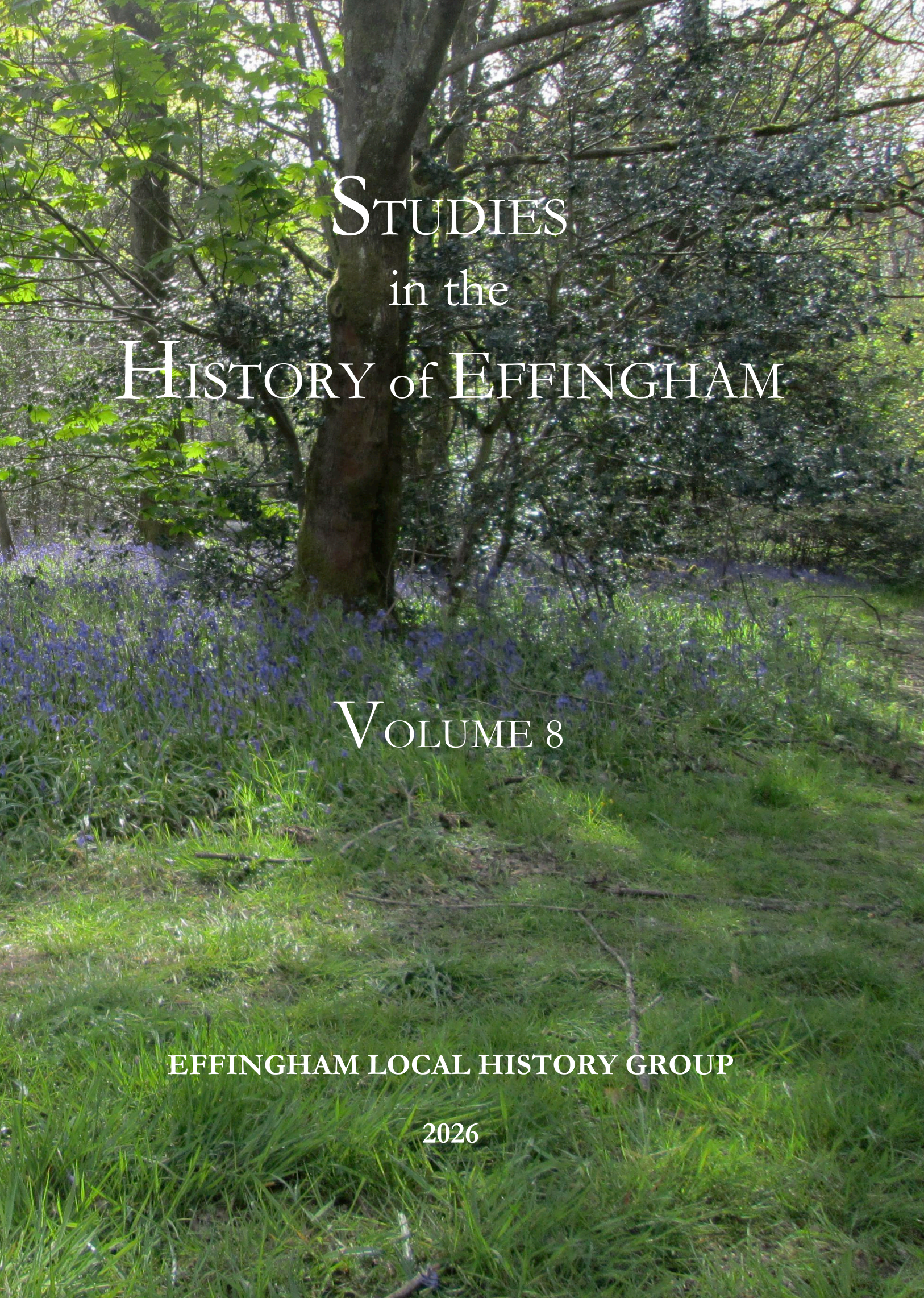


A photograph of a forest floor in spring. In the foreground, there is a dense carpet of green grass and numerous small, bell-shaped blue flowers (bluebells). A large, dark tree trunk stands prominently in the center-left of the frame. The background is filled with the branches and green leaves of other trees, creating a lush, sun-dappled scene.

STUDIES in the HISTORY of EFFINGHAM

VOLUME 8

EFFINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

2026

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

Oral History – Laura Annie (née Cox) Essam

Recorded by (THE LATE) MONICA MERCY O'CONNOR
transcribed with a commentary by CHRISTOPHER JOHN HOGGER

Among the oral histories accumulated by ELHG, that of Laura Annie Cox looks back at earlier times than do all the others; she was born in 1884 and able to recall people, places and events at the time when Queen Victoria was still on the throne. Fortunately her memories, although rather piecemeal and not entirely reliable, were captured on tape in 1970 by Effingham historian Monica O'Connor just in time, as Laura died in 1971.

Introduction

Mrs Laura Annie (née Cox) Essam, born in 1884, was interviewed in 1970 by local Effingham historian the late Monica Mercy O'Connor. A tape-recording made of that interview – transcribed in this article – is presumed to have been undertaken by Monica or by someone assisting her. Laura died the following year.

The original tape was lent to Effingham Local History Group (ELHG) by its custodian the late Mary Alfreda (née Bridger) Rice-Oxley and has been digitised as an mp3 audio file made accessible on ELHG's website.

The audio file was transcribed by C J Hogger in 2011; words not transcribed owing to indistinctness are marked ***. In the transcript below, Monica's speech is shown in italic and Laura's in roman.

Transcript

(Monica speaking) Now you told us, I think, that you were born in Effingham.

(Laura replying) Yes.

Will you tell us where you were born?

You know those white cottages going round to The Plough, that they're back on the left it will be, going to The Plough, in the middle one, 'cos there were three cottages then.

Opposite what is now the Douglas Haig?

No.

Or round the corner?

Round the corner ...

Round the corner, opposite The Plough.

Yes, those that ... they're white, aren't they?

And they are now where Mrs. Hanley lives, there are three cottages.

Yes, there was three cottages and I was born in the middle one.

Now when were you born?

That was the 3rd of June 1884.

And were you the first child, you (were) the eldest child?

Yes.

And how many brothers and sisters did you have?

I had two brothers and one sister, but my eldest brother is dead and my sister is dead, so there's only me and my younger brother.

Now what is the first thing that you can remember?

The first thing I can remember was when my sister was born.

How old were you then?

Two years and nine months.

And why do you remember that so clearly?

Well, I don't know, it's always sort of done, it's always been in *** me, I don't know why.

Was she born in this house?

No, she was born at Ockham.

In a hospital, or ...?

No, in a home, in a home. Lady Russell's at Ockham. Hatchford End, Ockham ...

Oh, yes ...

... that's where she was.

And where you, were you there then?

I didn't just see her born, but I heard her cry, 'cos Mum had twins, a boy and a girl, and the boy wasn't perfect so he died. And he was ... they there? wasn't cleaned properly. There was – what's the name, Dad? – Wesley, he christened them, and I can remember standing there at the bottom of my mother's bed, my father was that side, old Granny Birch – the old lady lived down the bottom of the garden, that looked after mother – she stood that side, and Reverend Wesley had one baby in that arm, and one baby in that the other arm.

And they had just been born?

Yes, 'cos they said they were asleep, but my sister lived and the boy died.

There was no doctor then, you didn't have a doctor when she was born?

Well, I suppose they did, I don't know, I don't know about that. But I know I heard her cry. And I ran into the room, and the Reverend Wesley he came just afterwards and I can remember him coming up the stairs and he give me a pat on top of the head, on the top, like you do to little ones, and I remember standing there with Dad that side the bed, old Granny Birch that side, and he's got the two babies in his arms.

And what was your sister christened, what was her name?

Mary, her name was Mary.

You were living at Hatchford then?

Yes, we was living ...

When did you come back to Effingham?

When my sister was ... March ... I know she was a little tiny thing, but I suppose she'd be about ... maybe about September, somewhere along there.

And did you come back to this cottage where you live now?

No, we come back, 'cos my father saw the Lamberts in, because he worked at the Manor House, you see, before he was married, from a boy of 16. He was in the lounge and he used to have to look after the house and do the housework for the men. He lived in the bothy, and he had to do the cooking and everything. And he's got the old paste board and this roller pin that they give him then.

Now which do you call 'the bothy'?

Well it's where Rangers live, you know where Rangers live ***.

Oh yes, where ... inside that wall along that low building.

Yes. When my Dad was married, you see, he had this paste board ***. That was Mr Hall that lived there then, they were the paint and whitewash people. And he – when I was born – he kept worrying my Dad 'cos he's never, wherever my family's worked, he's never been to desert an employee, never, I don't know, he had that ... they could always trust him, that was the thing. And I can just remember ... She kept on to my Dad – because this is what my father has told me – kept on to him, she wanted to see the baby. So he rolled me up in two blankets and brought me up to the Manor House (and I've seen the alterations to that Manor House), in the Manor House. Well then, he was there, I suppose, a year, then he went to Lady Russell's. Of course I was a baby there, I could always go anywhere there, and if she didn't see me about, Lady Russell was soon down to mother's and to know where I was! (laughter)

Now when you came back to Effingham – you told us that you used to play in the Manor House.

Yes, well when they come back, the day they came back, they went up High Barns, went straight up there, lived up High Barns – the house that faces this way, this end, first two cottages up there – because I think Mr Lambert built them for Dad to go in. I don't know who all that belonged to then, but Farmer Brown had all that ground ***

And Farmer Brown lived at what is now called Browns?

Yes.

Do you remember Farmer Brown?

Yes I do, and his son and daughter.

Have you got anything you can tell us about Farmer Brown?

He was a very nice old gent but he was very – so – you know, you had to be quiet a bit.

You had to behave yourself, in other words?

Yes, and it was lonely there, to go there. Sometimes I'd go up and look for the old people in the house. If there was anybody wanting ... in the house they'd see me playing – 'Oh Tolley, I want some milk'. So they'd be setting me up, off I'd go and get it.

What did they call you?

Tolley.

Tolley?

That's my nickname,

What is your real name, what were you christened?

Laura.

Oh. Well now, tell us about when you used to play in the Manor House.

Well then, when we come down from the High Barns, we lived in the bothy ...

Oh yes ...

... we lived in the bothy, and then we used to go and play out in the gardens all the way around, and where that house stands just over the big wall, that was the orchard you see, that was the orchard where they had fruit and all sorts there, and that's where their pets was all buried, in there, but there was – in front of the house, the bungalow – there was a mulberry tree, you know how they grow, thick round mulberry trees, we used to play underneath there, we could go all the way round.

Did you play 'Here we go round the mulberry tree'? Did you play that?

I think so.

That was the whole game?

I don't know.

What did you play, what games did you play, do you remember?

Well I don't know, we were all sorts, whatever there was coming along.

How many of you?

Well, then ... I don't know who the coachman was, but they had a new one come in, and I remember Mr Chapman coming in. And he come in, and he lived up over the stables, you see, that's where he lived and with all his children. And his second son Jack and I we were pals, we *** up his kids, I think he was about four years, a little older than me. However, he used to come through, see he and I we could go anywhere in the yard, in the pig sty, cow stalls, anywhere, didn't matter where, we could always go, but not the other children, they weren't allowed in. That was funny, wasn't it?

