

## The Goddard Association of Europe

NEWSLETTER

No. 139 - July 2021

### CAPTAIN NICHOLA GODDARD

*2 May 1980 — 17 May 2006*

Nichola Goddard, MSM, soldier (born 2 May 1980 in Madang, Papua New Guinea; died 17 May 2006 in Afghanistan). Captain Nichola Goddard was the first female Canadian soldier to die in combat. Her death shocked the nation and was widely covered by Canadian news media. Although many Canadians believed that military combat was a job for men, Goddard's story revealed the commitment, service and sacrifice of women in the Canadian armed forces.

Capt. Goddard, who was serving with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in Afghanistan, died in a military operation against Taliban forces.

Nichola Kathleen Sarah Goddard was the first of three children for British and Canadian schoolteachers Tim and Sally Goddard. Goddard's childhood was shaped by the travels of her family. She spent the first three-and-a-half years of her life in remote villages of Papua New Guinea, where she ate local food and learned the local language. By the summer of 1984, the careers of Goddard's parents had taken them to Black Lake, Saskatchewan, a small fly-in indigenous community about 60 km south of the Northwest Territory. There she learned Dene, the language of her friends on the playground.

By age 18, Goddard had lived in seven different communities across Canada. She attended high school in Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

Nichola Goddard chose the military in her senior year of high school in 1997. Her mother Sally Goddard recalls that "free education and a job for five years after



graduation" factored heavily in her daughter's decision.

After graduating high school, she flew to Montreal for a Basic Officers Training Course at the Saint-Jean Garrison in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu. She then completed four years at the Royal Military College, Kingston, Ontario.

She graduated as an artillery officer and was posted to the 1st Regiment Royal Canadian Horse Artillery (1RCHA) as a 2nd Lieutenant.

Goddard's early years in the armed forces involved fighting wildfires as well as avalanche control in British Columbia. She was later promoted to Captain.

Those who served with Goddard, remember her as someone who quickly earned the respect of her comrades. Her former commanding officer, Ret. Lt. Col. Anne Reiffenstein, later remarked on the strong bond Goddard formed with non-commissioned members of the regiment. After Goddard made a mistake during a training exercise, Reiffenstein disciplined her by assigning additional duties. As she remembers, "It was like I had kicked puppies. I had every senior NCO come to me and complain for two-and-a-half days. They believed she was there for them and they were there for her."

Goddard deployed to Afghanistan in January 2006 as a forward observation officer (FOO) attached to the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. As the leader of a forward observation party within the artillery, her job was to call in indirect fire from artillery guns. FOO teams also coordinate airstrikes from jets and attack helicopters. The FOO team rides in a Light Armoured Vehicle, a 17-tonne, eight-wheeled vehicle with a rotating chain gun.

On 17 May 2006, Nichola Goddard and over 200 Canadian and Afghan soldiers were tasked to sweep an area south of Kandahar in the Panjwayi district. The mission was to root out an element of the Taliban that was gathering in the area.

Goddard and her team were ambushed by militants as they moved into a mosque in the Paanjwayi district. As the commanding officer, Goddard was standing in the turret of the LAV, with her head and shoulders exposed. Numerous rocket-propelled grenades hit their vehicle. Shrapnel struck Goddard in the back of the head, killing her instantly. She was 26 years old when she died.

Capt. Nichola Goddard was the first female Canadian soldier to die in a combat role and the highest-

ranking Canadian to die in the Afghanistan conflict.

Goddard's family arranged a public funeral at St. Barnabas Anglican Church in Calgary on 26 May 2006. She is buried in the National Military Cemetery at Beechwood in Ottawa and was posthumously awarded the Meritorious Service Medal on 27 October 2006.

Nichola Goddard's death in 2006 shocked the country. Many Canadians at the time believed that military combat was a job for men. Goddard's life and death received more media attention than any of the other 158 soldiers who were killed in Afghanistan. According to her family and friends, Nichola despised gender stereotypes and viewed herself as an equal among all her counterparts. Her story revealed that women were on the front lines and putting their lives at risk.

