

## The Goddard Association of Europe

NEWSLETTER

No. 136 - October 2020

### FRANCIS JAMES GODDARD MBE

24th Nov. 1933 - 21st Mar. 2020

Long standing Association member and father to Alex Morris, GAE Committee member, James was descended from Suffolk Goddards. He was the grandson of Algernon Robertson Goddard (1835-1931) whose father Daniel Haill Goddard (1811-1883) was a brother of Ebenezer, son of Daniel Poole Goddard of the Ipswich Gas Company. Sir Daniel Ford Goddard of Ipswich was a first cousin of Algernon.

James' great uncle, Frederick Robertson Goddard will, I believe, be featured in an upcoming issue of the newsletter.

James was born in Bowden, Cheshire in November 1933. He had an elder sister Dordie (Theodora) and a younger brother, Philip. The family moved to Chester in 1939 and he started his education at the Cathedral Choir School.

From there he went to prep school at St Asaph and on to Sedbergh where he developed a love for fell walking and ornithology.

While reading through the old Sedbergh magazine recently I found evidence of another interest in the following account which detailed a recent school play.

'An outstanding excellence of the production was the clarity of the diction. Every word could be heard. Not only at the back of the hall but also by the inmates of the 'San', to whom the play was broadcast through an ingenious set up devised by F J Goddard.

The verdict on this, the first broadcast ever of a play from Powell Hall was that an almost perfect illusion of listening to the BBC's 'Saturday Night Theatre' was created – a very great compliment to all concerned.'

Sandhurst followed and he was commissioned into the 22nd Cheshire Regiment in 1954.

James served in Malaya, Australia, Berlin, Aden, Germany, Jordan, Northern Ireland, Holland and Belgium as well as in England. He retired in 1984 after 30 years in the army. He then embarked on a second career raising cattle and sheep.

Early in his army career he spent time in the Malayan jungle where a special air drop had to be organised to provide him with size 13 jungle boots. A size not normally available! From Malaya he was sent to Australia for a year where he was known as 'Big Jim'.



He came back with an Australian accent and wanted to be known as Jim – that didn't last long. Here is a quote from brother officer Denis Kane.

'James held a very special slot in the Regiment and was without doubt always a fine example and ambassador of everything we all aspired to.

He had a great sense of humour and was a courteous and polite gentleman of impeccable manners who was held in high esteem by all ranks—a fine officer who it was a privilege to have known and served with.'

Perhaps above all, James was a 'family' man. Returning home on leave once his family had moved to Dorset, he couldn't fail to spot the blonde, bobbed 12 year old swinging on the gate at Heron House. Ten years later love blossomed and he and Trish were married in Sherborne Abbey on the 30th July 1966 – the day that England won the world cup! There followed an incredible partnership of 54 years. Cards and flowers were exchanged on each wedding anniversary, and roses never failed to appear each Valentine's Day. They were the ultimate team.

James was a 'hands on' father to his four girls, and would get involved with whatever was going on - leading ponies, removing grass stains from jodhpurs, polishing boots, wiping tears and giving bear hugs.

They lived in fear, however, of his nursing skills – a vicious scrub to an open wound with TCP and a nailbrush was often more painful than the injury itself. He had high standards – you could see your reflection in his polished shoes and he insisted on best behaviour for church and scrupulous table manners. He recorded music and story tapes for the girls and always led the singing on car journeys. They remember other fun activities:

*FRANCIS JAMES GODDARD MBE, cont. from p.1*

Shrimping and mackerel fishing, trips in a little red motor boat, 'The Giant Peach' (getting grounded on a sand bar in Brittany!) skiing, sharing music, helping on the farm, lambing and tractor rides. The girls also remember his determination – if a job is worth doing it is worth doing well. Latterly this applied to learning Russian. He kept at it years after Trish had given up – making firm friends with his classmates. He always gave of his best.

James had a fine tenor voice and loved singing. For many years he was a member of the Axminster and District Choral Society. He loved singing with them and was very diligent about practicing for hours on end, much to Trish's frustration. James was also a member of the local church choir and performed in several village pantomimes. He made an excellent Sherlock Holmes complete with pipe and deerstalker.

