

Miss Emily Madge – WI Member and Pianist

PENNY EASUN and CHRISTOPHER JOHN HOGGER

Emily Madge was born in Stoke D'Abernon in 1886 but by her mid-twenties she was living with her parents in Effingham. She had not married, as the man she had intended to marry had been killed in the First World War. She remained single for the rest of her life. In Effingham she played a strong role in the Effingham Women's Institute, serving as its Treasurer for at least fifteen years. She was the great-aunt of Penny Easun, provider of some unique photographs of the Madge family.

Family background

Emily was the sixth of ten children born to George Madge and Dinah (née) Splatt who had married at Thorverton in Devon in late 1875 [GRO Ref: Tiverton 5b 776, 1875 (Q4)]. The family included an eleventh (and oldest) 'son' William Henry Splatt born to Dinah out of wedlock on 25 July 1872. In Thorverton George had been living with his family in Jericho Street, occupied as an agricultural labourer.



Figure 1 Jericho Street, Thorverton, where George and Dinah married and raised their family; perhaps early 20thC.

By the mid-1880s George had moved the family to Stoke D'Abernon to work as a farm carter, living at Woodlands Farm on the Woodlands Park estate. By 1891 he had become employed as a bailiff there.

It was here that Emily was born on 28 August 1886. She was baptised a month later at St Mary's, Stoke D'Abernon on 26 September. In about 1900-01 the family moved again, this time to Sheepbell Farm in Great Bookham, George continuing to work as a bailiff. This is where he is found with his family in the 1901 Census. The Electoral Registers record him at Sheepbell Farm up to and including 1905, but he may have already left there by 1904, because when his youngest daughter May Frances was baptised on 20 March 1904 (at St Barnabas, Lambeth when she was nine years old, for reasons unknown), the abode for George and Dinah was given in the baptism register as Slyfield Farm (in Stoke D'Abernon) and his occupation as farm bailiff.

The Electoral Register for 1906 shows him living in Bookham's Eastwick Street (today's Eastwick Road). The family is found there in the 1911 Census, which describes George as a general carrier and cartage contractor. They may have been living in the same house (named Woodcote) where William Poulter

had lived and carried out exactly the same business over forty years previously, the property being conveniently situated by the Lower Road and enjoying a large yard with outbuildings. With George and Dinah in 1911 were just three of their children: George (junior), also a carrier; Emily, working as a bookkeeper; and May Frances, a dressmaker.



Figure 2 Some of the outlying buildings of Woodlands Farm where Emily was born; modern photograph.



Figure 3 Sheepbell Farm – the farm house; modern photograph.



Figure 4 Another view of Sheepbell Farm (the farm house at rear left); modern photograph.



Figure 5 George and Dinah Madge with their children at Sheepbell Farm; about 1900-01.



Figure 6a Eva Madge, born 1878.



Figure 6b Emily Madge, born 1886.



Figure 6c Bertha Madge, born 1888.



Figure 6d Annie Louise Madge, born 1885



Figure 6e May Frances Madge, born 1895.

The identifications of the five Madge daughters shown in Figures 6a-6e rely primarily upon information from their late sister-in-law, the wife Myra Phyllis (née Lambert) of their brother Frank Madge; Myra conveyed it verbally to her grand-daughter Penny Easun. The images are more-or-less consistent with the known ages of the girls, although it is notable that the girl shown as Emily appears to be a couple of inches taller in Figure 5 than the girl shown as Bertha, even though Bertha was two years older than Emily. However, height is not always proportional to age and, in any case, the ground upon which they were standing may not have been level.



Figure 7 The sons, clearly photographed on the same date as when the photograph in Figure 5 was taken.

Taking the identifications by Myra Phyllis for the photograph in Figure 5 as correct, the boys as seen in Figure 7 are (left-to-right) Alfred, George (junior), Leonard, Frank, Sidney (with legs crossed) and William Henry.

A few years after the 1911 Census George brought his carrier business to an end. In 1914 he instructed the Dorking auctioneers Messrs White and Sons to put his stock-in-trade as 'a carrier and coal merchant' and his household furniture up for sale [*Dorking & Leatherhead Advertiser*, 3 October 1914]. More details of this can be found in ELHG's article *The Milestone*.

On leaving Bookham, George and Dinah then took up residence at The Laurels on the western side of The Street, Effingham. This very old property, standing just a few yards south of Yew Tree House, had been used as a butchers shop by the Conisbee family, and this trade was continued when the Madges moved in. The premises were partly shop and partly accommodation. The shop there was apparently under the direction of George's son Sidney who been a butcher for many years and ran a significant butchers shop at his home in Bookham's Aberdeen House in Church Road. Sidney employed his younger brothers Alfred and Leonard as assistant butchers. Whether George also played a significant role in the business at The Laurels is unclear, but when May Frances married Harry Park Perriam (a grocer) at St Lawrence on 16 April 1917 George's occupation was entered in the register as butcher. George may have needed to take an active part in the butchers shop at The Laurels on account of Leonard having entered military service in the First World War.

MESSRS. WHITE AND SONS.

ON MONDAY NEXT.

EASTWICK.

GREAT BOOKHAM, LEATHERHEAD.

About 2½ miles from Leatherhead Stations.