[Ed. A previous short article regarding Capt. Goddard appeared after her death, in newsletter 79]

<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/nichola-goddard>

## “THE TERROR”

The fictional BBC2 series of Sir John Franklin's 1845 expedition to find a north west passage across the Arctic, north of Canada, details the expedition of two ships, *HMS Erebus* and *HMS Terror*. Both ships were lost in the ice and all 129 officers and crew perished. Among the crew of *HMS Terror* was petty officer William Goddard, a 39 year-old seaman from Great Yarmouth. A fuller account of the voyage appeared in *Newsletter 116*.



*HMS Terror stuck in the Arctic ice*

The wreck of *HMS Terror* was discovered in 2016 off the south west coast of King William Island, lying on the seabed in an upright position. In August 2019 a remotely-controlled camera was lowered to examine the ship and found the interior virtually as intact as the day it was abandoned. Opportunities in the Arctic for closer examination are few and time limited but exploration is continuing.

*John of Accrington*

## SYD GODDARD

*“Over confident pilot but a good officer”*

*“Cockburn Gazette, Western Australia Aug.6, 2020”*

“World War II veteran Syd. Goddard ticks off 100th birthday in style.”

“Family and friends gathered to celebrate a former pilot celebrating his 100th lap around the sun.”

Around 30 people joined Syd Goddard at his home in Spearwood last month to celebrate him reaching the milestone. Mr Goddard, who still lives independently after his wife of more than 50 years Phyllis passed away two decades ago, is showing no sign of slowing down. He still drives and as of last summer was still responsible for keeping the swimming pool clean by himself.

Mr Goddard is the oldest of 11 siblings, six of whom are still surviving and the youngest of whom is 80-years-old. He was born in London, England in July 1920 but moved to Australia with his parents when he was just one year old, later joining the RAAF during World War II.

According to the Canberra War Museum, he flew the first Mosquito to attack Japanese targets in the South-West Pacific region and after the war became a pilot for MacRobertson Miller Airlines.

While Mr Goddard's sons could not attend as they were unable to travel from interstate due to the pandemic, he was joined by all manner of family and his doctor, who presented him a plaque he had commissioned from the Air Force.”



*GODDARD,*

*SYDNEY JAMES:*

*Service Number:*  
*415246*

*Pilot Officer: 1942*  
*Flight Officer: 1943*  
*Flight Lt: 1944*

His service record indicates that he “was an over confident pilot, but would make a good officer.”

[Ed. Sadly, Syd. Goddard passed away peacefully on Thursday 11 March 2021 at Nedlands in Western Australia. If anyone knows this family, please contact the Research Coord., details on p8]

**MAJ. GEN.  
GUY HAROLD GODDARD (3)**

*cont. from Newsletter 138.*

General Goddard returned to Washington, D.C., and in August 1957 was assigned to Headquarters U.S. Air Force to head the Air Force Family Housing Division in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations. As chief of this division, he was responsible for programming, designing and constructing Air Force housing worldwide, and for his outstanding accomplishments in this position was awarded the Legion of Merit.

In August 1962 General Goddard became civil engineer for Air Force Logistics Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. He became a general officer while serving in this position, and was awarded an oak leaf cluster to the Legion of Merit upon his transfer to Headquarters U.S. Air Force in August 1965, as deputy director for construction, Directorate of Civil Engineering.

General Goddard was awarded the second oak leaf cluster to the Legion of Merit Dec. 21, 1967, for Air Staff management of the Air Force Turnkey Project at Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. In May 1968 he was assigned as director of civil engineering, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

General Goddard was involved in military engineering and construction for two military services over more than 30 years. He is a registered professional engineer in the State of Texas, a Fellow in the American Society of Civil Engineers, a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers, and President of the Society of American Military Engineers, having assumed this position in May 1970.

His military decorations and awards include the Bronze Star, Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

Maj. Gen. Guy H. Goddard retired on January 1, 1972 and passed away on June 2, 2005; he is buried at Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.

