

ANSTEY, BRENT PELHAM & MEESDEN NEWSLETTER

AUGUST to SEPTEMBER 2020

Diary of Events

Date	Event (unless cancelled in the meantime!)
Aug 23 rd	Herts and Essex Country Fair Brent Pelham – keep an eye out for local announcements about this.
Sept 12th	Sponsored Bike 'n Hike 9am to 5pm – see page 4 below



Will this be reality – and legal - again soon?

Stay Safe and Keep Well Until Then

Editors: John and Patricia Hamilton, Red Stack, Anstey, Herts. SG9 0BN
Tel. 01763 848536 jhamilton.redstack@hotmail.com

Please send in your own news to: Jackie Godfrey on 01763 848732 or rjmo2@btinternet.com PLEASE
NOTE NEW ADDRESS (for Anstey) ; Martin Hugi brentpelhamnewsletter@protonmail.com (for Brent
Pelham): Margaret Beach on 01279 777195 or mothbeach27@gmail.com (Meesden), -
Or, for last minute material, direct to the editors.

The next deadline is **15th September 2020**



Welcome

To the second electronic version of the Newsletter. We have done our best to ensure that this copy will reach as many people in our three villages who have email as possible. Please share it with the other people in your household by printing it or forwarding it on. We may well have missed out some email households so if you know of anyone who HAS email but hasn't received a copy please ask them to send a message to jhamilton.redstack@hotmail.com, or brentpelhamnewsletter@protonmail.com, and a copy will be sent to them and their name(s) put on the list for the next distribution. If you know of any close neighbour who has NOT got email, and if you have a printer and are prepared to help, please print off a copy of this edition and pop it through their letterbox. For those without email in Anstey some copies will be, it is hoped, printed and volunteers will try to ensure they get a copy. Finally, please bear in mind that many of the advertisers whose ads appear will have had to close down during the current crisis.

Please send in your own news including experience of living with lock down, and photos, to your local editors at the addresses on page 1. We will include as much as possible while we have no space limits.

GENERAL NEWS

GOOD NEIGHBOURS SCHEME. This has had to be suspended for the time being, as most of our volunteers are having to stay in for 12 weeks. Please however do make use of the help schemes, such as AnsteyLink, that have been set up in all our villages.

Garden & DIY Equipment A reminder that we have equipment that is available for people to borrow. For full details of the equipment visit <https://www.brentpelham-meesden-pc.org/> and check out the Loan DIY Equipment tab. Please do let us know if you have equipment that we can add to this list.

In and under the hedges and verges and rough fields 2020 has been a bumper year for **Wildflowers**. Here are some that were around to be seen and enjoyed. See if you can identify any of them. There seem to be lots of different names for some of our British wildflowers so the names at the end may be different from those which are familiar to you!



Left to right, top to bottom, they are: - Agrimony, Ale-hoof, Bee Orchid, Blood-twig Cornel, Creeping Starwort, False Baby's Breath, Rough Hawk's-beard, Fireweed, Privet, Pyramid Orchid, and Field Speedwell.



Sponsored Bike 'n Hike

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9am to 5pm



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BEDS & HERTS
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BH4 2020

For more info please visit www.b-n-h.co.uk or bikenhike@bedshertset.org.uk. For sponsorship packs, contact Patricia Hamilton hamiltonpatricia@hotmail.com or 01763 848536.

Covid 19 may have messed up many lives, but for our canine friends things got rather better...



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Have you joined AnsteyLink? If not you could be missing out.

AnsteyLink is a Google Group accessible only to the residents of Anstey and neighbouring villages. Group members can send a message direct from their own email account to a group email address which then reaches the whole community directly. This makes it easier to share local information, list items to sell/give away/ share, recommend local businesses/services/events, ask for help, advice and community support, and anything else that may be useful to get in touch with your local residents about. If you want to join this group, please email Sarah Cruise on cruise.s@icloud.com. Please note that this group is only for residents of Anstey or neighbouring villages such as Meesden, the Horneys and Brent Pelham, and we may ask for proof of residency before accepting your membership.