They liked the look of you, by the sound of it ... (laughter). Now, how old were you when you first went to school?

Oh I don't know, I was with ... I suppose five, I don't know ...

And which school did you go to? Did you go to ...

The present one, down the road, down the bottom now, they had to pay five pence a week for me when I first went to school. Then, it was a church school and you had to pay for it.

But do you remember when the building at Crossways was used as a school?

Yes, my Dad, when he was a boy he went there to school 'cos there wasn't a school.

Your father went there ...

He was born at West Horsley in 1860.

And came to Effingham when he was ...

In 1861.

To work in Effingham?

No, he was a baby, my grandfather come in.

Oh, I see.

Yes, you see, my grandfather knew Uriah Loxley, of the Loxley farm, see they were – well, one another I suppose – they were always together, you see, there was Grandfather, they could always trust Grandfather, and he used to work, he was part-term?, I don't know what he wasn't ...

He worked for Mr. Loxley?

Yes, he worked for him right up till he couldn't work any longer.

Your grandfather?

My grandfather. And then Uriah Loxley looked after him, that's when he died, I don't know which died first, one or the other.

And where did he (the grandfather) live?

Next door to where I was, where we first come, he lived in the end house, that house opposite the Haig. There was three cottages, see, first it was one house and then it was divided into three cottages and – I don't know, my father didn't tell me – whether grandfather was the first to go in there, as a cottage,

I don't know. But however, in the middle there was someone lived there, I forget what her name was, she used to take in washing, you know, laundry, she used to take that in, and in the top end was an old lady lived there, name of Creasey, well she had ...

Creasey.

Creasey, Mrs. Creasey, I did remember that after you was gone!

Now you told me, I think, that the teacher who taught your father, her name was Miss Tagg.

Yes, well when my Dad was old enough to go to school, you see, he went up to the Crossways, that was the only school there, the few children there was they went there to school, see Miss Tegg [she seems to say 'Tegg' rather than 'Tagg'] would be young then, but I could remember of course when she was a very old woman.

And where was she living when you ...

She lived there.

And what did they use that for when they opened the new school? Was it just ...

Well, she still lived there.

She lived in the school?

Yes, she still lived there.

Now Mrs Essam, are you too tired to tell us any more, would you like to ...

No, I will carry on til you finish 'cos I don't like to ***

You told us you remembered old Mr Tyrrell.

Yes, old Froggy Tyrrell, he was nine years older than me.

Well, why did you call him Froggy?

I don't know, that was his name when he was at school, his nickname, and he had that name right up to the day he died, to those that really knew him.

It was those who really knew him.

It was always 'Froggy werrr – what do you mean, old Froggy Tyrrell' !

And where did he live, do you remember him at school?

On the Common. Oh yes, he was nine years old then me, 'cos he was further up the school and I was down the bottom.

How old were you when you left school?

When I left school I was just not quite eleven years old.

And you never went back to school?

No.

Why did you leave?

Because my mother was delicate, she had heart trouble, you had to feed her, I had to look after her, I was fatherless, I also had to be a mother to all the jobs etc. and so forth – so, I left school.

Do you remember which house Mr Tyrrell lived at, on the Common?

Well ...

Was it anywhere near Slaters Oak, or ...

Yes, but not that side, over the other side.

Can you remember anything about ...

Yes, he had a big ... he had a house, it was a big house, just the top of the hill where the *** lived in, The Willows, then there's another one, I think it was The Willows that he lived in ... no, no, he lived in another one just above it, I think there's three along there, and he lived just there somewhere. And I went, going up there, to get the loom to do the laurels [The Laurels?] with. And *** the old chap? used to come in sometimes and we used to go round ...

He (Tyrrell) was a wonderful old man, wasn't he?

Yes, yes,

I remember him, he used to wear a smock – do you remember him?

Yes.

*And he had a lovely little wife, didn't he, very very pretty, with a lovely ***. They were very very nice people.*

Used to go out with her and in the ... when we had our summer holidays, mother used to do up her basket and we'd go down there while Dad was digging the loom.

When you say 'the loom', what is 'the loom'?

Well, that's the green that you make lawns with, you know, they cut up all the old stuff and there's the bare earth and then this grass what they get down there, it's a special place down there, it's treated left [?] and they cut it up in pieces like that, and then they lay it in the lawns.

And who did that – Mr Carpenter?

Oh no, he used to ... I don't know what he had, he had cows and all sorts there, I don't know what he did have really, sheep and pigs and all. And we went down, he used to let them out on the Common. Then, you see, if we were down there he'd come out, Father with a jug of tea or, if Mother was there, if us youngsters were there, it would be hot milk and water. See, he had cows, one or two cows, sheep, pigs. 'Cos I didn't have much use for those, but where the pigs was of course I was there.

You liked pigs, did you?

Yes. You can make a good pet of a pig and a pig is a very clean thing, it's awfully clean is a pig.

Have you ever kept a pig?

No, but I've been where they, where they are, I've not looked after them.

And on pigs, we'd like you to tell us, if you possibly could, and that is about the shops, where did you do your shopping?

Well, you know where Yew Tree House is. Now up The Street we had a baker's shop, Richards' the name, and when Miss Faris died, Miss Richards was the organist at the church. She took that over.

Miss Faris was the organist before she died?

Yes.

She lived in Crossways?

Yes, in Crossways House, she lived in, Miss Faris. Well, the baker up The Street, he had three daughters. His eldest daughter Edith, when Miss Faris died, she took over as the organist at the church, 'cos Miss Faris used to play the organ there.

Did you have a very big congregation in those days? Was the church full?

Sometimes, and sometimes no, all depends.

Now you told us that you knew Mr Bayly.

Yes.

And you told us that he gave you ... Will you tell us about the thimble again, how he came to give you the thimble?

Well now ... he always ... his mother gave him that thimble – and he always carried it, I think that was the last thing she used – and he always carried it in his waistcoat pocket, didn't matter where he went, what clothes he had on, that thimble was always in his waistcoat pocket. So this day I was, I think, sewing a button from his shirt, so there was a button on there, it was hanging on the chair where the parlourmaid put it there for to air, and I see there was a button off, so I sewed a button on, sewing a button on, but I hadn't got a thimble. She she said 'You'll prick you finger, won't you?' I said 'No.' 'That's useful, that's all right.' Never said anything more. So I ... now when I went down, when I took him the coffee, he said 'Here you are, my mother's thimble.' That was in 1900.

That was very kind of him. You were working at the Rectory?

Yes, for the *** a bit of time?. Most of the houses ... our jobs were temporary, you know, when they wanted anybody – used to run down for me, to go and do the odd job if it was only for a couple of hours. I never had a proper job really.

Would you mind telling us, if you don't mind this, about the fever but and how you did the laying-out of people? How old were you when you first started?

My first start was – laying out a dead person – was Mr Bayly's housekeeper. And I was fifteen years old. And the old lady that went round doing the job, she come in to do it, you see, Old Granny Barnett. And she come in, she said to me 'Here, come on, you will do that.', she said, 'Oh', I said, 'I couldn't, I couldn't touch her.' You know, I helped to look after the old lady and wash her and that sort of thing. 'Oh yes you can,' she said, 'now come on, you're going to do it.' And she made me do it. Stripped all *** out, washed her, her dead body, cleaned her all up ready. And when the coffin come I helped put her in the coffin, put her all straight. I was fifteen years old. And you learn more religion of doing that than you do going to church.

That was a very noble thing for you to do. and did you do it often?

I've always done it, or right up here till Dr Winslow Smith stopped me doing it.

Because you were not strong enough?

Yes.

Did you not mind doing it?

Oh I loved it. The sum ... if they was like myself I always used to charge five shillings. I thought 'Oh well, they can pay – five shillings.' And I have a cup of tea, in poor places like myself. Well I'd have my cup of tea, I'd put my five shillings down and say no more about it. I never took it out the house – but they paid me, you see: they paid me for doing it. See, you learned all those little things *** today – it would.

Well, now, you told us that the fever but ...

Well, there was a coffee room, down at the corner, a coffee room, it was on the top road, along here ... there's the ... it was used as a hospital – smallpox, and before that, I know it was just before that, it was along there they had the black fever. And here's one that lives down here, his great-grandfather had it. And he lay just inside the ... they didn't take them in church them days, they put them in the coffin – and they never had a proper coffin, they put them in a box – and they put him ... he lay just inside the gate with the Vicarage, just round in the churchyard, just round inside the gate, two days there.

And he had smallpox?

No, he had black fever.

Oh, black fever.

My father had smallpox but he wasn't ill enough to go into hospital.

But he got better quite ...

Yes, he got better, but it left him with a hole that ***

Do you remember if there was a doctor in the village?

No, we had to go to Bookham, Great Bookham.

Do you remember what his name was?

Why, the doctor that I first remember was Dr Stedman, a very old man and he had a beard all down ... And when my brother Jim was born, he come in there and he'd got an old scarf, one of those old woolly scarves on his head with a ... tied across here, and he brought a very young man with him. And he said 'this young man will attend you, Mrs Cox', he said. He said, and he pointed to me, old Dr Stedman, and he said 'Young man *** occasionally' (laughter). And that was in the ... where Ranger lived, when he first come in here, my oldest brother Jim was born in there.

And how old were you then?

Er, well, my sister was ... two in March ... well, I suppose I'd be about, let's call it, two, five, six.

Well, you must have lived very near The Blücher.

Yes, yes, I used to play in there, used to come out and run in there, and play in there, in the house ...

Who had that?

People with the name of Chandler.

Did they have it for a long time?

Well, I don't know how long ... yes, they had it some time till I was grown up, until the time I could work.

And do you remember when ...

And they had lovely gardens.

Did they?

They went back, oh they were beautiful.

Now can you tell us how far they went back, how far did those gardens go?

Well, see it's cut up now. Where the garage is, and the other part, and where the coach house, lawn, ... yes, well that was built in the garden, all that was built in the garden ...

Oh yes ...

... and they come – well, I don't know how far – because there was a wall along the back.

Did it go back as far as where Mr Ranger lived, where you lived?

Yes, that was all the stable yard, the back of Ranger's, where he is now, you see that was all the stable yard you *** those gates ...

Now is that Mr Lambert's stable yard?

That was Mr Lambert's, yes.

And it wasn't the inn, it didn't belong to the inn?

Well, the inn, I don't know who it belonged to, who the Prince Blücher belonged to, I don't know the brewer, I never did know the brewer, all I know was, it was The Prince Blücher and Chandler [Challis?] lived there, and it was a lovely place. Well, when they moved out, another lot went in, the name of Bonser [Bonsey?], and they used to have teas and like a restaurant ...

[The tape then has 23 seconds of total silence before continuing:]

... that's where you go in this end of the door, that was the tap room, where *** [he had that made larger?], you see, and in the garden he had two big electric engines, he made his own electricity, the rest of us never had electricity in Effingham then.

Mr Lambert did?

Yes, he's out there. For his house and all his property, you know, his two big electric engines was in there.

Did he make a lot of alterations to the Manor House, Mr Lambert did?

Yes.

Could you tell us ...

Well, he had what they've got there, he had all those coach houses built, he had the stables built, he had my Dad's stable [built?] – now Ranger's got it for rubbish or something ... so my Dad's ...

