

STUDIES
in the
HISTORY of EFFINGHAM



above – Effie Jean Morgan is the daughter of Thomas (‘Tom’) Morgan and Mary Louise (née Bottrell) who had married at St Lawrence on 29 March 1937. Thomas, a gardener's boy, had been befriended by Effie Jane Ross of The Hollies and when the Second World War was declared he, Mary and their baby Effie Jean went to live at The Hollies. Tom worked for Effie Jane for much of his life. It was through this association that Effie Jean came to possess Effie Jane's photograph albums which have been so immensely useful to many studies undertaken by ELHG. We are deeply indebted to Effie Jean for this.

below – Betty Mary Fox (1933-2024) was the daughter of Edgar William John Richards and Annie Winifred (née West). Edgar was born in Effingham in 1887 as one of the five children of the village's baker and photographer William Richards, living at the bakery in The Street. Most of our early 20th-century postcard photographs of Effingham were taken by William and have been a vital source for the work of ELHG. We are much indebted to Betty who in 2013 provided ELHG with our first (and only) photographs of William and his wife Agnes.



STUDIES in the HISTORY of EFFINGHAM

Presenting original research and narratives
relating to the village of Effingham
in the County of Surrey, England

VOLUME 6



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Front Cover: bluebells on Ranmore Common, a favourite walking area for Effingham residents.

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PREFACE

This sixth volume of *Studies in the History of Effingham* begins with a further instance of converting our website's material into printed form. The first article describes the film, television and stage career of Desmond Tester who began that career at about the age of 12 in 1931. For about a decade he lived in or near Effingham Junction. He had surmounted a difficult childhood arising from the criminal activities of his father. His career as one of Britain's finest actors was long and varied, spanning half a century, and was not compromised by the principled position he took as a conscientious objector during the Second World War. After the War he lived in Bookham and in other parts of Surrey before finally moving to Australia.

The Preface to Volume 4 promised more articles about the women of Effingham and this volume is very much oriented to that intention. A lengthy study is offered here of the second wife Edith Kate of Effingham's wealthy railway contractor George Craig Saunders Pauling. Her life was a short one, as she died aged only 37 – but what a life! During nearly two decades she travelled extensively, exploring and hunting, and became a much-loved companion to some of England's high-ranking society ladies.

The next article is also a lengthy one with much novel and wide-ranging content, telling the very interesting story of how Effingham gradually became modernised from about the mid-19th century up to the mid-20th. The broad areas covered are communication (postal, telegraph, telephone), transport (rail, cars, buses, roads) and utilities (water, electricity). This insightful and unique study of Effingham greatly assists our understanding of how our village developed after centuries of rudimentary rural life.

Next are three studies of women whose lives were far less dramatic than that of Edith Pauling but which made solid contributions to the Effingham community. We first present butcher's daughter Emily, 'Miss Madge'. Born in Stoke D'Abernon, she lived much of her young life in Bookham but moved to The Laurels in Effingham during the First World War and remained there for about two decades before returning to Bookham. She was an acclaimed member (and one of the earliest) of Effingham Women's Institute and its long-term Treasurer as well as its pianist, besides taking part in numerous social events.

We then turn to the lives of the Faris family – a widowed mother and her two spinster daughters – who lived for many years at The Cottage in The Street. The daughters Elizabeth and Margaret, who had both been born in India, followed quiet and refined lives in Effingham, taking keen interest in the local school and in St Lawrence Church at which Elizabeth served as organist. In the late 1890s Elizabeth was on familiar terms with Edith Pauling, visiting the school together. The Misses Faris were generous benefactors to St Lawrence Church, in whose churchyard they now lie next to their mother.

There follows an article describing the life of Christina MacCarthy who, born in County Mayo, Ireland, trained in England during the Second World War to become a registered nurse, qualifying in June 1945. She married not long afterwards. In the early 1960s she and her husband took up residence in Effingham at The Lodge which had by then become a Surrey County Council home for epileptic and elderly women. Christina had been appointed as the home's Matron, a position she held for about two decades. The frequent local newspaper reports about the home testify to her dedicated commitment.

Historical writings about Effingham often claim this or that house as the village's 'oldest'. One such house was a cottage on the northern side of Lower Road in the plot between those containing the Red House and the Catholic Church. In the early 1950s the last inhabitants of the cottage departed and the property fell into a dilapidated state. By then it was in the ownership of the Diocese of Southwark. Between them, the Diocesan authorities and Effingham's Roman Catholic priest developed a plan to demolish the cottage and build a church hall and car park on the site. We tell here the story of how local historians, architects and antiquarians fought a losing battle to block this plan and preserve the cottage for posterity.

The next article relates how a young workhouse-born boy was brought from a home in Essex for 'waifs and strays' to live in Effingham, through the offices of Rev Ernest Frederic Bayly, and placed in the care of the Teesdale family at The Cottage. He attended our local school and then left to become a gardener in Flexford and Puttenham before moving to Shalford and becoming an insurance agent.

The last main article describes the nursing association established in the early twentieth century to provide district nursing in the Bookhams, Fetcham and Effingham.

We end with a brief supplement to an earlier article about The Milestone in order to correct the identification in a photograph of one of Miss Madge's brothers.

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Enquiries about the series should be directed to Effingham Local History Group either by email as set out on the website (<https://elhg.org.uk/about>) or by writing to

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