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ANSTEY NEWS

www.ansteyvillage.co.uk



During the Covid crisis many people in Anstey, including both the current editors, have had to self-isolate. So a **HUGE THANK YOU** to all of you who, whether via the help service run by Adrian and Alison Cossor, or via Anstey Link, or via simple good deeds, have done so much to collect and deliver shopping, prescriptions, pet food supplies etc. Your kindness is so much appreciated.

Many congratulations to Jan Pledger, Wendy Hillier and Jenny Goymour for their fund-raising plant sales. By putting tables of plant produce out they attracted loads of custom, and funds for the NHS. Thanks also to all those who supported them by generous donations into the honesty boxes!

Jan Pledger writes: - "It is with great pleasure and much thanks to you all that I have today" (*late June*) "donated on your behalf £1370 to the NHS Staff Welfare fund. Thank you for all your support and I do feel that a sum of this size will do some good to our NHS Heroes." Jan, Wendy, and Jenny.

Anstey Village Hall. The hall remains closed at present, though we hope to resume our sports and exercise classes sometime soon, to be followed in due course by Film Club, other social events and hirings. Dates and details will be notified via the Ansteylink email, the Anstey and Meesden Community Group (Facebook), and of course the Anstey Village website. The Committee has been busy during lockdown, working to improve the facility prior to reopening. Broadband is now up and running in the hall, the floor has been refurbished, extra storage has been created in the kitchen, and several long-neglected 'flower beds' have been tidied up and laid to shingle. We're set to go, just as soon as we feel that it's safe to do so. *Dave Oxley* (oxleydj@yahoo.co.uk)

Some Anstey Trees by Patricia Hamilton

Let me introduce you to my babies! First is my best



birthday present ever. In 1983 I was given a tiny sprouting acorn in a little pot by the Barber family who lived at Bandons – they had picked it up from under one of their oaks.



Next is another oak – two or three years younger, given to me as an acorn by our then neighbour John Whittingham who lived at Well Cottage.

Then about 25 years ago, one Sunday after a service in St. George’s, French



Phillips gave me two beech nuts he had picked up in the churchyard. I planted them both in little pots and the following year they joined the oaks. One died a few years later but this is the beautiful survivor.



Lastly, my two lovely chestnut trees. These

are descendants of an avenue of chestnuts that was planted in Cambridge in honour of a visit from Queen Victoria Their white blossoms this year were sensational.

Trees

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed
Against the earth’s sweet flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in Summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

By Joyce Kilmer, 1913.

Anstey Chapel. Well, it has probably been a very long time since we have all done so much DIY around our homes. The gardens have been spruced time and time again, door knockers polished and windows cleaned. We have done so many things to occupy ourselves to keep tedium at bay. But that’s just a small portion of how our time has been spent since early March. In our small corner of Hertfordshire we have all rallied together so well. Looking after young and old alike with a friendly phone call and offers of shopping etc. But for others it has been a very testing time especially those who have lost loved ones, and our thoughts and prayers are with them.

Now that lockdown has lifted a bit and the Chapel has been allowed to open, it brings me to say that Anstey Chapel is open from 7am-9pm 7 days a week for anybody who wants to come along and have a quiet time. There will be available paper and pens for anybody who would like to write a prayer request. This will be confidential and can be put into the box provided and if anyone would like to chat with me or my wife (Pastor Ian and Lynn-Marie Palmer) or just need a listening ear, we are here for you. Please feel free to contact us on 01763-849256.

Sunday Services 10.30am-12noon as usual, but **NO REFRESHMENTS & NO SUNDAY SCHOOL** until further notice. In all services there will be the advised Social Distancing observed with a Hand Sanitising Station.

Wednesdays.....Coffee Mornings 10.30am-12noon Coffee/Tea Homemade Cake/Biscuits in The Gardens of Chapel Bungalow (opposite the Chapel) £1 and all donations are going to help Addenbrookes Cancer Unit.

Starting in the Autumn we will be running an Alpha course. Date to be confirmed.

Ecumenical Prayer 7am-8am Friday 7th August and thereafter 1st Friday of every month.

Monthly Saturday Worship Evenings will be starting as soon as possible.

God Bless.