Guy H. Goddard, Major General

Bronze Star, Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal

US Air Force; World War II, Korea, Vietnam

Buried at: Section 64 Site 4023

<https://www.af.mil/About-Us/Biographies/Display/Article/104891/major-general-guy-harold-goddard/>

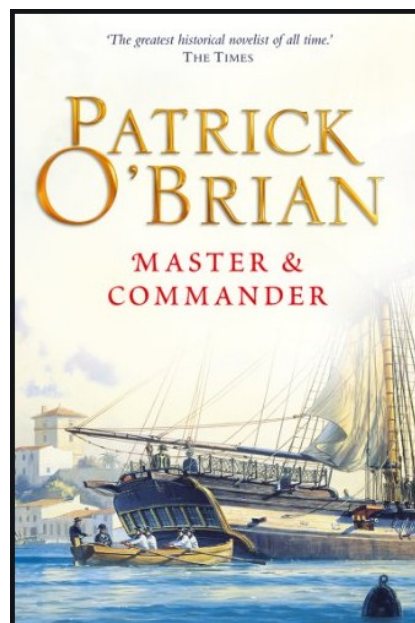
*[Ed. If anyone knows this family, please contact the Research Coord., details on p8]*



**CAPTAIN AUBREY, R.N.**

Fans of historical sea stories will recognise the name of Captain Jack Aubrey, R.N. hero of a popular series of twenty novels set against the background of the Napoleonic wars. What

will not be known is that the author, Patrick O'Brian, O.B.E., (1914-2000) has a Goddard connection. Patrick, real name Richard Patrick Russ, was the son of Charles Russ and Jessie Goddard and uncle to member Steve Russ. Jessie Goddard descended from the Hill Deverill branch in



Wiltshire and was a cousin of Theodore Goddard, the solicitor of Wallis Simpson in the abdication crisis of 1936.

*John of Accrington*

## Memoirs of Major

### DOUGLAS GODDARD MBE, FCIS, RA

Browsing all things Goddard online, as I regularly do, I happened across an interview by former GAE member Major Douglas Goddard recorded by the BBC in 2005. He was commemorated in *Newsletter 102* after his passing at the ripe old age of 92, but his story here in his own words adds so much more to the tale of his war time service. [Ed]

I joined the Territorial Army on my 18th birthday in 1938. Served throughout the war and converted to a regular army Royal Artillery Officer commission; resigning my commission in 1958. The first year of war was spent defending the Romney Marsh beaches (Hitler's Operation Sealion invasion objective) and having an anti aircraft role in the Battle of Britain. After a period controlling six coastal defence radar stations along the Kent/Sussex Coast I returned in 1942 to

being a Field Artillery Officer in 112th (Wessex) Field Regiment RA of the 43rd Wessex Division preparing for the D-Day invasion as part of Montgomery's 21st Army Group. Tough, harsh battle training, mainly on South Downs and in Kent. We were a D-Day follow up Division due to land on D+ about 6 but were caught in the worst storm for forty years and our landing ship tossed and pitched (with hundreds of others) for four days a mile off the landing beaches as all landings became impossible.

The part assembled American Mulberry Harbour was wrecked and never came into use and many of the smaller landing craft broke moorings and were battered to pieces on rocks and shorelines. We were bombed at night, shelled and strafed by day and German sea mines broke loose, one blowing up the ship next to us with the loss of our Recce Regiment's men and equipment before it even got to the beaches. It was not a good start and we prayed to get ashore, get rid of ghastly sea sickness and face up to the alternative of the German weaponry.

We eventually splashed ashore on Juno Beach at 1.30 am on a pitch black night and went into action the next day. Until the end of August we fought continuously; firstly in the definitive battles for the strategic height of Hill 112; the key to Caen which was the pivot of the German defence and controlled their lateral road communications. We were opposed by no less than eight SS Panzer Divisions including the 21 SS Panzer, Hitler Jugend Division, 2 SS Panzer Division and 9 and 10 SS Pz Divisions transferred by Hitler from the Russian front. It was Montgomery's strategy to attract and engage the German armour on the British/Canadian



*Maj. Douglas Goddard MBE is presented to Her Majesty at Westminister Hall, during a Gala concert for D Day, 6 Jun. 2005.*

east front to free the Americans to capture Cherbourg and then break out south on the west front. It worked, since the Americans were faced with a number of ordinary Divisions and only one Armoured Division. They eventually broke south from St Lo on 25 July into virtually undefended country. But the result was that we suffered an appallingly high rate of casualties in a series of ferocious battles.

