

Lurgashall News

AUGUST 2026



Highlights

Lurgashall Horticultural Club

42nd ANNUAL SHOW
in the
VILLAGE HALL
on
Sat, 15th August 2026

Try our new 'bean to cup' coffee
& delicious cakes to take away



August in the UK: That magical time of year when we transition seamlessly from complaining that our houses aren't insulated for the winter, to realizing they have effectively become brick-lined pizza ovens.

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CHURCHWARDENS

Rob Holgate cwstlaurence@gmail.com 0738758 2100

St. Laurence Church Cleaning

Enjoy lively conversation and a great work out in a beautiful village location .

Church cleaning 1 morning a month for an hour .

Contact: Judy Pavia 01428707265

Church Services for August 2026

2 August <i>9th Sunday after Trinity</i>	10.00 am	Lurgashall	Holy Communion <i>Rev Jack Mulder</i>
9 August <i>10th Sunday after Trinity</i>	10.00 am 6.00 pm	Lurgashall Ebernoe	Holy Communion <i>Venerable Philip Jones</i> Lammas Celebration at Butcherland + BBQ
16 August <i>11th Sunday after Trinity</i>	10.00 am 10.30 am	Lurgashall Northchapel	Holy Communion <i>Canon Nigel Nicholson</i> Holy Communion
23 August <i>12th Sunday after Trinity</i>	10.00 am	Lurgashall	Holy Communion <i>Rev Jack Mulder</i>
30 August <i>13th Sunday after Trinity</i>	10.00 am	Lurgashall	Holy Communion <i>Venerable Philip Jones</i>

Looking ahead....

Pet Service

St Laurence, Lurgashall
Sunday, 6th September, 10.00 am

Taken by Canon Nigel Nicholson,
this service will celebrate and give
thanks for all our wonderful pets.

Everyone is welcome to attend and bring their pets!





From the Churchwarden

By the time you read this, the football World Cup will be over: the trophy lifted, the flags folded away, the pundits exhausted, and the great global carnival already fading into memory. But the interesting part, at least for me, isn't the result. It's what the tournament reveals about us - about the way human beings behave when the colours come out, the songs start, and the sense of "us" and "them" sharpens into something almost primal.

The World Cup is the world's most vivid display of tribalism. It is astonishing how quickly people who barely follow football for three years and eleven months suddenly feel a surge of belonging when their country plays. A flag in the window, a shirt pulled from the back of the wardrobe, a chant remembered from childhood - and suddenly we are part of something. We feel connected, energised, emotionally invested. We care - and we care together.

There is something undeniably beautiful about that. Tribalism, at its best, is simply shared joy. It is the pleasure of belonging, the warmth of collective hope, the thrill of seeing strangers become temporary friends because they are wearing the same colours. It is the reminder that human beings are not designed to live as isolated individuals. We are social creatures, wired for connection, drawn instinctively towards groups, stories, symbols and identity.

But tribalism has a darker edge too. The same instinct that binds us together can just as easily push others away. "Us" can become "them" with remarkable speed. Rivalry can become hostility. Pride can become exclusion.

Sometimes the tribal instinct spills far beyond football. This year, with the United States hosting the tournament, President Donald Trump reportedly intervened to have a red card overturned for an American player - an extraordinary moment in which political power reached directly into sporting fairness. The symbolism is hard to miss. It showed how easily rules bend when someone is powerful enough, and how quickly supporters cheer simply because "their" man has acted.

It connects with something Canon Nigel Nicholson said in a recent sermon: the difference between wanting to be seen as a peacemaker and actually being one. Trump has spoken openly about deserving the Nobel Peace Prize, yet his record suggests a world made more brittle, not more stable. It is a reminder that tribal loyalty can disguise itself as peace-making, and that power without humility rarely leads to peace. True peacemakers calm the world; false ones merely calm their supporters.

What fascinates me is how this tribal passion sits alongside the other great force that shapes the modern World Cup: money. The tournament is drenched in it. It is not just a sporting event; it is a global economic and commercial engine.

Yet the emotional power of the World Cup comes from something money can never fully manufacture: the human desire to belong, to hope, to be part of a story larger than ourselves. Money can amplify the belonging, but it cannot replace it.