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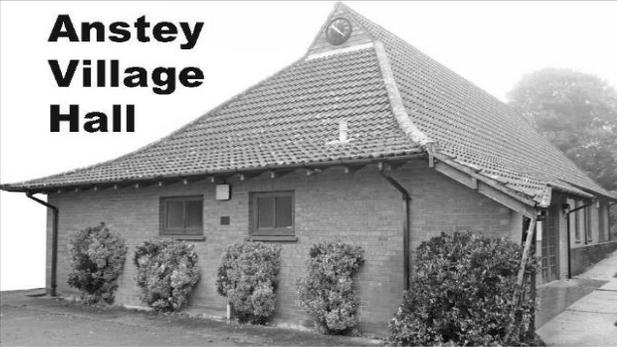
Congratulations to Jenny & Gus who have a new grandson, **George Gabriel Goymour**, born on June 15th to **James & Mary**, a little brother for **Edward**.

Bellringing. Anstey's Bell-ringers have decided there will be no full bellringing for the foreseeable future, as at least two of them have to keep isolating, and social distancing is not possible. We are very fortunate to have chimes, so we will be ringing those for 15/20 minutes before each service.

We are sad to report that **Adrian Austin**, who lived alone at Dove Cottage, Silver Street, contracted Covid 19 and died from it in May 2020. Our condolences to his family and friends.

ANSTEY DEFIBRILLATOR. A reminder that the Anstey defibrillator is located outside The Blind Fiddler, just to the left of the entrance porch. The code to open the cabinet is **3456**.

Anstey Village Hall



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BRENT PELHAM NEWS

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Herts & Essex Country Fair – Brent Pelham – Sunday 23rd August 2020 ???

Because of the current Covid crisis and the restrictions in place it is uncertain, at the time of writing, whether the 2020 Herts & Essex Country Fair, Dog and Heavy Horse Show will be going ahead this year. If it does go ahead it will still be on Sunday 23rd August at The Park, Brent Pelham, SG9 0AT and signs will appear around and about, so keep an eye out for these and other methods of getting the news out.

Brent Pelham & Meesden Parish Council An Extraordinary Meeting of Brent Pelham & Meesden Parish Council was held on Thursday 14th May 2020 by Video Conference. The sole purpose of this meeting is to review the Annual Governance and Accountability Return that needs to be submitted to Government authorities before July 2020. The minutes, of this meeting and previous, can be found at the website <https://www.brentpelham-meesden-pc.org/> where full contact details of your Parish Councillors can also be found. The next Parish Council meetings is the Annual General Meeting (AGM), which subject to pandemic restrictions permitting is to be held on Thursday 17th September 2020, 7:30 pm at Brent Pelham Village Hall.

In Memoriam

Jane Stewart-Brown - Washall Green House, Brent Pelham "Jane, aged 83, died peacefully at home with her sons, William and James, by her side on Monday April 6th. An amazing wife, wonderful mother, super granny and a great friend to many. She will be sorely missed and never forgotten"
<http://announcements.telegraph.co.uk/deaths/240759/stewart-brown>

Mark Debnam – The Sticks, Brent Pelham "On 22nd June 2020 aged 60 years. Devoted Husband of Erica and loving Father of Amy and Polly. Much loved son of Alec and Iris and brother to Sonia. Mark will be deeply missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service at St Swithin's Church, Great Chishill followed by committal at Cam Valley Crematorium, Great Chesterford. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Isabel Hospice. All enquiries and donations may be sent c/o Peasgood and Skeates Funeral Directors, Shire Hill, Saffron Walden, CB11 3AQ"

<https://funeral-notices.co.uk/notice/mark+alec+newport/4857408>

Pilates continues on Zoom Pilates continues on Zoom, at 7pm Monday night, for 40 minutes. 6pm on Thursday night. The cost is £3.50 a session if anyone is interested please email Becky at rebecca.ashman@hotmail.co.uk or Hazel at hazelnorris@icloud.com or telephone 777316.

The Black Horse - Open again We re-opened on the 4th July and have been hugely grateful for your continued support. We're all getting used to the new normal and our Covid practices are becoming second nature: staff sanitise their hands between every table or person they serve, food/drink is delivered with a minimum contact and maximum distance, all regular contact surfaces are sanitised regularly, and contact & trace details are taken of every household. When you'd like to join us for lunch, dinner or indeed Steak night, we'd be hugely grateful if you would book a table, however, if you want to take a chance and just turn up we will of course be delighted to try and fit you in. One request though, if you have booked a table with us and, for whatever reason you are unable to make it, please do let us know – it means other people who do want to eat out can get a table and keeps your favourite, friendly local pub happy.

