

School Letter 4th September 1914

100 years ago, Bugbrooke School was compiling and issuing weekly news sheets in the form of letters which were copied out by the pupils and taken home. The letter below is the first letter following the start of the Great War. (reproduced here with the original spelling and grammar) This event happened on August 4th, and it was a month later following the holidays that the first letter appears. All the letters from 1913 and 1914 are available to view at www.bugbrookelink.co.uk via the Site Map.

We re-opened school on Monday last, August 31st. Many things have happened since we last wrote. Towards Saturday August 1st, Eiffel gradually ceased the telegraph news, sending messages only in figures and letters, and on Bank Holiday Monday, we, with all amateur stations were dismantled, and of course have heard nothing since.

Death. On Sunday August 2nd, after a long and painful illness, John Hefford, in his 49th year. We take our earliest opportunity of expressing our sympathy with his family.

Wedding. On Bank Holiday Monday, George Howard, of Kislingbury, to Ellen Gardner of Bugbrooke.

The Bugbrooke Scouts held their first encampment on Mr A Ashby's pasture near the Railway Bridge from Wednesday August 5th to Saturday August 8th. They had lovely weather.

With regard to this dreadful War, we believe the following is the list of local men in the services – Navy HM Britannia, J King; Army, Baily Clarke, James Clarke, Mark Clarke, Charles Rush, Eric Poole, Fredrick Wooding, (Major) Percy Grove, James Barnes, Joseph Bannard, PC Latimer, and John Marshall. Several of our young men went into Northampton during the week for the purpose of enlisting. We shall know more about it later on.

Wedding.—On Saturday last, August 29th, at All Saints Church Northampton, Mr George Henry Gardner to Miss Elizabeth Spring of Northampton.

We understand that Miss Eva Moore, who has had much experience in nursing, is now in the Military Hospital at Shorncliffe. She is an Army Reserve Nurse, and does not know from one day to another where she may be sent. In a letter Mrs Moore received from her on Monday night, she says that a great number of their wounded are Belgians and French. Miss Moore has charge of the Officers Quarters and says that both they and the men are most grateful for kindness received from the nurses, who are working very hard indeed for the poor men. The Hospital arrangements, however are so good, and the keen air so refreshing, that in most cases they soon begin to recover. The men are shot chiefly in the legs. One of her patients is a man from the Northampton Regiment. It is given to Nurses to see many sad sights, and we may well pray that God will bless their efforts.

Our old Scholar James Joyce has joined the Oxford Light Infantry and left here on Wednesday. John Marshall has been sent to Yarmouth. We were in Lowestoft and Yarmouth last week, and every bridge, whether if be railway or river, was being watched by armed sentries. They were on duty at all important crossing, and also at the larger Post Offices. Motorists were constantly being stopped to show their licenses, and even bicyclists were being held up. Our old scholar Bertie Moore, who is at home for a few days from Boston, Lincolnshire, says it is just the same.

We have been enjoying lovely harvest weather, our gardens are aflame with flowers. Mrs W Higginbottom, has some grand Astatas. Mrs H Lovell has some beautiful Stocks. Blackberrys are plentiful. Mr R Jeffs has a fine show of Dahlias.

Wedding. On Monday, August 10th, at St Mary's Far Cotton, Mr W Wright to Miss Florie Clague.

Mr W Payne has joined the Yeomanry. Gunner J Marshall is in the Royal Garrison Artillery, No 4 Depot, G Section, Gt, Yarmouth. We received a farewell card from Pt W J Clarke of the Expeditionary Force, on August 11th. He was starting for France. Another card has been received from him since then. In the Northampton Independent of August 22nd, is a group of 'Steelbacks' among whom we see Pt Mark Clarke.

Birth yesterday (Thursday September 3rd) at Northampton, Mrs Thompson better known as Laura Moore), of a son.

Mr Horace White has enlisted in the 2nd Battalion, London Regiment under L. Colonel Lord Scott. Mr John Payne has also enlisted in the Yeomanry. Lighting up time 7-30pm.

Yours Truly—May Bull