Caen eventually fell on 9 July after we watched from our front line a mile or so away it being tragically and unnecessarily destroyed and many hundreds of French civilians killed in an Allied strategic bomber raid which was counter productive in falling behind the German troops and cratering the ground, obstructing our advance. The battle for Hill 112 continued unabated and it was not until the middle of July that the Germans finally withdrew. Shortly after that we came under command of the brilliant General Brian Horrocks' 30th Corps with the Guards Armoured and 50th Northumberland Divisions and on 27 July we started to break-out south through the difficult Normandy bocage country; capturing the vital hill range of Mont Pincon, which dominated Normandy, before fighting our way to the Falaise Gap.

On 6 August Hitler made one of his many fatal strategical mistakes - against the advice of his

Generals - by ordering the German 7th Army to drive west at Mortain against the American western flank when we British from the north and the Americans from the south were forming a pincer move to close the escape of the 7th and 15th German Armies to and across the River Seine. The German attack was aborted and by that time the two jaws of the pincer were closing and the remnants of the two enemy armies were caught in killing ground and virtually eliminated by our artillery fire and air attack. Only about 20,000 Germans escaped the net.

The carnage of tens of thousands of dead Germans, their horses, vehicles and weapons went on for miles and it was a ghastly experience to witness that level of death and destruction even of one's enemy. The Germans were estimated to have lost 450,000, killed, wounded and POWs, against the Allies' losses of just over 209,000.

The Battle of Normandy was won on 16 August. Montgomery had been severely criticised by the American and British higher command for the slowness of our progress on the British/Canadian front in the bridgehead, after D-Day but in the event the battle was won and we reached the River Seine on D + 75 when the original Operation Overlord plan set the time at D + 90.

My Wessex Division was immediately ordered to Vernon where we mounted an opposed assault crossing of the River Seine and bridged it against stiff opposition (80% of sappers were killed while building the two bridges) for the 21st AG armoured divisions to break out and overrun the 1st World War battlefields in four days and liberate Brussels and Antwerp. Since landing, my Division had lost over 6,500 out of 11,000 fighting troops.

*[to be cont]*

*Major Douglas Goddard, [deceased]*

*'From WW2 People's War, wartime memories gathered by the BBC. The archive can be found at [bbc.co.uk/ww2peopleswar](http://bbc.co.uk/ww2peopleswar)'*

## BIRTHDAY HONOURS

This year her Majesty the Queen's Birthday Honours, published in June, contained the name of one Goddard. Warmest congratulations to Ceri Goddard, Director of Equality Impact Investing, on being awarded the MBE for "services to social justice". To find out more about Ceri's career turn to Newsletters 93 and 121. *Richard of Malvern*

## HENRY CHARLES GODDARD (3)

*cont. from Newsletter 138.*

In later years he always offered lifts to hitchhikers as he said people were so good to servicemen in the war. I was born in 1942 in Winchester.

When the war ended my parents returned to Longparish; General Dawnay let them live in the only place available — a bungalow previously judged to be unfit. However, in those post war days with the housing stock so depleted anywhere was a haven.



*Henry Charles Goddard and his older sister c.1911*

My friend Margaret recently reminded me that none of the houses apart from council houses had bathrooms and all had outside privies. Indeed, it took a while for water and electricity to reach all the village and we still remember the sparkling taste of well water. My mother made it a home and we instantly acquired cat, dog, chickens and two orphaned rabbits! By this time my grandmother Goddard had died and my grandfather gone to live with Nancy in Barnet. There is a letter to my mother from one of my father's friends who stayed in the

Merchant Service and was in the Med. He said, don't let Charles sign on again, the life is different, I don't recommend it.

Charles had lost his career and turned his hand to any job, first with a builder's firm, then at Barton Stacey Camp and finally a job he enjoyed — as a bus conductor, travelling between Salisbury and parts of Wiltshire to Basingstoke. I heard one of their friends tell my mother that he could get him a job in Portals with better money. My mother replied, Charles will be very unhappy if he cannot move around and meet people. I think this is quite true, he enjoyed meeting people

In 1956 to the delight of the whole family we moved back into the family cottage. It had a beautiful cherry orchard, the floor covered in rotation with snowdrops, daffodils and pheasant's eye. A big yew tree and big gardens. My godmother lived opposite as did old friends. The year we moved my sister joined the Wrens. Both my parents were very adept at picking up 'lame dogs' and the house often had various visitors and relations. I often slept across the road with my Godmother. Here we were very happy.