[end of recording]

Commentary

Mrs Essam was born on 3 June 1884 as Laura Annie Cox [GRO Ref: Dorking 2a 116, 1884 (Q3)]. In what follows she is referred to simply as Laura.

Her tape-recorded oral history is of greater antiquity than the other oral histories we currently possess and may be a unique source of certain details about Effingham and its people. It is therefore worth analysing her account. The recording is now not of very high quality (if it ever was) and her strong accent, hesitations and wayward phrasing present challenges in places. Matters are not helped either by Monica's frequent interruptions and her habit of talking over what Laura is trying to say. Consequently, a few uttered words or phrases have so far resisted transcription.

Laura's parents were James Cox (Junior) born in 1860 and Eliza (née) Gorringe, who married in 1883 [GRO Ref: Dorking 2a 205, 1883 (Q2)]. She married Charles James Essam in 1908 [GRO Ref: Dorking 2a 377, 1908 (Q4)] and produced by him a son Daniel ('Dan') Gorringe Essam born on 7 February 1914 [GRO Ref: Dorking 2a 364, 1914 (Q1)]. Charles James died aged 79 in 1955 [GRO Ref: Surrey Mid.E. 5g 213, 1955 (Q1)]. Daniel died aged 85 in 1999 [GRO Ref: West Surrey 87B/7611B 106, 1999 (July)].

The cassette tape from which this transcript was made was in the possession of Mary Rice-Oxley and marked with the comment that Laura died in '1971 aged 84'. She was actually 87 when she died, in Somerset, in 1971 [GRO Ref: Frome 7c 946, 1971 (Q3)]. This tape's marking gives the date of the recording as 1970.

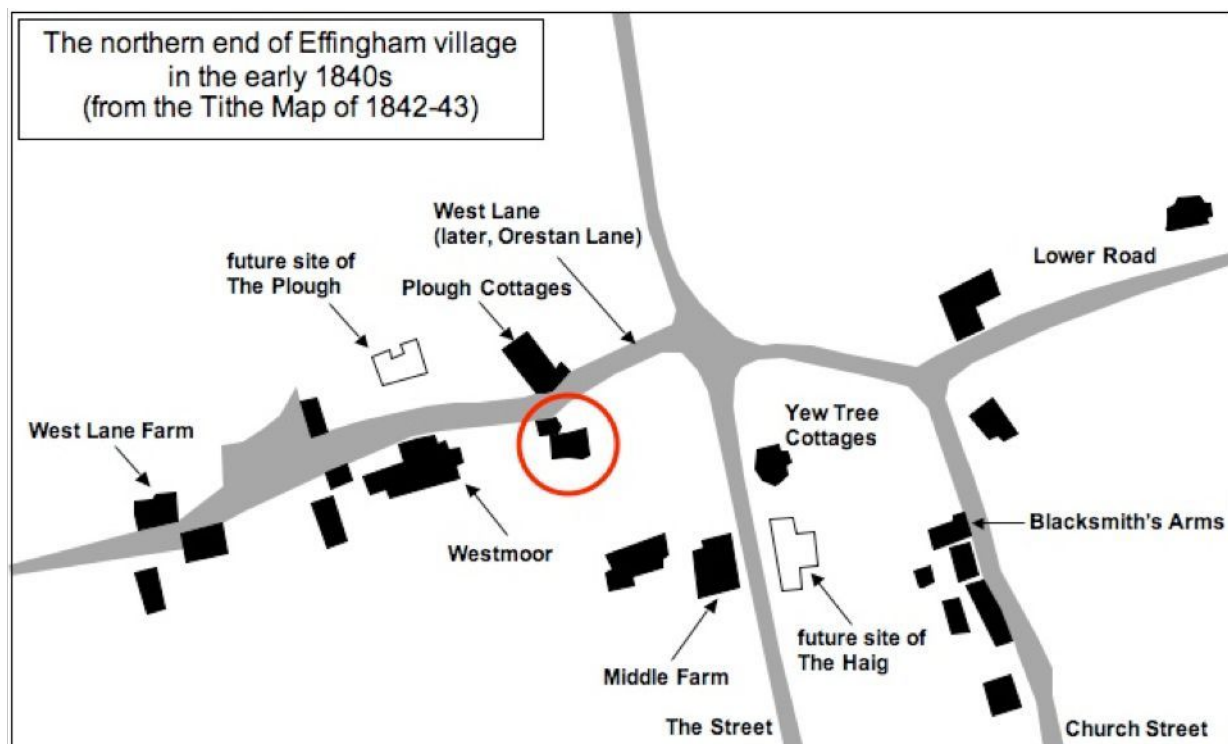


Figure 1 The northern end of Effingham village; early 1840s.

Laura begins by telling us that she was born in the middle cottage in a group of three white ones that once stood 'opposite' The Plough inn. Her phrases 'back on the left' and 'round the corner' when 'going to

The Plough' establish that these cottages were those forming the red-circled group shown on the 1840s map in Figure 1. In the present day this group consists of a single dwelling called Ramtops (formerly Beech Cottage) but a century ago consisted of three separate ones; on a map from 1920 they are labelled Westmore Cottages. This naming is potentially confusing, not only because the much older property Old Westmoor Cottage has often been called Old 'Westmore' Cottage but also because at the southern end of the three Plough Cottages there was appended, in a staggered fashion (as the map below shows), a further dwelling called Westmore Cottage.

Her oldest siblings Mary Ann and Arthur James (who were twins, as she says) were born in 1887 [GRO Ref: Guildford 2a 65, 1887 (Q1)]. Arthur James appears to have died very soon afterwards [GRO Ref: Guildford 2a 47, 1887 (Q1)]. Her remark 'I had two brothers' would be more correctly rendered as 'I had two *surviving* brothers', these being James Alfred born in 1890 [GRO Ref: Dorking 2a 160, 1890 (Q1)] and Louis Henry born on 24 November 1894 [GRO Ref: Dorking 2a 154, 1894 (Q1)]. Since she states 'there's [now] only me and my younger brother' we must infer that by 1970 James Alfred had died; his GRO death reference has not yet been clearly identified. Louis Henry was certainly still alive in 1970; he died in 1976 [GRO Ref: Eastbourne 18 0511, 1976 (Q2)].

Laura gives the birthplace of the twins as the home of 'Lady Russell's' at Hatchford End which she describes as being in Ockham; although near Ockham it is actually in the parish of Cobham. She must be referring to Miss Rowena Elizabeth Russell, baptised in 1845 as the eldest daughter of Hester (née Lushington), wife of Capt Robert Russell RN. Hester was the eldest daughter of the Privy Counsellor, judge and anti-slavery campaigner the Rt Hon Dr Stephen George Lushington. As far as we can determine, however, Rowena never bore the formal title of 'Lady'. The twins were christened by Rev Louis Herbert Wellesley Wesley, Vicar of Hatchford; he was born around 1845 and, according to his census returns, did not know his own birthplace but believed it to be Southwell in Cambridgeshire. 'Granny Birch' who attended the births may have been the wife Elizabeth of John Birch – this couple were the oldest people named Birch living in Ockham parish at this time, both being in their sixties.

Laura then relates the movements of her father in this period. She says that from the age of 16 (ie around 1876) he worked at 'the Manor House' (Effingham House), living there in the bothy among the outbuildings on the east side of Beech Avenue opposite the house; this area was later used by Mr Ranger as a market garden. At that time the tenancy of the house was held by the chemical manufacturer Thomas Farmer Hall whose firm (or family) Laura describes as 'the paint and whitewash people'. Mr Hall and his family had certainly been at the house in 1881, but had departed by 1885. When James Cox (Junior) married in 1883 he presumably left the bothy and set up home in the white cottage 'opposite The Plough'. Laura appears to suggest that, when she was newly born there in 1884, she was taken by her father up to the Manor House to be presented to Mrs Hall (whose maiden name was Maria Robinson Kay).

It appears that her father then left the employ of Mr Hall and worked for about a year at 'Lady Russell's', where the twins were born in 1887, before returning to Effingham. She says that her father 'saw the Lamberts in'. This refers to the family of the tobacco magnate Charles Edward Lambert, but her chronology here may be somewhat awry as Lambert had already taken up the tenancy of the house in 1885.

On their return to Effingham Laura's family went to live at 'High Barns'. Her description here is not precise enough to identify the 'first two cottages' firmly, but they may have been the pair adjacent to High Barn Farm at the top of High Barn Road. Her statement that 'Mr. Lambert built them' is not correct; they were built in 1873, the date shown on their chimneys. She says that they were on land occupied by 'Farmer Brown'.

The latter was Samuel Brown, baptised at St Paul's Walden, Hertfordshire on 29 January 1832. In 1854 he had first married in Hitchin to Harriet (née) Bygrave, who died in 1860. In 1863 he remarried in Southampton to Emma (née) Marshman and continued living in Hertfordshire. He and Emma appear to have moved from there to Effingham in the 1870s. Until then he had been occupied as a grocer and baker. By 1881 he was living at High Barn Farm, but by 1891 had moved into the village proper, at Manor Farm – the property today called Browns. Laura appears to say that as a child she would sometimes play at Browns and be asked to run errands such as fetching milk. Samuel died in 1897 [GRO Ref: Dorking 2a 91, 1897 (Q3)].

Her family seems not to have stayed long at 'High Barns', going to live once again at the Effingham House bothy. This is where they are found living in the 1891 Census, with James occupied as a cowman. She recalls the arrival of the Lamberts' new coachman 'Mr. Chapman'. This was Brighton-born John Lewin Chapman who in 1878 had married Emma Sparrow (née) Sindale. In 1891 these two were living above the stables with their nine children, with John occupied as a coachman and domestic servant. His second son, whom Laura calls 'Jack', was John Rave Chapman, born in 1882 at Earl's Court in London; Laura says of this 'pal' of hers that he was 'about four years' older than her, but the gap was actually just two years.

She is asked by Monica about the school she attended and implies – as one would expect – that it was the National (later St Lawrence) School, ‘down the bottom’ (of The Street). However, she also states that her father James (Junior) had had his schooling at the single-storey building at Crossways (adjoining The Street) because ‘there wasn’t a [proper] school’. This seems to make no sense: when he was born in 1860, the National School had already been open for three years, surely rendering redundant the former schooling provision at Crossways.

She discusses next her father’s arrival in Effingham as a baby in 1861. His own father James Cox (Senior), an agricultural labourer born in Ripley in 1826, had married in 1846 to Warwickshire-born Maria (née) Crowley [GRO Ref: Guildford 4 181, 1846 (Q2)] and raised his children in West Horsley. At the time of the 1861 Census they were living there in Spring Cottage, with their youngest child James (Junior) aged just ‘8 months’. The 1871 Census finds them living in Effingham at Ruffinshaw House, off Church Street, with James (Junior) now aged ‘11’ and recorded as attending school.

Laura next relates that her grandfather James (Senior) worked for Mr Uriah Loxley. Uriah was born around 1824 in Colmworth, Bedfordshire, just north-east of the town of Bedford. He was baptised, in his teens, on 20 February 1837 in the nearby village of Clapham where he was still living in 1851. By 1861 he had moved to Home Farm in Effingham, still unmarried. He married Sarah (née) Hooker in 1869 [GRO Ref: Guildford 2a 45, 1869 (Q1)]. His family appears at Home Farm in subsequent censuses up to 1901. Laura’s account implies that her grandfather had worked part-time for Uriah and then been ‘looked after’ by him until whichever one died first. In fact it was James (Senior) who died first, in 1903 [GRO Ref: Dorking 2a 118, 1903 (Q1)], whilst Uriah died the following year [GRO Ref: Dorking 2a 97, 1904 (Q2)].

