

WHAT THE CAMERA DID NOTWANT ME TO MISS

As I sit on my sofa, with my laptop on my knees and a heavy frost outside, it seems a time for reflection. Today I learnt that the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine had been approved, which will be another game changer in our battle against the Virus. Today also sees a vote on “The Post Brexit Trade Bill” and we also await the government’s announcement on the current 1-4 tiers.

My reflections seem to pale into insignificance in the light of the major events which have sought to congregate on this landmark Wednesday morning.

The last time I wrote, we had just begun “Lockdown 2” and I was planning a series of local walks with camera in hand. These walks continue to happen, with a number of interesting discoveries, some of which were hidden in plain sight.

For me the “Wow” factor goes to the village of Waterford, located on the A119, north of Hertford. The reason for my visit was to see the memorial to the Barnardo Boys who died during the period 1922 and 1967, when the country house Goldings was used as a Dr Barnardo’s Home.



Beside the road stands the War Memorial and the Goldings Memorial Bench. In the churchyard there is another memorial, listing the names of the boys who died during that period.

It was a cold, wet day and in search of some shelter I tried the church door of St Michael and All Angels, which to my surprise was open. On entering there was a notice to switch on the lights....then came the Wow! The church has fourteen beautiful stained-glass windows; by Burne-Jones, William Morris, Douglas Strachan, Ford Madox Brown, Karl Parsons and Selwyn Image. I am no expert, but they took my breath away. However, artistically that was not all, as I discovered the area surrounding the altar was decorated with magnificent mosaic images.

Other local walks have taken me to Mulberry Green, Potter Street and Little Parndon (all Harlow), Sawbridgeworth, Thorley, Eastwick, High Wych, Gilston, Roydon, each providing their own unique surprises and delights. Some have been revisited, some have been with company but all have been viewed with fresh eyes.

The plaque that I have passed for 65 years, which I have never read nor noticed, the pub with traditional bullseye glass windows (maybe I was more interested in the beer than the glass). The brick wall built around and over an old milestone. The list goes on.



I seem to remember that my younger sister used to buy a magazine called “Look and Learn”. I am learning to look and see.

Martin Mulcahy