MESSRS. WHITE AND SONS

will Sell by Auction, under instructions from Mr. George Madge, giving up business, on **MONDAY, OCTOBER 5th, 1914,** at 2 o'clock,

**THE STOCK-IN-TRADE OF A
CARRIER AND COAL MERCHANT,**

comprising

**3 VAN AND CART HORSES,
2 COBS, CHESTNUT PONY,
WELL-BRED BAY COLT AND FILLY,
BLACK PONY, TRAP AND HARNESS,**

**3 Spring Carrier's Tilted Vans, 2 Tip Carts,
Miller's Cart, Market Cart, Waggonette,
Pony Phaeton, 14 Sets Van, Thill and Trace
Harness, Scales and Weights, Van Cloths,
Corn Bins, Harrison McGregor's Mowing
Machine, Ashby's Hay Tedder, Howard's
Iron Horse Rake, 2-knife Chaff Cutter, Hand
Turnip Drill;**

**2 STACKS PRIME MEADOW & SEED HAY,
GROWING CROP OF MANGOLD AND
POTATOES.**

**Several lots of HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,
Etc.**

Catalogues at the Place of Sale; the
Hotels and Inns in the neighbourhood, and
of the Auctioneers, Dorking and Leather-
head. db5

Figure 8 George ending his carrier business; late 1914.



Figure 9 The Laurels in The Street, seen here before George moved into it after leaving Bookham; early 20thC.

Leonard had enlisted on 31 August 1914, that is, at the very outset of the War, and joined the Royal Field Artillery, 44 Brigade, with Service Number 98559. He was sent to France in 1915, disembarking there on 3 August. His service record appears not to have survived. Medal and pension record cards indicate that he was promoted firstly to Corporal and subsequently to Battery Quarter Master Serjeant. He was discharged, described as wounded, on 23 August 1919. A pension record card dated 14 September 1919 gives his address as The Laurels.

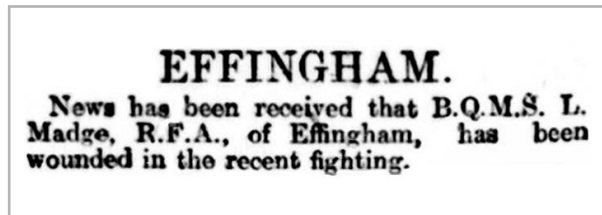


Figure 10 Report of Leonard being wounded;
The Surrey Advertiser, 21 Sept 1918.

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
MADGE	R F A	Cpl	98559
Leonard		*B.Q.M.S.	

Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	*R.F.A. 2368 2729		(as Dis)
BRITISH	-do-	-do-	
15 STAR	RFA/3A/B 7163		
Sut's List RFA/3849			
Theatre of War first served in 15 France			
Date of entry therein 3/8/15			

Figure 11 Leonard's army service medal card;
from the Army Medal Office via *Ancestry*.

The 1921 census finds George with Dinah at The Laurels. He was occupied once again as a farm bailiff, now working at Dunley Hill Farm in the employ of the journalist Leopold James Maxse (who then was residing variously at Dunley Hill Cottage and at 33, Cromwell Road in Kensington). Leopold was the son of the late Admiral Frederick Augustus Maxse who had built the mansion Dunley Hill House. In George's household were also (as a visitor) Sidney's six-year-old daughter Dorothy Kathleen (known familiarly as 'Fluff'), Leonard (working there as a butcher in the employ of Sidney) and Emily engaged in 'home duties'.

Electoral Registers show Leonard at The Laurels up to 1923 but in that year a pension record card for him stamped on 26 July gave his address as Cranmere on Station Road, Budleigh Salterton in Devon. The house Cranmere was the home of Leonard's married sister May Frances and her husband Harry. Leonard settled in Devon, marrying Rose (née) Bickley in early 1925, and worked in the Torquay area as a master butcher until his early death in 1941 at the age of 50.

After Leonard's departure the Madge family residing at The Laurels consisted of just George, Dinah and Emily. Sidney appears to have been looking after the butcher's business there, while living and working primarily in Bookham – the *Holmesdale Directory to Dorking and Leatherhead* for 1928 lists him as a butcher in Effingham. According to past resident the late Lena (née Keeling) Bridger the shop was open only on Saturday mornings. George was evidently acting in a reciprocal capacity by way of assisting Sidney in the running of the latter's Home Farm in Bookham.

Most of what we know about Emily concerns her activities as a member of Effingham Women's Institute (EWI). The formation of the branch had been proposed at a public meeting held in the old village hall (at the northern end of The Street, now occupied by Colets Piling Ltd) on 29 June 1919, chaired by Col Benjamin Thomas Lindsay Thomson, tenant of Effingham House (referred to then as the Manor House). The vote in favour was unanimous and so the meeting proceeded to elect the initial Committee. The ladies elected were Mesdames Butcher, Craddock, Dodman, Killick, Loxley, Mooney, Thomson, West and Yates, and Misses Ansell, Ross and Teesdale. The first meeting of the Committee took place at the Manor House on 5 February; Col Thomson's wife Esther Florence was elected as President, Miss (Ellen Augusta) Teesdale as vice-President and Mrs (Lilian Olivia) Mooney as Secretary. The first general meeting of the branch, at which 45 members attended, was held on 26 February.

At a meeting on 6 March the Committee elected Emily to join them. For over twenty years thereafter she was an active Committee member besides taking part in many of the EWI's activities in and around the village. The evidence for this comes chiefly from the Minute Books and Record Books of the branch held at the Surrey History Centre [SHC Ref: 7650/12/2-4] and from local newspaper articles about Effingham events. In all of these sources she is named only as 'Miss Madge' and this is presumed to refer to Emily as she was the elder of the two daughters of George remaining still unmarried, the other being Bertha born on 2 November 1888. Descendants recall that both Emily and Bertha had been expecting to marry, but the

men to whom they had been betrothed had died during the First World War. Their sisters Eva, Annie Louise and May Frances had married in 1908, 1910 and 1917, respectively.