Charles often helped at shoots on the estate but on one occasion he walked out saying that 'if you could not kill with one shot then you should not be behind a gun'. He was an excellent shot and loved to show off in fairgrounds. Once however he met his match — a Finnish Au Pair who had been in the resistance! He had an unerring aim and I have never doubted the story of David and Goliath having seen my father with a sling shot — used to amuse us when we doubted his ability.

In 1965 I was asked to ring for Harvest Festival at Highclere Church. My friend Margaret and I had been members of the local ringing team since we were 14. My parents said they would like to come which they did. That night my father died in his sleep. The shock was enormous. All the neighbours were very, very kind and loving but I am not sure how we got through the first months. For a quiet man his going left an enormous hole.

About a year afterwards, whilst I was waiting at a bus stop in Whitchurch, a lady came up to me and asked if I was the daughter of Mr. Goddard the bus conductor. When I replied yes, she said that she had been waiting to see a family member to tell them what a very kind man he was. She had got onto a bus to go shopping and realized that she did

not have her purse. Apparently my father paid for her ticket and gave her some money to get home again. Someone else that he worked with came to see my mother and offered her any help she needed because my father had been so kind.

I did not know my father until I was four, but realised in later life how he had been the quiet centre of all the family and had reached out to many others.

*Penelope Fletcher (née Goddard), Kintbury*

## COMMUNICATIONS EXPERT

I have just finished reading *Agent Sonya*, a gripping account by Ben Macintyre of a German female spy, Ursula Kuczynski, acting for the Russians between the two World Wars and during the Second. Her varied assignments took her around the world, eventually bringing her to this country in the early 1940s where, amongst others, she was spymaster for Klaus Fuchs, the USA Manhattan Project (atomic bomb) traitor.

It was while she was engaged in this major coup that she was also able to pass on to Moscow the secret details of an American breakthrough in communications technology.

A portable two way radio, subsequently dubbed a 'walkie talkie'

and the forerunner of the mobile telephone, it was originally called by the cumbersome name of the 'Joan-Eleanor System'. Developed at the RCA electronics laboratories in New York, it made ground to air communication possible for the first time.

And the Goddard connection? It was developed and refined for the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) the fore runner to the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) by DeWitt R. Goddard and Lieutenant Commander Stephen J. Simpson, and consisted of a hand held transmitter (Eleanor) and a receiver (Joan). Eleanor was Goddard's wife's name, and Joan Marshall was Simpson's girlfriend! .

*Richard of Malvern*



*DeWitt Rugg Goddard  
1904 - 1993*

## Research Coordinators Report

John of Accrington presented his research report, particularly regarding enquiries from new members. He has just been sent the details from a new member, with limited information, asking for his help to research their family.

He has been able to put three members in touch with existing members of their own family, linking to Canada, America and to Joan Dibble here in the UK. He has also had two enquiries from America and has provided some information to help write a history of Dunfield in Wiltshire.

John explained the background of two boys sent to the USA in the 1700's that were linked due to a family legend that enabled the connection to be made. These two individuals are now in touch.

This reinforced his point that the Association has built up a lot of research and has the experience of a number of long-standing members, supporting a wealth of soft intelligence.

John encouraged members to ask for help and was thanked for his work.

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## Website Report

Website administrator and newsletter editor Malcolm's update noted that he and Joan Dibble still manage the Facebook page, and most new members joining the Association, have come via this forum in recent years.

The website regularly has 900 - 1000 views per month, and people stay on the site between 15-45 minutes and are finding useful information that is not stored anywhere else on the internet, a good selling point for the GAE.

Malcolm explained that for distributing the newsletter online, he has started using Mail Chimp a bulk email software. This software helps with analysis of how members interact with the Association's newsletter, e.g. showing their country location and that 80% of members are reading the newsletter within 48 hours of it being sent out. This feedback enables us to demonstrate that the GAE newsletter is still a useful communication method that members find interesting.

Malcolm encouraged members to submit family stories, articles and information for the newsletter, even if it is only a small article, as he is always looking for ways to fill up the columns. Helena gave an example of some information on a Goddard she had seen on 'The Repair Shop' on television.

## AGM MINUTES

The 35th AGM was held, due to governmental pandemic restrictions, via ZOOM on Sunday 9 May. 22 members from three countries attended the virtual meeting, with very positive feedback from a number of members regarding the format.