Steak Night, every Wednesday evening is two Sirloin Steak, fries & salad alongside a bottle of house wine for £40. Once again, we look forward to seeing you all over the coming weeks. Please do give us a call on 01279778925 for a reservation, and try the website <http://www.blackhorsebrentpelham.co.uk> or <https://en-b.facebook.com/theblackhorsebrentpelham>

Nature Notes: Barn owl rehabilitation – Part II

The May Newsletter contained the story of a very unwell male Barn Owl that appeared at Foxway at the start of April and was being rehabilitated to be released.

Tyto, as we named him, was doing very well and had been moved into an aviary/bicycle shed fixed up into a cherry tree. He continued to take the food that was provided and contact was kept to an absolute minimum for two weeks.

Then on Friday 31st May at dusk one side of the aviary was silently lifted off with a pre-arranged pulley system.



We watched and waited silently for over an hour, so we could witness him fly away, but he did not give us this pleasure.

Instead he waited for us to leave, as in the morning he had departed.

Unfortunately, the motion sensitive wildlife camera we set up didn't capture the moment either, probably the sensitivity had not been set correctly for the new position it had been placed in.

We continued to place food in the normal place, but there have been no signs of it being taken. However, on two consecutive nights around the solstice we were in the garden at dusk and saw a barn owl fly past just the other side of the cherry trees, and on



both occasions making the characteristic screeching call; we think it was probably the same owl. Also, when driving past Gray's Cottages, the last cottages of Brent Pelham on the way to Clavering, we saw a barn owl looking just like him sitting on the roadside

fence. We like to think he is still around and thriving and this is his home range. For now, we'll keep the bicycle shed in the tree just as the nights draw in, just in case it may come in useful to him, or perhaps just as an occasional holiday home. He will always be welcome...say hello if you see him. Family Hügi

Motorbike Blight

"Is anybody else tired of the ever-increasing weekend blight of racing, blasting, screaming motorbikes? The riders show not the slightest awareness, or care, about the effect on our relatively peaceful environment. And, with impunity, also alarming the other riders - horse and bicycle. As ever, it is the selfish and arrogant few who make life so unpleasant. I have no problem with those who want to go for a slower, quieter country ride, allowing themselves a moment to notice the scenery. Bikers - if you really crave a noisy burn-up, go and find a track, please." Peter Tritton, Washall Green

Editors' note: Is there anything that can address this, or any other suggestions, as of course the motorcyclists are unlikely to ever see this message?

Email addresses Of course, if you are receiving this by email you will, unless someone has forwarded it on, have registered your email address to receive this as a digital copy. Please do check with neighbours if and when you see them that they are aware of the newsletter being digital for the time being. If they are not and they would still like to receive it they can email brentpelhamnewsletter@protonmail.com and it will be sent on and future digital editions.

If you are aware that a neighbour does not have email please consider printing them a copy, whilst checking with them first, maintaining social distancing and taking hygiene precautions whilst printing and delivering. Thank you.

For the benefit of those new to the village and as general reminders

Brent Pelham Facebook page. If you are a Facebook user then don't forget to like the Brent Pelham Facebook page to keep up to date with upcoming events & local news.

Fraser Murray sends out emails to the village with general news, these are useful for getting out urgent news, reminders and information quickly. To add your name to his distribution list, or if your email has changed, then send a blank email to frasermurray@me.com with your name and address in the header.

Village hall internet - The Wi-Fi network is BP-Village-Hall and the password is shonk5moat. It's free to use for basic respectful use, and for those 'your-internet-is-down' emergencies; For prolonged heavy use a small, or large, donation would be very welcome, simply post through the letter box at the Village Hall with an explanatory note.

Village defibrillator - As a reminder the village defibrillator is located near the village hall and post box opposite the church. The access code for the box is **C159X**.

ANSTEY GROVE BARN

BED AND BREAKFAST



Anstey Grove Barn is a timber barn that has been tastefully converted specifically to offer high quality Bed and Breakfast accommodation. It is situated away from the main farmhouse, and overlooks the secluded walled garden, which is set to lawn and formal herb patio and is for guests' use only. The six rooms are all elegantly furnished and are a mixture of twin and double. The "Master Room" has a four poster bed, bathroom with freestanding roll top bath, shower and separate WC.