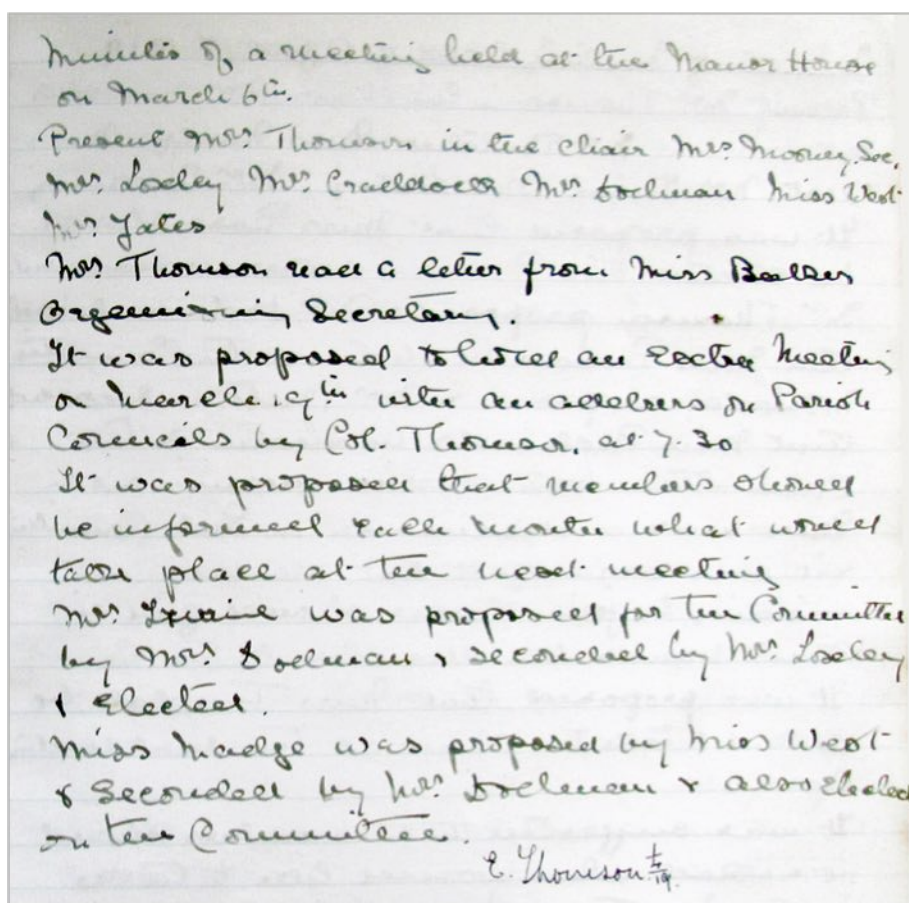


Figure 12 Emily elected to the EWI Committee at the Manor House; 6 March 1919.

The first task delegated by the EWI to Emily, on 15 May 1919, was to supervise a tea at a meeting with members of the Bookham WI on 16 July.

Probably the most significant event involving the EWI in its first year was the celebration in Effingham of the national Peace Day held on 19 July, commemorating the ending of the First World War. Effingham Local History Group (ELHG) is fortunate to possess copies of several photographs of the impressive procession made by the villagers from the grounds of the Manor House to the grounds of The Lodge where most of the day's events were staged (see <https://elhg.org.uk/discovery/wartime/world-war-1/>). We also have a copy of the official Programme. The procession was led by Cpl Edward Dench MM, behind whom were nine specific groups – of which the last was EWI – and then a large number of other parishioners. Our photograph of the EWI contingent shows at least thirty well-attired ladies two of whom are holding a banner. The left-most of these banner-holders is wearing a substantial garland and is remembered by the Madge family as having been Emily, an appropriate role for her as a Committee member.

She was also appointed to two distinct roles in the Programme. Firstly, in the list of the thirteen stewards for the event, she was the first mentioned (as 'Miss Madge'); the list also included a Mr Madge, probably her father George or otherwise one of her brothers. Secondly, she was to be the captain of the ladies' side in a stoolball match of 'Ladies vs Gentlemen' to be staged at The Lodge at 5pm. The match was mentioned in a newspaper report of Effingham's celebration [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times* [SACT], 26 July 1919]:

Stewards :	
Miss MADGE,	Mr. E. LOXLEY,
Mr. YATES,	" J. OTTAWAY,
" C. W. DODMAN,	" MADGE,
" R. STREET,	" H. JACKSON,
" E. RICHARDS,	" E. DAVIS,
" W. BUTCHER,	" T. P. WEST,
Mr. L. E. D. BARNARD.	

Figure 13 Emily listed as a steward in the Peace Day programme; 19 July 1919.

‘... a stoolball match between ladies (Miss Madge, captain) and gentlemen (Mr. C. W. Dodman, captain) provided plenty of amusement, the men batting left-handed, but time would not permit of a finish ...’



Figure 14 The front-most EWI members in the Peace Day procession, Emily holding the banner: 19 July 1919.

5 p.m. STOOLBALL MATCH,
Ladies v. Gentlemen.
(Capt. Miss Madge.) (Capt. C. W. Dodman).

Figure 15 Emily as stoolball captain in the Peace Day programme; 19 July 1919.

In February 1920 Emily featured in an event not specifically involving the EWI [*SACT*, 23 February 1920]. A fancy dress ball attended by about 150 people was held at The Lodge, hosted (as for the Peace Day celebration) by the recently-widowed Mrs Lola Pauling. This ball was staged in recognition of the festival of Mardi-Gras. The fancy dress prize winners among the ladies were Mrs Pauling (1st – ‘snowman’) and Miss Mary Rankin (2nd – ‘negress’), with others being commended: Mrs Dodman (‘news-boy’), Miss [Emily] Madge (‘Spanish girl’) and Lola's daughter Jane Josephine (‘Mad Hatter’). Among the gentlemen, the 1st prize went to Emily's brother Leonard (‘cavalier’).

