



The Goddard Association of Europe

NEWSLETTER

No. 158 - April 2026

Did AMBROSE GODDARD of Swindon "buy" the 1772 election in Wiltshire?

The Goddards of Swindon had been settled in North Wiltshire since the reign of Henry VIII and had bought land at Swindon, formerly the property of Lacock Abbey, after the dissolution of the monasteries in 1563. Monasteries had owned over a quarter of all land in England. In destroying the monastic system Henry VIII acquired all their wealth and property. The Goddards were part of the 'landed gentry'. Ambrose Goddard (1727-1815) was the son of Ambrose Goddard (1695-1755) of Swindon and Elizabeth Awdry of Sneed.

The Goddard family had branches very widely distributed throughout North Wiltshire, and there were landed representatives (their close as well as distant cousins) of the name in at least thirteen or fourteen parishes, namely :—Clyffe Pypard, Swindon, Upham, Standen-Hussey, Stratton St. Margaret, Inglesham, South Marston, Castle Eaton, Purton, Berwick Bassett, Clatford, Rudloe, Hartham and Ogbourne St. Andrew.

The election of 1772 was a contest between north and south Wiltshire. The Herbert family was strong in the south of the county, especially in the Salisbury area. Against this Herbert's opponents sought to organize the extensive influence of the Goddard family (in the person of Ambrose Goddard of Swindon), with its many branches in north, as well as other landed families which included the Longs, with their widespread influence in North Wiltshire.

A committee for managing Goddard's campaign was set up, including among others Lord

Charles Penruddock, the other county member of parliament, and John Awdry of Notton, Goddard's brother-in-law, who acted as his principal agent in this election and that of 1774.

The county was divided into canvassing districts, each consisting of a group of several hundreds and agents were appointed to organize the canvassing, each in his own district. Goddard was at a disadvantage in that the poll was held at Wilton, in the heart of the area where Herbert's influence was strong, so that while Herbert had most of his freeholders within fairly easy reach of the poll, Goddard's supporters in north and west Wiltshire would have a considerable journey to make and be obliged to spend at least one night away from home in order to poll.

The committee drew up a list of all the inns in Salisbury leaning for Goddard, with the number of beds available at each, and it was the main task of the agent for Salisbury and district to arrange for the accommodation and entertainment of freeholders coming from a distance.

Bills from some 50 inns were paid by Awdry on Goddard's behalf, with sums ranging from 10s. to £450, for beds, meals, drinks of all kinds, tobacco, and stabling and food for horses.

Similar bills for entertainment and for horse hire to get the freeholders to the poll were presented by the agents in the various districts. The total expenditure on Goddard's election was £8,154 16s. 0¼d., a vast proportion of it going on bills from innkeepers.

Other items of expenditure were for advertisements in local newspapers, the making of rosettes and the making of two silk banners with 'Goddard and Freedom' embroidered upon them in large gold letters.

The total amount raised by subscription, to which the candidate himself had contributed £1,000, was £8,250; and the balance in hand was subsequently used to defray the joint expenses of Goddard and Penruddock at the uncontested general election in 1774.

Herbert did well in Warminster, while Melksham and Westbury hundreds were fairly evenly divided. Goddard's big triumph was, again as might be expected, in north Wiltshire, his only failure being in Malmesbury borough, where he polled only 2 votes as against 66 for Herbert.

The figures at the close of the four days of polling, were Goddard 1,870, Herbert 1,055, a majority for Goddard by 815. The poll book shows only 40 freeholders living outside the county, 19 of them from London, a very small proportion of the 2,925 freeholders who voted.

*A History of the County of
Wiltshire: Vol 5.*

*Originally published by Victoria
County History, London, 1957.*

[www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/
wilts/vol5/pp195-230](http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/wilts/vol5/pp195-230)

GODDARD Association Donations

The Goddard Association makes annual donations to initiatives that promote or preserve the history and heritage of the Goddard family worldwide. We invite applications from anyone undertaking a project that may qualify for such support.

At the 2025 AGM, the Association approved a donation of £1,000 towards the restoration of St Peter's Church, Clyffe Pypard, an important Goddard family church.