James had a quick wit and a gift for repartee. He would often surprise us by suddenly bursting into song, quoting from Shakespeare or reciting a poem he had learnt as a schoolboy. He loved limericks and would laugh hysterically at jokes, often his own, with tears running down his cheeks.

His sense of humour and quick wit was razor sharp right to the end. He delighted in finding out where the foreign nurses looking after him were from, learning their names and charming them with his engaging smile and a twinkle in his eye.

Philip, James' brother, sent us a message about his memories - of growing up during the war, clustering around the 'wireless' to hear the 6 o'clock news, rationing, the awful dried eggs, and their father's map on the dining room wall depicting the Germans' advance, and later retreat.

James led a wonderful and rewarding life and he lived it to the full. He touched so many other lives and he leaves us all with precious memories.

*Alex Morris, of West Sussex*

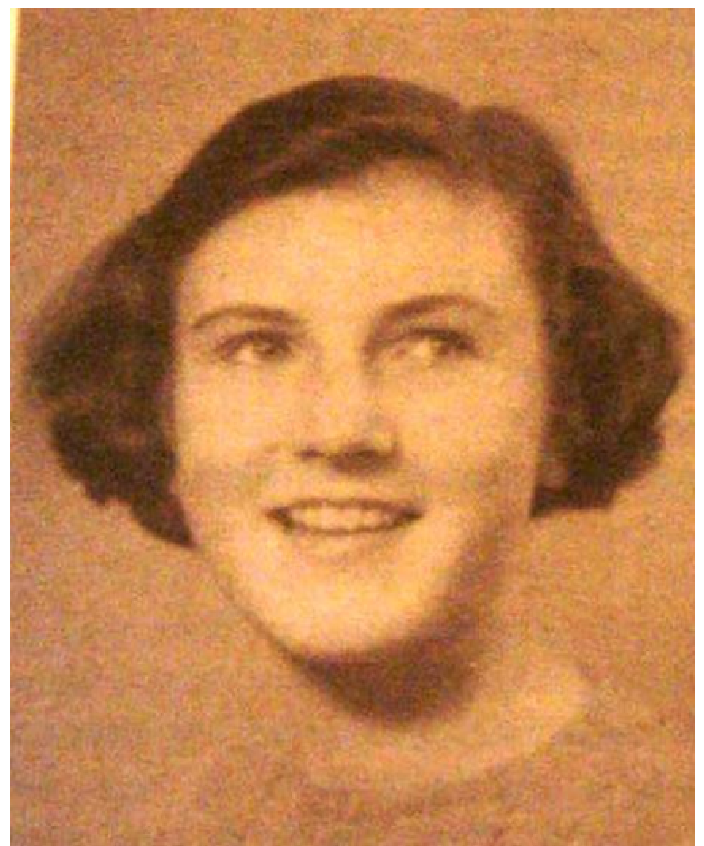
*[Ed.: See the leading articles in Newsletters 117, 119 and 123 for earlier discussions on this very interesting family.]*

## **THIS WAS A BAD NIGHT**

The appearance of German bombers in the skies over London during September 1940 heralded a tactical shift in Hitler's attempt to subdue Great Britain. During the previous two months, the Luftwaffe had targeted RAF airfields and radar stations for destruction in preparation for the German invasion of the island. With invasion plans put on hold and eventually scrapped, Hitler turned his attention

to destroying London in an attempt to demoralize the population and force the British to come to terms. This was the beginning of the Blitz – a period of intense bombing of London and other cities that continued until the following May. London was bombed during both the day and night. Fires consumed many portions of the city. Residents sought shelter wherever they could find it – many fleeing to the Underground stations during the night. In the worst single incident, 450 were killed when a bomb destroyed a school being used as an air raid shelter.

Central London and the East End bore the brunt of the bombing raids, daily life for all civilians was affected. The routines of air raid drills, patrols by wardens, blackouts and the taping of windows to prevent flying glass in a bomb explosion became the



*Nicky Goddard at 14 years old, in 1939*

pattern, whilst at the same time living under the constant threat of attack. Civilians were greatly affected by exhaustion, lack of sleep, bereavement, and above all fear.

By November 1940 the population of central London had dropped by 25 per cent. People had to find shelter from the nightly bombing raids. Everyone in London regardless of age, sex or class was in danger.