On 2 March she was elected to be the EWI's representative at a choral meeting to take place in Guildford on 22 March. This was probably owing to recognition of an interest or talent of hers in music. The branch had purchased its own piano in 1919 (for £30) and Emily has been remembered as often playing it. On 7 September she reported to the Committee the takings from a flower show and dance held

at the Manor House. She seems to have thought that Effingham's carol singing needed a boost, as at a meeting on 1 November she proposed that at the coming Christmas more carol singing should be 'put up'.

The year 1921 would see a change in her responsibilities: at a meeting on 1 February it was agreed that she should become the EWT's Treasurer, a position which she initially declined. Perhaps it was just too much like her day job as bookkeeper for the family business. A major component of WI meetings was the making, serving and drinking of tea – and afterwards, the washing-up and drying.. Hitherto the branch must have been drinking its tea at meetings using the personal crockery of its members, or perhaps some borrowed from the Manor House; on 25 February Emily proposed that the branch should purchase its own crockery. As December 1921 arrived, the arrangements for entertainment at the EWT's Christmas party were intended to be in the hands of Mrs Mooney, but she had become ill and so Emily agreed to take over that responsibility.

unanimously, The Committee were then asked if one of them would volunteer to be Treasurer, as Mrs Yates had signified her wish to resign, both Miss Killick & Miss Madge were proposed but both declined, after a good deal of discussion it was left that Miss Madge would undertake to be Treasurer if she could.

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Figure 16 Emily agrees after some hesitation to become EWT's Treasurer; 1 February 1921.

At a meeting on 3 April 1923 she agreed to arrange a musical programme for a 'social' to be held on 10 April. Soon after this, on Sunday 29 April, her brother Sidney had the honour of accompanying the Duke and Duchess of York when they attended morning service at St Nicolas, Bookham while spending their honeymoon at Polesden Lacey as the guests of Mrs Greville.



Figure 17 The Duke and Duchess of York at St Nicolas, with people's warden Sidney Madge (at left) and the Rector's warden Stanley Russell (at right); 29 April 1923.

In early January 1924 the EWI staged their annual post-Christmas entertainment [*SACT*, 12 January 1924]. Songs were sung by the wife Myra Phyllis (née Lambert; no connection to the Lamberts of Effingham House) of Emily's brother Frank and by a 'Miss D Madge' who may have been Frank's daughter (Myra) Diana born in 1919 or Sidney's daughter (May) Dinah born in 1906. Two short plays were acted too, *The Intellectuals* and *Neighbours in Gooseberry Court*, in both of which Emily took part; these 'produced much merriment'. Later that year, at an EWI meeting on 7 October, she was asked to get together a class for a forthcoming singing competition and to be the conductor.

On 30 January 1925 she was re-elected as Treasurer, so despite her original reluctance she seems to have settled into the role.

A year later, when the Committee met on 6 January 1926, she received a vote of thanks, carried unanimously, 'for the excellent way she had looked after our money as Treasurer'. Two days later she was mentioned in a report about their post-Christmas entertainment [*Surrey Mirror and County Post*, 8 January 1926] as having acted a playlet with Mrs Mooney and Miss Killick. Her cousin Dinah, despite suffering a heavy cold, had also contributed in the absence of her mother by singing two songs, *Smiling' Thro'* and *Drink to me only*. Finally, 'After refreshments had been served by the costumed choir Miss Dinah Madge played for dancing.'

In February 1926 a 'social' was held at which a lecture was given on 'The History of Effingham' by Dermot Joseph Mooney of Rose Cottage, being the husband of Lilian Olivia (who was now EWI's President). Mr Mooney had developed a strong interest in Effingham's history and reputedly discussed it often with his friend Joseph Stewart Adams, head teacher at the local school. On 3 March 1926 Emily reported that the takings from this event had been £1-3s-10d. On 22 November she and Mrs Mooney agreed that they would together arrange to take charge of a forthcoming icing competition. She also agreed, on 20 December, to form and take charge of an Entertainment Committee for the coming year, at the same time agreeing to continue distributing the WI magazine *Home & Country*.

An important step for the branch was taken in 1927 when it finalised its taking of a 40-year lease on an old cow shed in the 'Manor Yard' (located near to today's The Crossroads), to be converted into a meeting hall. The offer of this lease, for a low rent, had been made in about November 1926 in a letter from local solicitor Sidney Alfred Williamson. In due course the lease was drafted by Effingham Estates Ltd – the property business run by Williamson and Robert Reitmeyer Calburn – and went through several rounds of negotiation and amendment between the parties during the early months of 1927. On 25 June, Emily as Treasurer was able to report to the Committee that 'she had deposited the lease at Lloyd's Bank and had received a receipt for same made out in the name of the Trustees of Effingham's Women's Institute'. The new hall would not become operational for a further six months. Among the many benefits it would bring would be the ending of the need to transport the branch's crockery by pony and trap to its meeting venues.

The year 1927 ended sadly with the sudden death of Emily's brother Frank on 17 November at his home in Ballands Hall Cottages, Fetcham. He was aged just 35 and had suffered heart problems over a long period. His funeral was reported as follows [*SACT*, 26 November 1927]:

'FETCHAM.

THE LATE MR. FRANK MADGE. Large Attendance at Funeral.

The funeral of Mr. Frank Madge, of Ballands Hall Cottages, Fetcham, whose sudden death was reported last week, took place at Fetcham [St Mary's] on Monday. The service was conducted by the rector (the Rev. W. W. Whistler).