St Peter's Church, Clyffe Pypard

St Peter's Church, Clyffe Pypard, Wiltshire, built circa 1275 and designated a Grade I listed building, is recognised for its exceptional architectural, cultural, and historic importance. Its medieval stained glass, historic wall paintings, and ancient organ contribute to its outstanding heritage value.

For the Goddard family, however, St Peter's holds particular and enduring significance. From approximately 1530 onwards, and for more than four centuries, the Goddards resided at the Manor House overlooking the church and served the parish as Lords of the Manor and, frequently, as Rectors. Their influence on the church is evident in many aspects of its development. Notably, in the 1870s Horatio Nelson Goddard initiated and funded extensive restoration works, undertaken in partnership with distinguished architect William Butterfield, including a complete rebuilding and realignment of the roof.

The interior of the church contains numerous memorials to successive generations of the family, with records extending back to the 1500s. These include figures representing Elizabeth Goddard (d.c.1585) and her husband, a plaque commemorating Susanna Webb, long-serving nanny to the Goddard children, and several floor stones marking the resting places of infants who tragically did not survive childhood, as was common in earlier centuries.

The Goddards remained central to the parish until the death in 1940 of Mrs Frances Agnes Wilson (née Goddard), the last family member to reside at the Manor House. The village public house—formerly The Goddard Arms—also reflected this longstanding connection. Today, the church continues to welcome descendants and visitors who come to engage with their family history and to pay their respects.

Other Notable Features

In addition to its Goddard heritage, the church houses a distinguished 12-foot marble monument to Thomas Spackman, crafted by John Devall the Younger. Spackman, a local carpenter who later achieved financial success in London, is depicted with instruments of his trade and two children, symbolising his commitment to the education of local boys and girls. (see below)

The churchyard also contains the grave of Nikolaus Pevsner, the eminent 20th-century architectural historian. A refugee from Germany during the Second World War, Pevsner found solace in the area and chose to be buried at Clyffe Pypard. He dedicated the church gates to his wife Lola, who is interred beside him.

His writings describe the churchyard as “a lovely position below a wooded stretch of the cliff.”

The Goddard Association remains committed to supporting projects that honour and advance the legacy of the Goddard family. Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals for consideration.



GODDARDS music shops in Buxton (4)

continued from newsletters 155, 156 & 157

The Goddard brothers were held in high esteem in Buxton, including by Vera Brittain, the feminist and pacifist campaigner and author of the famous, haunting First World War memoir, *'Testament of Youth'*. In the book, *'Testament of Lost Youth – the Early Lives and Loves of Vera Brittain'*, by local author Kathryn Ecclestone, there is a quote from Vera's diary about the Peak Hunt Ball at the Hydro in 1913, which ends, *'The band was not bad but not as good as the Goddards.'*

During the 1914-1918 First World War, Fred Goddard became a Drum Sergeant Major. Here is Fred, in his uniform.

Once peace returned, Fred came back to Buxton and carried on tuning and repairing pianos. Apparently, he always played Dvorak's Piano Concerto when he tuned a piano.

The 1921 Census recorded Fred and Ellen as still at 9 Mill Cliff with their five children. Their middle child, George Frederick, was 16. We will come back to this George later because, after the Second World War, he opened the Goddards music shop on High Street in Higher Buxton.

Fred's wife, Ellen, died in 1935. The 1939 Register recorded Fred as 64 years old, a widower and a 'Piano Tuner and Repairer, Own Account', still at 9 Mill Cliff. Living with Fred were his three daughters and his son, George Frederick, aged 35, who was single and a 'Piano Tuner and Repairer'. In time, Fred retired and spent a lot of time gardening, something he enjoyed immensely, and for which he won prizes, like his father had. He died in 1955.

Henry Goddard: In the early 1900s, Henry continued to be a musician and give music lessons. By 1921, he was 43 and living at 73 Bennett Street with his wife, Maud, and their three children, aged 3 to 12. The Census recorded him as a 'Musician

Tympanion' and employed by the Pavilion Gardens Company. Henry and Maud later moved away from Buxton and I believe Henry died in Manchester in 1934, aged 56. The 1939 Register recorded his widow, Maud, as living in Stockport and running a 'News & Tobacconist' business.