Shelters were dug into the earth and covered with soil, but they were also damp and prone to flooding in wet weather. Public shelters were built of brick and concrete and were much drier but civilians

considered these unsafe. A blast from a nearby bomb often caused walls and roofs to collapse.

Many people sought shelter in London's underground stations. By the end of September 1940, as many as 177,000 Londoners ate, drank, read and slept there every night, but they would rather endure these conditions than stay in their unprotected homes and risk losing their lives.

Nicky Goddard was a teenager living through this, with her family at 45 Warwick Road Earls Court, where the family had lived since 1906, Nicky would continue to live in this house until the 1970s. Her father Lt. Col. Francis Ambrose D'Oyly Goddard [see Newsletter 70] had served in The South African and First World Wars and her brother Midshipman Denis Goddard had died serving in World War One; she was no stranger to war.

It is amazing that during this horrific time in her life she had the presence of mind far in excess of her mere 14 years to write about what was happening around her in her diary; she kept her diary until 1943 when it would seem that the air raids had finally gone.

Her diary now resides in The National Army Museum in London, and in 2004 part of it was published in an anthology of people's war time experiences by Richard Aldrich, called *Witness to War*. Below is a diary entry for one night in mid September 1940.

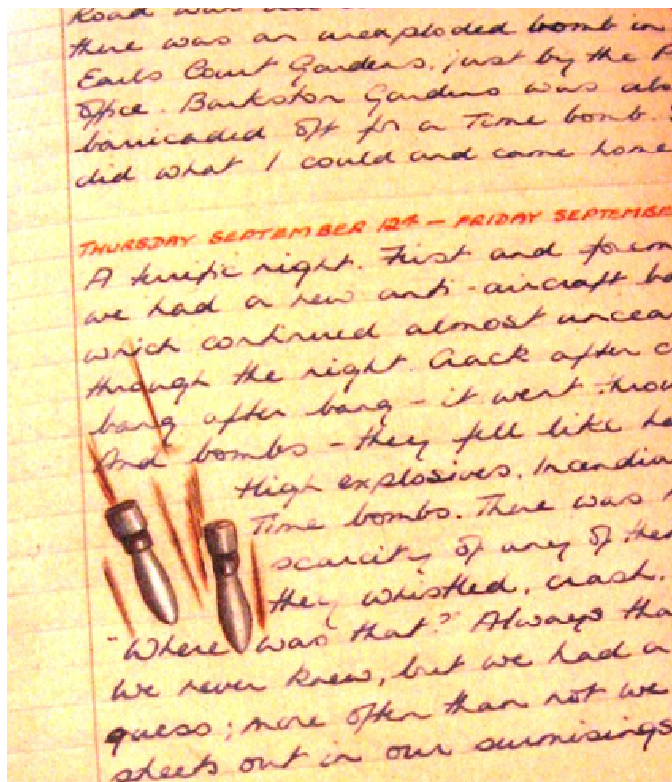
[Ed. Nicky was a member of *The Goddard Association of Europe* along with her sister Mimi.]

*Thursday 12 – Friday 13 September 1940*

A terrific night. First and foremost we had a new anti-aircraft barrage which continued almost unceasingly through the night. Crack after Crack bang after bang – it went through one. And bombs – they fell like hail stones. High explosive, incendiaries and time bombs. There was no scarcity of any of them. Down they whistled, crash and then “Where was that” Always the question. We never knew, but we had a good guess, and more often than not we were streets out in our surmising. But no-one cared.

A 1000lb time bomb was dropped on Trebovir Road; - Coleherne Road and Courtfield Gardens had them too. Incendiaries fell in Penywenn Road doing considerable damage to a number of houses; the Princess Beatrice's Nursing Home suffered also – so did Finborough Road and no end of other spots in the neighbourhood.

But worst of all was Warwick Road – not only because it was very near to us, but it really was a dreadful sight. A large four-storied Victorian house lay right across the road – one mass of rubble.



*A page from Nicky Goddard's WW2 diary*

The result of one of Jerry's finest H.E.'s (high explosives). As we sat in our shelter we heard it coming. It whistled down. It sounded a long way off at first, then nearer and nearer it came. Our hearts stopped beating and then with one final shriek it dived straight down crashing on a private hotel two hundred yards away. Then all was confusion. For one second everything seemed to be crashing and breaking around us.