The cortege was met at the lych gate by the rector and choir. Deceased had been a member of the choir. There was a large and representative congregation, and the hymns were "There is a land" and "O God, our help in ages past." After the prayers the congregation stood while the Dead March was played on the organ. The choir then preceded the coffin to the graveside, singing the Nunc Dimittis.

The mourners included Mrs. F. Madge (widow), Mr. and Mrs. S. Madge (brother and sister-in-law), the Misses Madge (sisters) [Emily and Bertha], Mr. W. Madge (brother) [actually William Henry Splatt], Mrs. Lambert (mother-in-law). Others present were ...'

The new EWI hall was ready to open on 28 January 1928; at a meeting on 18 January Emily and Miss Killick offered to 'take charge of the sweets' at the opening. A month later she agreed that she and others would give out the prizes for a Whist Drive that would take place on 15 March. At the very end of the year, on 31 December, she was re-elected as Treasurer whilst the responsibility for the Entertainment Committee was passed to Mrs Walsh.

In early 1929 Frank's widow Myra and niece Dinah were separately mentioned in two articles in the same newspaper [*SACT*, 5 January 1929]. In Effingham at the EWI's post-Christmas party, songs were sung by Myra and Mr Walsh. In Bookham, the Women's Institute branch there held their Annual Meeting and, after tea, 'Mrs. Willock-Pollen, jun., delighted the meeting with her clever whistling, accompanied by Miss D. Madge'. In March, it was noted an EWI meeting that Emily and one other person had been equally placed second in a bulb growing competition; after the meeting 'the members of the folk dancing club went to Guildford to take part in the competition, where they gained a certificate, being placed in Class A-plus' [*SACT*, 23 March 1929].

At a meeting on 17 March 1930 it was agreed that Emily and Miss Killick would take charge of a sub-committee for managing the hire of the EWI hall. A few weeks later Emily won first prize in a competition of EWI members for making the most attractive article costing no more than one shilling [*Surrey Mirror and County Post*, 25 April 1930]. Sadly, we are not treated to the knowledge of what this item was. She was re-elected Treasurer at a meeting on 17 December, at which 'a satisfactory financial statement was read by the treasurer (Miss Madge) ...' [*SACT*, 20 December 1930].

The surviving EWI records cannot tell us anything of the branch's activities during the remainder of the 1930s, as the records for 1931-39 are entirely missing. This is probably a consequence of a flood, from a leaking roof at the King George V Hall, which occurred at the end of July or the beginning of August 1985, in which 'much of the WI's records and books were soaked' [*Minutes of the Elected and Co-opted Members of the King George V Committee of Management*, meeting of 14 August 1985]. Instead, we have only the reports in the local newspapers.

In April 1931, at one of the monthly meetings, Emily won second prize for a competition on the theme 'how many articles can be got in a match-box' [*SACT*, 18 April 1931]. In May she acted again in the play *Neighbours in Gooseberry Court* together with Mrs Ford and Miss Saunders [*SACT*, 23 May 1931]. Later that year the EWI

'... made a bold move when they resolved to hold an exhibition – the first of its kind held in the village – but the enthusiasm of the organisers was completely rewarded by the big response and the fine collection of articles and produce of every kind which was exhibited. The event took place on the last day of September, and there were over 200 entries in the various sections – handicrafts, food production, garden produce, and children's classes.'

In a lengthy report of the event [*SACT*, 10 October 1931] it was recorded that many prizes had been won by 'Mrs Madge' (presumed to be Emily's mother Dinah) and by 'Mrs F Madge' (Emily's widowed sister-in-law Myra). Emily had also won quite a few:

- 1st prizes for table decoration and for knitted stockings or socks;
- 2nd prizes for garden flowers in vase, for knitted article for a child and for something new from something old;
- commendations for production of marmalade, for rafia work and for a soft toy;

In early 1932 Emily won first prize for the ladies' side at an EWI whist drive [*SACT*, 6 February 1932] and soon afterwards won the branch's competition for the best home-made loaf [*SACT*, 20 February 1932]. In May she had the honour – and doubtless the excitement – of being the EWI's chosen delegate attending the Annual Meeting of the National Federation of Women's Institutes held at the Royal Albert Hall, London on 10 May [*SACT*, 21 May 1932]. In June, however, the Madge family was hit by a very sad event, the premature death of Emily's cousin (May) Dinah, daughter of Sidney, who 'had been in failing health for about six months' [*SACT*, 25 June 1932]. She died peacefully at her home in Bookham on 16 June aged just 26. Described as 'highly respected in the village', she had been strongly immersed in church activities and in the Little Bookham branch of the WI. Her funeral took place at St Nicolas on 20 June attended by many mourners, with over 120 floral tributes, and at her graveside was sung her favourite hymn 'The day Thou gavest, Lord, is ended'. She left estate valued at £513. With their common interests in singing and piano playing, together with Sidney's role in the business at Emily's home The Laurels, it is likely that Dinah and Emily had been close despite their age difference of twenty years.

In December 1932 EWI held a sale of work in aid of the branch funds. It was opened by Miss Evelyn Thomson, president of the Surrey County Federation of Women's Institutes who 'was presented with a bouquet of chrysanthemums by the treasurer, Miss Madge'; during the sale Emily ran a stall selling cakes and sweets [*SACT*, 3 December 1932]. At the annual meeting that month she was re-elected as Treasurer,

having 'presented the accounts, which were very satisfactory, with a balance in hand of just over £41' [SACT, 24 December 1932].

The branch's exhibition of handicrafts and produce in late 1931 was repeated in 1933 and Emily again won prizes in many of the judged classes, as so also did her mother and her widowed sister-in-law Myra [SACT, 7 October 1933]. As in previous years she was re-elected as Treasurer at the annual meeting [SACT, 23 December 1933].