Percy Goddard: After Percy married Florence Belward in 1905, they lived on Windsor Road, Fairfield. In 1911, Percy was aged 28 and the couple had moved to 72 Nunsfield Road with their two young daughters. As well as working at the Goddards music shop, Percy performed in the Pavilion Band and Orchestra and played piano for the silent movies that were shown at the cinema on Spring Gardens.

Following the outbreak of the First World War, Percy enlisted in the army. In 1917, an advert was placed in the High Peak News stating that:

'Whilst Percy Goddard is serving with His Majesty's Forces, Piano Tuning will be carried out AS USUAL at the Music Warehouse, 59 Spring Gardens, Buxton.'

Note that the shop had now moved to 59 Spring Gardens. I assume Percy's brothers were probably filling in for him while he was away.

Sadly, Percy was wounded in action and died in France in August 1917, aged just 34. His daughters were 7 and 11 at the time. Rumours circulated in Buxton that Percy was still alive and a prisoner of war. The family had to write to the War Office to ask for official confirmation to be printed in the local newspaper to put an end to the rumours.

What about the Goddards music shop?

As mentioned earlier, the Goddards music shop had moved, in the early 1900s, from the Devonshire Colonnade to Cavendish Circus and then later relocated again to Spring Gardens. When the original founder of the shop, George Brown Goddard, died in 1915, he left the business to his son, Percy, who had already taken over the day-to-day management.

With Percy serving in the forces during the First World War and tragically being killed in action, in 1917, it seems that his brother Reg became more involved in running the shop. Apparently, Reg initiated the stocking of a huge variety of 78 rpm records and may have sometimes overstepped the mark by buying in too many that did not sell. The business may have faced financial problems as a consequence.



In June 1918, Reg placed a rather strange notice in the Buxton Advertiser. It is reproduced below. I am not clear about exactly what had happened. The notice focuses on piano tuning, instrument repairs and music lessons, without directly mentioning the Goddards music shop, the sale of instruments or records.

Indeed, of the three contact addresses given, the first is probably where Reg was living at the time and the latter two are where Fred and Henry resided, rather than the Goddards music shop.

The notice also states that, the brothers want people to know that they have, 'no connection whatever with any person or persons lending or making use of the name of their late Father and brother Percy recently killed in the war'. Clearly, something had gone amiss.

It looks to me as though, in 1918, someone else, possibly not even a Goddard family member, had taken over the Goddards music shop on Spring Gardens. It is also clear that there was not a good relationship between the Goddard brothers and whoever was running the shop.

59 Spring Gardens was opposite the Picture House cinema, on the left hand side of Spring Gardens going away from the Terrace Road end, where the Lomas general store is today. The shop was still called 'G. B. Goddard and Son', despite G. B. Goddard having died in 1915 and that, when the advert was published in 1919, none of the Goddard brothers may have worked there.

It must have been a big shop to house so much stock and have three practice rooms, perhaps upstairs, which were 'the finest in the county'.

I have been unable to find out who ran the Goddards music shop over the next few years. Did Reg, Fred and/or Henry become involved with the shop again or just continue with their own work as piano tuners, instrument repairers, music teachers and professional performers?

G. REG. GODDARD & Brothers

Weston Villas, 91 Fairfield Road,
BUXTON.

PIANOFORTE TUNERS and REPAIRERS
(Sons of the late G. B. Goddard)
The Oldest Resident Tuners in the District

Over 35 Years Practical Experience

Reg. Goddard and Bros. hope soon to have
the assistant of their brother Fred,
on his return from Active Service.

All orders attended to personally.

Any kind of Musical Instrument tuned, repaired,
renovated and made equal to new.

VIOLINS A SPECIALITY
BOWS REPAIRED, PEGS AND BRIDGES
FITTED, ETC.

Lessons given on any musical instrument
Music can be obtained by return of post.

Goddard Bros. wish it to be clearly understood by the Residents and
Visitors of Buxton that they have no connection whatever with any
person or persons lending or making use of the name of their late Father,
and brother Percy recently killed in the war.
Drop a postcard to Weston Villas, 91, Fairfield Road,
Orders may be left at 9, Mill Cliff, Silverlands,
and 73, Bennett Street, Higher Buxton.

One thing we can be sure of is that, by the early 1920s, the shop sold records in some fabulous Goddards' branded sleeves. Here are a couple of examples. Also note that, the business name had now been changed from 'G. B. Goddard & Son' to 'Goddards' (Buxton) Ltd.'

