



ARDINGLY HISTORY SOCIETY

Newsletter

Happy Christmas to all our members

December 2018 No:- 34

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The re-alignment of our Archives has been quite and long and demanding task. It is now, however, beginning to show results and all files are on display and easy to reach.

I would like to thank David, Joy and Teresa for the many hours they have given to this task.

You will see that we have given special attention in the Newsletter to the Ardingly men who lost their lives in WW1. All the Archives held on this will be on show at our November Meeting. To lose 30 men from a population of under 1000 still want some understanding.

The aims of the Society are:-

to arouse and stimulate interest in the History of Ardingly:

to seek out material of historic interest and persuade owners of the need to take steps to ensure its preservation: to arrange meetings, lectures and other activities to foster interest in the History of Ardingly.

OFFICERS OF THE HISTORY SOCIETY

Mr. M. Denman	President	892344
Mr. R. Tester	Chairman	483363
Mr. G. Luthman	Treasurer	892202
Mrs. J.B. Broughton	Secretary	892014
Mrs. T. Baker	Committee Member	892338
Mr. D.M. Hadden	Committee Member	892456
Mrs. A.G. Knowles	Committee Member	483376
Mrs. M. Page	Committee Member	892309
Mr. R. Simmonds	Committee Member	892064
Mrs. L. Willett	Committee Member	458854

1914 - 1918

ARDINGLY REMEMBERS

How do we remember them? I know we have a Memorial in St. Peter's Church, a list of names and how they served their Country during the war. I wanted to find something that reflected their lives in the little village of Ardingly as the country entered the war. In the History Society Archives we have a bound volume of Ardingly Parish Magazines dating from 1912 - 1920. Delving into these I found, what I hope, is the answer.

The Reverend J.L. Brack wrote a letter to his friends and parishioners each month. This was followed by information about all the happenings in the village. There were many clubs, societies and associations, also those created especially to cater for the needs in war time. Ardingly was just a small village of approximately 930 people, many closely related and most would have been involved, in some way, in the life of the village.

The Revd. Brack comes across as a compassionate and caring person to those men who went to war and the families left behind.

I decided to write in diary form in keeping in with his monthly magazine letter to friends and parishioners, using his words, adding any extra details in brackets with my initials *JB*.

September 1914 – The whole world seems to have altered since my last letter to you. Up to the time of writing fifty-two (men) out of our small

population have enlisted. At Hapstead there is a large party making garments for those at the front, for the wounded and for the poor who will be further impoverished by the war.

(There follows a list of the fifty-two men plus five territorials *JB*)

October 1914 – Two of our members have already found their way into a newly formed Regimental Band. (The Village Band held prizes and the Challenge cup, 5 held medals for their playing. 15 of the 26 players enlisted *JB*).

Those youths who are not old enough to enlist will miss the regular weekly football. The Committee of the old Club have formed themselves into an Emergency Committee and hope to get together some sort of team. (7 men of the football team enlisted *JB*)

November 1914 – The Ardingly recruits seem to have benefitted physically in a remarkable manner. Almost to a man they have increased in weight, one having put on one stone four pounds. There are several promotions. Two have risen from the ranks.

A.I. Hett has been a Private and Lance Corporal –he is now First Lieutenant. Mr. Michael Holland, who was a Trooper, is now Second Lieutenant. Mr. J. Loder has received a commission. Private E. Tester has risen to a full Corporal.

1915

January 1915 – We have several promotions on record. Leonard Tyrell is a Corporal. Fred Munnion and George Tyrell are Lance Corporals. The first to lay down his life is Lance Corporal William Ruxton. He was well known in Ardingly as Mrs. Cocking's grandson.

I have heard of two wounded – W. Mace, who is on his way home, (who lived at Berry Farm and then became the owner of the sweet shop in the village through the second world war until 1951 *JB*) and H. Denman.

February 1915 – George Lovejoy and Percy Dean, both married men are now serving.

March 1915 – Many are thinking, 'What more can I do'. Bear as bravely as you can the inevitable discomforts and privations that must come. When you are striving to make both ends meet on smaller incomes, or with food and fuel at higher prices, you are taking your share.

April 1915 – The past month has been chiefly remarkable for an epidemic of influenza. Very few people have escaped.

