

Look back **in time**

Scilla honoured for historical society work

Crosses put on war graves

Five crosses have been placed on the graves of soldiers who died in Israel during World War I as part of a project to remember the 87 men from a town who died serving their country.

Arlesey Remembers You is a community-based project which aims to place a cross on the graves of all of the men who died during the Great War before Remembrance Sunday in November.

Arlesey resident Chris Ferris travelled to two cemeteries, Ramla and Jerusalem, in Israel, to place crosses on the graves of:

- Private William JOHNSON,
- Second Lieutenant John WATERTON,
- Private Ernest Lawrence BYGRAVE,
- Sergeant Alfred Plumtree MALTBY,
- Company Quartermaster Sergeant Albert TOPHAM.

Mr Ferris said: "It was a very moving and emotional day



■ The grave of John Waterton
Picture by Chris Ferris

combined with all the logistics of getting between the two cemeteries and having to catch a flight."

So far 16 of the 87 crosses have been placed, with approximately 30 more planned to be laid during June and July.

For more information or to get involved in placing crosses, visit www.crowdfunder.co.uk/arlesey-remembers-you-documentary

A grandmother-of-nine has been presented with a county award in recognition of her contribution to documenting the history of her home town.

The Hertfordshire Association for Local History (HALH) presented Scilla Douglas with the Personal Achievement Award at a meeting at St Mary's Church in Redbourn.

Having grown up in Hitchin, where she still lives, Scilla became involved in the Hitchin Historical Society soon after its formation in 1977 and has been an active member of the society for more than 30 years as a committee member, chairman and now as president.

As membership secretary she encouraged the growth of the society, which now has more than 400 members.

For the past 18 years Scilla has been joint editor for the society, editing 25 books and several smaller publications and Hitchin Initiative leaflets. In this time she has been



■ Scilla Douglas (left) receives her award from HALH president Dorothy Abel Smith

able to support both experienced and new authors, and share her own research information.

The 79-year-old has also been closely involved in many initiatives and events such as preventing the ancient road bridge over the River

Hiz in Bridge Street from being demolished, and the removal of The Cabbies' Hut from Hitchin Railway Station car park and its relocation to the Market Place.

She also volunteers at the British Schools Museum in Queen Street, Hitchin, turning her hand to any tasks which need tackling.

Scilla said: "I am very grateful indeed and very pleasantly surprised to have been awarded a HALH Personal Achievement Award. Local history can be a bit of an obsession – something many of my family and friends would certainly agree – but it is a constructive obsession. I have enjoyed every minute of being involved in Hitchin's local history over the past 30 years."

The awards, which are presented annually, aim to publicly honour those who have made an outstanding and significant contribution to local history.

→ For more information visit www.halh.org.uk

OPEN DAY

Friday 20th June, 11am - 3pm

In Support of National Care Homes Open Day
Milford Lodge Care Home

Milford Lodge is an impressive purpose built care home for the elderly, situated in an exclusive residential location near to Hitchin Priory and the town centre.

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- Fully inclusive, 24hr person centred care by experienced staff
- Long term residential care for the elderly
- Long term specialist dementia care in a safe, comfortable environment
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Facilities include:

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