The 1925 Kelly's Trade Directory listed Goddards at no.63, rather than no.59, Spring Gardens.



Maureen Davies of Nottingham

"To be continued"

[Ed]

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

A polite reminder to all members that your subscription of £7.50 for 2026 - 2027 were due on 1st April 2026. Could those members who pay by cheque (made payable to The Goddard Association of Europe) please send them to the Treasurer, Richard Morris (details page.8), making sure you identify yourself clearly, preferably by membership number. (Australian members have their own arrangements with their co-ordinator).

Any members who wish to pay by bank transfer, PayPal or start paying their subscriptions by standing order may request the details from the Treasurer.

Prof. Naomi Datta, FRS (née GODDARD)

Professor Naomi Goddard Datta was born on 17 Sept. 1922 in Cleveland Square, Paddington, London, to Ellen Henrietta Illingworth and Alexander Goddard. She first attended a local day school in London and later St Mary's Boarding School in Wantage, Oxfordshire.



Her father came from a family of architects. He worked as a civil servant and was latterly secretary of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. When he retired in 1932, the family moved to Kings Head House, Northleach, in Gloucestershire. Neither of Naomi's parents had a scientific background, but her sister Helen, inspired by a film about Louis Pasteur, studied for a BSc in physiology and then a PhD at Bedford College. She went on to study medicine.

After her father retired, Naomi accompanied her parents on a three-month tour through France, Italy, Germany and The Netherlands, to see its architecture, museums and art galleries. The visit broadened her horizons and inspired her to study semantics at the Sorbonne in Paris for a year. In 1939, when war seemed imminent, her father insisted she return home. She worked for some months as an unqualified nurse at Cirencester Hospital before taking up her place on the medical foundation course at University College London (UCL).

In 1941 she met her husband to be, Satya Prakash Datta, son of Dr S. K. Datta, principal of Forman Christian College in Lahore, and Alexandrina Datta. They met in Leatherhead, another UCL site, where Satya, who was always called Prakash, was a student demonstrator. His family were in India.

Her first cousin was the distinguished soldier and Acting President of Rhodesia Henry Everard; their grandfather's first cousins were architect Henry Goddard and Mormon pioneer George Goddard.

Naomi failed to get a place at UCL for clinical studies because of the shameful system of permitting few female students to enter at that time. Instead of UCL, she studied medicine at the West London Hospital Medical School. She qualified (MB, BS) in 1946 and practised as a junior doctor in various hospitals. She then joined the Public Health Laboratory Service in Colindale and was there from 1949 to 1957.

This involved working in various pathology departments, including at Guy's Hospital, where her sister

Helen's husband, George Payling Wright, was a leading pathologist, and led to her gaining a diploma in bacteriology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in 1951. During this period she rose to the position of senior bacteriologist. In 1957 Naomi was appointed as an assistant lecturer in the Department of Bacteriology at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School (RPMS), which is now part of Imperial College, where she then worked for almost three decades, later becoming professor of microbial genetics. It was here that she made a significant breakthrough by demonstrating that antibiotic resistance could be transmitted between bacteria.

Naomi and Prakash produced three children. Jessica, in 1952, Alexis, in 1954, and Max in 1961.

In 1959 there was a severe outbreak of *Salmonella typhimurium* phage-type 27 and, as part of her research at Hammersmith Hospital, she examined 309 cultures to see if the strain was unaltered after moving through hosts. 25 of the 309 were found to be drug-resistant, eight of which were resistant to Streptomycin which had been used to treat the patients. Notably, she observed that earlier cultures of the *salmonella typhimurium* infection (from the start of the outbreak) were not drug-resistant, so it seemed that the antibiotic resistance had developed over time.

These findings were published in 1960, in the paper "*An outbreak of infection with Salmonella typhimurium in a general hospital*", and later in 1962 in the paper "*Transmissible drug resistance in an epidemic strain of Salmonella typhimurium*" in the *Journal of Hygiene*.

In later years she published many more important studies on the occurrence and significance of drug resistance plasmids in enterobacterial infections. She was elected fellow to Royal College of Pathologists (1973) and to Royal Society (1985). Her work on molecular analysis of plasmids revealed that drug resistance genes were carried on small vectors called transposons, which could transfer themselves between plasmids and bacterial chromosomes. This facilitated gene mapping and later gene cloning and genetic engineering, which became highly controversial.