May 1915 – Our Roll of Honour grows. During the month of April, Bertie Andress and Richard Holman; Reginald King; H.W. Botting; George

Leggatt; Benjamin Marker; Obed Mitchell; and Edward F. Bolton is now a Sandhurst Cadet.

June 1915 – (There was not much I could find in the Parish Magazine this month so I thought I would mention that 8 players of the Ardingly Cricket team are now enlisted men *JB*).

July 1915 – I am sorry to learn that Sergeant Jack Botting is in hospital suffering in his eyes from the effect of a shell bursting near – See January 1916.

August 1915 – On our Roll of Honour in the Church porch there are now 127 names and to these we must add three who have laid now their lives, two who have been discharged for medical reasons and two who have not been accepted. 134 men out of a population not greater than 930. As far as I am aware about 50 are serving abroad or on the sea. The following have recently left England for Active Service – Alfred Braden, Frederick Cozens, Arnold Innes Hett, Leonard Keir Hett, John de Vere Loder, William Albert Stevens, Percy Roberson, George Tyrell and Tom Williamson.

September 1915 – Several of our soldiers who have spent a year in training are on the point of departure to the trenches, after a short leave-taking at home. France is their destination, later Germany, several of our men will be going Eastwards.

October 1915 – The last week of September was a very anxious time for Ardingly. In a letter from the front; ‘Sergeant Stanley Quaife was a good soldier and died like a soldier. His death is regretted by us all. Private Stanley Lee slightly wounded. Captain John Clarke of Brook House died in the same action, he is remembered on the West Hoathly Memorial. Many of our men served under him and they speak of him with affection for his soldierly qualities and care for those under him.

There is a full Roll of Honour in this month’s magazine.

November 1915 – Harvest Thanksgiving, perhaps the most noticeable to many of us was the absence of the massed voices of the men.one could not help thinking of their absence, and hoping that next year they would be with us again.

Most people will be knitting or buying comforts for our men; and I hope that no sailor or soldier will be left out.

December 1915 – (It would appear that words were difficult to find that Christmas *JB*).

1916

January 1916 – Under Lord Derby’s Scheme, Ardingly again rose to the occasion, and exactly sixty men attested, to come up for military service

when called on, unless their services were considered indispensable in their ordinary calling. The 9th Sussex have been enjoying a period of rest away from the fighting line. We are glad to see Mr. J. Botting is strong and well again after his late experiences, and congratulate him on his well-deserved promotion to 2nd Lieutenant, R.H.A.

February 1916 – Everyone is economising, or ought to be doing so. Things cost more to produce; and the Parish Magazine comes under that class. This means that articles and announcements will, in future, have to be compressed, into fewer words, as each word costs something.

There was a very heavy snow fall at the end of the month, possibly the heaviest for 20 years.

March 1916 – During the latter part of the last month several of our men have been home on leave from the front. They look remarkably well in spite of the great hardships of warfare.

April 1916 – We learned with sorrow of the death of Jesse Holman, who was killed on his way back to the trenches on the evening of March 24th. He has laid down his life for his country. A man cannot do more than that.

It may be interesting to learn that some of the children who wrote their names and addresses on eggs for the wounded have already had replies – one of them from France.

May 1916 – On Easter Day the Services were very well attended. Children brought offerings of Spring flowers for the Easter decoration of the Church.

June 1916 – Two more of our Ardingly men have been wounded – Jack Stevens, whose right arm has been broken by shell fire, and Frank Munnion, wounded in the leg, while with his machine gun. Both are doing satisfactorily.

July 1916 – As I write this I can hear the sound of the big guns somewhere in France and my thought and prayers join yours for brave lads at the Front.

Agricultural War Service for Women – There are now 26 women on the register, of whom 17 are in regular work in farm or garden. Besides these there are others who are helping occasionally and some who are working in their own gardens, so that altogether there is a considerable number of women who are helping to produce in these days of scarcity.

August 1916 – It was with great sorrow that we learned of the death of Corporal Edward Tester on the battlefield on June 30th. He was engaged in moving wounded men while under heavy fire.

September 1916 – Every now and then men who left a few weeks ago as civilians return as trained soldiers. It is amazing how quickly they have transformed. Sergeant George Tyrell was killed in action. He was one of the very first to enlist.