Luckily the hotel was empty. So debris only consisted of brick, wood and mortar – one consolation anyway. But all the houses opposite were ruined; not a door or window left intact; railings were smashed and bent; brick-dust and rubble lay everywhere. Even our house was in a mess. A thick coating of dust covered everything and anything and glass from the broken windows was scattered all over the place.

Dad lost the two big windows in his room; the windows in the Dining Room also went and the fan-light. So we were very lucky. As we stood on the front doorstep at 5.45am we looked in the direction of High Street Kensington. A nasty red glow greeted us from the sky. Yes, Our Lady of Victories it was.

Our beautiful parish church was blazing furiously, as a result of one of Jerry's oil canister bombs to say nothing of several dozen incendiaries which disappeared down at the same time.

*Mary Veronica Goddard (Nicky)*

[Ed.: Former member Nicky passed away in 1996]

## Was Susannah Goddard really Thomas?

Thomas Goddard was the father of Frederick Goddard (baptised on 26th January 1813 in Newtimber). He married Emma Frankland in St Nicholas Brighton on 10th December 1809. The couple baptised three children in Newtimber (Frederick and Eliza 1810 then Michael 1815) before moving to Brighton where Thomas Goddard of Newtimber died, aged 30, and was buried in St Nicholas' Churchyard on 23rd October 1817. A posthumous child, Thomas, was baptised on 21st June 1818 in St Nicholas Brighton, with the abode stated to be Richmond Row (later part of Albion Hill).



St John the Evangelist, Newtimber



St Nicholas of Myra, Brighton

Emma remarried (at St. Nicholas, to Francis Buckle on 29th January 1822) one of the witnesses being Richard Goddard (son of William Goddard & Susannah Peacock baptised in Newtimber on 3rd April 1791). After initially living in Albourne, Richard Goddard and his wife Sarah baptised two children in St. Nicholas Brighton in 1819 & 1822 while living in Richmond Row. Was this a coincidence, or a close family link?

William Goddard and Susannah did not baptise a child named Thomas, though there is a baptism for Susanna in 1787. However William had an illegitimate nephew, Thomas son of his sister Sarah baptised 29 Jan 1769 in Newtimber. This Thomas would have been older than 48 years when Thomas Goddard of Newtimber was buried in Brighton. This is a big difference from the 30 years old of the burial register and considering that Emma Frankland was literate, signing her name in both marriage entries, it is hard to see how this big a mistake could be made.

I was able to track five of the six children to the grave, four of them through marriage(s) and children, but nothing for Susanna! All those who sur-

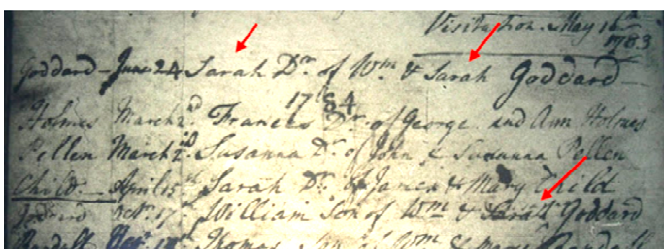
vived long enough can be found in all censuses up to their deaths.

### Name - Baptism - Marriage - Children - Buried

- Sarah - 24 Jun 1783 - 5 Jul 1803 - Frances (1803), William (1805), Thomas (1806), Susan (1808), Mary Anne (1810), James (1816), John (1821) - 30 Mar 1860
- William - 7 Oct 1784 - 7 Apr 1817 - William (1818), Thomas (1820), Henry (1822), George (1824), Ann (1826), Sarah (1828), Jane (1830), James (1831), Mary (1833), Hannah (1835), Eliza (1837), Frederick (1839) - 26 Nov 1854
- Susanna - 4 Oct 1787 - no marriage - no children - no death or burial recorded.
- John - 6 Sep 1789 - 6 Apr 1812; 11 Apr 1830 - John (1812), William (1814), Walter (1820), Richard Henry (1830), Mary Jane (1832), Elizabeth (1838), James (1839), Sarah (1842) - 3 Dec 1876
- Richard - 3 Apr 1791 - 22 Jun 1810 - James (1810), Mary (1812), Fanny (1815), Thomas (1816), William (1819), John (1822), Elizabeth (1823), Ann (1827) - died 31 Aug 1870
- James - 11 Sep 1796 - no marriage - no children - 22 Aug 1815