That, in a quiet way, is where the church offers a counter-example. St Laurence has no sponsorship deals, no television rights, no billion-pound transfers. It has no commercial engine at all, and yet it deals in the same raw human materials that make the World Cup so powerful: identity, belonging, loyalty, memory, hope. The difference is that the church's version of these things is not tribal. It does not divide the world into "us" and "them". It does not fade when the tournament ends. Unlike the political theatre of peace-making, the church's calling is to practise peace quietly, consistently, without spectacle.

When the noise of the World Cup fades, what remains is the human need for belonging, for hope, for a community that isn't built on victory or spectacle - in short, a desire to be part of something meaningful. Perhaps that is the quiet role of a village church in a noisy world: to keep alive a form of belonging that isn't bought, isn't sold and isn't limited to the people who wear our colours.

Rob
Churchwarden, St Laurence

VILLAGE HALL



Join the Lurgashall Village Hall 50:50 Club!



Support your village hall while having a chance to win a monthly **cash prize!**

Each month, half the subscription pot goes to two lucky winners, and half helps maintain and improve the hall.

✦ Why join?

- Monthly cash prizes (totalling around £100)
- Bumper Christmas draw (£200 last year)
- Help keep our village hall thriving

Subscriptions: You can subscribe for as little as £1 a month and contribute as much as you like to a maximum of £20 a month.



To join or learn more:

Contact Steve Corr (07778 357272) or Cathy Nicholes (catherine.nicholes@hotmail.co.uk)



Thank you to everyone already supporting us!

Please Note: *If you already subscribe and feel able to increase your existing subscription (to max. £20 a month), we would be very grateful.*

July's prizewinners were:

1st prize of £76.00 Jane Landstrom

2nd prize of £46.80 Nicol Tomlinson

Here for our community

Lurgashall Village Hall and its equipment are available for hire, with special discounted rates for residents of the parish.

The hall is great for children's parties, exercise and dance classes, family gatherings, meetings, film shows – in fact, almost anything you can think of!

Equipment for hire includes tables, chairs, crockery, cutlery, glassware and the ever-popular large urn!

Our rates are very reasonable indeed. To find out more, please go to www.lurgashallvillagehall.org or contact the Booking Secretary on lvhmc.bookings@gmail.com

WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

Save the date:

Friday 2nd October

10.30am-12.00pm

Lurgashall Village Hall

(Please note that this is a change of date from Friday 25th September)

VILLAGE LUNCH

The next village lunch will be on the 10th August. Just put your name on the list in the Shop. This closes on the Thursday before the lunch.

Please contact Sally Stainton on 07810634063, if you have any dietary requirements.

LURGASHALL OIL GROUP

The next order will be in August before monthly orders recommence in October. Please contact me if you would like to join the group

Colin Robertson lurgashall.oil@gmail.com



LURGASHALL HORTICULTURAL CLUB

42nd ANNUAL SHOW
in the
VILLAGE HALL
on
Sat, 15th August 2026



Schedules available from the Village Shop



ABOUT THE SHOW

- All residents of Lurgashall Parish may exhibit - even if they are not Club Members.
- Non-residents of the Parish may exhibit - as long as they are paid-up Club Members.
- Club Members' children (*under 16*) who live outside the Parish may also exhibit.
- There are **2 ENTRY FORMS** in each free **SCHEDULE** available from **The Village Shop**, as are **EXTRA ENTRY FORMS**.
- Please use a separate form for each competitor and deliver to the tin in The Shop by **5pm, Wednesday 12th August**. We cannot accept late entries.
- **ENTRY FEES:**
 - 30p** per entry for paid-up Club Members
 - 60p** per entry for non-members
 - FREE** for all Juniors (*under 16*)
- **On the day of the Show:**

STAGING:	8.30 am - 10.45am
JUDGING:	11.15 am - 12.30 pm
SHOW OPEN:	2.30 pm
PRIZE-GIVING:	4.00 pm

GET SOWING * GET GROWING * GET SHOWING!



