins around the village with some leaflets/poster, these leaflets currently say Holbeach St Johns although I will be covering as large an area as I can the group is now recognised as Sutton St James. I just have to wait for the new paperwork to come down from Head Office but these items had already been distributed, so please support your area. We will be going into the School to give a CPR demonstration to the children before they leave the Primary School venturing up to Senior school in September taking these important life experiences with them into adulthood.

We as a family are looking forward to the spring in our new home and wish to thank all those people that have taken the time to help us settle in, a special thank you must go to our neighbours Ray & Debby I would never have found my way round without your directions. Also to Fred and his lovely wife, son John, for your time and patience. To George & Cynthia for your friendship and help, we enjoy our chats and love to see your pony & trap. We would like to say "Hello" to all the horsey people, dog walker and passer by that take the time to wave or say "Hi". We have been impressed with the friendliness of the Village and area. I would just like to finish by wishing the Bell family every happiness in their new home and hope the ground dries out soon so we can get these horses out and if anyone has any information on the history of my house I would love to hear it and see some photos.

Article by Shirley Barrett.

**New Responder for Lives Group**

Melanie Govier has recently passed her level 2 course and has now joined the Sutton St James Village ‘Lives’ group. The group is growing but always ready to welcome more volunteers. If you are interested contact Shirley Barrett on 07974 875 954

**Sutton St James Village Hall**

**Hall hire subject to availability**

Enquiries for the hiring of the Village Hall to the Booking Secretary - Elaine Harrison on (01945) 440 332

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**Bingo at the Village Hall**

*Every other Monday*

- March 3rd : March 17th
- March 31st - April 14th
- April 28th - May 12th - May 26th
- Eyes down 7.30pm

**Sutton St James Walking Group**

- Group leaves for local walks from Village Hall at 11 am every Thursday
- For away day walks group leaves at 10 am
- Contact Carol Griggs on 01945 440 599

**Sutton St James Readers Group**

Our reading group goes from strength to strength and we are always pleased to welcome new members. If you are a keen reader and want to check us out, please just come along and sit in and find out what we do!

Membership costs £10.00 per year and all books are provided by the Lincolnshire Library Services.

For further information, please contact either Mike or Ann Milchard on 01945 440 391 who will be pleased to help

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**LINE DANCING FOR ALL THE FAMILY**

*No need for a partner. Learn to Line Dance*

- Every Wednesday at Sutton St James Village Hall
- Beginners and Improvers 6.45 to 8 pm
- Only £4 per session Adults - £2 Children
- Contact Marion on 01406 350 732

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An explosive fitness program designed to maximise fat burn while using Street Dance Moves

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- GUARANTEED TO GET YOU FIT! : FIRST CLASS FREE!!
- For details contact Abby - 07928 870 118

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**Good Companions**

Meet every Wednesday in the Village Hall at 1.30 for 2 pm Start : Whist - Bingo - Outings