Datta retired in 1984, but continued to pursue academia by first studying a postgraduate course in linguistics, and then achieving a master's degree in human evolution. At 75, she was the oldest in the group.

Her son, Max, died of cancer aged 41, in 2006, which was a terrible blow to both her and her husband. Naomi Goddard Datta died on 30 Nov. 2008 following a stroke.

Does any member claim Prof. Naomi Goddard Datta?

*Dictionary of Women Worldwide:
25,000 Women Through the Ages*

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/women/dictionaries-thesauruses-pictures-and-press-releases/datta-naomi-1922>

HENRY ROLAND GODDARD

A Soldier's Life

Henry Roland Goddard was born in the UK and was one of very few 'Aussie Diggers' that never re-



turned to Australia after WW1 but settled in Villers-Bretonneux, then in Amiens, France. Known usually as 'Roland', and occasionally 'Rol' or 'Roley', he led an incredible life.

Roland was born at home in Shepherds Bush, London on 29 Jun. 1890 and was baptized as Henry Roland on 24 Jul.

1896 in the Parish of St Stephen, Hammersmith. His father was William Thomas Goddard (a cook & carver), and his mother Ellen Wiseman. Roland was one of 9 children, including Cecil Leonard Goddard (Jeff Floyd's Grandfather and Dorothy (Peggy)). His family home was at 29 Tunis Road, Shepherd's Bush, London. Roland was of stout build at five feet ten, ten stone, chest 38 inches, big, broad-shouldered, with a sandy complexion and a "down-under" look'. His profession was variously stated as a Stockman, a Butcher, a Sleeper-Cutter, a Farmer and a General Trader.

Roland had 3 wives; Isabel Lizzie Cooper, who was English, they married during WW1 (31st Oct. 1916, in London). They divorced due to Roland's adultery; Adolphine (who was French), whom he married around Oct. 1919 after WW1; and finally Betty (a Belgian nurse), whom he married soon after the end of WW2.

Roland had one child, a son, Louis Roland Goddard (born 1st Jun. 1919 in Paddington, who died 1986). Louis married Joyce Sawyer in 1942 and they had 5 children. Jean, b.1943, Lynne, b.1947, John, b.1949, Angela, b.1952 and Richard, b.1954.

He served in the British Army, London Royal Garrison Artillery for 3 years 7 months, before being discharged in 1910. Roland then emigrated to Australia and landed in Fremantle Western Australia on the 26 Jul. 1910 from the ship the 'Otway'.

He then travelled around Western Australia 'carrying his swag' and working as a sleeper-cutter. By all accounts he was a bit of a 'heartbreaker' and was suspected to have left a girl pregnant when he enlisted in the Australian Army. Two of Roland's

brothers also emigrated to Perth in 1921. William Thomas Goddard and Sydney Alfred Goddard. Brother Cecil Goddard stayed in the UK and became a mounted policeman. His brothers in Western Australia had to deal with several of his girlfriends and possible offspring.

Roland enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) at Black Boy Hill Western Australia on the 17 Sep. 1914 as a Private (#2636), in the 2nd Aust. Depot, Unit of Supply, 11th Company of the Australian Army Service Corps.

After basic training he served 5 Years 19 days in the AIF (4 Years 293 days served abroad). He was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He embarked with the AIF, as part of the second convoy to the Middle East, from Melbourne aboard the *HMAT A35 Berrima* on 22 Dec. 1914 (AWM Embarkation Roll 25/35/2). His journey would take him via Colombo, Ceylon; Aden, Yemen; the Suez Canal and Port Said, before reaching, Alexandria on 3 Feb. 1915.

Goddard proceeded to join the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, embarking via the staging base at Mudros, on the island of Lemnos, Greece. From there he was allocated to supply operations, supporting Australian forces on the Gallipoli Peninsula. He survived his time on Gallipoli, and the subsequent evacuation between 15-20 Dec. 1915 and reached Alexandria Egypt on 3 Jan. 1916 and remained there until 23 Mar. 1916, before embarking for Marseille arriving on the 30 Mar. 1916.