LURGASHALL HORTICULTURAL CLUB

Established 1983

***“Gardening requires lots of water – most of it in the form of perspiration”.
Lou Erickson***

And there's been a lot of that, this summer! It's tough gardening & producing in these conditions, but we can all try to do our bit to save water. Collecting rainwater is difficult when no rain is forecast, but check out these RHS guides for tips & interesting facts:

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/articles/greywater-to-become-mainstream>

[https://www.rhs.org.uk/education-](https://www.rhs.org.uk/education-learning/schoolgardening/resources/planet-friendly/conserving-water)

[learning/schoolgardening/resources/planet-friendly/conserving-water](https://www.rhs.org.uk/education-learning/schoolgardening/resources/planet-friendly/conserving-water)

JEN'S TIPS & IDEAS FOR AUGUST

Mid-Late summer Pruning:

Wisteria: Taming a vigorous rain forest climber is tricky but well worth the dedication. Reduce all unwanted growth to 5-8 buds from main stems (these are reduced further in the winter) to encourage flowering buds.

Lavender: Prune/shear stems after flowering to a third-to-half new growth which will help maintain a compact growth habit.

Summer flowering shrubs: eg **Philadelphus**, **Abelia**, **Weigela** etc: Trim or prune flowered shoots by a third, remove some stems to the ground if congested.



Fruits: Stoned fruits are pruned during harvest or straight after (never in winter).

Soft fruit can have a tidy up now to promote ripening & reduce congestion, improving airflow & health.

Cane Fruit – remove fruited canes on raspberries.

Rambler Roses:

Prune after flowering and/or after their show of hips in summer.

Remove one in three of oldest stems completely. Shorten remaining sideshoots to leave about a third.

Tie in new shoots as required and remove tip growth.



OTHER JOBS

Pot up strawberry runners in-situ
(remove stems once well rooted).

- Dead head flowering plants as often as you can to promote new flowers.
- Raise mower height or stop mowing during drought.
- Collect ripened seeds.
- Keep Camelias, Rhododendrons and Azaleas well-watered to promote good flowering next spring, as now is when fruiting buds are forming.
- Sow green manures on finished veggie plots.
- Make notes of successes and failures for planning any changes for next year... what plants did well with our extreme weather conditions for you?



THE SPUD SACK CHALLENGE

Don't forget to enter your Spud Sack in the
42nd Annual Show on 15th August

***Did you hear about the spud that got its head chopped off?
It was decap-potatoed....***

Lurgashall Archive

Archive is open at the Village Hall on
Wed 12th & Wed 26th August, 2.30-
4.00pm archive@lurgashallvillagehall.org

*Our heritage
matters*

A name, a picture, a story - Abraham Wakeford (1829 - 1906)

Between 1826 and 1829, three baby boys – all brothers – were baptised in Lurgashall church; they were Thomas, William and Abraham, sons of James and Elizabeth Wakeford.

The Archive discovered these boys because visitors to the church had asked whether there were any of their Wakeford ancestors in our churchyard. A trawl of the Lurgashall parish registers revealed that Wakefords were very much around in the 16th and 17th centuries, much less in the 18th century and then just a few names in the 19th century before petering out altogether.

Abraham Wakeford was the seventh child of James and Elizabeth, and the family lived first in Northchapel parish, moving to Lurgashall parish in about 1825.

Abraham's father James was an agricultural labourer, and life for the rural labour community in the 1820s was becoming very harsh. The 'Swing Riots' reached West Sussex in late 1830. Protesters objected to the tithe system, the Poor Law Guardians and rich tenant farmers who were lowering wages while introducing mechanical farm machinery.

In this area, the 3rd Earl Egremont of Petworth House recognised the problem and endeavoured to help by sponsoring the emigration of local people to Upper Canada, now known as Ontario. In 1832, when young Abraham Wakeford was just three years old, his family joined the first emigrations, eventually settling in Waterloo Township, Wellington County, to the south-west of Toronto.

Elizabeth Wakeford wrote – or rather dictated, as she could not write - two letters home to England in June 1833. A few extracts:

We had a very tedious passage of 8 weeks, but I soon overcame my sickness...but my husband was very ill all the way... and for the first nine months there were that he could not earn anything; but I have been quite well and have had plenty of work hat making. I have had to maintain the family myself; but we have not wanted any thing.

The people are very kind to us: they are Dutch mostly, but very good to us... Thomas is out, [i.e. aged 7, farmed out to another home] and will be until he is 18 years old... He have a good place, and the people are very kind to him. William [now aged 6] is very lusty. Abraham [now aged 4] is grown very tall, so that you would not know them.

