

STUDIES
in the
HISTORY of EFFINGHAM



left – Antony ("Tony") Donald Page was born in London on 31 January 1925 to parents Gordon Roy Page and Jessie Grace Irene (née Jones). Gordon had served with the Royal Fusiliers in the first world war at the Somme and Gallipoli, being shot three times through the stomach; he subsequently served in the Royal Flying Corps. Tony was educated at a boarding prep school in Old Woking and then at Stowe public school in Buckinghamshire. By his early teens he was deeply interested in aviation. At Stowe, as the second world war got underway, he joined the Officer Training Corps and then the Air Training Corps. In March 1943 he left school to take up a place at Oxford University and joined its Air Squadron, intending to train as a pilot. He then joined the RAF to complete that training. In April 1944 he was posted to South Africa and commissioned as an air gunner. In early 1945 he served in Egypt, Palestine and Italy, flying with 37 Squadron on B24 heavy bombers. Later that year he was sent back to Italy and remained there until the autumn of 1946. Back in civilian life he returned to Oxford, graduating in 1948. He then took up employment in shipbroking, becoming a chartered shipbroker, then changed direction to become a manager for Silver City Airways at Le Touquet, then a manager of Kent's airport at Lydd.

Presently he joined the Shell oil company in which he enjoyed a long and elevated career. In 1952 he and Jessica Elizabeth (née) Harrold married at St Lawrence, Effingham, remaining in the village almost to the end of their lives. During his years in Effingham Tony served on the Parish Council, chairing it during 1968-70 and 1971-80. He was also a Councillor for Guildford Borough during 1983-95, being made Mayor in 1992-93 and an Honorary Alderman in 2003. Additionally, during 1985-97 he served as a Surrey County Councillor. He died in 2020.

below – Jessica Elizabeth (née) Harrold was born on 22 February 1930, we believe in Yokohama, Japan. Her father Wilfred George Harrold, a chemist, and mother Christine Russell (née) Kilburn-Scott married on 31 July 1928 at St James Westminster. Wilfred's career with ICI took the family to Japan and then Shanghai before they settled in England in about 1934. By the late 1930s the family was living in Effingham. In 1952 Jessica married Tony Page. She and Tony took up residence in Lower Farm Road near the Common. She served on the Parish Council for eight years, chairing it during 2000-04, and also served as Borough Councillor during 1995-99. She played a key role in the staging of Commoners' Days and in the life of St Lawrence Church. As did Tony, she made many other contributions to the local community besides those summarised here. In particular both of them were founder members of Effingham Local History Group to which they contributed significantly. Her death at age 90 on 9 November 2020 followed shortly after Tony's on 11 October.



STUDIES in the HISTORY of EFFINGHAM

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

VOLUME 8



Effingham Local History Group

2026

Printed privately for
Effingham Local History Group
c/o The Parish Room, 3 Home Barn Court, The Street
Effingham, Surrey KT24 5LG
<https://elhg.org.uk>

© The editors, authors and various third parties 2026

First Edition 2026

This volume is printed privately for Effingham Local History Group and for a small number of selected organisations on whose premises the work may be read for reference purposes only.

The copyright is with the contributors and third parties.

No part of this work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, mechanical or by photocopying, without permission of the contributors.

The designations of geographical entities in this work and the presentation of material do not imply the expressions of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the contributors or any other participating organisations concerning the legal status of any country, territory or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Every reasonable effort has been made to acknowledge the sources of information used. However, if any have inadvertently been overlooked then the editors would be glad to hear from the copyright holders and to make good in future editions any errors or omissions brought to their attention.

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

Set in Garamond
Printed and bound in the United Kingdom by
Book Printing UK • Peterborough

PREFACE

This eighth volume of *Studies in the History of Effingham* contains articles mostly about people, rather than places, organisations or businesses. Moreover, most of the people featured are women.

Of the eleven main articles, nine are updated versions of older articles previously residing on the ELHG website. Another article concerns Robert Fish (Senior) who has been studied much by us in the past but who has not previously made any appearance in our published output. The remaining article, about Effingham in the 1920s, is newly researched.

This is the first volume in the series to present some of our recorded oral histories. Our oral history project was begun very soon after the Group's inauguration and to date we have accumulated over two dozen voice recordings with associated transcripts, only some of which are on our website. In the times ahead we shall aim to have all of them presented in these volumes. This current volume begins with three of our earliest oral history transcripts.

Four articles then follow which are all studies of well-known stage and screen actors – Winifred Oughton, Yvonne Arnaud and Beatrix Thomson – or notable contributors to the arts – Nicholas and Audrey Waterhouse – who made Effingham their home in the first half of the 20th century. Some other such artistes whom we have already researched will feature in future volumes.