October 1916 – We all congratulate Robert Prevett on his D.C.M. “for conspicuous gallantry, after an assault, in organising, under heavy shell fire and machine gun fire, all requisite bombing posts. He went from post to post for thirty hours without cessation, and it was chiefly owing to his courage and activity that the hostile bombers were kept under.” Sergeant Prevett received his promotion on the field.

November 1916 – Alas! We have lately lost more men at the War. Eric Austin was killed in September. Ronald Buckman died in England of wounds received in France. Arthur Andress was killed in the victorious advance on October 5th. Robert Prevett was severely wounded on the 6th October and died soon afterwards. It is difficult to hear quickly of all the wounded, but as far as I can gather this is a fairly complete list:- Wm. Wheeler, who has lost an eye; A. Bragg and his brother; Lewis Meads very severely wounded and in serious danger; Arnold Hett, who was wounded twice is now in Reading Hospital, his right forearm shattered and left hip torn with shrapnel; Neil MacMillan, whose steel helmet saved him from death – skull fractured; I mention all these cases because Ardingly people, at a distance do not always hear of them and again, in future years this will help to form a record of our heroic men and what they went through.

December 1916 – Arthur Nunn was killed on October 31st. How well we remember his fine goal keeping, and his hard hitting on the cricket field. It seems strange that we shall never see these fine young men again.

1917

January 1917 – Christmas gifts have been sent to our Ardingly soldiers in the trenches and on active service to the number of about 150. The lending library at Hapstead Hall will be open on the 1st and 3rd Mondays in the month from 3 to 4pm.

February 1917 - The temperature has been uniformly low, what must it mean to those in the trenches we cannot fully realise. At the War another of our brave men has laid down his life. Gunner Jack Godding, R.F.A. was killed in France in January. He joined his battery when War broke out and leaves a wife and child. His mother has now lost a brother and two sons.

March 1917 – Ever since the war began I have had the desire that some special work might fall to my lot. I am not to go abroad, where my

strongest inclinations would take me. My part will be to be taking charge of Highbrook as well as Ardingly for a year.

April 1917 – We are proud to think that one of Ardingly's sons – Charles Tester – had a share in the splendid calm and discipline shown by the Middlesex Regiment when the Tyndareus was torpedoed off the South African coast.

Will any wives whose husbands are with the forces, or mothers whose sons are serving, who would like their gardens dug, please let me know as soon as they read this, and we will see to the matter.

May 1917 – The War is still bringing more anxiety to those at home. Everyone will be sorry to learn that the following have been wounded recently; Frederick Munnion- severe head wounds; Frederick Awcock and his brother Albert, the former is in England and the latter in France; Ernest Muggeridge is also wounded.

June 1917 – Jesse Roland Marchant died in France on May 7th. He is the first married man to lay down his life. Mrs. Newman has heard that her husband, Arthur W. Newman, was wounded in France about the 12th but no particulars are to hand.

July 1917 – A gloom was cast over the community by the news that Frederick Munnion and Harry Simmonds were dead.

As I write this the hay making is in full swing. After all, our very cold winter and late spring has ended in very propitious weather for crops in general.

August 1917 – A sample pair of boots, as supplied to Part-time War Workers on the land, is exhibited in Mrs. Clifford's window, (now Bough House). The cost is 17s., but the Government is supplying them at 12s. to qualified women. Payment must be made beforehand. Payment by instalments can be arranged if necessary.

September/October 1917 – (this was to save expense *JB*) It is with deepest sympathy I record the deaths in action, of Albert Longhurst and Frank Austin. Both were known to you all, the former being in the choir for some years.

November 1917 – The sight of the ploughs at work in the fields reminds us that last year's harvest has been a very short one; and this applies to the whole world. It is obvious that someone will have to go short of food until next year's grain is ripe. There is a need for the strictest economy.

December 1917 – News has come from German East Africa of the death of Stephen Holman on October 30th. He enlisted at the outbreak of the War. He saw much service in the trenches in France before going to Africa.

You will be glad to hear that Richard Holman won the Military Medal as far back as July. Let us hope that Peace may be with in the year 1918.