Little is known about Abraham's young life in Canada, but it is likely he worked as a farm labourer. In c.1857 he married Mary Ann Mason, also from England, and they had a family of 13 children, 11 of whom survived into adulthood.

After living at various locations in Wellington County, Ontario, it seems that, in 1888, Abraham, his wife and some of their children moved to Olga Township, Cavalier County in North Dakota, USA, where he and Mary Ann became naturalised citizens.

There is no date attached to this photograph of Abraham Wakeford, but it was probably taken in the late 1880s when he entered the USA.



Abraham Wakeford died and was buried in the small town of Walhalla, North Dakota, in 1906, aged 76. His wife died in 1922.

One little footnote: researching the ancestors of Abraham Wakeford, Lurgashall Archive discovered that Abraham's paternal great grandmother, from Northchapel, was called.... Sarah Matthews!

Until next month... Sarah Matthews, *Lurgashall Archive*

A Summer to Remember?



If anyone needed proof of just how dry this summer has become, they need only take a look at Lurgashall Village Green. The photograph above was taken this week, and the usually green expanse has taken on the colour of late August rather than July. The ground is hard underfoot, the grass has stopped growing and many gardens are beginning to look decidedly thirsty.

Yet, as only the British weather can manage, it wasn't always like this. Who could forget our Village Fête on 6th June? After weeks of dry weather, the heavens opened and it rained for virtually the entire day. Despite the weather, the village pulled together and, thanks to the efforts of the many volunteers, the fête was far from a disaster. Since then, however, hardly a drop has fallen.

Streams have slowed to a trickle, ponds are shrinking, and farmers are watching the skies with increasing concern. Gardeners have become expert at deciding which plants are worth saving and which must simply fend for themselves.

It is impossible not to think back to the famous summer of 1976, now fifty years ago. That was the summer of standpipes, cracked lawns and endless sunshine. It remains the benchmark against which every hot summer is judged.

But is this year really comparable? The experts say yes—and no. The long, uninterrupted drought of 1976 remains exceptional, but this summer has produced even higher temperatures on several occasions. June was one of the warmest on record, and the repeated heatwaves have left much of southern England exceptionally dry. Perhaps the biggest difference has been the warm nights, when houses have refused to cool down and sleeping has become something of a challenge.

Meteorologists also point out that summers like this are becoming more common. While no single hot spell can be blamed solely on climate change, a warming climate is increasing the likelihood of prolonged heatwaves and periods of drought in southern England. What once seemed exceptional may, unfortunately, become less so.

Whether 2026 will eventually rival 1976 will be for the record books to decide. What is certain is that it has already earned a place among the memorable British summers. Years from now, many of us will probably remember not the temperatures themselves, but the sight of Lurgashall Village Green transformed from its usual rich green into the golden-brown landscape shown in this photograph.

Perhaps that is the real hallmark of an extraordinary summer—not the figures recorded by the Met Office, but the pictures we remember.

Liz Stedall

THE AULD FOOL ONYOU COULDN'T MAKE IT UP !

The Auld Fool and The Badger (AKA Mrs C) have lived at Whites Green for more than fifty years – at peace with most of the other critters that call this rural area home.....but this is a new one.

One of the chimneys on the roof of the house was disused and had long ago been capped off with an airbrick inserted to aid/offer some air circulation and prevent dampness. Every year bees would appear and use this airbrick as some sort of grand entrance for their breeding season – and we were happy to see them – “Pollinators” said the Auld Fool and Badger’s flowers thrived.....and apart from a couple of stings we have all lived together.

Fast forward to Wednesday 24th June, 2026 – and beside the back door appeared a pool of slightly yellowy sticky stuff – the Whites Green Security Team (Labradors Tess and Molly) denied all knowledge of the suspicious pools – keeping to the coolest parts of the house during the outrageous heat bomb which was making life pretty horrible all round.....and there was the clue.....

Normally the bees waxy combs would keep the honey which they made for their own use until it was needed – but the chimney surface reached more than 40 degrees during the hottest part of the day and the honey has turned very liquid and found cracks in the old stonework and door frames to allow it to migrate 20ft to ground level where it appeared as golden pools at the bottom of the ground floor door frames.....and how is the Auld Fool so sure that the mystery substance is Honey - you’ve guessed of course he tasted it !