All welcome - For enquiries call Jean Leggett on 01945 440 535
William F Samuels was the schoolmaster of Sutton St James from before WW1 until 1917, he was married to Helena. They had five children, three boys; Percival Hutchinson, Arthur Pennington and Wilfred Templeton and two girls; May and Eva. During my research into the casualties named on the village memorials it became clear that Percival, the youngest son, was not listed anywhere else. He had no record with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, no listing in 'Soldiers Died' and no Medal index card or personal record at the National Archive, whereas Wilfred had a grave reference in France. Using an internet genealogy site I was able to establish that Percival had died in 1916 in Grimsby. I then obtained his death certificate which showed that he had died in Grimsby Hospital on 20th April 1916 aged 19 after an operation for Tuberculosis Peritonitis. The informant to the registrar was not the Army but Percival's father and that may well be a clue as to how he slipped off the records. I then began to search through the local newspapers in Wisbech Library and an obituary in the edition of 3rd May 1916 showed that Percival had joined the 3/4th Lincolnshire Regiment in August 1915 as a volunteer and had become a Signaller, that being given as his rank although at this time there was no such official position in the Army. The obituary stated that he had spent a weekend at home and become seriously ill on his return to camp. There remained now only the problem of finding him, I had not been able to locate him in the churchyard although his father's headstone was obvious. Then on a second attempt I caught sight of William's wife's name on the reverse which posed the question 'so who's on the side?' It was then apparent from the inscriptions that the family was buried together with Percival on the right of the headstone. Next I began looking into Wilfred, the eldest son. He had joined the RFC in the summer of 1915 as a 2nd Air Mechanic and been sent out to the Somme Sector in France, on landing he was promoted to 1st Air Mechanic. He was selected for Officer training at the end of 1916 and returned to England on the 31st January 1917. After completing the course and as the newly appointed Second Lieutenant Samuels he went back to France in July having been posted to 47 Balloon Section. He was still in the base area a week after arriving when on the 14th July he was involved in a motorcycle accident (according to local information) He was taken to No2 Stationary Hospital at about 5.30 and died at 10.30 without regaining consciousness, his skull having been fractured. He is buried in Abbeville Communal Cemetery Extension, his family had the inscription placed on his headstone 'Greater love hath no man than this'. He was 25 years old. Again an obituary appeared in the Ely & Wisbech Advertiser on 25th July 1917, this also mentioned the loss of Percival's last resting place, the position was officially recorded and his name now appears in the CWGC's section. It only remained now to convince the CWGC and the MoD of Percival's right to be recorded as a military casualty. I forwarded my research to the CWGC and several weeks later was overjoyed to receive confirmation that the MoD had accepted the evidence and that the CWGC would from that point on care for Percival's grave. A couple of weeks later I escorted the area superintendent and two of his staff to Percival's last resting place, the position was officially recorded and his name now appears in the CWGC's database. The Samuels family lost two sons, one injured and the father died early as a result, none of them as a result of any direct action by the enemy, they had died or been injured because of the war, not in it, and in that perhaps is an even greater example of the tragedy of armed conflict.

Article by Ian Durrant

**SUTTON ST JAMES CONVENIENCE**

**Newsagents** : Off Licence : Grocery : Lottery : ATM Machine

Mon to Fri - 7am to 7.30 pm - Saturday 7.30am to 7.30 pm

Sunday 8am to 4 o’clock - **Tel:- 01945 440 99**

**WW1 Interesting Fact:** During WW1 British tanks were initially categorized into ‘Males’ and ‘Females.’ Male tanks had cannons, while females had heavy machine guns.
The Cat That Came Back - Part 3

After the worrying phone call about the missing Mr Tibbles our memory of him was reduced to the photograph I had taken of him on the day of his departure with the ‘Very Nice Lady.’ We still wondered about him and liked to imagine him having been adopted by a lovely family who were spoiling him rotten - but a little niggle of doubt was always at the back of our minds.

Then one bright morning, with Hubby due home from work on an early finish I was hurrying through my necessary business as the sun was shining and the great outdoors was calling me. I had plants to dig in and some more cutting back to do so I dug out my gardening attire from the cupboard when I heard a familiar growling wail from Sasha who was eagerly awaiting our sojourn into the garden. Puzzled I opened the back door I stopped dead in my tracks. There was Mr Tibbles. Large as life, rather tatty but obviously delighted to be there, exactly five weeks to the day when he had disappeared.

I was astounded! Tibbles was delighted! Sasha was horrified! “Is that you Tibbles?” I asked, amazed as he marched forward to greet me in his usual blunt way, meowing like mad and flinging himself onto his back for a tummy rub – totally ignoring Sasha who was hiding behind me swearing under his breath and looking thoroughly outraged that the enemy had returned to his doorstep! Mixed feeling ensued as I scooped Mr Tibbles up and cuddled him to me. One worry allayed – he was safe. A little scruffy and certainly thinner and obviously very hungry, but in one piece. Another worry to take its place – what about Sasha - the taken down fence - and the war! Mr Tibbles was totally oblivious of either my worries or Sasha’s bad language as he rolled in my arms and told me the great tale of his epic journey. Meowing non stop as he related the tale in great detail, how a wicked lady had stolen him away, and taken him to a Vets where he ‘Didn’t Like It!’ Then to make matters worse she had taken him back to the ‘Wrong House’! But he had been too clever for them and come home. He was all but demanding film rights for his adventure and telling me in no uncertain terms that this is where he lives and this is where he intends to stay – so there!

