

CHARLECOTE PARK – PROPERTY FASTNEWS



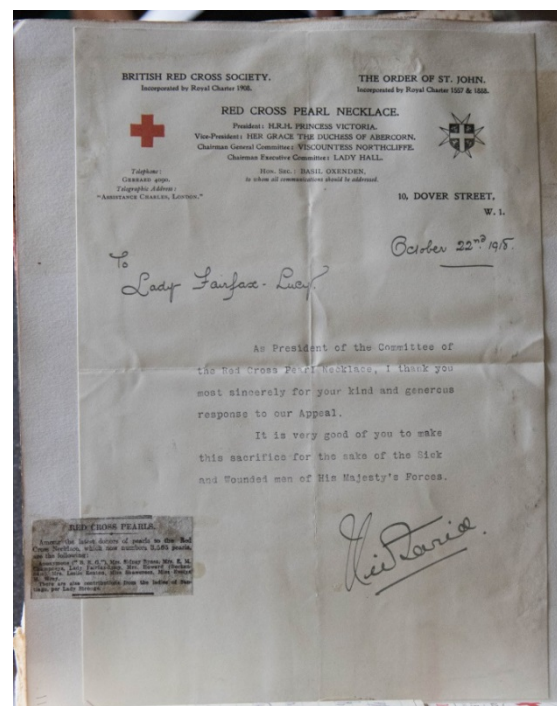
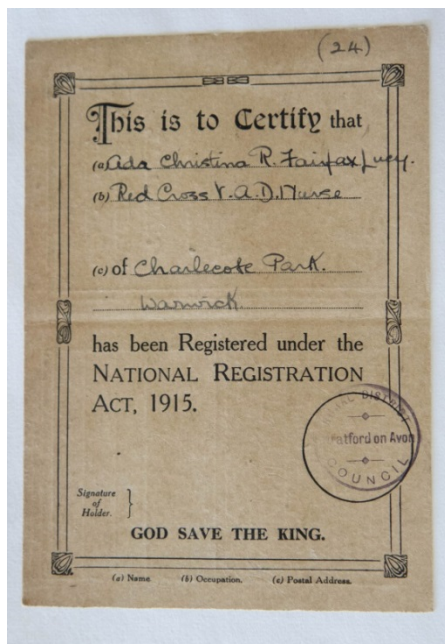
Charlecote and the First World War:

Role of the Lucy Women

The display on Charlecote and the First World War will be changing its focus to the role of the women from 8th June.

Please have a look at the following information to help you with our change over to the Lucy women:

- 1) Lady Ada Fairfax Lucy, and her sister Joyce Alianore, played key roles in the VAD (Voluntary Aid Detachments) in Warwickshire during World War One.
- 2) Lady Ada and Joyce were following in the footsteps of their mother Christina Cameron Lucy, who had worked for the Red Cross during the Boer War.
- 3) Lady Ada gained her nursing certificate in 1915. We have no details of what she did as a nurse but she opened her home to wounded soldiers for afternoon tea.
- 4) As a lady of some social status in the county, Lady Ada chaired meetings of the First Southern General Hospital Territorial Nursing Service, at one she was re-elected as President of the Service.
- 5) The hospitals 'received a mere three shillings (15p) a day per patient from the War Office', so needed all the help they could get and we know Lady Ada helped financially. She also donated a pearl to the Red Cross fundraising event (you may have heard or seen about this in the news recently).



Above are photographs of Lady Ada's nursing registration certificate and her letter of thanks from the President of the Red Cross Committee.



The photograph above is of Joyce

- 6) Joyce, Lady Ada's sister, started the war nursing 'At Fort Augustus Inverness shire Auxiliary Hospital... Nursing Belgians.' By March 1917 she was working at Hillcrest Auxiliary Hospital, Coventry.
- 7) Hillcrest opened in 1915 and had many patients who had been on campaigns in the Far East. Their policy was to give the patients a lot of fresh air. Their volunteers were more from the 'middle class'.
- 8) It was the men from Hillcrest who visited Charlecote in June 1917.
- 9) Alianore, Lady Ada's eldest daughter, also wanted to nurse during the war; however her parents had other ideas.
- 10) She was allowed to go to an officer's convalescent home, like many girls of her status, in order to help cheer up the men. In this role 'she ... packed her trunk with evening dresses to wear for dances. But once there -as she had planned- she ran away to enlist at a teaching hospital as a real nurse.'
- 11) Her actions appalled her parents who refused to support her in the vain hope that she would come home.
- 12) Despite the hardships and lack of family support Alianore successfully trained to become a Doctor and practised here in Charlecote until she retired.

If you would like to find out more about these remarkable women or the Red Cross fundraising event, please visit the gatehouse at the end of May, buy a First World War Booklet (£2), or ask in the office for a PDF copy to be emailed to you.

*Photographs from the Charlecote Collection