Now looking for help – fifty years plus of honey storage is going to take some sorting – don’t really fancy eating it after it filtered through the bathroom floor and chimney brickwork.....anyone fancy a bit of commercial apiary – the advertising is already to hand.....



GRASS FINISHED BEEF & LAMB



MEAT SALE DAY!

1st AUGUST

2:00PM TILL 9:30PM



Scan me!



COMPLIMENTARY
TEA, COFFEE AND
CAKE AVAILABLE
ALL DAY.



PULLED BRISKET
BURGERS AND
LOCAL BEER
AVAILABLE
FROM 6:30PM



PRE-ORDER ONLINE AT
ORCHARDPARKMEATS.CO.UK



THE NOAH'S ARK COUNTRY PUB



We look forward to welcoming you to the Noah's Ark. Join us for a drink at the bar, or for lunch or supper in our restaurant, bar and spacious Ark room.

To book your table, see our current menu, or for opening hours, what's on, and more information, please visit our website.

reservations@noahsarkinn.co.uk | 01428 707346 | noahsarkinn.co.uk

Try our new 'bean to cup' coffee & delicious cakes to take away

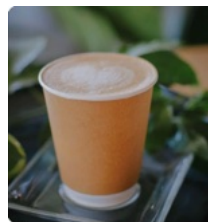


Take Out Menu

£

COFFEE

Cappuccino, Latte, Americano	3.75
Flat White, Mocha	3.90
Double Espresso	3.00
Hot Chocolate	3.25



TEA

English Breakfast, Fruit and Herbal	2.50
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CAKES

Doughnuts; Jam, Apple or Iced Ring	1.90
Buns; Belgian, Chelsea, Swiss & Croissant	from 1.90 to 2.10
Morello Cherry Blondie, Blueberry Bakewell, Brownie	2.50
Cake Slices; Carrot, Lemon, Biscotti cake	2.50
Sodt Brownie	3.50
Scone, Jam with Clotted Cream or Butter	3.15
Scones; Fruit or Plain	1.80
Traybakes; Millionaire's Shortbread, Flapjack	1.80



SAVOURY

Sausage Roll; Traditional or Cheese	3.75
Cornish Pasty	4.50
Quiche Lorraine slice	2.75



OPENING HOURS	VILLAGE SHOP		POST OFFICE	
	OPEN	CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE
MONDAY	9.00 AM	5.00 PM	9.30 AM	12.30 PM
TUESDAY	9.00 AM	5.00 PM	9.30 AM	12.30 PM
WEDNESDAY	9.00 AM	5.00 PM	9.30 AM	12.30 PM
THURSDAY	9.00 AM	5.00 PM	9.30 AM	12.30 PM
FRIDAY	9.00 AM	5.00 PM	CLOSED	
SATURDAY	9.00 AM	5.00 PM	CLOSED	
SUNDAY	10.00 AM	4.00 PM	CLOSED	

TEL

01428 707277

EMAIL

lurgashallvillageshop@gmail.com

WEBSITE

www.lurgashallvillageshop.uk

Haslemere Library August Events 2026



Molly's Special Movement Storytime



Tues -28/07 & 18/08

11.00m - 12.00pm

up to age 7yrs

£1.00per child

Spin Drum Craft

Tuesday 04/08 & Friday 21/08

Drop in 10.00 - 4.00pm

Ages 5yrs+

£2.00 per child

Andrea's Musical Rhythm Workshop

Play to the beat with percussion instruments.

Thursday 06/08 & Tuesday 25/08

11.00 - 11.30

Ages 4-7yrs

FREE

Ukulele Taster Session

Ever wanted to learn how to play the ukulele but don't have an instrument or know where to start ?

Then come along to Haslemere

Library on

Tuesday 04th August

Friday 14th August

11.00am - 12.00pm

Ages 7yrs+

£3.00 per place

Instruments provided

Booking essential as places limited!

HASELMERE.LIBRARY@SURREYCC.GOV.UK

B I N G O Musical Bingo!

Saturday 04/07, 1/08 & 15/08

11.00 - 11.30am

£1.00

Prizes for winning cards!

