

At Home in Cosgrove during the Great War



Wolverton Express 21st August 1914

This was the first notice which appeared in the local newspaper alerting men of service age that they were needed to enlist. Within two weeks all Cosgrove men had responded.

Wolverton Express 11th September 1914

All young men of service age, residing in Cosgrove, have enlisted at the Wolverton Recruiting Office, and have left the village to join the Colours.



It seems generally to have been agreed that Cosgrove was an exceptional village in terms of the percentage of eligible men who enlisted within the first month of the recruitment. Many of them joined the "Ox and Bucks" Regiment.

Wolverton Express December 31st 1915

COSGROVE

Of all the villages in Northamptonshire, Cosgrove, by the side of water, has done its bit for King and Country. Every eligible man has donned khaki, and regrettable to say a few have sacrificed their lives on the altar of National duty. The inhabitants of this little South Northamptonshire village feel they cannot do enough for the boys, and Christmas this year has seen many parcels landed into the trenches. Twenty-three have received 5s. worth of cigarettes each, and through the energy of Mr. G. Brown, of "Barge" Inn, and several other equally interested friends, a mock auction was conducted of a log of wood, which realised 16s. Before the week is out they hope to add another 4s. to this sum. A ground ash stick fetched 3s. 6d. It is hoped to send a further supply of cigarettes and two pairs of socks to each, and a photo of the log of wood and walking stick.



The Barge Inn

Wolverton Express 17th March 1916

Patriotic Concert

In order to help the Soldiers' and Sailors' Fund a grand patriotic concert was given in the Old Schoolroom on Saturday evening, under the directorship of Mr F G Bavey. The program, which was of a varied description, was in the capable hands of the Magpie Party, and they did justice to the sixteen items that appeared on the "bill of fare". The room was packed with an appreciative audience, and the program was thoroughly enjoyed.

During the interval a guessing competition of seeds in a vegetable marrow took place – a sovereign being realised.



The Old School

Wolverton Express 24th March 1916

Mr J Jepson Atkinson, County Councillor for Cosgrove, speaking at the Northants County Council meeting, expressive of the belief that women can do anything a man can in agriculture, supported his remarks by giving instances of excellent farm work being performed by women in the district.

Both Atkinson girls, Gune and Mary, undertook war work and received the certificates below.



Gune



Mrs Isabella Atkinson



Mary

The Atkinson women ran groups for girls, held fundraising events and set a good example to the village generally.

Wolverton Express 18th August 1916

At the Northampton Appeal Tribunal on Friday, held at Northampton, Frederick Joseph Clarke, a dairy farmer, of Cosgrove, whose case had been adjourned to enable him to find work of national importance under the Friends' Ambulance Unit, reported that he had met the Committee of the Unit, and was prepared to undertake service on a farm under the rules and regulations of the Unit – Conditional Exemption was granted by the Tribunal.

Wolverton Express 20th October 1916

Held in the beautiful grounds of Cosgrove Priory, the seat of Mr and Mrs J Jepson Atkinson, the former popular County Councillor for Passenham Division of South Northants, and enjoyable and remunerative Red Cross Day was held. There was a very large attendance. There was a good show of vegetables in the tent. The prizes of tobacco given by Mrs Atkinson were mostly returned by the winners as gifts to wounded soldiers. The exhibits were sent to the Northampton General Hospital.

Tea was provided by the Committee – Mrs Buttram, Mrs Jolley, Mrs Penson and Mrs Seymour. Much amusement was caused by the draw for a Leghorn hen, given and raffled for by Mrs Guinness and won by Mrs Atkinson. The proceeds amounted to £17 7s 3d.

Wolverton Express 10th November 1916

A jumble sale, arranged by Mrs J Knight, Mr M Jolley and others was held in the old school on Saturday November 4th for the benefit of the Village Soldiers. Contributions of flour, groceries, fruit, clothing etc., were forthcoming from most of the inhabitants. The little effort from this very patriotic village realized the very handsome sum of nearly £5.

Wolverton Express 13th April 1917

ERECTION OF WAR SHRINE

At Cosgrove a war shrine has been erected close to the porch of the Parish Church and contains the names of 43 from Cosgrove and 32 from Old Stratford, together with the fallen, as follows: Capt St Leger Atkinson, Dragoon Guards; Lance-corp'l Wm Brown; Pte Jos Brown; Bombr Walter Moore RGA; Pte John Ratcliffe, Northants; Sergt Herbert Tuck, RWP; Pte Wm Whitehead, Northants; Pte Reginald Panter RBH; Pte Wm Grace, Northants; Pte George Cripps, Northants; and Charles Ashton ASC; Lieut Reason and Sergt S Reason are prisoners of war.