

2020 Harry's Cup

Cripley Meadow Allotment Association Committee

Sandra Fisher-Martins Plot 126a

Alejandro Crosta Plot 126b



This cup was sent to the Chair of the Oxford and District Federation of Allotment Associations in 2019 by Mike Stone, Harry's grandson. He had come across the cup when his father died and as an ex Oxford resident he wanted it to be returned to its roots. He has sponsored an annual £50 award.

The named Association no longer exists. Wendy Skinner Smith, Chair of ODFAA 2007-2020 accepted the cup. It will be presented annually to a promising new Cripley Meadow Plot holder, with information about Harry.

It is inscribed

"Cowley and District Allotment Association Viscount Nuffield Cup Best Allotment 1938 H STONE"

The History of the Harry Stone Cup

In November 2019 ODFAA chair, was contacted through the web site, by Mike Stone about his grandfather, Harry Stone, (right) who died when Mike was a young child. Following the death of his father, Mike found a cup awarded to his granddad in 1938.

Harry was a larger than life character who lied about his age at 16 and obtained a passage on a tramp steamer to Canada. Things did not work out too well in Canada and he became a lumberjack. He came back to Europe with the 48th Canadian Highlanders and fought in WW1. He survived the terrible battle of Passchendaele eventually returning to Oxford, where he married Mike's Grandmother. We understand he was one of the very first employees of William Morris (later to become Lord Nuffield).



Harry remained with Morris Motors throughout his working life. The cup was awarded to him as a member of The Cowley & District Allotment Association. ODFAA's Phil Baker thinks this might have been an 'internal' award for Morris' employees. Mike's cousin, Douglas Stone also contacted us and



told us that Harry was badly gassed in the war and therefore he dug his allotment with the power of his arms alone. His legs did, however propel him to the Plasterers Arms, a short walk from the family home at 19 London Place, St Clements, bottom of Headington Hill. He was born in Holywell Road in 1884. Douglas Stone Senior was the eldest of the three Stone boys, Louis next and then Raymond. All now deceased.

Douglas tells us that his father, Douglas Stone Senior, was not amused when Douglas would not let him near when he came back from

the Second World War. Up until then his grandfather, Harry, was 'my 'dad' as I was the first Stone grandchild. My grandmother had been widowed in 1917 with three young sons. My grandfather then produced another three sons. He provided for them all with diligence and good humour. Sadly, Harry only made it to 71. Mike's grandmother (1889-1978) had 23 years as a widow.' The family are thrilled that Mike found the cup's rightful home and hope that this information will be passed onto the recipients. Mike no longer lives in Oxford, but his father, Louis Stone was a well-known businessman and musician in Oxford and later became Managing Director of Jewson Building Materials and Main Board Director. He would like the cup to return to its Roots in Oxford. Mike will guarantee the annual payment during his lifetime - he is now 73. Mike and Douglas both wanted the cup to return to Oxford. Mike Stone can be contacted at mike_sm@icloud.com.

The cup is small, standing only 31/2" high. ODFAA has assigned to Cripsey Meadow to award on an annual basis to go to an allotment holder with a £50 prize annually, in Harry's name until further notice. Cripsey Meadow decided to award it to support and encourage new members. They will receive a certificate with this information about Harry.