Electric Guitar	Snare Drum	Chimes	Tuba	Trumpet
Saxophone	Baritone	Oboe	French Horn	Synthesizer
Clarinet	Trumpet	Bass Drum	Flute	String Bass
Acoustic Guitar	Trumpet	Violon	Flute	String Bass
Free	Electric Bass	Contra	Cello	

Junk Modelling Instruments

Make a drum, shakers or bell wristband.



Saturday- 25/07 & 29/08

Drop in - 10.30-12.00hrs

£2.00

Any age -just imagination required!

Lego Walk In

Wednesday 29/07,05/08, 12/08, 19/08 & 26/08

Drop in 10.00 - 4.00pm

£1.00 per child

Design Your Own Album Colour!

ALBUM COVER REMIX

FRI 7TH | SAT 22ND AUG | DROP-IN: 10AM-6PM

£2 Per Child

COMIC BOOK CAPERS

30TH JUL | 13TH AUG

2-4PM

ISSUE #1

£4 **£3 Siblings**

COMIC BOOK WORKSHOP

Kids 8-12

Haslemere Library COMICS

CREATE YOUR OWN COMIC BOOK!

BOOK NOW:
HASELMERE.LIBRARY@SURREYCC.GOV.UK

Chichester District Council

Council updates direct to your phone!

Finding out information about local council services – including receiving recycling and waste collection day reminders – has never been easier, thanks to our free Chichester District Council app, which is available from the Apple Store and Google Play Store.

As long as you switch your notifications on, we will be able to let you know if our recycling and waste crews are running late, and if we have any planned changes to collections. You can also find out about other council services, and keep up to date with all of the latest council news and information. You can find out more at: www.chichester.gov.uk/chichesterdcapp

‘Step by Step Guide’ to downloading the Chichester District Council app:

- 1** Head to the Apple Store or Google Play Store on your smartphone device.
- 2** Type in ‘Chichester District Council’ into the search bar. Our free app will pop up in the results.
- 3** Click to download it onto your mobile device. You can now exit the app store. The app should now show up amongst the icons on your home screen.
- 4** Open the app, type in your postcode and select your address from a drop-down list. You will also be prompted to enter your contact details, so you can receive important updates when reporting incidents to us.
- 5** Don’t forget to click ‘allow notifications’ in the notifications tab to ensure you don’t miss out on important reminders and announcements.

ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON



Alfred Tennyson as a young man

Most locals are aware that Lord Tennyson built Aldworth on Blackdown in 1869, owning it in addition to Farringford his home at Freshwater in the Isle of Wight. He was looking for seclusion from 'star-struck tourists' and suffered from an intermittent chest infection, so he believed that the bracing air on Blackdown next to the Temple of the Winds would be restorative to his health. Nevertheless, he returned to Farringford for the winter. Sarah Matthews has provided an excellent article on Aldworth, but what of the man who was able to fund two handsome properties out of sales of his poetry.

Is it generally known that Alfred had a son Hallam, 2nd Lord Tennyson, who became Governor-General of Australia from 1903 to 1904? Furthermore, Hallam's son, Lionel Hallam, 3rd Lord Tennyson captained the MCC against Australia in 1921 and won a DSC as a Major on the Rifle Brigade in WW1. And why 'Hallam'?



Lionel Hallam Tennyson

Alfred Tennyson was born at Somersby in Lincolnshire in 1809, the third son of the Rev. George Clayton Tennyson (1778-1831), the vicar of Great Grimsby, and his wife Elizabeth Fytche, the

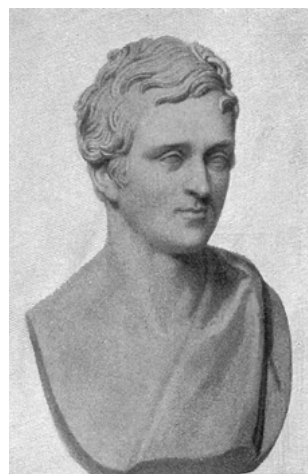
daughter of the vicar of Louth and later Withcall in Lincolnshire. George's father, also George, was a successful attorney living at Market Rasen, Lincolnshire, who became a JP, DL and MP having married the wealthy Mary Turner from Caistor Lincolnshire. This allowed Alfred's father 'a man of superior abilities' to live in some style with his extensive



Hallam Tennyson

family at Great Grimsby where he 'carefully attended to the education of his children'.