In March 1934 Emily was the tea hostess at the monthly meeting during which 'a pretty folk dancing display was given by the Effingham team' [SACT, 24 March 1934]. This may have been an early example of the occasions recalled in about 1970-71 by Lena (née Keeling) Bridger when being tape-recorded by her daughter Mary Alfreda Rice-Oxley:

Lena: 'WI was very go-ahead. We had a folk dance club. Mrs Poland was a leading member and she always lost her way, took a wrong turning, but we got along. We won several certificates.'

Mary: 'Everybody had the same material, dresses made from the same material.'

Lena: 'Yes that's right. Miss Madge the butcher's sister played the piano. She'd sit there for the hour and play, by the hour playing these wretched dance things.'

Mary: 'It was great fun though.'

Mary had been born in 1925 and, in the above exchange, may have been remembering the EWT's folk dancing activities a little later in the 1930s or perhaps during the War.

The Madge family took another blow in 1934 when Emily's father George died, on 28 October.

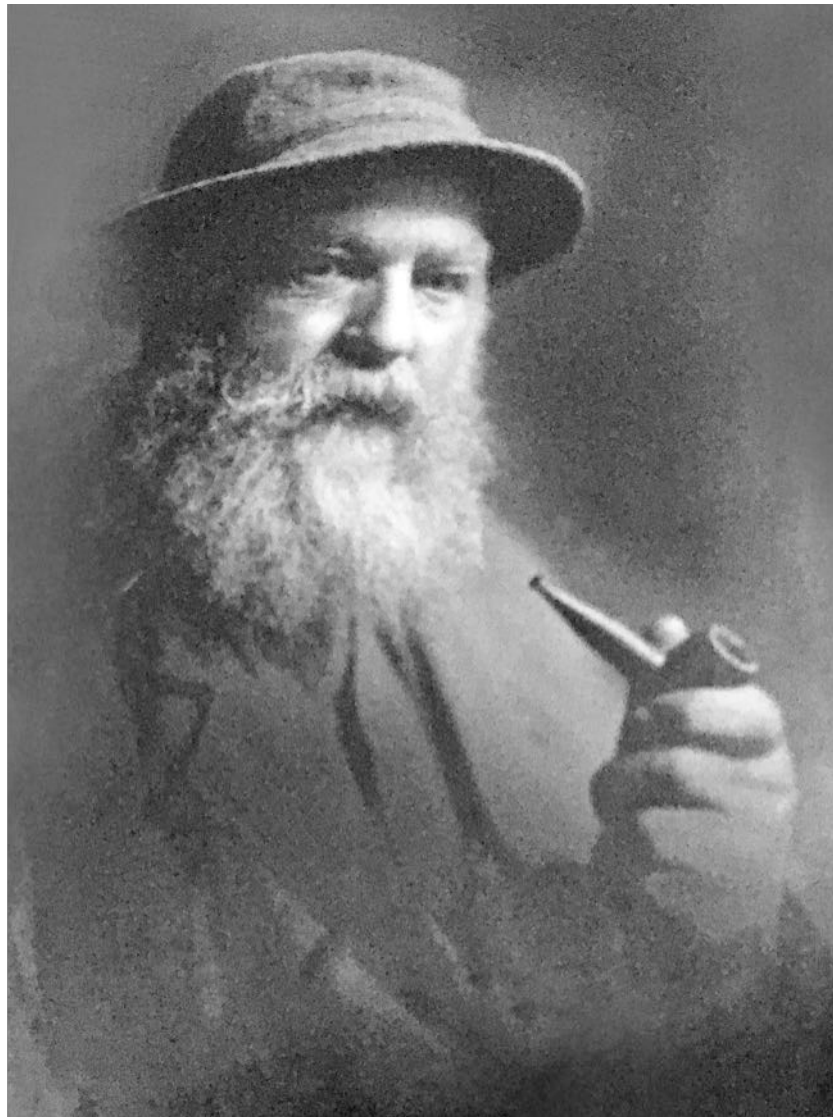


Figure 18 A characterful portrait of Emily's father George in his later years.

George's funeral at St Lawrence was reported as follows [*SACT*, 3 November 1934]:

‘EFFINGHAM. A WELL-KNOWN YEOMAN.

Death of Mr. G. Madge.

A resident of Effingham for 20 years, and a well-known Surrey yeoman, Mr. Geo. Madge, of The Laurels, Effingham, died on Sunday, aged 80. He was much esteemed in the district.

Mr. Madge was born at Tiverton, Devon, where he began farming. Half-a-century ago he left his native county to come to Surrey, and at Leatherhead he was for some years bailiff at Woodlands Park, then occupied by Mr. Bryant, of match fame. On going to Effingham he was associated with the late Mr. J. L. Maxse, of Dunley Hill, for many years, and latterly he assisted his son, Mr. Sidney Madge, in the management of Home Farm, Bookham. Mr. Madge had a family of 11, and is survived by four sons and five daughters.

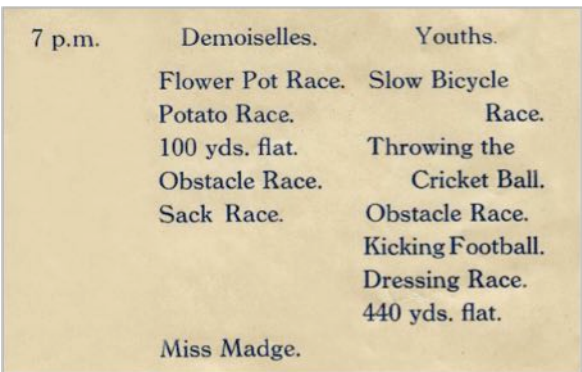
THE FUNERAL

The Vicar of Effingham (the Rev. H. A. Floud) officiated at the funeral at the Parish churchyard on Wednesday. At a service prior to the interment the lesson was read by Mr. J. Stewart Adams, a friend of Mr. Madge for many years. The family mourners were Mrs. Madge (widow), Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Madge (son and daughter-in-law), Mr. Wm. Madge and Mr. Leonard Madge (sons), the Misses N. and Bertha Madge and Mrs. Gush (daughters), Mrs. Frank Madge (daughter-in-law), John Madge and Sidney Gush (grandsons), and Mrs. Douglas Lack (grand-daughter). Others present included ... Wreaths were received from Mother, Nimp and Bee ...’