Monica then asks Laura where her grandfather James (Senior) had lived and is told that this was in one of the three cottages opposite The Sir Douglas Haig Hotel (these cottages later became the single property we know today as Middle Farm). The 1901 Census finds him living there in the household of a farm carter Jesse Bolton who in 1887 had married his daughter Anne Maria (Laura’s aunt). Next door were Laura’s parents and siblings. Her father James (Junior) had clearly moved out of Mr Lambert’s bothy. He too was occupied as a farm carter. Laura, however, was no longer at home – she had already left Effingham and gone into service. The 1901 Census finds her living, at age 16, at St John’s Foundation School in Leatherhead where she was employed as a housemaid.

The conversation now returns to the schooling of James (Junior) and again Laura says that he attended Crossways, ‘the only school there’, and was taught by a Miss Tegg. But, as noted earlier, by the 1860s when James (Junior) would have been of school age, Effingham already had its own National School, which had opened in 1857. It may be that Laura’s father had been taught by Miss Tegg because that was a cheaper option than his attending the National School. Miss Tegg was very probably a Mary who had been born in Effingham in about 1827-28 whom the 1871 Census finds in Effingham as the ‘wife’ of John Tegg, an agricultural labourer born in Little Bookham (no marriage record has been found for them). The 1881 Census finds John as a patient in London’s King’s College Hospital in Portugal Street and Mary as a visitor of her friend Julia Wareham at 49, Barclay Street, St Pancras. John died aged ‘57’ in 1882 and was buried at All Saints, Little Bookham on 24 April. The 1891 Census finds Mary widowed and evidently residing alone at the coach house of Crossways living on her own means; this is the period in which Laura, as a child, could have known Mary.

Next, Laura talks about ‘old Mr Tyrrell’, telling Monica that his nickname was always ‘Froggy Tyrrell’ and that he was ‘nine years older’ than her. Almost certainly, this was Henry Tyrrell who was born in East Horsley on 9 February 1875 [GRO Ref: Guildford 2a 64, 1875 (Q1)]. (Strictly, their age gap was about four months under nine years.) Henry was the son of Edward Tyrrell (baptised at Wisley in June 1853) and Elizabeth (née) Ranger, who had married on 28 November 1874 [GRO Ref: Guildford 2a 83, 1874 (Q4)]. In 1970 Henry told Mary Rice-Oxley that his parents had both attended the school in Crossways. Soon after Henry’s birth, Edward, a labourer, moved his family from East Horsley to Effingham, where the 1881 Census finds them living on the Common. Edward died aged ‘31’ in 1885 [GRO Ref: Dorking 2a 103, 1885 (Q1)] and three years later Elizabeth remarried, to George Burton [GRO Ref: Dorking 2a 226a, 1888 (Q3)]. The 1891 Census finds the family living at ‘Common Cottage’ which appears in the schedule between Slaters Oak and Banks Cottage. Henry, now aged ‘16’, was working as an agricultural labourer. In 1899 he married a Scots woman named Williamina – or Wilhelmina – (née) Gibb, born in Tarves, Aberdeenshire. She must have been the ‘very, very pretty’, ‘lovely little wife’ recalled by Monica in this interview. The following year their daughter Mary was born [GRO Ref: Dorking 2a 172, 1900 (Q2)]. The 1901 Census finds Henry living on the Common with his (much) younger brother Edward, whilst his wife (with their infant daughter) was visiting her widowed mother (also named Mary) in Tarves. The family was still on the Common in the 1911 Census, apparently having produced no other children. Williamina

died in 1936 [GRO Ref: Surrey S.W. 2a 580, 1876 (Q1)], but Henry outlived her by a further 33 years, dying aged '94' in 1969 [GRO Ref: Sutton 5e 192, 1969 (Q2)].

The discussion of Mr Tyrrell alludes briefly to a Mr Carpenter, presumed to be John Carpenter who lived on the Common at Leebrooke until his death in late 1931, after which that property passed into the ownership of Adrian George Estler.

After this, Monica asks Laura about the shops, but is told very little about them; Laura seems to lose track here and begins talking instead about the organist 'Miss Faris'. The latter was Elizabeth Susan Faris who lived with her unmarried sister Margaret Young Faris. They had been living in Effingham as far back as 1851 and possibly earlier. The 1881 Census finds the sisters living in Effingham at The Cottage in The Street with their mother Mary – described as an Officer's widow – and gives their birthplace as the East Indies; more precisely, they were born at Quilon, a formerly Portuguese colony, on the Dutch Malabar coast of India. Mary died aged '79' in 1885 [GRO Ref: Dorking 2a 98, 1885 (Q4)] and was buried in St Lawrence churchyard. The girls' father George had died in India in 1835 and is commemorated on his wife Mary's gravestone. By 1891 the two sisters had moved to Crossways House (this is clear, though not explicit, from the schedule) and were living on independent means. Margaret died aged '61' soon after the census, on 16 May [GRO Ref: Dorking 2a 188, 1891 (Q2)], and Elizabeth died '71' in 1899 [GRO Ref: Dorking 2a 111, 1899 (Q3)]. They were buried in the same plot as their mother. The church contains wall plaques to all four of them: that for Elizabeth Susan reads '*Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam and in memory of Elizabeth Susan Faris who died July 4th 1899. Erected by Rev. E.F. Bayly, vicar. Easter 1900*'. Laura states that the role of (church) organist was now taken over by the 'eldest daughter Edith' of the baker, Mr Richards, 'up The Street'. Mr William Richards was the man who, besides much else, sold the photographic postcards of the village that are today so valuable to us. His daughter Edith Agnes was born in Hertfordshire in 1878 [GRO Ref: Edmonton 3a 297, 1878 (Q4)].

This turns the discussion to the Reverend Frederic [sic] Ernest Bayly (who usually gave his forenames in reverse order) and the thimble that he gave to Laura. The thimble, we are told, had belonged to his mother, whose name was Mary (née) Maskell.

Monica then enquires about Laura's role in laying out the dead. Laura says that her first experience of this was when, at the insistence of 'Granny Barnett', she performed it for Rev Bayly's deceased housekeeper. The 1891 Census shows that this housekeeper was a widow Sophia Thompson, then aged 79. Twenty years earlier she had been a servant in the household of his father Frederic Jolliffe Bayly. Her origins have not yet been discovered. She died aged '88' on 17 March 1900 [GRO Ref: Dorking 2a 154, 1900 (Q1)] and was buried at St Lawrence. Laura is wholly accurate in saying that she was 'fifteen years old' when she laid out Sophia's body.

'Granny Barnett', who had traditionally done this task in the village, was the widow Ann (née Jackson) of Francis Barnett. These two were both born in Effingham, he around 1814 and she around 1831. In 1861 Francis was living with his mother Mary in the Alms Houses. He married Ann somewhat late in life, in 1868 [GRO Ref: Dorking 2a 177, 1868 (Q2)]. They produced a son William who in turn fathered Frederick William Barnett, one of the fallen men in the Great War commemorated on the St Lawrence shrine. Francis died aged '72' in 1886 [GRO Ref: Dorking 2a 98, 1886 (Q2)]. Ann died aged '86' in 1917 [GRO Ref: Dorking 2a 346, 1917 (Q1)] and so would have experienced the loss of her grandson Frederick William in July 1915.

Laura tells Monica that she has 'always done' the laying out, until her doctor stopped her, but it is unclear whether she remained 'on call' for it while she was living and working in Leatherhead in her later teens. The doctor she mentions was William Leslie Winslow Smith, born in Dublin in 1896, whose practice was in East Horsley; he died on 14 September 1967 [*British Medical Journal*, Issue 14 October 1967, p116].

The focus then turns to the 'fever hut'. This refers to the large, white wooden hut standing at the corner of The Street and Orestan Lane, currently the premises of Colets Piling Ltd. On its exterior is a sign reading 'The Old Village Hall'. From early 1877 it had stood alongside the Guildford Road (now the A246) and functioned as an isolation hospital. By the early 1900s it had been relocated to its present site and was being used by the village for various purposes, including a venue for Parish Council meetings, a Reading Room and a coffee shop. Laura says that in its days as a hospital it had been used to treat 'black fever' (and, later, smallpox) and mentions an acquaintance whose great-grandfather had this 'black fever'. The latter possibly refers to what was commonly known as Kala-azar (in Hindi) or dum dum fever; technically this was *visceral leishmaniasis*, a sandfly-borne parasitic disease of extreme seriousness. Many men serving abroad, such as in the Indian Army, succumbed to it. However, the hospital being discussed had been built for smallpox cases. She mentions that her father had had smallpox, from which he had recovered.

The subject of doctors is then raised and Laura recalls a 'Dr Stedman' in Great Bookham. The 1891 Census shows that, when she was a young girl, a general practitioner Arthur Stedman was living in Great

Bookham's Church Street, whilst in the nearby High Street there lived his older brother Frederic [sic] Savignac Stedman, a retired Army major and surgeon who had served in Upper Bombay. Both these men were born in Sevenoaks, to parents Robert and Theodosia, and were baptised there in 1834 and 1829 respectively. It is perhaps Arthur whom Laura is remembering. He died in 1894 and so could well have attended the birth of her 'oldest brother Jim' in 1890, but his age at that time (56) scarcely qualifies him as 'a very old man'; still, he may have appeared so to a girl aged only 6.

She recalls playing as a child in The Prince Blücher (as the inn was then called). This is the property at the crossroads which is today named Crosslands. She gives the names Chandler and Bonsor for the people who occupied it but it is uncertain as to which era she is referring to. Francis Albert Bonsor, born in 1859, had been the publican at The Prince Blücher from around March 1894 until early 1901. It may be that her 'Chandler' was actually Challis, since the proprietor was recorded as Sidney H Challis in the 1901 Census, this being the time when she became 'grown up' and 'could work'.

Her account ends with a glimpse of the works that Mr Lambert of the Manor House undertook on his land (the stable yard, etc.) behind the inn. A very interesting detail given here is that he installed two electricity generators for powering 'his house and all his property'. In her book *The History of Effingham* Monica states that 'early in the 20th century' The Prince Blücher ceased to function as an inn and that the tenant of Effingham Manor (presumably Lambert) used it instead for staff accommodation. This change of use was certainly no later than 1904 because we have a photograph from that year showing the new Blücher Hotel at the northern end of The Street.

As noted in the above transcript, the tape has a 23-second blank period near the end which may or may not signify the loss of some recorded material.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1: adapted by Christopher John Hogger from the 1842 Tithe Map for Effingham

Oral History – Winifred Annie (née Stovell) Hall

Recorded by YVONNE SHAW and CHRISTOPHER JOHN HOGGER

Mrs Hall was aged 103 when a recorded interview with her was undertaken by ELHG in 2011. By then she was mostly confined to bed in her downstairs front living room, which is where the interview took place. Her daughter Monica played an important role in making the meeting possible and also lent to ELHG, for scanning, a set of photographs providing unique views of the Old Forge and the adjacent Yew Tree Cottages in which the Stovell family had lived.