I needed time to gather my wits, so filled a large bowl with cat food and plonked it on the doorstep, which was gratefully received as the wanderer tucked in with gusto. I took Sasha inside and locked the cat flap while I telephoned the ‘Very Nice Lady’ to impart the good news. She too was obviously relieved as we both marvelled about his great journey and the fact that he had dined with death across the duel carriageway and come ‘home. (I did wonder about the word ‘home’ with a little trepidation but decided to ignore the term for now.) At this point Hubby arrived home and was spotted by the thoroughly pleased-with-himself Mr T who immediately flung himself up his trouser legs and started to repeat the ‘Incredible Journey’ tale in great detail once more while Sasha terminalised.

To be continued......
1/ Who was the last president of the Soviet Union?
2/ What had Pliny the Younger seen erupt when he wrote: "We were terrified to see everything changed, buried in ashes like snowdrifts"?
3/ Who saw the turtleneck he wore at ceasefire talks in Bosnia fetch $5,000 at auction?
4/ What Alabama city saw state troopers attack Civil Rights marchers on Edmund Pettis Bridge?
5/ What Texan ended up with one delegate after spending $12 million of his own money running for president in 1980?
6/ What modern vehicle was invented to circumvent trench warfare?
7/ What California city did the last Pony Express ride end in?
8/ What civil rights leader did Dorothy Parker leave the bulk of her estate to?
9/ What brave-hearted Scottish patriot led soldiers to a defeat of the English at the Battle of Cambuskenneth in 1297?
10/ What nation issued the five-dollar bill found in Abraham Lincoln's pocket when he was shot?
11/ What political system was gradually dismantled in South Africa, starting in 1989?
12/ What was 11th-century Spanish military leader Rodrigo Diaz de Vivar better known as?
13/ What game was created by French mathematician Blaise Pascal, which he discovered when doing experiments into perpetual motion?
14/ Who said: "I'm the president of the United States and I'm not going to eat any more broccoli"?
15/ What so-called "war" spawned the duelling slogans "Better Dead Than Red" and "Better Red Than Dead" in the 1950's?
16/ What USA president was shot while walking to California Governor Jerry Brown's office?
17/ Who earned infamy for noting: "A billion dollars isn't worth what it used to be"?
18/ What ethnic group was largely responsible for building most of the early railways in the U.S. West?
19/ What former speaker of the U.S. House has a chair in peace studies named for him at the University of Ulster?
20/ What was a gladiator armed with, in addition to a dagger and spear?
21/ What future Soviet dictator was training to be a priest when he got turned on to Marxism?
22/ What 20th-century conflict was dubbed the "forgotten war" despite 54,246 U.S. deaths?
23/ What single name is more commonly applied to Holy Roman Emperor Charles the Great?
24/ What was the first country to recognize Mexico's independence, in 1836?
25/ What encyclopedia's first edition, in 1771, described California as "a large country of the West Indies"?
26/ Who saw his crew dine on wormy biscuits and rats on his fourth voyage to the New World?
27/ Which of Henry VIII's wives gave birth to Elizabeth I?
28/ What 19th-century president erroneously noted: "The ballot is stronger than the bullet"?
29/ What explorer of North Carolina never got to finish his "History of the World" while banished to the Tower of London?
30/ Who did Adolf Hitler dictate Mein Kampf to while in prison?
31/ What is a group of Pug Dogs called?
32/ Why were Donald Duck comics banned in Finland?
**A Soldier’s Kiss**  
*by Henry Chappell*

Only a dying horse! Pull off the gear,  
and slip the needless bit from frothing jaws.  
Drag it aside there, leaving the road way clear.  
The battery thunders on with scarce a pause.  
Prone by the shell-swept highway there it lies  
with quivering limbs, as fast the life-tide fails.  
Dark films are closing o’er the faithful eyes  
that mutely plead for aid where none avails.  
Onward the battery rolls, but one there speeds  
needlessly of comrades voice or bursting shell,  
back to the wounded friend who lonely bleeds  
beside the stony highway where he fell.  
Only a dying horse! He swiftly kneels,  
Lifts the limp head and hears the shivering sigh  
Kisses his friend, while down his cheek there steals  
Sweet pity’s tear, “Goodbye old man, Goodbye”.  
No honours wait him, medal, badge or star,  
Though scarce could war a kindlier deed unfold;  
He bears within his breast, more precious far  
Beyond the gift of kings,  
a heart of gold.