In the above, ‘Miss N Madge’ and ‘Nimp’ were referring to Emily – today's descendants of George remember that ‘Nimp’ had been her nickname, whilst Bertha's had been ‘Bee’.

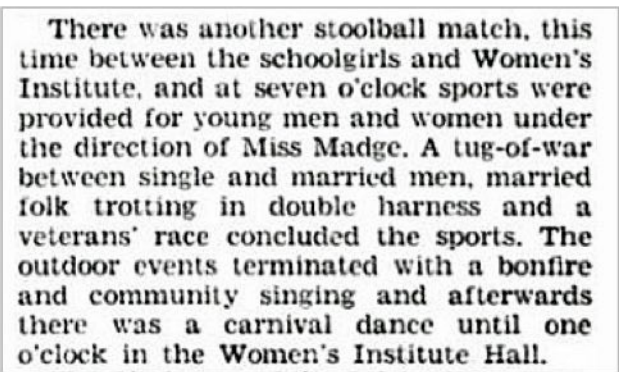
George evidently died intestate and, sadly, has nothing to commemorate him at St Lawrence. The only member of the family having a monument in the churchyard is his son George who died aged 36 in 1916. Dinah and Emily continued living at The Laurels.

A major social event took place in Effingham in the following year, on 6 May 1935, namely the village's celebration of the Silver Jubilee of King George V's accession to the throne. A detailed account of this can be found on ELHG's website which displays the very nice printed programme. The day's events took place in the centre of the village in the morning and on the Carn Pit Field in the afternoon and early evening. This is the field which later came to be known as Madge's Field by virtue of being accessed from The Street by the track, known variously as Lovers' Lane or Madge's Lane, running westwards past The Laurels. The programme announced that the sports for young lads and girls, commencing at 7pm, would be under Emily's direction and would consist of (for the lads) a slow bicycle race, throwing of a cricket ball, an obstacle race, kicking of a football, a dressing race and a 440 yards flat race; for the girls there would be a flower pot race, a potato race, a 100 yards flat race, an obstacle race and a sack race. Emily would have been kept busy supervising all this.



7 p.m.	Demoiselles.	Youths.
	Flower Pot Race.	Slow Bicycle
	Potato Race.	Race.
	100 yds. flat.	Throwing the
	Obstacle Race.	Cricket Ball.
	Sack Race.	Obstacle Race.
		Kicking Football.
		Dressing Race.
		440 yds. flat.
	Miss Madge.	

Figure 19 Emily in the 1935 Jubilee programme.



There was another stoolball match, this time between the schoolgirls and Women's Institute, and at seven o'clock sports were provided for young men and women under the direction of Miss Madge. A tug-of-war between single and married men, married folk trotting in double harness and a veterans' race concluded the sports. The outdoor events terminated with a bonfire and community singing and afterwards there was a carnival dance until one o'clock in the Women's Institute Hall.

Figure 20 Emily noted in the local newspaper.

That she did direct these sports was confirmed in an account (see Figure 20) of the celebration in the *Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser* (edition unknown).

A further family loss was soon to afflict Emily when her mother died in November 1936. Dinah was buried at St Lawrence on 20 November, she too being intestate and having no headstone. Her death appears not to have been reported in the Press.

The Electoral Registers list Emily, alone, at The Laurels in 1937 but in no subsequent year; moreover, nobody is listed at The Laurels thereafter and so it was probably uninhabited for the remainder of the 1930s. Its uses during and after the War are described in the article *Effingham Post Offices* on ELHG's website. Emily was thus the last person to inhabit this cottage which dated from the early eighteenth century.

From the archives of Effingham Women's Institute we have a few pre-1939 photographs of their activities. Those presented in Figures 21 and 22 show an EWI meeting in the back garden of Effingham's vicarage – the first of them affords a glimpse of St Lawrence Church in the centre background. In the original scrapbook holding these photographs they are dated 'about 1938'. It is just possible that Emily had been in attendance.



Figure 21 An EWI meeting in the back garden of Effingham's vicarage; allegedly in about 1938.



Figure 22 Another view of the same event at the vicarage.

The next known location of Emily is Devon. The 1939 National Register finds her in the household of her married sister May Frances and husband Harry, in the same house where they had settled about twenty years previously – Cranmere in Budleigh Salterton. Emily's occupation was given as 'domestic help'. Perhaps she had gone to live with May and assist in the housework there soon after their mother's death. Alternatively, she may have been just visiting May in 1939.

In due course Emily returned to Surrey but precisely when and to where we do not know. Electoral registration was suspended during the War and not resumed until 1945, and so cannot assist us on this point. After returning she resumed her involvement in the EWI but not as a committee member. When she had left Effingham her position as Treasurer had been taken over by Lena Bridger who continued in that role during the War years.