Introduction

Mrs Winifred Annie (née Stovell) Hall was born on 18 September 1907 to parents Arthur Archibald Stovell and Gertrude Georgianna (née) Bell who had married in 1906. She married in 1934 to George Hall.

She was interviewed and recorded at her Effingham home 12 Strathcona Avenue, in the presence of her daughter Mrs Monica Christine Wallis, on 14 February 2011 by Yvonne Shaw and Christopher John Hogger. The audio recording is accessible on Effingham Local History Group's website but is not transcribed verbatim here as the interview structure was not suitable for that purpose. Instead, the text below was produced by Yvonne Shaw from the recording and faithfully represents Winifred's narration of the events in her life.

Winifred died on 19 August 2013.

Winifred's narrative

I stayed at the same school till I was 14 and then my Mum got me a job to work with the schoolmistress and I didn't like her. And I gave my notice in but Mum made me go back and work for her again and then I heard there was someone else that had a job and they was giving me half-a-crown more money a week. So I told Mum and I gave my notice in again and worked for them and they were in the little grocer's shop opposite Effingham church. I done housework for every job I did. They were Yates; they had a grocer's and sweet shop. And if they weren't there I used to serve in the shop until they come back. And then they moved and they took over a big grocer's shop by where the butcher's is now. And I went with them. And the shop itself was all hard boards; they stained them and I had to polish them on my hands and knees. You didn't take any notice of things like that in those days, you just got on with it.

My name before I was married was Stovell. My Dad was a boot repairer. Eventually Mum and Dad bought the old forge that used to be a pub. My Dad was born in there but he never drank; he signed the pledge. I lived there until I got married. I didn't get married until I was 27 and then the girls came along after two years; two girls. My other daughter's up at Leicester so I don't see her very often.

My husband worked on the building; of course he was in and out of [the] dole because they didn't work if it was frosty but we managed. Of course he was [sic] TB, he died when he was 36 and then I had to go to the council in Epsom to claim money for myself and the girls. If I went out to work they stopped my money; it's better now than it was.

I lived in West Ewell when I got married. The council found us a house so that my husband could have a room on his own. And then his sister lived here and she went back to Durham and he wanted to get back here because all his brothers were here and so we moved over here. He had four brothers and a sister. He went to three different sanatoriums and he was the other side of Guildford when the war broke out and they sent him home before they could start anything with him. And then my mother died [in 1951] and my Dad had to come and live with me so there was myself and the two girls and Dad all in the one bedroom. I got a friend to come and live with me after my husband died and she had two children and the girls slept with her and the boy had to have a little room. Then when the new council houses were built in Norwood Road she applied for one of them and then Dad could have a room of his own which made it easier. Well then of course he died, he was 86 when he died [in 1966]. I think about what he used to say. If he said something to me and I wanted my way, he'd say, 'Alright gal you have your way, you'll live longest.' I often think of him when he said that. The books that I'm reading, some of those sayings come up in that.

I worked hard all my life. At school there were three classes. The mistress had one and then we went up to the master's one. He was a nice man; I got on all right with him. His name was Adams I think. I don't know who died first, but I think one of them died when I was at West Ewell. I wasn't there long.

With the bombing, my husband was getting a bag of nerves and when he knew that we could come here, his sister saw the rent people and they let us come over and we've been here ever since.

There was a baker's shop, Richards. Because when I was at school, every day I had to go and get the bread and come home and have a snack and then I had a hot meal when I came home from school.

I had to work for my Mum, do her cleaning and everything, when I was 7 years old. We moved into the two little cottages next to the Haig – Yew Tree Cottages. And there was just two up and two down. No sink, no gas, no electric but eventually my Mum got round to the landlord and had that but with the sink, you had to have a bucket outside because the water wouldn't run away. And Dad had to have holes to empty the water into in the garden. Nothing like that now.

Where the butcher's is now, there used to be just a little butcher's shop because they had one in Bookham and they used to come over about twice a week and I had to go up and get the meat, and if they gave me the wrong meat I had to take it back and get it changed. There was a big grocer's shop, Tommy West his name was and then he sold it and Yates took it on and I followed them there and Tommy West made a tea shop on the main road next to where Sibley's is on the main road. I used to wait for my husband to come home from work. He started with gardening when he first came from Durham and we used to have a cup of tea there and of course then Yates finished and they turned it into flats.

There used to be a chemist's where the hairdressers is. You could put your prescription there but they had to take it to Bookham and then come back again.

I worked for Mr Bayly and sometimes I also used to clean the school and the chapel. The chapel has an organ and I used to play the organ with one finger! I liked music. My Dad got the Effingham band up. The boys of Effingham broke into the Working Man's club and they got the drums, two small drums and the big drum, and of course they didn't know you have to wind them up for them to play and and of course they busted them. Well then there was a Miss Ross and she was very keen on getting the boys together and she asked Dad (Mum and Dad were caretakers of the club) if he could pack them up and she'd send them up to London and she'd get them all done. Then Dad got the older people to learn the flute – it was a drum and flute band. There used to be a room at the back of the Working Men's Club called the concert room. It had a stage there and at harvest time, the man who used to beat the drum was working and so I had to do that. But I couldn't carry the big drum, I had a small one and I used to march with the boys going round the room. My Dad was a cripple and the boys made fun of him and he gave it up. Another man, Mr Street he took it on. I can't remember why it disappeared.

When the Rev Bayly was there he used to live in the vicarage, and he moved from there into a small cottage opposite the forge cottages and my first dog used to take the local paper across the road and drop it on their step. My Dad wouldn't let me have a dog – he was bitten three times, but when he came to live here with me you couldn't keep the dog away from him. He'd sit in the garden and have a cup of tea and call the dog to come and get a drink. I can understand it with him being bitten. He used to work at Stemp's in Bookham, they were boot repairers.

Then the people in The Lodge (just past the school on the Lower Road) they were Catholics and he had the Catholic Church built. And he had the boys learn the chip carving and Dad learnt boot repairing. Well eventually he went to Bookham and the man who had it then was a Mr Wragg and he gave Dad sixpence for his first day. He was apprentice. Well then eventually they wanted him to teach the daughter the trade and he did but then Dad got the sack so he started on his own. Mind you he used to work for nothing really and when the stiletto heels came in he wouldn't mend them. He said you should wear flat heels, your back will be bad in years to come. I always wore flat heels. I remember my Mum taking me to Leatherhead to buy a new pair of shoes and there was nothing that I liked and I had to have flat heels, and the man said, 'Your daughter is too fussy' and I turned round and said 'My Dad knows what sort of shoes I should wear, he's a boot repairer'.

[To get to Leatherhead] We had to walk to Effingham Junction or Bookham station and then we had to walk at the other end. In later years I used to bike. After I moved away, I was carrying Monica [her daughter], I used to bike over from Epsom, do Mum's work for the day, a bit of cooking and then bike home again. I used to bike a long way. Monica used to bike with me, we used to bike to Redhill and Reigate. I used to love biking. My husband, before we were married, was knocking down a flinted wall and he got a bit of flint in his eye and finished up in Guildford Hospital and I used to bike in every day to see him.

We arranged to get married in the November and when he came home I said I'm not waiting any longer and we got married on 1st December. He was a Catholic but he never asked me to change or anything. I had to promise that the girls would be Catholics but I don't think they bother too much nowadays. I was married in the Catholic church. My first grandson was christened in Effingham but he lives in Bideford so I don't see him very often.

The school children used to come and look into the forge to see the bellows blowing because there was a two-part door and they used to run up from school to see that. When Mr Woods retired, no-one else took it on so Dad gave the bellows to the museum at Guildford. I wonder if they are still there [they are] – they were very big. He used to make iron gates and all that sort of thing; he was a very clever man.

They used to live up Norwood Close. I was born opposite the Plough and then we moved next to the Haig and then the forge house and the bungalow opposite the church on Chapel Hill was going to be auctioned. Mum wanted the house on Chapel Hill but someone else got it and that was how we came to have Forge House and then I was able to have my own bedroom. When we lived in the other cottage, the roof went right down to the floor and you couldn't get a proper bed in there. My bed was on blocks of wood and there were the old flock mattresses, they used to get lumpy.

We had a big bonfire where the new houses were built from the avenue [Strathcona Avenue] because it was all fields there because there was a footpath that came out into Norwood Road and someone fenced it off and one of the neighbours went and cut the fencing away. There used to be lovely big fields there and you could walk from there into High Barn Road and then they had all those houses built and it wasn't the same. Still I suppose people have to live somewhere.

Oral History – Lena (née Keeling) Bridger

Recorded by the late MARY ALFREDA (NÉE BRIDGER) RICE-OXLEY

Harry Nathan Bridger and his wife Lena ran the Village Stores in Effingham near the northern end of The Street for many years and together played a strong role in the community. Mary Alfreda, their only child, lived almost her entire life in Effingham and developed a deep interest in local history, not just that of Effingham but of neighbouring parishes too. Her recollections and her mother's, as related here in much detail, have been of immense value to ELHG's research.

Introduction

Mrs Lena (née Keeling) Bridger was born on 7 April 1894 to parents John Sheppard Keeling and Phoebe (née Barnard) who had married in 1885. She married in 1924 to Harry Nathan Bridger and together they ran the Village Stores in The Street, Effingham.

She was interviewed and recorded by her daughter Mrs Mary Alfreda (née Bridger) Rice-Oxley in about 1970-71. The original cassette tape recording was digitised to mp3 format by Christopher John Hogger in June 2011 and was transcribed in July 2015 by XS Typing and Susan Morris.

The audio recording is accessible on Effingham Local History Group's website. The transcript below is verbatim.

Lena died on 14 August 1974.

Transcript

Lena: For fifteen years, in 1932, Effingham, my husband and I kept the village shop. We took the shop over in 1932 but it belonged to us for three years before that. Effingham then was completely different. We were a small self-contained village with a small population. We stayed at The Milestones [Milestone] while the shop was being enlarged and altered. We were there for three months. The Milestones which is now a flat was a bakers shop in those days with a bake house behind and stabling for the horses.

Mary: There were three horses were there?

Lena: Yes. Early in the morning when the oven was lit the crickets woke you. Opposite, where the opening to the playing field is, was a path with a belt of trees.

Mary: And I think there was a pond.

Lena: And a pond, yes there was a pond. A beautiful spot there really wasn't it? The old milestone standing there ...

Mary: Which is still there now.

Lena: Is it still there?

Mary: I think so.

Lena: The playing fields were called 'The Park'.

Mary: That was before they were turned into King George's Field.

Lena: Yes. And had several clumps of beech trees. In the summer before hay making totty grass and moon daisies were very much in evidence there.

Mary: Yes we used to go and pick them when we were children.

Lena: Yes we used to go and pick them and totty grass was a great favourite. Browns Lane had beech trees all the way up on the side of The Park.

Mary: They were destroyed weren't they because they had some disease.

Lena: A disease yes.

Mary: That was after the war wasn't it?

Lena: Yes, oh yes. All the way up from what is now 'The Lodge' to The Howard School then part of The Lodge was a long avenue of lime trees across to the bottom of the footpath of the churchyard.

Mary: And a footpath that goes up ...

Lena: Up to the Effingham church. Down the village where the Mid-Surrey Gardens is was Henry Woods, the blacksmith. You could watch him and smell the horses being shod and we used to watch the anvil being blown up and it was most interesting there wasn't it?