Alfred attended King Edward VI Grammar School, Louth and, with his two elder brothers, was already writing poetry in his teens. From here he entered Trinity College, Cambridge, where he met Arthur Hallam, a Rupert Brooke-like character who became his soul mate. In 1829, Alfred won the Chancellor's Gold Medal for his poem *Timbuktu*, but on his father's death in 1831, he was obliged to come down from Cambridge without sitting his degree to share responsibility for his grieving mother who was of a nervous disposition. Alfred remained at Great Grimsby for six years but invited Arthur Hallam to stay during the summer and Hallam became engaged to Alfred's 18-year-old sister Emilia.

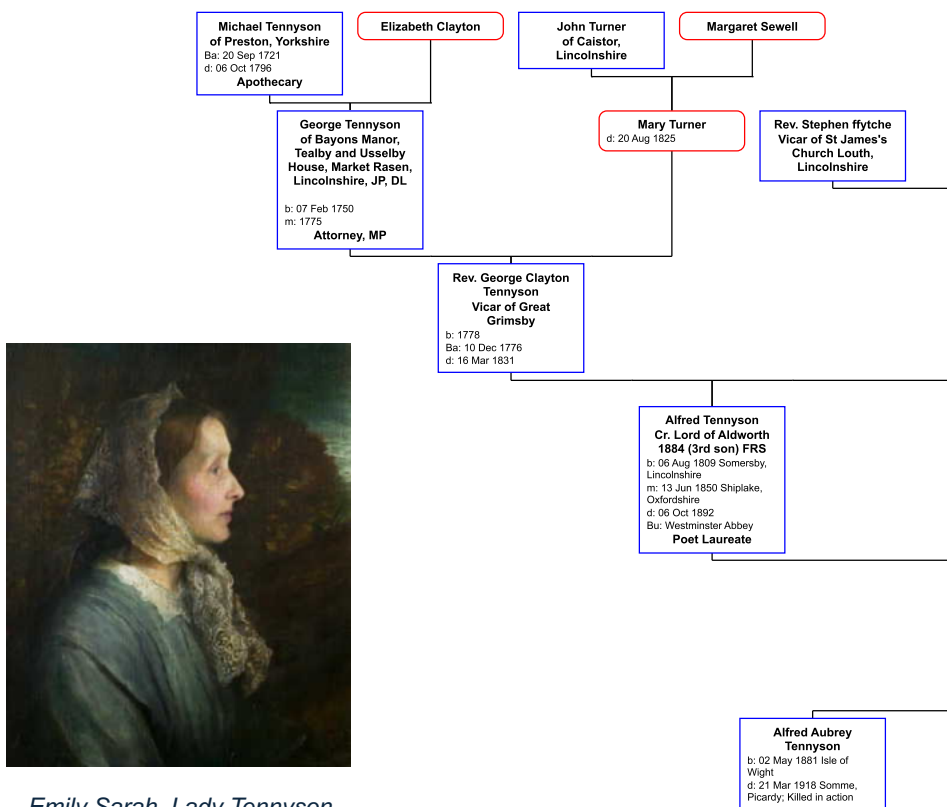


Arthur Hallam

Arthur Hallam's father wanted to delay the marriage, and in August 1833 took his son to Vienna where Arthur suffered a chill and, while recuperating, seems to have had a stroke, dying immediately. He was twenty-two. Arthur's father was too distraught to write to Alfred, but, on learning, Alfred was scarred for life, recording 'he was as near perfection as mortal man can be'. He took time to recover but, in 1837, moved with his mother to live in Epping Forest wanting to be closer to friends in London and later moved to Twickenham. He became closely associated with Thomas Carlyle with his interest in German romanticism and with William Ewart Gladstone, who had been a friend at Cambridge.