The Agenda followed the usual format:

1. Welcome by the Chairman.
2. Apologies. Brian of Newbury, Richard of Malvern
3. Minutes of the last AGM, 11 October 2020, were agreed as a true record.
4. Any matters arising. No other matters arising were noted, other than agenda items.
5. Treasurer's Report. Richard Morris presented the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021. Subscriptions were similar to previous years. There is a surplus of £1308. Colin Goddard was noted as the new examiner for the Association, and the accounts have been signed off as in good shape. The GAE constitution wording was amended to reflect the change from auditor to examiner. Malcolm proposed and Milly seconded adopting the accounts and all voted in favour to accept. (Full accounts available from the Treasurer on request).
6. Research and Website Co-ordinators' Reports were presented. (See left)
7. Some members were due to retire from the GAE Committee by rotation. The following members were then nominated and elected:
  - a. Chairman: Helena Goddard, for 1 year
  - b. Secretary: Denise of Solihull
  - c. Treasurer: Richard Morris
  - d. Two Committee Members: Margaret McAlpin and Janet Berkman were re-elected for a 3 year period.
8. The Howard Goddard - Jones Memorial award for 2021 was presented to John Goddard of Fareham, for his work on the Hungerford and Wiltshire branches. John was unable to attend, but was presented with his award on behalf of the Committee by Richard and Helena's daughter Diana, two weeks ago. John responded with an email of thanks.



*John of Fareham and wife Iris*

## NEW MEMBERS

The following new members have recently joined the Association. They are, of course, warmly welcomed and their family information below is to enable members to contact them if they appear to belong to the same branch. Please do so via the Membership Secretary.

**Richard Goddard** (*returning member*) is a descendent of Stephen and Sarah Goddard through their son Isaac b.1807 in Gt. Bedwyn, Wilts. who married Rosanna Kingston in 1836. The family lived in Burbage in 1851. Their son Thomas b.1843 is Richard's great grandfather.

**Polly Corbishley** is descended from a Finchampstead, Berks. branch, starting with an unidentified Mark Goddard whose son Charles was born c.1823. Charles married twice. First to Caroline Brown 1824-1852 and second in 1854 to her older sister Elizabeth 1823-1894. Their son Henry 1861-1944 was father to Henry W.M. 1894-1961, Polly's grandfather.

**Howard J Goddard's** origins are in Wellow, Hants., descending from Nicholas 1742-1827 via Thomas 1779-1857, William 1804-1875 and William b.1862 (see Trees Q and S in monograph 14, Hampshire chapter.1).

**Anne Offor (née Goddard)** (*returning member*) is a descendent of a Nth. Wilts. branch that moved to West Wellow, Hampshire where her Great Great Grandfather owned the Red Rover Inn.

## MATCHING PLATES

I was driving along in Stratford-upon-Avon recently and was astonished to see a Goddard number plate in front of me. I was intrigued. So when the car turned into a parking space I followed and spoke to the driver (Karen Goddard) who told me she was a local and both she and her husband (Dave Goddard) had these interesting cherished number plates. She and her husband are happy for me to share these pictures.

*Janet Goddard-Jones*



*[If anyone knows this family connection, please contact the Research Coord. Details at right]*

## AGM MINUTES (*cont.*)

9. Other Business.
  - a. Attempts to contact the Devises Museum are ongoing but due to Covid they are unavailable. Richard of Malvern is still trying to liaise with David at the Museum.
  - b. Richard has the monographs boxed and ready to be stored. Spare printed copies are available for members.
  - c. Karen Bell proposed an archiving option for the paper documents handed over from Brian of Newbury. Malcolm agreed GAE financial resources should be used to get this volume of material archived and catalogued, for members to have access and that we should approach the Wiltshire museum for this to be undertaken. Milly will try and make contact with contacts.
  - d. Going forward Malcolm would like to propose that all future meetings have a virtual function. This was agreed to be helpful and would occur in future.
10. The date of the next AGM is to be Sunday 8th May 2022 at 12.00 noon GMT, (venue and speaker to be confirmed).
11. Dr. Denise Syndercombe Court presented an interesting talk on DNA.

## USEFUL ADDRESSES

- Association Website:** [www.goddard-association.org.uk](http://www.goddard-association.org.uk)  
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