Mary: There's not many, there's only about two blacksmiths left now, I think now.

Lena: Well you have to go right over to Abinger now for ...

Mary: Henry Woods is still alive.

Lena: I know he is yes, he works in Leatherhead. Archer Stovell had a shoe repair shed behind, it was a small little place, very hot ...

Mary: Little rows of shoes.

Lena: ... kept heated with a small stove and everyone took their shoes there to be mended.

Mary: And he made sandals too.

Lena: Oh yes he did.

Mary: And did his carving.

Lena: And he carved beautiful tables and things and he did a lot of that chip carving. The old Post Office just above his place was used, a very tiny office. Only two people could get in.

Mary: And it had like a little tiny cubby hole that you could look through.

Lena: That's right. You just went in and ...

Mary: In the corridor ...

Lena: There was that beautiful piece of carving on the wood there wasn't there? I don't know whether that's still there, but it was very very noted.

Mary: Mrs West-Rowse / Westerhouse? lived there.

Lena: Yes that's right.

Mary: With the Pilgrim Trust ...

Lena: Plaque on the wall yes. Mrs Butcher the Post Mistress wearing black dress with a white high collar and a brooch at the neck. Inside was a lovely open fireplace in the office.

Mary: A great big fire in the winter, it was very hot.

Lena: Yes. It was lovely to go in there really. Mr Butcher was a general builder. He also did burials, the coffins were taken to church on a hand cart. Poor old Mr Butcher he had some very decided notions about things, and used to stick his feet down very hard on the Church Council. Mrs Essam has already been taped, before her recent death, she was the official layer out. Next to The Haig were two cottages, now destroyed, one occupied by Miss Marchant, she used to have a lovely bun didn't she, at the back of her head. Very picturesque.

Mary: Yes, very forbidding.

Lena: The church was much as it is now except the chapel which was still a receptacle for rubbish and unfurnished. It was lit by oil lamps and the organ was blown by hand. It was most amusing to sit in church and see the old blower.

Mary: Yes it used to make a noise before the hymn started, when he started pumping the air up.

Lena: That's right. By the last Church Cottages was a shed where a hairdresser for men and women was held on Saturday afternoons only I think.

Mary: I can't remember what her name ...

Lena: We used to go there.

Mary: She was a very good hairdresser.

Lena: Miss Campbell was the hairdresser.

Mary: She married the AA man.

Lena: Yes she married the AA man yes that's right. At the end of Orestan Lane in the woods was the Estate Lodge, and one of the Dench families lived there. It's now disappeared altogether.

Mary: It's a pity because it was one of these lovely lodges made of flint and brick.

Lena: Yes it was. It belonged to the Horsley Estate of course didn't it. Also in Orestan Lane there was West Lane Farm owned by the Killicks, now gone. It was a typical old farm house and you could get milk and thick fresh cream delivered by horse and cart daily. Old Westmoor Cottage and that next one to it, what's the name of it, where Mrs Leech lived, very tumbledown places then weren't they.

Mary: Yes they were ramshackle, somebody lived there ...

Lena: Old Westmoor wasn't, it was in a fairly good condition. Belonged to Major – I've forgotten what his name was [Col Sir Hugh Boustead] but Old Westmoor Cottage was quite lettable. The cottage opposite The Plough where Mrs Hanley lives, was separate cottages.

Mary: There were three I think.

Lena: There were three yes. Facing in The Plough forecourt was a row of attractive cottages pulled down when the Police House was built.

Mary: *They had little gardens in front didn't they?*

Lena: They had and they were very low when you went in and you knocked your head on the roof.

Mary: *Yes I think they were just one storey, perhaps they had bedrooms ...*

Lena: No I think there was a room up ...

Mary: *Very low because I remember the doorways being almost at eye level.*

Lena: Yes they were very low and very dark, still they ... A fair was held in the field at the corner of Orestan Lane and the Common Road.

Mary: *I don't think that was a yearly thing ...*

Lena: No only occasionally yes.

Mary: *... I think it was one of those travelling fairs.*

Lena: Yes. It used to cause great excitement.

Mary: *Yes everyone went out, there was a roundabout, and all sorts of things.*

Lena: And everything that a fair should be. There were two Tollgate Cottages, one on Guildford Road, the Effingham side of Dirtham Lane, the other opposite Rowan Tree Cottages on the Common Road.

Mary: *And they've both gone now.*

Lena: They've both gone yes. By Willow Pool was a pond with magnificent frogspawn, all the children used to go there.

Mary: *Yes I remember that yes, jam jars full of frogspawn.*

Lena: Paddy Whale used to love going down there didn't he?

Mary: *They never turned into frogs though unfortunately.*

Lena: Madge's had a butchers shop almost at the same place as Gibbs now only on the line of the road and approached from a side lane, open on a Saturday morning only. There were no houses between that and the village store, our shop, except well Mrs Edsall's wasn't there in the early days but ...

Mary: *That was built for Miss Parker who was the vicar's daughter.*

Lena: Miss Parker yes the vicar's daughter yes. Along Lower Road where the Roman Catholic church carpark is was a very old cottage set amongst old fruit trees, now pulled down.

Mary: *It had a lovely big garden.*

Lena: It was beautiful.

Mary: *I'm afraid it got tumbledown and derelict.*

Lena: Well people lived there. Miss Stack lived there for a time didn't she, and Mr and Mrs and Miss ?Black. The house was alright but I suppose the Roman Catholics wanted it for their enlargement. In the yard between the garage, the back of the garage and Beech Avenue was stables for horses. Originally a riding school was behind the old WI hall opposite Cubitt and West's. The stables bought horses for royalty abroad and used to go especially to Denmark I think and each day they used to run a coach through the village past the station and The Hautboy in the summer with postilions blowing the post horns.

Mary: *Marvellous weren't they.*

Lena: Yes. The stables were burnt down just before the war during one night and the clock tower on top was heard crashing through the roof.

Mary: *I don't remember that, I think I slept through it but it was a – must have been spectacular.*

Lena: I remember seeing the light there and wondering what was happening. We decided not to go up there because there was a crowd. Talking of horses Derby Week gypsies travelled through sometime before.

Mary: *Yes they used to travel from place to place up [unclear].*

Lena: Yes a week before they used to come and buy their provisions ...

Mary: *Travelling along the road.*

Lena: ... on their way. And Derby Day sitting on the wall opposite the White House [tea room] to watch the traffic going past.

Mary: *The children yes.*

Lena: Calling out 'Throw out your mouldy coppers', it was ...

Mary: *And people did too!*

Lena: They did. We picked up quite a bit there. It was quite a day. Everyone ...

Mary: Everybody had to go through the traffic.

Lena: The traffic was cars. The AA man was here, until the lights were put in just before the war and the 408 double decker bus turned at the crossroads to return to Leatherhead. Single decked buses for Guildford and Leatherhead waited outside The Haig to start the journeys.

Mary: Yes they had separate buses, one came from Leatherhead to Effingham ...

Lena: Stopped here yes that's right.

Mary: ... and then the other one started in Effingham to go on to Guildford.

Lena: The village taxi was run by Mr West in the mid 30s. He lived at Yew Tree House which was pulled down to make Yew Tree Walk. Of course in the meantime it was one of the army headquarters wasn't it? Now here ...

Mary: Yes I remember going to the station one Christmas Eve and the road was very narrow then, it was before it was widened and it was a very snowy one, very snowy Christmas Eve and the snow was higher than the car on both sides of the roads and there was only just enough room for one vehicle to go through. I don't know what happened if you met anything coming the other way, I don't think anything came.

Lena: It shut itself out. Do you remember the Muffin Man who came weekly carrying muffins on the tray on his head covered with a white cloth?

Mary: I think he came up from Epsom?

Lena: He came from Epsom yes he did.

Mary: I don't know how he managed to carry enough muffins.

Lena: He came back again after the war too.

Mary: I can remember his face quite clearly.

Lena: So can I.

Mary: And the rag and bone man.

Lena: Yes the rag and bone man, he used to always come and buy his little piece of cheese and biscuits until the rationing came and that put the end to that. In Madge's Field behind Curtis's and Orestan Lane magnificent mushrooms were there in the September mornings if you got up early enough.

Mary: It had to be day break didn't it to beat the other people to it.

Lena: Also the walnut trees, the walnuts from the trees opposite Rose Cottage came down on windy nights. We used to get up early to get those didn't we before other people came along.

Mary: Or the traffic came along and crushed them.

Lena: When we went to the village stores the staircase was in the cupboard from the living room.

Mary: That's right, Miss O'Connor's house Church Cottage.

Lena: Yes that's right. The bake house oven and the chimney all came down when we had the premises altered and it took an awful long time to pull that bake house oven to pieces. It was bound together with bands of iron. I think it took nearly a fortnight to pick it to pieces. In those days Mr Diamantidi lived at Grove House and members of the Russian Ballet visited him and came into the shop. Two actresses, Gwen Farrar and Norah Blaney, lived at The Paddock, now Mrs Wright's house.

Mary: They were characters they were.

Lena: Oh they were, yes oh yes. They used to dress up and walk up the village and all sorts of peculiar things.

Mary: For those days anyway.

Lena: Yes oh yes. They made us all wake up didn't they? Then there was the old village characters, there was old Scam [or Scan?], do you remember him, who lived behind Mizen's in the caravan.

Mary: Somewhere in the woods?

Lena: He lived behind Water Lane there and he was a real character. He used to I suppose do odd jobs in the farms and he lived – well I don't even think he had a caravan, I think he had a sort of bivvy out here. He used to come in for his rations.

Mary: And his tobacco.

Lena: And he loved his bit of pipe. There was also the son of a very keen WI member Mrs Dench, George, he was retarded and he used to stand in front of their cottage in Victory Cottages saluting every car and he really was well known, and for miles round people would say 'Oh Effingham, that's where that funny boy lives isn't it, who sends the traffic along.'

Mary: Yes he died when he was quite young didn't he?

Lena: About 35 I think he was. A very nice young man.

Mary: He was.

Lena: Very kindly. One time the vicar of Effingham was Mr Floud and the Little Bookham rector was Mr Drinkwater and Dr Waterfield was the local GP.

Mary: That used to cause quite amusement ...

Lena: It did. Dr Waterfield was a great sport. WI was very go ahead. We had a folk dance club. Mrs Poland was a leading member and she always lost her way, took the 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.

Lena: Oh we had great fun, a lot of fun. And then we had concerts by the village people and the schools, Miss Parker, the late vicar's daughter produced several Shakespeare plays and the children really were very good at it. Very good indeed. Before the war the WI President Mrs Farrar, she was President at the time and her husband 'Ajax' of the BBC Children's Hour organised a concert including Richard Murdoch and Ida Haendel violinist. It was to have been a yearly affair but of course the war came and that put the end to that. Then there were the Silver Jubilee celebrations for King George V, do you remember what a very hot day that was? Baking hot, everyone was so thirsty.

Mary: I don't know what happened in London that year, they must have been ...

Lena: They must have been nearly dead ... We had a fancy dress parade around the village, with the village band led by Mr Stewart Adams as the drum major with a walking stick. Mr Street, Mr Pole, Mr Patten and Mr Stovell in the band paraded finishing in Madge's field. Then they had a comic football match and sports etc. And everyone was so thirsty they drank gallons of lemonade.