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MEESDEN NEWS

<https://www.brentpelham-meesden-pc.org/>



Lockdown. We might be in the grips of a lockdown situation and unable to get together with friends for a cup of tea, a biscuit or two and a gossip on the sofa. However, I feel it is important not to be tempted into complete lockdown ourselves and to lose touch with what is going on in the world, in our villages, and in the homes of our own families and friends. This current situation has afforded us a little more time to ourselves within our own four walls, some of us with only one person for company - a wife, husband or child, and some of us entirely alone. Many of us have access to "Zoom". (I have to admit to becoming

acquainted with that method of communication only recently), phones, emails, and the good old-fashioned idea of putting pen to paper. Whatever your preferred method of sending a message, it is so important to keep in touch, and let someone know they are not alone even if they are in isolation! As an extra thought, how about making someone's day and really surprising them by ordering a bouquet of flowers for delivery to their home? - *Margaret Beach*

WOW! BLOOMIN' MARVELLOUS! By the end of June we had raised £1450 from our home-grown plant sales outside Alma Cottage garden gate. It will be split between the NHS and St Mary's Church. However summer is not over yet and if you are like me cutting back the first flush of summer and revealing gaps that another plant will fit into do come along and see the new plants that are coming into flower. Look out for one of my favourites, plate-sized blooms of Blue Agapanthus, a bulb that will multiply. I have put them in huge pots because of the size of the bulbs and the roots like to grow to be pot-bound. So, either leave in the pot and enjoy on the patio, or place it in a border to gain height, or dig a hole and sink the pot in.

I only have a limited number so if you come and it has been sold please leave a note with the name of the plant plus details of how I can contact you and I will be pleased to do so. This applies to all of the plants for I only have room at the gate for one of each.

So a **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who has bought our plants and we hope that they have given you great joy in these trying times we find ourselves in and may they do so for many years to come. Let us see whether we can raise more to add to this wonderful amount. *Elaine and Andrew McNeile*

Clap for the N.H.S. On the 72nd anniversary of the NHS the nation was invited to 'clap' again. Putting politics aside, in Meesden we used this as an opportunity to get together on the green and talk with our neighbours. We each brought our own drinks, chairs or blankets and spent a wonderful half an hour just having a catch up. - *Jen West*

Thank you. It is time we said a big "Thank you" to John Robinson for taking charge of the bonfire where those of us at the Brent Pelham end of Meesden are able to dispose of our garden rubbish. John does a fantastic job, lighting and carefully supervising the bonfire when the pile of garden rubbish becomes large enough to burn. What he does is not an easy task! He has to ensure that the wind is not blowing the smoke across the road in the direction of the houses opposite, and that the cattle are not grazing in the field just behind the bonfire site. Of course, he also has to be sure that the bonfire is safe to leave when it has died down. For our part, we must make certain that only material which can be burnt safely is left for John to deal with. Keep up the good work. John, and many thanks!

Neighbourhood Watch



People in our villages are still being caught by SCAMS large and small. This is another plea to everyone to read the information provided by the Online Watch link (OWL) Neighbourhood Watch scheme to protect themselves from scams. Their website has all the information needed www.owl.co.uk

Meesden Community Garden. The raised bed



behind Meesden Village Hall is in full colour. Please



stop and look when next passing.

What We See in our Own Gardens. Being lucky enough to live in these beautiful rural surroundings, we are used to seeing nature at its best - birds, hedgehogs, scampering rabbits and the occasional muntjak. (I think it is this particular animal that seems to take a fancy to our pansies). However, I recently had quite a surprise when I looked out of the window and was privy to a scene which I had not

come across before. What I can only describe as a writhing mass of bodies was twisting and turning in front of my eyes. I was aware of watching a very vicious fight. At first they were moving too fast for me to distinguish what I was seeing. Then one tore itself away from the group and raced across the lawn, just in time for me to catch a glimpse of a long, brown body, a white front and a fairly long tail. The rest of the party - three of them - sloped sheepishly away. It may be that what I saw is quite a common sight in this part of the country but for me it was my first experience of witnessing a very bitter fight between four weasels.