Did Susanna die during the period when the Newtimber registers were not properly kept? Or was the name misinterpreted when transcribed into the register? In the baptism entry for Sarah her mother's name was also given as "Sarah" (a not uncommon error in parish register entries). The error was repeated for William's baptism but corrected (faintly). So whoever was keeping the register was not careful. In the notes used to initially record a baptism, given names were often abbreviated. Susannah was usually abbreviated Sh and Thomas was sometimes abbreviated Th. Cursive capital S's and T's can be misread (I've done it myself). So if the cleric knew the mother's name was Susanna(h) and misread Th as Sh, he could

easily mistranscribe the given name as “Susanna”. The only further supporting evidence I have for this is a DNA connection between my father and a descendent of Susannah Peacock’s great-grandparents at Thakefield (Thomas Peacock and Rose Vaughan).



Baptism entries of Sarah and William Goddard

*Sue Law, of Sydney*

*[Ed.: If any member recognises this family, please contact the Research Coordinator via the email address on p.8.]*

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## SADLY MISSED



*The promised picture of long standing GAE member Albert Goddard of Chapel-en-le-Frith who passed away on 17 March aged 93. Full details in Newsletter 135 .*

## NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Janet Berkman** of Toronto, Canada. Janet is our Canadian and USA Co-ordinator. She is a retired telecommunications research manager. Besides researching her family history, she enjoys choral singing, sewing, and is an avid reader. She currently lives in Toronto, has been married for 37 years, and has two adult sons who live in Montreal.



**Helena Goddard** of Malvern. Helena is our new Chairman (temporary), she was born in Kent, taught in Malvern, Worcestershire where she met Richard our retiring President. They have been married 51 years and have three children and one grandson. She says she “has done the teas at many



AGMs.”

**Milly Goddard** of Aldbourne is a descendent of the Swindon Goddards and proud to be living in the home of her ancestors back to the 12th century. She is fortunate that her family tree has been researched by her great-uncle. She has two children and four grandchildren and runs a B&B in the village.




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## NEW MEMBERS

The following new members have joined the Association since the last Newsletter was distributed. They are, of course, warmly welcome and, as usual, the outline family information below is given to enable existing members to contact new members who appear to belong to the same branch. Please do so via the Membership Secretary whose details are on the back page.

**Mrs Frances O'Connor** descends from a Dorset branch around Sturminster Newton commencing with John and Jane married in Child Okeford in 1808 through to her great grandfather Walter 1872-1928 who moved to Islington as a train driver.

**Paula Darby** comes from a Kent family, her grandmother being Gwendoline Clementine Goddard, born 1915 in Folkestone, daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth. One of her brothers moved to Canada where Paula still has relatives.

## SIDNEY FREDERICK GODDARD



*Left to right: Arthur Leonard, Sidney Frederick, William Charles, Louisa, Mr and Mrs Bird, my grandfather John Morton Goddard, Auntie Alice, Auntie Ethel with her daughter Marjorie, the bride and groom, a Lily I don't know of and Sidney's wife Lily with their daughters.*

Sidney was the great-uncle I knew nothing about until I found a relative in New Zealand via Ancestry. She had this wedding photo above in her tree and I knew of every Goddard family member in it with the exception of Uncle Arthur Leonard, possibly because he sadly died aged only 33, Uncle Sidney and his wife and two daughters.

The wedding was in 1916 and it was the marriage of my Great-auntie Edie (Edith) and Uncle Art (Arthur) Oliver. Uncle Sidney was born January 1888 in Croydon, Surrey to Louisa Burleigh b. 1858 also in Croydon, and William Charles Goddard b.1847 in Worlingworth, Suffolk. He had an older brother, William Herbert b.1883 as well as three sisters who were Ethel Louisa b.1891, Alice b.1894 and Edith Catherine b.1896. He also had two younger brothers, my grandfather John Morton b.1899 and Arthur Leonard b.1901.