Mary: I think it all ran out didn't it, the lemonade?

Lena: Yes, in the shop and there wasn't any. Then of course outside the school a tree was planted by Stewart Adams. The Coronation of King George the Sixth was not so involved, just a tea party for the village children.

Mary: Everybody was given a mug.

Lena: Oh yes.

Mary: That was the only other thing I can remember about it. A mug for the Silver Jubilee and a mug for the coronation just like there was a mug for the present Queen's coronation for everybody.

Lena: Yes I suppose there was.

Mary: I kept mine for a long while.

Lena: Before the war was declared there was a meeting of shopkeepers who had to say how long customers could be fed. Mr Stewart Adams was appointed Food Officer and we had instructions that nothing was to be sold without his written consent. Miss Young the Matron of The Lodge she was appointed the village midwife in case we were cut off here. The vicar and the Roman Catholic priest were to be notified of deaths. Our shop had permits for the Home Guard food and we were all really prepared in case we were cut off.

Mary: I wonder how long was that before the war, I can't remember?

Lena: About a month I should think, it was all well organised. Stewart Adams got everything well in hand you know. At the declaration of war the Church House at Bookham was the first aid post. The village women went to help. Mrs Brown of High Barn was a Commandant. The air raid siren was opposite the Church House in Bookham. We had no siren in the village so if the wind was in the wrong direction no warnings were heard.

Mary: You'd hear the 'all clear' and say 'Oh there's been a raid.'

Lena: We felt safe then. Mrs Mooney was the billeting officer for evacuee children. She used to go round badgering people to take children. I think they got rather tired of her eventually. The Sunday war was declared two coach loads of children from Fulham and expectant mothers came and they were sent to various homes. Some were not prepared with food and we kept busy supplying them with all their needs. Many women went back, they couldn't stand the quiet of the country but many children stayed all through the war. Later the Strand School boys from Dulwich came and took over Browns as the school.

Mary: That was when ?Bernie Hughes-Halletts [unclear].

Lena: That's right. That was a good time before they came because you see after the boys left it was turned into flats for a time if you remember.

Mary: Yes I'd forgotten that.

Lena: Before that solicitor from Epsom then took it over before Hughes-Halletts came. In 1940 the Howard of Effingham School opened.

Mary: Yes they started building it before the war.

Lena: It was started before yes and then they finished it and it was opened and it used part of the day by the local and part by the evacuee children. The primary school from Fulham shared St Lawrence Primary. Their headmistress was a very nice woman, do you remember her, Miss Harrison wasn't it.

Mary: Yes I do, she was very sweet.

Lena: She was very nice and she was so kind to those children. Miss Ross of The Hollies had three girls and a nurse from the Putney Home for Incurables. Then of course the Canadian troops arrived and barricades were erected at the garage and Beech Avenue.

Mary: Mays garage?

Lena: Mays garage yes. And we had permits to deliver the food up there. These Canadians were tough, reputedly ex-convicts included and nothing, it was nothing in the night to hear revolver shots, and Saturday afternoon it was quite an occasion when they used to fetch them out of the pub do you remember, in a relief lorry.

Mary: Closing up time.

Lena: The White House tearooms were frequented by troops. Later on in the war the canteen – well the war started the night the troops came into the village to run a canteen at the Women's Institute. This was run by the WVS and Mrs West of Cubitt & West was in charge. Of course they completely took over the WI hall.

Mary: Yes the lot, right the way through and they had table tennis at the back.

Lena: Yes. I remember we used to cut the bread in the shop and how cross they were one night when it was late getting there. Mrs Fraser then secretary and many WI members took turns to help. Opened each evening and the day before D Day when the troops were confined to barracks, were open all day and the officer came and asked us if we would keep it open all day. They were allowed to go to the canteen.

Mary: They were allowed to go to WVS but nowhere else.

Lena: They weren't allowed to go out of the village so it was on all day that day, open all day long. On the first air raid old Mr Tyrrell our Air Raid Warden came cycling up the village in a tin hat in the early morning calling out "They're over, take cover" Much to everybody's amusement. "No sound until the all clear." When the Canadians came the lorries parked up Beech Avenue under the hedges and on Guildford Road and all the way down Manor House Lane.

Mary: They were literally nose to tail.

Lena: They were, everywhere. The old stables were workshops and the cookhouse at the golf club inside the main gate.

Mary: Didn't one of them, I'm not sure which out buildings ...

Lena: Wasn't there a tent there or something?

Mary: I'm not quite sure what it was.

Lena: I know they had the mess up there. The officer's mess was at Colonel Cubitt's house in High Barn and the company office in Yew Tree House also South Lodge and The Cottage were taken over. Then that butchers shop was turned into a gas chamber wasn't it?

Mary: So it was, Madge's the butchers.

Lena: Madge's the butcher's was turned into – training, yes. During the Dunkirk evacuation time we could stand at the bottom of the garden and hear continuous sounds of trains going through from Guildford up to London and the WVS went from the village to give the troops refreshments on Guildford Station.

Mary: The troops, they used to stay on the train and they used to hand it through ...

Lena: Used to feed them through the window yes.

Mary: They would rumble through night and day.

Lena: Oh it was constant sound.

Mary: I can't remember how long it went on for.

Lena: Well you see the weather was so beautiful we could hear everything from Guildford as though it was quite near.

Mary: And there wasn't the traffic in the village.

Lena: No of course there wasn't and everything was quiet and we just felt as though we were near it.

Mary: And you could hear the guns from across the Channel too couldn't you?

Lena: Yes you could yes. Yes. And it was very funny do you remember the time when a chauffeur came in to the shop and asked Daddy the way to a certain village and he refused to tell him.

Mary: I don't remember this.

Lena: He said no, he wouldn't tell him and he didn't tell him. He said we weren't supposed to – he didn't know who this man was so he wouldn't give him any directions.

Mary: Might have been a foreigner, might have been a [unclear] or something yes.

Lena: He thought it was but this man was so cross because he wouldn't tell him which way to go. He was 'Well surely you know' because he ...

Mary: All the signposts had been taken down anyway hadn't they.

Lena: The signposts were all removed and if you hadn't any idea where the places were well you just hadn't ... During the Battle of Britain, of course it was lovely weather like it is this year, wasn't it? Beautiful weather.

Mary: Lovely skies.

Lena: Lovely days we had and we could stand and watch these battles going on over our heads.

Mary: Yes you could actually see the planes lit up and ...

Lena: Yes we could and I remember the day that one was brought down at Horsley, we saw that quite well. Altogether two companies of Canadians and three RAS companies were in the village and – I want to go back to the Battle of Britain, well we shall come to that presently shan't we. The village was busy – the guard changing the traffic etc and ...

Mary: Very busy, they suddenly came to life then, the village then didn't it?

Lena: Yes we had ENSA concerts in the Howard of Effingham and dances and the villagers were invited to them if they cared to go.

Mary: They were very good entertainment.

Lena: They were good concerts. Yes they were.

Mary: And anybody in the companies, in the soldiers, amongst the soldiers who could entertain, there were several of them.

Lena: There were. I'd forgotten all those yes.

Mary: One very good violinist who came from the London Philharmonic Orchestra, I think.

Lena: Yes we had some very good people amongst them at times. Well then of course the flying bombs came. The Institute hall roof was damaged by a bomb, by a bomb which dropped at Orchard Walls.

Mary: Mrs West lived there then.

Lena: Mrs West then, yes, Cubitt & West lived there and then the – another bomb destroyed the house next door to Windy Ridge on the Common Road where a man was killed. The house was later rebuilt. Our shop ceilings came down, cans of food thrown off the shelves.

Mary: They were blowing all over the place weren't they?

Lena: Yes oh yes it was a real muddle and people came in there to shelter and get away from ...

Mary: All running and rushing into the hall.

Lena: They'd just walk in and we'd provide cups of tea afterwards before they went home. One night incendiary bombs dropped in the village and lit up and one – we had a stick of them in the tree at the shop and the curtains at The Haig were set alight and during that evening the village was alive with people putting them out. We also had foil dropped by enemy planes to mislead our radar.

Mary: Yes we found that in the garden one morning didn't we?

Lena: Yes we did yes. Now you go on with this ...

Mary: Yes I remember this bit because this is me. Because I was up at the convent one day and the cloud was very low and I just happened to be standing outside the lodge back door and I heard a plane coming out of the clouds and suddenly to my horror I started to be machine gunned, they were machine gunning the convent. This was a Dornier that came out, it came down very very low and I rushed for cover I must say.

Lena: Yes I remember you coming back full of it.

Mary: It was a bit terrifying.

Lena: It was certainly.

Mary: Very low, it suddenly appeared out of the mist. You remember it, you were in the shop one day when ...

Lena: One Wednesday I looked out through the shop window and there were a soldier and a woman crouching under the hedge just opposite and there was an aeroplane machine gunning them.

Mary: *You can't believe that this actually happened can you when you look back?*

Lena: It seems impossible doesn't it?

Mary: *I mean plenty of flying bombs going over but none of them ...*

Lena: Lots of flying bombs and I think those were the only two really serious incidents we had. I remember the WVS coming over from – the first aid people coming over from Bookham and being all busy about it. The [Women's] Institute, I went up to see what had happened up there when it was all over and we had to see to that being repaired.

Mary: *Yes one night while you away, I don't know where you'd gone to but we were woken by this tremendous rumbling and it went on and on, gradually got noisier and noisier and it was a whole lot of tanks, gigantic tanks. They'd come over Ranmore, down Beech Avenue and they were going down the village street and in the morning when we went out, these tanks were so big and vast that they had damaged the kerbstones where there just wasn't room for them to go down the street. I don't know where they were going to.*

Lena: And all this time we were dealing with food coupons and points and occasionally the old Adjutant would come from the Home Guard and say 'Now if we're called up tomorrow what can I have? I've got so many points ...' and I would be going through telling him what he could have and we'd be about an hour sorting out what food he could have if he was called up on the next day and this is how life went on. We had no free time.

Mary: *We kept the ration books didn't we and we used to have to count the coupons up, I think they had to be counted up in hundreds and sent in little packets down to ...*

Lena: Accounted for and once a fortnight we had to give our stocks so they knew what stocks of ration food we'd got in hand. We were supposed to keep a fortnight's ration in hand all the time in case we got cut off. It made life very hard but still it went on. Later on in the war the WI people prepared lunches for Neil & Spencer, they were an engineering firm which took over the garage.

Mary: *Out of Leatherhead, they'd expanded tremendously out of Leatherhead.*

Lena: And we used to get their lunches ready for them in the hall. And then after that of course the government gave us permits for sausage rolls and jam tarts and ...

Mary: *Meat pies.*

Lena: ... and meat pies that's right. Once a week they used to come and queues of people used to come from all over the village.

Mary: *They were quite good.*

Lena: Oh yes they were, very good. We were always busy doing something out of the WI. That's how the war went on and we – people were so much more friendly in those days. People used to say 'Oh well I shall be going down to the station with my husband tomorrow morning. If you get the goods ready from my neighbours I'll take them up.' And they used to do the delivering just like that. I don't know what we should have done without them sometimes they were so kind.

Mary: *I remember once our van driver was ill and all the customers turned and knuckled-to and anybody who had any petrol came along and did some deliveries for us.*

Lena: Yes. On one occasion everybody was ill and the army sent a man to give us a hand.