1918

January 1918 – The Food question will become more difficult as time goes on, but whatever comes we must hold on and hold out. Several residents have contributed for comforts to be sent to our Ardingly men.

February 1918 – There has been an extensive outbreak of measles during the latter part of the month of January. The food question forms the most usual topic of conversation now-a-days.

March 1918 – During Lent we require no exhortations about limiting our luxuries or fasting. I hope it will be possible to raise the meat ration for manual workers. Also children over 8 years ought to have the adult allowance.

April 1918 – I have learned of two casualties – Wallace Sherlock, gassed and Herbert Sayers wounded; both are doing satisfactorily.

Our Choir was reinforced by the girls' voices for the duration of the war. (After helping the choir during this period, ladies were not encouraged to join again until late 1940s JB)

May 1918 – Lance-Corporal Frederick Cozens and Private William Marsh have both laid down their lives and Private John Marsh, who has been missing since August 1st last was killed on that date.

June 1918 – The times are very serious, and there must be great anxiety until a decision is reach in France. Meanwhile we must trust that the Allied Armies will stand the shock and strain of their present ordeal.

July 1918 – We are trying to keep the church yard in order; but it is not very easy in these days when labour is so very scarce. The Girl Guides and others have been at work on the paths and beds in the Church yard and we thank them for their industry.

August 1918 – Jack Pollard is the latest addition to the list of discharged men who have served their country well.

September 1918 – We have good reason to be thankful for the last month. The news from France has been excellent. At last the tide has turned, and final Victory seems on its way, be it soon or late. Battles are won at a heavy cost, and we are fortunate at not having lost any Ardingly men. I regret to hear that four have been wounded – the brothers Arthur and William Holman, Leonard Longhurst and for the third time, Neil MacMillan. So far as I have heard, all of them are going on satisfactorily.

October 1918 – The war news continues to be very good indeed; and our hopes are naturally high. I have heard no news of our local men and trust that they have come through the recent fighting safely.

November 1918 – The last month has been full of great happenings. Germany alone is left in the field; it is obvious that she is conquered, though she has not yet surrendered.

December 1918 – November 11th was the outstanding day of last month. Very soon the bell ringers came along and the bells rang out in joyous peals.

A full list of the men from Ardingly who gave their lives, is shown and full details of their rank and memorial details is available from the History Society.

Arthur William Andress (29)

Frank Ernest Austin (21)

Bourn

Frederick Thomas Cozens

Frederick George Dixon

Jesse Holman (23)

Stephen George Holman (23)

Albert Amor Longhurst

John Marsh (24)

Frederick Arthur Munnion (35)

Robert Prevett D.C.M.

Stanley Quaife (35)

William Ralph Ruxton (19)

Edward William Tester (30)

Roderick Thomas Williams

Eric Manning Austin (23)

William Awcock (46)

Reginald Buckman (25)

Alexander Day (24)

John Godding (33)

Spencer Holman (35)

Percy Judd (24)

Jesse Roland Marchant (36)

William Charles Marsh (32)

Arthur Charles Nunn (27)

Ernest Packham (28)

Harry Richardson

Harry Simmonds (33)

George Warden Tyrell (24)

Of the 29 men in the Royal Sussex Regiment 11 were killed

I do hope you will find this article of interest, sad though much of it is, I think it helps to show what the period meant to Ardingly village people managing at home while waiting for news of their loved ones and how the War was progressing.

A DAY TO REMEMBER

On an overcast and very windy day in June, a group of Ardingly History Society members gathered at the Village Hall before leaving at 8.30am, in a comfortable coach, well driven using the motorways, and arriving two hours later at the base of Dover Castle.

What a site of historic interest with the great square keep dominant, overlooking the harbour below. As a steep-sided solitary hill covering eighteen acres, it is thought to have had sacred significance for the earliest inhabitants of the area, which is why years later a small Saxon chapel was built on its summit.

The short distance across the Channel to the French coast has overshadowed the Castle's history with the Romans arriving two thousand years ago and building high battlements and the tall "Pharos" to guide ships out at sea. After their departure came the Jutes followed by the Angle-Saxons and then, the last successful invasion of England, by the Normans in 1066.