Our website has a section devoted to Commoners' Days, begun in the 1980s with the aim of exercising demonstrably the commoners' rights registered in respect of four particular properties on the Common. The campaign fought in the 1970s to achieve the registration of the Common is told in ELHG's first book *Studies in Local History: Effingham Common* [publ The Blisset Group, 2011]. The Commoners' Days tradition has been upheld through to the present day, although not annually as had been the original intention. In this volume we describe and illustrate the earliest such days, from 1980 up to 1996.

Throughout its existence the Group has striven to record and publish as much as possible about Effingham's public events and celebrations, and our initial focus was on very particular occasions such as Coronations, Jubilees, Village Days and so on. Our website articles about these are being gradually updated and imported into these volumes. However, in between these especially notable events there have been numerous lesser ones, mostly of a very local character and previously undocumented by us, which would have engaged the activities, or at least the observation, of our community – in other words, were still in a sense *public* rather than wholly personal matters. We have therefore begun studying and documenting what can be discovered about these, decade by decade, primarily from historic newspapers but also from donated collections of old photographs. Our Article 62 in Volume 7 looked into the first decade of the 20th century whilst Article 73 in this volume presents our discoveries about Effingham in the 1920s, during which a great deal of interest happened – this is by far the longest article in Volume 8.

This is followed by an article on Effingham's part in the national celebration in 1935 of King George V's Silver Jubilee. Following the first world war, which saw the loss of nearly twenty lives of Effingham servicemen, besides the injuries incurred by the survivors, the Peace Day celebration of July 1919 – which must have had some sombre aspects besides its celebratory ones – and the serious economic and social problems of the Twenties, this occasion in 1935 must for Effingham have been like a welcome ray of sunshine after a long period of relative gloom. The Programme of activities, the newspaper accounts and the contemporary photographs all testify to the joy and enthusiasm with which our village came together to stage a day full of entertainments – especially for children – sports and various novelties in perfect weather on the Carn Pit Field. We are fortunate that so much material has survived to tell us, nearly one hundred years later, about that happy communal occasion in Effingham.

The volume's last main article presents what we know of Robert Fish (Senior), a farmer and significant land owner who resided in Effingham from about 1789 to 1844. After his first wife died, about 15 years after he had married her, he did not remarry until nearly 30 years later, at age 73; his new wife was just 30. Despite his age, he fathered two children by her.

There follow two very short supplements, one to correct an earlier mistake and one to add an identification to a photograph.

As always we hope our readers will find much of interest to enjoy in this latest volume.

The Editors

EDITORIAL BOARD

Christopher J Hogger

Susan W Morris

Jeremy S Palmer

Bryan R Sherwood

The Editors invite submissions of original manuscripts to this series of Volumes. These may take the form of research articles, whether long or short, concerning the history of Effingham or of novel collections of relevant material (historic images, for example). The form in which any such submissions, if accepted, appear in the series is at the discretion of the Editorial Board. In all such cases third party copyright must be respected and permissions for use must be obtained by the authors where appropriate.

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

The Honorary Secretary,
Effingham Local History Group,
c/o The Parish Room,
3, Home Barn Court,
Effingham,
Surrey KT24 5LG.

CONTENTS

Article No.

65.	Oral History – Laura Annie (née Cox) Essam (THE LATE) MONICA MERCY O'CONNOR and CHRISTOPHER JOHN HOGGER	1
66.	Oral History – Winifred Annie (née Stovell) Hall YVONNE SHAW and CHRISTOPHER JOHN HOGGER	13
67.	Oral History – Lena (née Keeling) Bridger (THE LATE) MARY ALFREDA (NÉE BRIDGER) RICE-OXLEY	17
68.	Winifred Oughton – Renowned Actress and First President of Effingham Junction Women's Institute JEREMY PALMER	27
69.	Nicholas and Audrey Waterhouse – Generous Contributors to the Arts JEREMY PALMER	37
70.	Yvonne Arnaud – Effingham's Star of Stage and Screen, Pianist and Comedienne JEREMY PALMER	53
71.	Beatrix Thomson – Prolific Stage Actor and Aviator CHRISTOPHER JOHN HOGGER	85
72.	Effingham Common – Early Commoners' Days VARIOUS CONTRIBUTORS	115
73.	Public Events in Effingham 1920-29 CHRISTOPHER JOHN HOGGER	141
74.	Effingham Celebrations – the Silver Jubilee of George V in 1935 CHRISTOPHER JOHN HOGGER	209
75.	Robert Fish (Senior) – Farmer and Landowner SUSAN MORRIS and CHRISTOPHER JOHN HOGGER	243

SUPPLEMENTS

36-1.	Effingham and The Bookhams Branch of The British Legion – Supplement CHRISTOPHER JOHN HOGGER	271
38-1.	Woodlands Road – History and Memories – Supplement DEREK W RUFFLES	273
	Index	275