He contracted scarlet fever on 28 May 1916 and was admitted to hospital on 29 May before he was transferred to a convalescent camp on 4 Jul. and finally rejoined his unit in France on the 13 Jul. 1916.

His return coincided with a period in which Australian forces were heavily engaged on the Somme, including operations at Pozieres and Mouquet Farm. He was part of the divisional supply system, moving ammunition, forage, water, rations and stores forward under difficult and often dangerous conditions.

He left for leave in England on the 24 Oct. 1916 and married Isabel whilst on leave. His son Louis was conceived at this time. He rejoined his unit on the 5 Nov. 1916 and later was sent again to the UK for leave 11 Aug. 1917. He rejoined his unit again on the 23 Aug. 1917, and was promoted to Corporal on 4th Oct. 1917.

Goddard's role remained that of a supply soldier supporting Australian forces who were engaged in major operations in Belgium, including the later stages of the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele).

He continued service through 1918, including hospitalisation for illness in June 1918 and periods of leave to Paris from 10-16 August 1918 and across 19

-22 Sept. 1918 again to the United Kingdom.

He was further sent to England on a long furlough on the 8 Nov. 1918. On the 31 Dec. he was admitted to a military hospital and was placed on Special Leave with pay until the 7 Feb. 1919 when he returned to duty with the Ordinance Section in the UK.

He was discharged from the AIF in London on 10th Oct. 1919 with his intended place of residence being 146 Rue Saint Leu Amiens. Roland had to sign that he no longer had a right to claim transport back to Australia at the cost of the Australian government.

He was divorced by Isabel due to his adultery and around this time married Adolphine. Roland and Adolphine moved back to France in late 1919, to live in the town of Villers-Bretonneux. They bought a small business and later sold it for a profit. He then opened a small shop 'A La Ville de Melbourne' which sold working men's clothing to the German and Italian POWs who had been drafted in to rebuild the town.

'Goddard can boast of being the biggest merchant in Amiens market with a fleet of delivery trucks, a 'marchand de vetements' said one Australian newspaper article. They later sold the business and opened a children's clothing shop and stall.

'He who handled ammunition during the Great War now sells children's clothing, the sign above his door: 'A la Tentation des Mamans.' ('To Tempt Mamas'). His is the busiest stall in the market-place, stocking children's clothing, boxes of handkerchiefs, stockings, and everything that keeps them warm and comfy in the chill winter of northern France. Interviewed by the Australian Argus newspaper in Mar. 1939, he was asked, *'Don't the local trades people think that you are an unwelcome competitor?'*, *'Not a bit of it'* said Roland. *'Even in the earlier days it was a question of remembering that I had been a brother in arms rather than a foreigner. Wherever the French and British fought side-by-side the French did not forget. My wife is French and she can sell I tell you.'* The Mercury Newspaper in Australia reported on 13 Dec. 1939 that Roland, and the two other Australians that stayed on in Villers-Bretonneux and married French girls (before returning later to Australia), were known locally as the 'Three Musketeers'.

He went into the hotel business in Amiens, establishing the ANZAC Hotel. Roland was also asked by an Australian reporter would he go to war again? He replied *'last September it looked like we were going to start all over again. I didn't like it but I would have been ready to get out into the mud and blood once more'*. With the advent of the WW2, in mid-1940 the Germans attacked Amiens. The ANZAC Hotel was completely destroyed. *'I lost about 30,000 Australian pounds'*, he said.

The Goddards fled by road and rail towards the south, as they had no chance of escape via the channel ports. They were only 50 miles south when the Germans strafed their train. A female Salvation Army officer sitting next to them was hit and died. The Goddards found a priest at the next village and buried her in the churchyard. They eventually got out of France to the UK on one of the last boats from Marseille. In the frantic crowds Roland was separated from Adolphine. He thought she had got on to another boat. Before his boat left the harbour, he saw the other boat bombed and sunk and thought his wife had been killed. It wasn't until he arrived in England that he found out she was safe on the same boat as him.

Roland contacted the Salvation Army HQ and he then spent part of the war running a canteen at King's Cross Station. He left the canteen after the Normandy landings and served as a liaison officer with the British army and also supported the war effort in France by following the troops and setting up canteens behind the lines. At the same time he was running a successful black market, smuggling goods back into the UK with each return trip. He had a special long coat made-up with many secret pockets to conceal contraband.