Henry 11, who was a good ruler but more French than English, built the Castle in 1180 with a magnificent banqueting hall for entertaining his guests. English Heritage, who are/is? responsible for the buildings, have re-created its interior to give a glimpse of what life would have been at that time. Also, in one of the rooms, there is an exhibition of local regiments reminding one of the suffering and bravery of those who defend our shores. After walking along the battlements, we descended to the medieval subterranean passageways where precious documents were stored during the last war safe from the German bombardment and where courageous medical staff cared for the most seriously injured brought ashore.

Our guide, with his sonorous voice echoing along the dimly lit tunnels, outlined the historic importance of the Castle mentioning particularly the Spanish Armada, the Napoleonic Wars, WW1 and 11 including the retreat from Dunkirk. A fine statue of Admiral Ramsey,

who oversaw the evacuation, stands on a promontory looking out to sea.

Before our climb back to the top, it was pleasant to have refreshment in the nearby “NAAFI”. As we climbed we could appreciate the toil of those who laid stone upon stone without our modern equipment.

The Saxon chapel is closed while undergoing repair, but we had much to see and marvel at in the Castle, plus sharing a pot of tea, before leaving at 4pm, for another excellent two hour drive back to complete a remarkable day.

Catherine Graves

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ARDINGLY RESIDENTS SOCIETY

The Ardingly Residents Society [ARS] was formed in 1968, primarily, as a result of concerns over the development of the South of England Agricultural Society Show Ground on part of the Wakehurst Estate. The first three-day shows in 1967 and 1968 had been marred by traffic chaos in the village and on all approach roads. Other issues resulting from the Show Ground included: road widening/straightening north of the High Street, including acquisition of part of the Recreation Ground; the diversion of Public Footpaths; The disposal of sewage during the main show; and, by no means least, a proposal to sell Tillinghurst Farm for the establishment of a zoo! *[at least this last possibility was avoided]*

The Show ground was the main, but not the only issue affecting the village in 1968 and the ensuing years. Kew Gardens had taken over Wakehurst Place and gardens as a country off-shoot, which was destined to attract of 300,000 visitors a year. The development of a reservoir to the west of the village, flooding two beautiful wooded valleys, was already under consideration and would take up a lot of Parish Council [PC] and ARS time until its completion in 1978. The new coatings works on the station site, with a threefold increase in capacity from 1972, raised issues of pollution, dust and noise, as well as a great increase in heavy vehicle movements through the village. The need to replace the ageing primary school [now

the Church Centre] had been long recognised, but it took years of pressure from both the PC and ARS before it became a reality in the 1980s.

...One might wonder whether the ARS was in competition with the elected PC and indeed, particularly in planning matters, there was a great deal of duplication. However, both bodies sought to co-operate and had the same objectives on most issues, if on occasion different views on how to achieve them. Both Rob Tester [PC Chairman] and Clive Izard [Parish Clerk and District Councillor] were founder members of the ARS, and saw it as able to operate strongly, free of constraints on the statute controlled PC. A number of the ARS committee members became Parish Councillors, including Margaret Ode-Viala, who became the first ARS Secretary and also the first Chair of the Parish Council.

Membership was buoyant right through to the 1990s, reaching a peak of 266 in 1984, but most of the work was done by a very active committee of about a dozen members which, as well as lobbying on a wide range of issues, produced, in its early years, a number of reports including a Traffic Report on the Show Ground issue [1968 – which included a recommendation for a ‘relief road’ round the west of the village from College Road and across Street Lane, presumably through Butcher’s Field, a Primary School report [1970 in support of a new or renovated school] and a car park report [1968 – which led to the present site being preferred to converting Oaklands Green into a Car Park!]. Members were kept informed at quarterly meetings and through Newsletters, of which over a hundred were produced between 1968 and 1995 – a precursor of today’s Village Voice.

As for housing development the Society agreed with the PC in favouring limited and gradual expansion within the defined ‘built up’ area. It supported the PC in opposing SEAS’s 1970s proposals to build houses off Street Lane and [later] north of the Recreation Ground, and was at the forefront of opposition to the development of Butcher’s Field in the 1980s. Apart from its ‘serious’ business the Society co-operated with the PC in several village exhibitions, as well as the 1977 Silver Jubilee street party. It ran a series of ‘Village Days’ between 1983 and 1992. The event in 1983 started with a band led parade and included fancy dress, Punch and Judy, races, tug-of-war and an evening barn dance in Hapstead Hall. The 1992

Village Day celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Queen's Accession and the Society's 25th anniversary [couldn't they count?] Finally in 1994 a week-long History of Ardingly exhibition was held, with guided tours of the Church and Wakehurst Place, as well as evening lectures and slide shows.

