

‘ALL OUR STORIES’ - TILTY AND THE SECOND WORLD WAR The Group has been awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) All Our Stories Grant, which we applied for last July. The project was inspired by the success of the ‘Tilty Memories’ evening in May this year, and Alf’s talk in June on ‘Pillboxes and Scars of the Second World War’. The aim is to communicate and commemorate the wartime experiences of people in a small rural community, primarily via a website, though there will also be talks, walks and other events.

As with so many other communities in the UK, some people went off to fight, whilst others stayed behind taking care of homes and families, and coping with the exigencies of war. In Tilty, pillboxes were built, searchlights shone from the top of the hill – where memorably a Mosquito crashed – and, on Christmas Day 1940, residents and evacuees participated in a BBC radio broadcast: “Christmas Under Fire”. The photograph on the right shows the Rev. Hugh Cuthbertson during this part of the broadcast.



The transcript is one of many fascinating documents from the period still in the possession of Rev. Cuthbertson’s daughter, Cecile Down. The front cover is marked ‘SECRET’ in the top right hand corner, but – the need for national security having passed – Cec has kindly allowed us access to it; the photograph on the left shows some of the Group, who met last week to take a look at the script and related correspondence.

Full details about the programme of activities for this project will be available at the January meeting, including information about workshops to provide guidance and support. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the project, or

anything else you’d like to share – ideas, contacts, stories, specific skills – do please email tilty.archaeology@gmail.com There is a diverse range of stories, memories, artefacts and documents from the period to explore, record and share, and there will be a variety of ways in which members can get involved.

THE A.G.M. IN NOVEMBER was very well attended. The formalities included the Chairman’s report, the Treasurer’s Financial Report, the Secretary’s announcement of next year’s programme, and the election of Officers and Committee Members. These formalities having been despatched at a commendable pace, the evening continued with several presentations on this year’s activities and research projects. Darren Stone shared some fascinating new material on the Mosquito crash at Tilty, including excerpts from the pilot’s log book. Jane and Martin Pedley gave an update on the abbey wall; the scaffolding is up now, and repair work will continue in the spring (an on-site talk will be arranged in the Abbey Field). Maggie Stevens gave a presentation on research into the life and work of the Rev. Maxted, a ‘red vicar’ at Tilty from 1909-1918. Following the presentations, there was time to look through various local finds, some turned up by metal-detectorists, courtesy of Tom Pedley, Alf Wright, and Trevor and George Francis.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES



Tuesday 11th December
Christmas “Do”

NEXT MEETING: Tues **January 8th 2013**
‘Local Memories’ / All Our Stories Launch

Other 2013 Meeting dates {All Tuesdays}:

March 12th May 14th,
September 10th November 12th (AGM)
December 10th (Christmas “do”)

FULL PROGRAMME AVAILABLE IN JANUARY