He married Lydia Elizabeth Bird on the 4th June 1911 at the church of Beddington St Mary in Surrey. There appears to be a connection between him and his mother-in-law Mrs Bird, who was formerly Mrs Oliver and therefore apparently his sister Edith's mother-in-law also. Their first daughter, Lillian Florence, was born on the 12th December 1912 and their second daughter, Winifred May,

was born on the 31st March 1916 when Sidney was already serving as a Private in the Royal Army Service Corps.

He tragically lost his life on the 4th December 1918 and was buried at Greenwich, London. I have been trying to find out how he died and what happened to his wife and daughters but I have very little time to do more research at the moment, so I would be very grateful for any information as well as any family connections. My grandfather never told us about Sidney or, like so many others, spoke of the Great War in which he had been a stretcher-bearer.

*Teresa Brett of Swindon*

### **The search for Nathaniel Goddard**

Nathaniel Goddard was one of my great-great-great-grandfathers. He was a blacksmith in the small village of Holton in Somerset, four miles north of the border with Dorset, and now just off the A303. Nathaniel married three times, firstly to Frances (Fanny) Miles in 1832, with whom he had seven children. She died shortly after the birth of their last child and was buried in Holton on 10 March 1844. Baby John was buried a few weeks later. Perhaps Nathaniel struggled to look after six children between the ages of three and 12, for he

married Esther/Hester Butt in Brewham on 21 Nov. the same year. They had three children together, all of whom were baptised in Holton (the first only six months after their marriage!).

Esther/Hester died in 1862 and Nathaniel married for a third time to Ann Corp in Feb. 1865. Nathaniel died in 1875 and was buried in Holton. Ann outlived him by around eight years. So that is where Nathaniel finished up, but where did he start out?

In the 1841 census for Holton, his age is given as 30, giving a birth year of approximately 1811, and 'Whether born in same county' was 'O/S' for outside the county. In 1851, his age is given as 41 and his birth place as 'Dorset - Bourton'. Bourton is the most northerly parish in Dorset and only a few miles from Holton, again now just off the A303.

Back in 1988, shortly after I first started researching my family history, I hot-footed it to Dorset County Records Office in Dorchester to search for Nathaniel's baptism in Bourton. Sadly, he wasn't to be found - but I found the baptisms of his eldest two sons by Fanny which had previously eluded me, given that the censuses say they were born in Holton! Nathaniel's third marriage certificate helpfully gave his father's name as John Goddard, with his occupation as 'Parish Clerk' - but it didn't say where!

If Nathaniel was born around 1810/11, the earliest birth year for John would be around 1794. In the 1841 census, there are only 20 John Goddards residing in Dorset, with only two born before 1794. There are six with a birthplace of Dorset, and only one of these was born before 1794. However, none of these seems to be the right John Goddard.

There is only one Goddard family in Bourton on the 1841 census - John Goddard aged 44, a carpenter, and Jane, aged 46. This John would have been born c.1797 so is too young to be Nathaniel's father (his brother perhaps?), although census ages are notoriously inaccurate. (In 1851 it transpires that John and Jane are brother and sister, both unmarried.)

There is a marriage of a John Goddard to Elizabeth Lanning, both of Bourton, in Sept. 1815 (some four or five years after Nathaniel's supposed birth), and an Elizabeth Goddard buried in Holton in Dec. 1846, aged 77. As there are no other Goddards in Holton, could this be Nathaniel's mother? If this is the same Elizabeth and she is Nathaniel's mother, she would have been over 40 when he was born - not unheard of, but unusual in the early 1800s. It's a mystery and one which, so far, I haven't had time to investigate further.

*Angela Winteridge of Hampshire*

[Ed.: If any member can help, please contact the Research Coordinator via the email address on p.8.]

## TRIBUTE TO RICHARD GODDARD

### “President Emeritus“

I'd like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Richard for the exceptional service he has given to the Association since being suddenly thrust into an executive role back in 1986. If he hadn't taken up the reins then there would be no Goddard Association.

Anyone who has come into the least contact with the workings of the Association knows that his commitment, contacts and knowledge of all things Goddard has been the key-stone holding us together. Occasional twisting of arms when necessary - but gently and unobtrusively done, which is real leadership in a voluntary organisation. We all, committee and members, offer our sincere thanks for all your efforts over the past 35 years.