After such an activity-packed decade, a successful exhibition and with membership still at 195, it is, perhaps, surprising that the ARS suddenly ceased to function in 1995. It would seem that a plea for volunteers for the committee met with little response, and members either leaving the village or needing to devote more time to their jobs or other interest, the Society withered, and after years of inactivity, was formally wound up in 2001.

The History Society archive on the ARS is extensive but incomplete. For instance, we have no copies of the reports they produced in their early years and there are gaps in our series of Newsletters, particularly from the mid 1970s onwards. Any donation of material would be most welcome.

David Hadden

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ANGLO-SAXON ANGLELAND

An Illustrated talk by Max Norman

On the evening of Tuesday 11th September Max gave an absorbing illustrated talk to 42 members and visitors on one of his passions – the above title.

Max dressed for the part, wearing a tunic of natural coloured woven wool and footwear of soft leather secured with thongs. He also had a small leather pouch and a (replica Saxon cross).

He began with introducing maps showing the routes of the incursions of the people that invaded England after the Romans left. The Romano British leaders left in Britain enlisted the help of the Angle Saxon mercenaries (foederati) to help resist invaders, especially the Picts. Once here territory was ceded to them and other invaders, such as the Jutes and Frisians, followed.

Max talked about Sutton Hoo in Suffolk, the find of the ship that had been buried in the peat bog, believed to have been the burial ship of King Raedwald, with its treasures of gold, gems, the now famous helmet, of which a replica is in the British Museum, shield and sword.

Mak showed illustrations of the God Woden, his wife Frig and son Thunor, this led on to remembrance of the origins of the names of the week. All part of the foundation of our society to this day. He likened Woden with his hat and long beard to Tolkiens Gandulf. Woden had lost an eye and Mak pointed out that the Sutton Hoo helmet only had garnets embedded over one eye.

Talk of the gods led into the mystery and magic that influenced the people of those days. They believed in elves (aeife.) A pucksy - a path used by elves, an Aelfread – guidance by elves, Aelfscinan – shine like an elf. He showed a picture of elves flying over a man, who was pierced by arrows. The arrows thought to be a poison affecting the man likened to a virus that we would recognise now-a-days. They instinctively knew something was causing the man to be ill. Max pointed out that experiences in elves were believed in well into Victorian England. Max talked of the carrying of knives and the sword found in the Thames Anglo Saxons were skilled metal workers, their women skilled weavers.

Their accomplishments in art is beautifully shown in the Sutton Hoo helmet. Their oral tradition spread story telling. We had a snip of ‘Beowulf’ being told in the Saxon tongue. We also had a lesson in the language repeating it after Max!

The Anglo-Saxon people believed in charms and the Web of Wyrð - (Wyrð – to become/happening, weavers of our past). Their runic alphabet was a charm in itself. Runes were cast before battle.

Max told us that women had a high status in society and it was not male dominated, they were thought to see into the future, what Mak now thought could be termed female intuition. (I wonder!) Also the word man referred to both men and women. It was a fascinating and enjoyable evening.

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Recent research is discovering more about the Saxons and their way of life, accomplishments and culture.

2019 PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

Tuesday 12th February – Mr. Bob Draper ‘River Ouse and
Balcombe Viaduct’

Tuesday 12th March – Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 9th April – Mr. Geoffrey Mead ‘Sussex Literary
Landscapes’

Tuesday 10th September – Mr. John Kay ‘The Social History of
Our Wealden Villages’

Tuesday 12th November – Jeremy Hodgkinson ‘Pictorial Designs
On British Firebacks’

DID I READ THAT SIGN RIGHT?

Outside a Second hand Shop:

We exchange anything, bicycles, washing machines, etc. why not
bring your wife along and get a wonderful bargain?

Outside a Repair Shop:

We can repair anything. (Please knock hard on the door – the bell
doesn’t work)

In a London Department Store:

Bargain Basement Upstairs