At war's end, Roland and Adolphine returned to Amiens, and bought another hotel they named 'Hotel Central ANZAC', which is still there today in Amiens. Another business for Roland was giving tours of the battlefields for visiting Australians. In 1958 he took Lawrence Macarthy of Melbourne to the place where he had earned his VC. Adolphine became ill and Roland employed a Belgian nurse to care for her, named Betty. When Adolphine died, Roland married Betty. After 15 years in the hotel they retired to a house in Amiens at 21 Rue De Brauvain, running a florist shop for a while.

In 1958, in an interview with an Australian newspaper, Roland said 'I am looking forward to going back to Perth. I want to drink some Aussie beer and meet up with all my old mates. I'd much rather gripe about Australian politicians than French ones.', but he never did return to Australia.

In later years he suffered from dementia and was colour blind. He kept driving, with Betty shouting out the colour of the traffic lights as they approached them. In June 1968, Roland represented the Australian veterans at a ceremony by the Amien's city fathers where he was presented with a souvenir pennant to the well-known veterans in Amiens.

Roland died in the late 1970's. He is remembered at the Western Australian Albany ANZAC Centre and by his family. A life well lived.

Roland's Great Nephew, Jeff Floyd (Goddard)
17 August 2022

GAE COMMITTEE MEETING, highlights

12.00 pm GMT 15 March 2026, via Zoom

The Goddard Association of Europe Committee met virtually on 15 March 2026, with all members present and no apologies recorded. The minutes from the previous meeting (16 November 2025) were accepted as accurate.

Several matters arising were addressed. The membership list has now been reconciled and linked to accounts, with Richard maintaining the list and Malcolm handling research on new members. Karen reported progress from her visit to Chippenham, confirming potential archives for digitisation and adding historic minutes to the collection.

Financially, subscriptions were slightly down but expected to improve with incoming Australian payments, with Richard reporting another surplus. Costs associated with newsletters, meetings, and research were noted. The committee discussed website security upgrades, required by their hosting provider, despite high costs while exploring cheaper alternatives. Richard announced that a £250 donation had been made to support maintenance of the Rendham graveyard. The £250 donation to the Margate shell grotto has been completed, while a Chippenham payment remains outstanding. A further £38 for digital work was approved, and Karen will follow up on a missing £45 payment to the Family History Federation. Banking updates have been challenging due to branch closures and system issues.

In communications, GDPR compliance was addressed by adopting Helena and Richard's address for official use. Obsolete addresses will be removed from membership forms, and the research coordinator role was discontinued as members now mostly manage their own enquiries. Website updates include the addition of Chippenham catalogues and the member handbook.

Membership engagement remains mixed. Website traffic has increased significantly to over 1,000 monthly users, though this has not translated into new members. Karen will prepare a welcome letter template, and Malcolm will oversee family information.

Other business included new research materials received by Alex, ongoing cemetery work at Rendham supported by a £250 donation. The Margate shell grotto acknowledged the Association's contribution. Potential speakers for the AGM were discussed, and efforts to contact the intended award recipient continue.

The next meeting will be the AGM on 17 May 2026, held online at 12pm GMT.

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 Website Administrator, details below.

THOMAS D. GODDARD of Daniel, Wyoming, USA hails from Canada and said his grandfather Harold Thomas Goddard (b. 1908) was a London Bobby. His great grandfather was James Goddard (1862-1934) from Canterbury in Kent who was married to Julia Jane Dewell (1865-1936). James emigrated from London to Canada in 1928.

ROBERT W MESSMORE of Xenia, Ohio, USA descends from William Goddard and Elizabeth Miles, of Inglesham, Wiltshire, London and Watertown, Mass. USA, through their son Joseph's daughter Elizabeth who married a John Adams (a second cousin of US President John Adams), then several generations to great grandfather Judson Messmore. Robert plans to visit Aldbourne later this year to see the places of interest associated with his distant Goddard ancestors.

USEFUL ADDRESSES

Association Website: www.goddard-association.org.uk

Website Admin: admin@goddard-association.org.uk

Chairman Karen Bell,
Oxford, England.

Email: chairman@goddard-association.org.uk

Secretary: position not filled at present

Email: secretary@goddard-association.org.uk

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