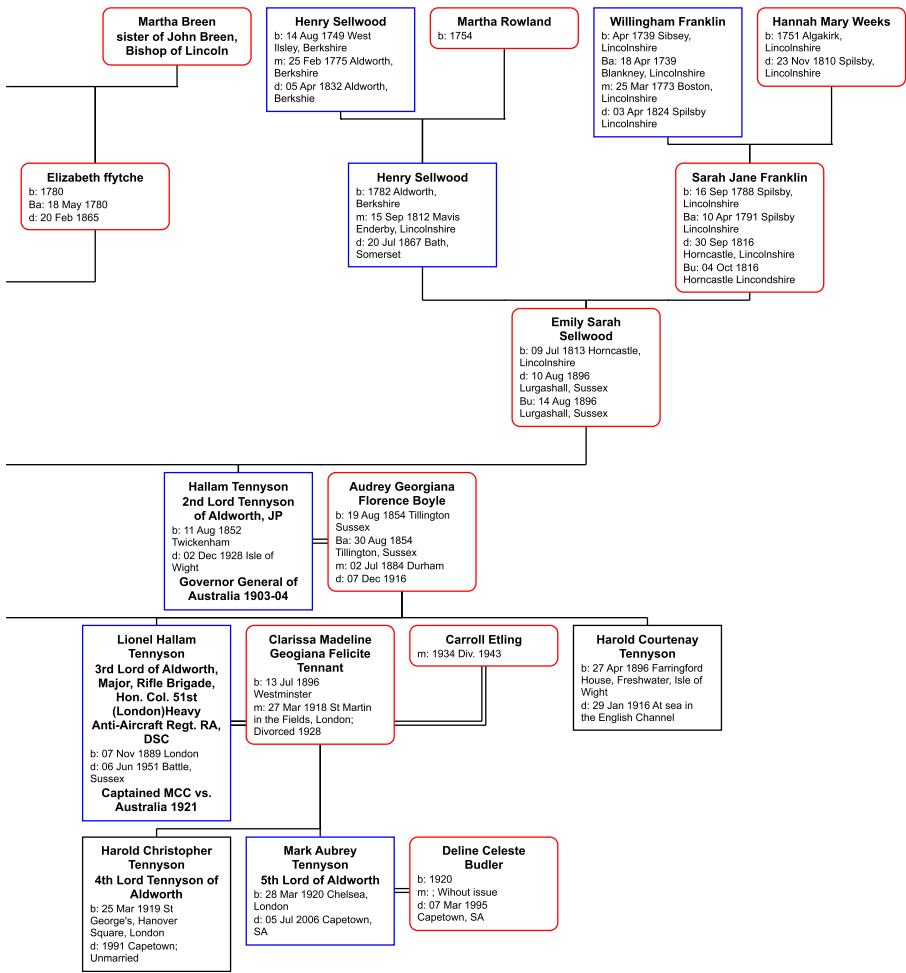
In 1850, Arthur managed to complete one of his greatest poems *In Memoriam* to Arthur's memory and as we have seen named his son after him. Later that year he was named poet laureate to succeed William Wordsworth. It was only now at the age of forty-one that Alfred married Emily Sarah Sellwood, aged thirty-seven, although they had known each other since childhood. Despite his literary success and his marriage, Alfred continued to suffer from a life-long struggle with debilitating depression. 'A common thread of grief, melancholy and loss connects much of his poetry.' T. S. Eliot describes him as 'the saddest of all English poets' whose technical mastery of verse and language provided a 'surface' to his poetry's

depths to the abyss of sorrow'. Arthur began to question his personal religious beliefs, recording: 'There lives more faith in honest doubt, believe me, than in half the creed'. He began to espouse Pandeism, which pictured God as the universe



'with divine characteristics'. This did not prevent him from attending church. As the Lurgashall WI recorded, he travelled to St Laurence's from Aldworth in a carriage drawn by four arab steeds which had to be walked round the green during the service to prevent them becoming too restive. After his death in 1892, and that of Emily in 1896, the lectern was left in their memory. There were no doubts about Emily's faith she built a school at Roundhurst for nearby children and took a Sunday School class there.

Hallam Tennyson had three sons, Lionel Hallam, who became the 3rd Lord Tennyson in 1928, and his two brothers, Alfred Aubrey b. 1881 and Harold Courtenay b. 1896. Alfred Aubrey was killed on the Somme in 1918 while Harold Courtenay died in the Channel in 1916. Both these sons, Alfred's grandsons, are remembered on the War Memorial in St Laurence's churchyard.



References:
Wikipedia

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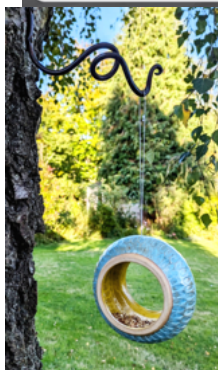
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Details of costs and sizes are on page 34.