

## *Musbury Heritage* – News & Question Time – Spring 2022

### News

I thought it would be a good idea to list a few of the recent updates on the Musbury Heritage website, as I appreciate not everyone is on Facebook or visits the site regularly.

#### **Knights Farm Picture**

I spotted an etching (c. 1930) for sale by auction by the past Musbury resident and artist Edward Bouverie-Hoyton. Realising it was the farmyard entrance to Knights Farm, I contacted the farmhouse owners and they were successful in purchasing the picture. I show a comparison to a modern-day photograph on the website. Just put 'Knights' in the search box on the Home Page ([www.musburyheritage.co.uk](http://www.musburyheritage.co.uk)).

#### **Robert Sellers (1845 to 1938)**

Not a familiar name, but this retired policeman served the village for many years as a voluntary controller of traffic at Musbury Cross. This was prior to the building of the by-pass in 1931, when Axminster Road was very busy and the location of many accidents. He was still performing this service in his 80s! To see his interesting story search for 'Sellers' on the Home Page.

#### **William Farley Lethbridge – b. 1787 – d. 1847**

You may have seen this former owner of Mountfield's name on the east window of the church. He is commemorated along with his wife. There are also several Lethbridges buried in the churchyard. Potentially one of our most interesting residents, but his story is clouded with mystery. Please read about him by searching for 'Lethbridge'. Are there any naval historians who may be able to help?

#### **Cearley, Sergeant Alfred William (1892 to 1918 or 1949?)**

You may have seen my early story about Alfred who is the first-named on our war memorial. I raised questions about his death in France in 1918. Since publication the 1921 census has become available and there is now an update on the website with further evidence. A search on 'Cearley' will take you to the original story and the update.

### Question Time

I am hoping to call upon the collective memories of the residents of Musbury, past and present, who may be reading this. The following are just a small selection of some of the questions that have arisen whilst I have been researching Musbury's history. Hopefully these will set the brain cells whirring and I'll be inundated with answers! They are not in any particular order.

- When was Northfields built?
- Mount Pleasant is often referred to as a farm, but I've seen no evidence to support this. Can you shed some light on this?
- When was the last service held in the Chapel?
- According to the Census, Musbury lost nearly 100 acres in size between 1961 and 2011. Any thoughts on what land may have disappeared from the parish to account for this?
- I have been given a copy of a black & white leaflet called "Welcome to Musbury", priced 30p. It has map of the village on one side with pictures and numbers representing Musbury features and buildings. The reverse is a quite a detailed description / history of each of these features

and suggestions of 'Places to Walk'. Do you know who produced this leaflet and when and why it was produced?

I would be very grateful for any help you can give on the above. They are just a small selection of questions I have, so I hope to make this a regular feature in the Parish News.