Emily's war-time involvement in the EWI is discernible only from a small number of newspaper articles and occasional mentions in the branch's Minute and Record Books. Possibly the earliest such mention occurs in the Minute Book for 1940-45 when, at a meeting held on 14 October 1940 she was apparently (the writing is a little indistinct) recorded as the proposer that a Miss King should become a member. At a meeting in January 1942 she was one of several winners of small prizes awarded in a 'social half-hour' [*SACT*, 31 January 1942]. At a meeting held on 11 May 1942 she was stated to be one of the tea hostesses for the coming June meeting, whilst later that year at a meeting on 16 November she was assigned to assist in the same manner for the coming December meeting, her contribution being duly noted in the Press [*SACT*, 19 December 1942]. She was hosting the tea again at the meeting in October 1943 and in October 1944. On 30 September 1944 she assisted at a tea stall at a Scout's Benefit garden fête held at The Hermitage, Great Bookham [*SACT*, 7 October 1944]. At an EWI meeting on 14 December 1944 she 'kindly volunteered to look after the children at the January meeting'. At their meeting on 16 May 1945 she was recorded as one of three members wishing to attend the 'Epsom Group Meeting' on 28 May. These snippets constitute our entire knowledge of Emily's activities during the Second World War.

The Electoral Registers for 1946-47 show Emily residing with her siblings Sidney and Bertha at Aberdeen House in Bookham, then at a house named Altadore in Eastwick Drive during 1947-48 and thereafter at 40, Middlemead Road. It appears that she ceased to be a member of EWI at some date after 1945, but was reported as having rejoined it in late 1955 [*SACT*, 31 December 1955] and so she may have been present at the choir session in 1956 shown in Figure 23. Was she conducting them? Was she playing the piano? Unfortunately we have no identifications for this photograph.



Figure 23 The EWI choir in their hall, accompanied by a pianist seen at far right; 14 March 1956.

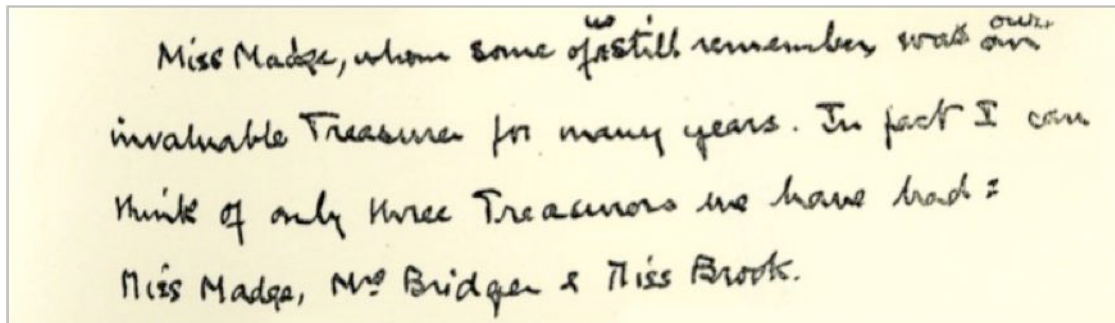
After 1955 nothing further of Emily is known until her death in early 1965 [GRO Ref: Surrey NE 5g, 647, 1965 (Q1)]. Her death certificate states that she died on 23 March 1965 at Meadbrook in Grand Drive, Merton and gives her occupation as bookkeeper. The cause of death was certified as (1a) renal failure (1b) arteriosclerosis (2) temporal arteritis. The informant was her married niece Myra Diana Francis of Birches, 9 Kennel Lane in Fetcham. Meadbrook was in that period an old people's home run by Merton Council.

She appears to have died intestate. There is no interment record for her in the church registers of Great or Little Bookham or of Effingham.

Her general state of health in her later life is not known, but descendants remember that she used to clean her teeth with salt and that her dentist had been impressed that even when very old Emily had lost none of her teeth.

Many years later she was remembered by Lady Molly Wallis who in the 1960s had served as the EWI's Secretary. In 1979 Molly was due to give a report at a luncheon to mark the branch's Diamond Jubilee, but in the event she had been ill and the report, which she had hand-written in advance, had to be read out by Mrs Peggy West. In the report she had included this:

'Miss Madge, whom some of us still remember was ^{our} our invaluable Treasurer for many years. In fact I can think of only three Treasurers we have had: Miss Madge, Mrs Bridger & Miss Brook.'



Miss Madge, whom some of us still remember was ^{our} our
invaluable Treasurer for many years. In fact I can
think of only three Treasurers we have had:
Miss Madge, Mrs Bridger & Miss Brook.

Figure 24 Lady Wallis's handwritten memory of Miss Emily Madge; 1979.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1: from the internet, lacking a stated provenance

Figures 2-4: from Christopher John Hogger

Figures 5-7, 17-18: from Penny (Penelope Anne) (née Francis) Easun

Figures 8, 10, 20: by kind permission of Reach plc / *Mirrorpix*

Figure 9: from the Jimmy Coughlan postcard collection

Figure 11: from the Army Medal Office via *Ancestry*

Figures 12, 16: from the Minutes Book 1919-30 of Effingham WI [Surrey History Centre, SHC Ref: 7650/12/2]

Figures 13, 15: from the archives of Effingham Parish Council

Figure 14: detail from a photograph donated to ELHG by Winifred Annie (née Stovell) Hall

Figure 19: from an original Jubilee 1935 programme donated to ELHG by Barbara Henry

Figures 21-23: from a Scrapbook of Effingham WI [Surrey History Centre, SHC Ref: 7650/12/7]

Figure 24: from a report by Lady Mary 'Molly' Wallis [Surrey History Centre, SHC Ref: 7650/12/5]

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Effingham Local History Group acknowledges with gratitude the permission of Reach plc to reproduce material from scans of their historic newspapers in the British Newspaper Archive. We are grateful for the assistance given by the staff of the Surrey History Centre.