I felt very privileged to have seen it, and it is a



memory that will be with me for a long time to come.
- Margaret Beach

[A weasel is a mammal of the genus *Mustela*. This genus includes weasels, polecats, stoats, ferrets and mink. They are small, active predators, with long and slender bodies and short legs. A weasel's lifespan is four to six years.]

Meesden Village Hall. Because of the Covid 19 outbreak, like many other villages we have taken some necessary hygiene steps to ensure that our Village Hall will be safe to use. The Government still tells us how we can meet and mix with others, but rest assured that when you book to hire our Village Hall, our aim is to make it as clean and safe as possible. -Ken Newstead

Tonia Hart Flowers - *Your new local flower delivery service!* I am a local florist and have just launched an online flower shop with free delivery for local residents. I am selling a variety of seasonal flowers, plants & bouquets, along with any bespoke requests you may have. If you would like to brighten up your home or send a gift to a loved one (who lives within a 10-mile radius of Buntingford) please check out my shop and order online at www.toniahart.co.uk If you do not have a computer or smartphone, please feel free to call me with your order or any questions you may have. Let's spread some love and happiness with flowers! TONIA HART FLOWERS - Wedding & Event Florist - phone 07850936116.

Village Water Supply Many of you have already seen a copy of the information I received from Affinity Water following numerous complaints they received these past few months about the low water

pressure we get in Meesden. In summary they say that between now and March 2021 they have plans to increase the output pressure at Hare Street Pumping Station, install new pressure sustaining valves in Meesden and Anstey, upgrading their pumping station computer software and to make adjustments to their network so that we can receive water from their pumping station in Chipping if needed. Let us hope that low water pressure soon becomes a thing of the past. Ken Newstead

The Mule in WWII As the date commemorating the end of WWII draws nigh, August 15th 1945, the beast of burden, the Mule that helped make the victory possible has not been overlooked. This article has been taken from 'Jungle Jungle Little Chindit' by Major Patrick Boyle and Major Jon Musgrave Wood. Hollis and Carter Ltd. 1944.

The Chindits were specially trained troops who fought behind Japanese lines in WWII. (The newly reformed 77 Brigade's shoulder flash takes its inspiration from that of the Chindits.) No soldier who served in Burma during the years 1942 to 1945 can ever be said to be entirely free from the influence of the mule. At some time or other everyone will have a mule in his life, on his toes, in the small of the back or stepping quietly on his face while he sleeps.

He (all mules are 'he' by courtesy) may be distinguished from the horse, or pony by: - Much longer ears and he kicks more often and more accurately. The men who look after mules become very fond of them and even of their profession, even though this profession is an arduous one as well as being dangerous and completely thankless. The penetrationist (another name for Chindit) will do well to consider carefully before deciding to take it up, and for the student's benefit we will describe briefly what it entails.

The mule man, mule leader or muleteer looks after one mule and its saddle and harness. He must feed it, wash it, groom it, keep its outfit clean, see that its load, when on, is properly tied and balanced, prevent it from becoming galled, broken winded or lost, haul it up when it goes rolling down the mountainside, run after it when it runs away and take care when in harbour (night time stopping place) that it stands in a space carefully cleared of rustling leaves and does not stamp on the face of nearby sleepers. Apart from these little jobs, a little fighting and attending to his own personal needs his time is his own.

He will find that his mule, especially when tired, is not necessarily stubborn, and does not necessarily kick, at least not very hard.

*Some do. There was a muleteer whose mule made a practice of kicking him neatly in the stomach, though at first not sufficiently hard to hurt him. One day, there rang out the familiar thud followed by the gasp of pain. But this time he had had one too many kicks and, as he was being carried away he gazed affectionately at his mule and said wheezingly, "Silly old *****r, 'E don't mean no 'arm". Men are*

like that. So are mules.

There is the Animals in War Memorial in Hyde Park. A national appeal raised the £2 million cost of the memorial. The memorial was designed by David Backhouse and consists of a 58ft curved Portland stone wall displaying carvings of animals. Two heavily laden-laden bronze mules struggle through a gap in the wall, and ahead of them a horse and dog head off into the distance. The memorial was unveiled in November 2004 by the Princess Royal, and is four minutes' walk from Marble Arch. - *Wilfrid Dimsdale*

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