Richard, you volunteered initially as a consultant to the infant society and it is our wish that you revert to a similar post in an honorary and non-executive position from which you can advise and encourage us. We have discussed this covertly and agreed that an appropriate way to mark your retirement is to ask you to accept the position of President Emeritus.

I therefore formally move that Richard Goddard is appointed as "President Emeritus" and ask for seconds. A vote of the committee passed this motion unanimously. Congratulations Richard.

*John of Accrington*

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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Covid-19's efforts to prevent the Association from meeting in 2020, were overcome when on 11 October we held a combined Committee meeting and AGM via Zoom, suggested and kindly hosted by Karen Bell, with only Janet Berkman of Toronto sending apologies. It was good that Malcolm of Brisbane could join us face-to-face.

The Minutes of the last Committee meeting, on 13 October 2019, were approved and subsequently signed. With no Committee meeting in May, the President turned to the postponed AGM Agenda.

Two changes to the Constitution had been proposed. There was unanimous agreement to rename the office of 'President', 'Chairman'. But the proposal to drop 'of Europe' from our title led to discussion, resulting in the retention of the status quo, distinguishing it from its American counterpart which, though dormant, might be subsequently revived.

Treasurer Richard Morris presented his Accounts for 2019-20, which were in line with previous years. It was noted that the cost of printing and posting the Newsletter was continuing to decrease with more members taking it electronically. About 150 have renewed their subscriptions and reminders have been sent to the others. Treasurer Richard is still trying to find an Examiner local to him. Any member wishing to see a copy of the Accounts can contact the Treasurer (details on this page).

Election of Officers, Richard of Malvern, President, indicated his wish to retire after 35 years. He was grateful to Francis McAlpin for offering his services if required but Helena of Malvern said she would take on the role on a temporary basis. She was duly elected. John of Accrington took the opportunity to present a tribute to Richard for his leadership and services to the GAE thus ensuring its longevity. (*See Tribute on p7.*) John stated it was the Committee's wish to maintain a role for him in an Honorary capacity as 'President Emeritus'. This was passed unanimously and Richard accepted the honour.

Denise of Meriden and Richard Morris were respectively re-elected Secretary and Treasurer. Malcolm of Brisbane was re-elected for a further 3 years. John of Accrington wished to relinquish his position on the Committee whilst retaining his role as Membership Secretary. Richard thanked John for his commitment over the last thirty years and was grateful to him for offering to take over from Joan Dibble as Research Co-ordinator. Camilla (Milly) Goddard of Aldbourne was elected to replace him. Joan Dibble wished to retire due to ill health and Janet Berkman of Toronto was elected for the remaining year of Joan's term. Richard thanked Joan for her work over many years and is pleased that, with Malcolm's support, she continues to manage the Association's Facebook page.

Any Other Business: a question has increasingly been raised about the Association's accumulated funds. It had been suggested that a permanent site for GAE resources be found and there is a possibility of linking with the 10-year plans of the Devizes Library and Museum to move to the Old Court House. After discussion, it was agreed that Richard should pursue the idea.

Karen Bell has contacted Denise Syndercombe-Court noting she will be doing more work on the Goddard DNA Project.

Alex Morris indicated she will be sending out a survey to all members, with assistance from Malcolm for electronic distribution.

Richard Goddard stated that we are nearing our 1000th member, which is quite a milestone.

The Howard Goddard-Jones Memorial for 2020 was awarded to Richard Goddard of Barbados.

In closing the meeting, the new Chairman acknowledged the work and time spent by Richard on the Association and looked forward to the continuing support of the committee.

Date and place of next meeting: As per this year's plan: Aldbourne, Sunday, 9 May 2021, Corona-virus permitting.

Helena of Malvern

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## BOOK NEWS

Membership Secretary John of Accrington writes; Robert Goddard's new novel *The Fine Art of Invisible Detection* was due to be published by Penguin in September this year, sadly it has been delayed until 18 March 2021.

[www.penguin.co.uk/authors/1025995/robert-goddard.html](http://www.penguin.co.uk/authors/1025995/robert-goddard.html)

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## USEFUL ADDRESSES

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