

**LATEST EMAILS BETWEEN DENISE
IN HUKANUI/HAMUA WI –
Our New Zealand Link WI
AND JULIA IN BASLOW WI**



From: Denise Gavin
Sent: Tuesday, November 13, 2018 12:25 AM
To: Julia Warne
Subject: Armistice Day

They Shall Not Grow Old has been re-coloured by Peter Jackson, our Kiwi film-maker! He is very passionate about the WW1 and has set up a museum in Wellington. The film is on at cinemas here now. The bell ringing would have been beautiful. I just love bells. We have one at church and it is so hard to ring. Thought it would be like the boys in the Sound of Music, swinging from the ropes! However, it needs a couple of hard pulls to get the rhythm going, then softly. Sometimes I can manage it and get the 21 peals! When we lived in Wellington on a still night, we could hear the sound of the Carillon bells in the city. They are all electronic and the 'ringer' would practise on a Thursday night, then play on Sundays.

We had a short church service on the day, then walked up to our Eketahuna Memorial Hall, where some of the 10th Transport Division from the Army formed a saluting guard and lowered and raised the flag. Others spoke and wreaths were laid. One of the speakers was from the UK and as a small boy was fascinated by the war memorials. He was told not to talk about the war in the village as there were spinsters there who had lost their men in the war. Something that we don't often think about, the ones who are left behind. On the news they interviewed a man who had lost four great uncles in the war. His grandmother lost 4 sons – 1915, 1916, 1917 and 1918. She received four telegrams. Young men here joined up for the 'adventure' on the other side of the world.

My great nephew Jake, leaves Perth this Friday for the UK. Jake has a magnificent bass voice and he sings in the chorus of the Western Australia Opera at present. He is going to the UK to audition for four universities to do his Master's degree there. Has to pay each one \$400 for the privilege of auditioning! He has been accepted by the four universities and now auditions for their panels. Has to have a broad repertoire in several languages. Will start next August, so has to come back to Perth and work to save the \$30,000 for each year! Jake is a very tall young man (23) with a wonderful voice.

I bet Chatsworth charges like a wounded bull – they have you cornered there!

No, the two packages haven't arrived as yet! Received a parcel from Adelaide last week that took 4 weeks and I sent a birthday card to a friend in Adelaide and that took 4 weeks to reach her!

Quinn is very interested in working and we are wondering if we get her sibling if they can work together? Will see how we go anyway.

Right. Time to go into Pahiatua and get some groceries, then home to do some bookwork for the farm. Always owing the government something!!

Love to you all

Denise and the Hukanui-Hamua Darlings x x x

From: Julia Warne
Sent: Monday, November 12, 2018 5:24 PM
To: Denise Gavin
Subject: Amistice Day



Dear Denise and Hukunui-Hamua Darlings

There has been a great deal going on in Baslow over the past few days to mark the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day.

At Senior Citizens on Friday we had a very good presentation by David Upton, who is now, with his family, the local shopkeeper. Previously he was a policeman. From a young child he has had a fascination with WW1 and gave us a heartfelt talk on the motivation and suffering of the soldiers involved. Young men joined up, in some cases, as they would be allocated a warm coat, when they didn't have any coat at all! He also brought many artefacts to show us, including a coat and a number of caps/hats, most of which provided little protection. There is a new film out 'They shall not grow old', a documentary exploring the First World War, edited from rarely seen grainy archive footage from the Western Front which has been restored and colourised. It was on TV here last night but I was too tired to watch. Will get it on iPlayer later this week.

On Sunday there was the Armistice Service at St. Anne's church in Baslow and the laying of the commemorative wreaths, with our President, Christine, doing the honours for Baslow WI. At 12.30 Baslow Bell Ringers participated in the international commemoration 'Battle's Over', which I believe started in New Zealand. It was a very special 20 minutes in the village. Then, in the afternoon there was a special event at the Village Hall: another talk by David Upton 'Remembering the fallen of Baslow', followed by popular war-time songs, 'The last Post' played on the trumpet by a local schoolboy, and choral singing by two local choirs. Refreshments based on war-time recipes (including corned beef and spam) were prepared and served by Baslow WI.

Today a dozen or so of us met to visit the gardens at Chatsworth and observe the beautiful autumn colours. Then a lunch stop, exorbitant price for what we had! We then went round the House to see the Christmas exhibition. This year the subject is 'Once upon a time' and features representations of 12 different fairy tales/children's popular stories. We thought it was an improvement on the Christmas events of the past few years – and it was particularly good for us as Christine (previous Head Seamstress at Chatsworth) was with us and able to explain many of the intricacies of the curtains and wallpaper.

By the way, have the two Christmas packages arrived with you yet? They were posted on 26 October. Your WOW programme arrived so quickly, maybe it doesn't work so well originating from UK.

I do hope you are able to rehome your new little dog, never heard of that condition before in white dogs or cats.

We have our November meeting on Wednesday 'A musical afternoon with a wartime theme'. Will be back to you after that with Jane's report.

Love to you all,

Julia and Baslow WI Darlings