Mary: *Oh they did yes! Yes I remember going out with him yes.*

Lena: So long as someone could go who knew where the houses were, they let the driver come and he did the delivering for us.

Mary: *Yes I'd forgotten that.*

Lena: Oh yes they were very good like that.

Mary: *Terrific cooperation between the army and the village people.*

Lena: The village people were all much more friendly in those days.

Mary: *Everybody knew everybody else.*

Lena: Everybody knew everyone and what one hadn't got the other one would find for them. It was quite a friendly little village. One of the soldiers said to me once, well we've been in all sorts of villages but I've never been in one – such a friendly one as this is. Everyone says "Good morning" to you which of course they did.

Mary: *They did because they all knew each other.*

Lena: Yes I remember how when before they were going away the number of people who left their money with me and bicycles and all sorts of things to be sent on to their wives after they'd gone. It kept us really busy. When the occupation of the village ended after D Day, when the last soldiers left for France during the middle of the night and next day all was quiet and empty and we started on our own way again, back into the old rut.

Mary: The quiet.

[end of recording]

Winifred Oughton – Renowned Actress and First President of Effingham Junction Women's Institute

JEREMY PALMER

Winifred Oughton was another of the very fine actors, such as Yvonne Arnaud, Beatrix Thomson and Andrea Malandrinos, who lived in or near Effingham for significant periods of their lives. Winifred took up residence at Effingham Junction in 1934 and lived there for thirty years until her death. Noted early in her career for her roles in Shakespeare's plays, she went on to display a high degree of versatility in other roles besides becoming a well regarded teacher at RADA.

Early life

Winifred Oughton was a noted character actress and stage teacher who lived at Effingham Junction for thirty years, and was also a founder member of the Effingham Junction Women's Institute.

Annie Winifred Oughton (her full name) was born in 1890 in Camberwell to Anna Maria (née Edwards) Oughton and David Oughton who had married on 16 February 1889 at St Paul's Church in Forest Hill. David was described in the 1891 census as an importer and clerk. The family was then living at 10, Selwyn Terrace in Dulwich.

Winifred may have acquired her passion for the theatre from her father. From around 1885 David was involved in acting in and producing amateur dramatic performances around Brighton and, later on, in South London. The advertisement in Figure 1 from 1890 mentions David Oughton of 10, Selwyn Terrace as a Business and Stage Manager associated with amateur dramatic productions. His stage manager role continued through the 1890s. By 1897 he was working as a Stage Manager at the Reading County Theatre, but thereafter he disappears from the records, to the point where in 1899 his address was being urgently sought by Houghton's Dramatic Agency in Waterloo.

He was also missing from the Oughton household in the 1901 census where we find Anna Maria and Winifred living with Anna's father, Edward Tickner Edwards, in Camberwell.

Theatrical career

At the time of the 1911 Census Winifred was living with two aunts in Fulham, her occupation given as a student in training at Hereford College.

Her theatrical career began in 1915 with a walk-on part in *The Merchant of Venice* at the Old Vic. Her first notice seems to have been from 6 March 1918 when her portrayal of First Gentleman in *Cymbeline*, which starred Sybil Thorndike at the Old Vic, was described as 'quite pleasing'. She remained in the company for

Opera Theatre,
CRYSTAL PALACE

Monday Evening, April 28, 1890,
MISS BLANCHE GREY'S
FOURTH ANNUAL AMATEUR
Dramatic Performance,
In Aid of the Funds of the
NORWOOD COTTAGE HOSPITAL,
PLOT & PASSION

**The late Tom Taylor's Celebrated Drama, will be
acted, PRECEDED BY A FARCE.**

**Tickets 5s. (dram optional), 3s. 6d., 2s. 6d., 1s. 6d., 1s.,
including Admission to Palace after 6.30 p.m.**

**Tickets and Particulars from Miss Blanche Grey,
Grecian Villa, Baulah Hill, Norwood; and the
Business and Stage Manager, Mr. David Oughton
H. Marco, 10, Selwyn Terrace, Upper Norwood.**

Further Particulars shortly.

Figure 1 From the *Norwood News*, 29 March 1890.

five years, being noted for playing male roles such as Artemidorus in *Julius Caesar* while the War continued and then – at the Old Vic's reopening in October 1919 – as Mistress Quickly in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

Her first real notice in a widely read publication arose for her playing the title role in the farce *Aunt Maria* at the Royal Theatre, Leamington. An issue of *The Stage* published on 26 May 1921 commented that:

'Miss Winifred Oughton gave an excellent performance of the title role and displayed the versatility demanded by the part.'

She does not seem to have attracted any in-depth reviews during the 1920s, probably because either she was cast in supporting roles or else was playing lead roles but only in productions touring the provinces. By the end of the decade she was becoming a character actor known for playing fierce spinsters and landladies. For example, in the newspaper *Truth* (issue of Wednesday 30 July 1930) her role in Rodney Ackland's *Dance with No Music* was mentioned as follows:

'A too brief glimpse of Winifred Oughton gives us a landlady not of the stage but of any digs in which impecunious bachelors have ever languished.'

Electoral Registers show that Winifred and her mother Anna Maria resided at 148, Mitre Street in Norwood from 1929 up to 1934. In 1934 Winifred moved to a house named Hathaway in Surrey Gardens, Effingham Junction, joined by her mother from 1937. In the 1939 Register Winifred describes herself as an 'Actress Straight plays and films', with her mother doing unpaid domestic duties. The pair continued living in Hathaway during the War, until Anna Maria's death in the second quarter of 1945. Winifred would remain at Hathaway until her death in 1964.

She appeared with other Effingham-based actors on a number of occasions. In June 1926 she and Beatrix Thomson were in *The Years Between* at The Everyman Theatre in Hampstead. She was joined in Effingham by her great friend Yvonne Arnaud in 1937. Winifred had first acted with Yvonne Arnaud in J B Fagan's *The Improper Duchess* (1930), taking the role of Gunning. *The Stage* (issue of 15 January 1931) described her thus:

'Miss Winifred Oughton as the English maid of uncertain age was typically English against so much that was American.'

Another Effingham resident actor, Andrea Basil Malandrinis, also appeared in this play. *The Improper Duchess* was a substantial success enjoying a run of 348 performances over 10 months at The Globe. The three Effingham actors then continued in a revival of the same author's *And So To Bed*.

Winifred's role in *The Improper Duchess* was also the first one for which she appeared in cast photos in the leading theatre papers, such as *The Sketch* on 11 February 1931 (Figure 3). She was also depicted in cartoon form with Andrea Malandrinis in *The Bystander* on 4 February 1931 (Figure 4).

From 1930 she began to appear in British films, maintaining a career as a character actor on the screen until 1950. Figure 5 shows her in a typical housekeeper role in the 1932 film *There Goes the Bride*, a British farce directed by Albert de Courville and notable for giving David Niven his first, uncredited screen role.

From at least as early as 1923 she was also interested in teaching drama. She had a particular connection with schools in Gloucester, working with Ribston Hall High School for Girls on a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (1923), *Twelfth Night* (March 1925) and *The Merchant of Venice* (1927). From 1930 she was a director of the Schools Theatre, an organisation associated with the Old Vic whose purpose was to bring professional actors into schools to help in productions, as she herself had already been doing.

Her work with the Schools Theatre extended to giving public lectures and demonstrations across the South of England. She seems to have ended her involvement with the Schools Theatre by 1935 when besides her acting career she became a teacher at RADA, this coinciding with her move to Effingham from South London.

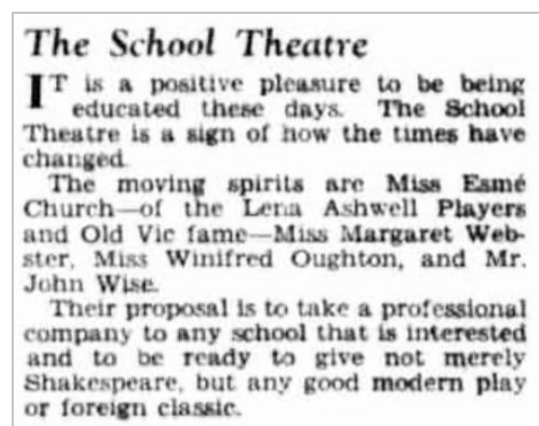


Figure 2 Oughton and the Schools Theatre, from the *Daily Herald*, 30 April 1930.



Figure 3 Arnaud and Oughton in *The Improper Duchess*, 1931.



Myron B. Garcia (Andrea Melandrin) proprietor of the Paradise Hotel, Washington, devastated by the dulcet tones of Gunning (Winifred Oughton), a singing lady's maid

Figure 4 With Malandrinos in *The Improper Duchess*.



Figure 5 Oughton in *There goes the Bride*; from *The Sphere*, 12 November 1932.

We have been left some account of Winifred's teaching methods. She was known for insisting on exceptionally high standards. The actor David Weston in his autobiography *Covering Shakespeare* recounts being taught by her at RADA in 1957:

'We were directed by a ferocious, hunch-backed old woman called Winifred Oughton. "You'd better learn to type, dear," was one of her kinder comments to the girls, many of whom she reduced to tears. She was obviously not impressed by my attempts at virility – standing legs apart with my hands on my hips ... Her report at the end of the year, when I went off to do my National Service, was brief and to the point: "Good luck David, and come back to us a man".'

Her demands were not limited to young people hoping to become professional actors. Michael Waller, brought up in Effingham during the War, recalls:

'My sister was involved with amateur dramatics at the Rowland Lubbock Memorial Hall under the guidance of Winifred Oughton, who it seems was quite demanding, requiring high standards. My sister returned home after rehearsals quite emotionally drained.'

By the mid-1930s she was well-established as the actor of choice for acerbic older women. A notable example was in *Grief Goes Over* at The Globe in June 1935 for which the *Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News* (14 June 1935) proclaimed:

'Perhaps the most real character in the play is an uncomfortable old aunt, perfectly played by Miss Winifred Oughton.'

In 1941 she again starred with Yvonne Arnaud in Margery Sharp's *The Nutmeg Tree* at The Lyric, this time playing Arnaud's devoted Cockney maid Griffin; Figure 6 shows her (at left) in a scene from this production.



Figure 6 Oughton (at left) in *The Nutmeg Tree*, from *The Bystander*, 8 October 1941.

In the early part of the War she was also highly active in the Effingham Women's Institute and when that organisation split into two entities she served as the first President of the Effingham Junction Women's Institute. The latter met at the Rowland Lubbock Hall in Effingham Junction after being formed in December 1940. Winifred resigned at the end of 1943. During those years she persuaded some of her co-stars on the stage to travel down to Effingham to talk to the members, while Yvonne Arnaud often entertained the WI members on the piano. As well as her phenomenal efforts to support the War effort through fund raising, morale boosting talks and jam-making on an industrial scale, Winifred organised a series of Shakespeare festivals.

In 1942 Leslie French, one of the greatest Shakespearean actors of his time, visited to perform songs from the Bard's plays, accompanied by Yvonne Arnaud on the piano (see Figure 8: *The Surrey Advertiser*, 21 November 1942).

Perhaps the most surprising guest speaker was Naomi 'Micky' Jacob, who visited the Institute on Monday 13 April 1942. She was a prolific author, playwright, journalist, broadcaster, actor and political activist who had recently returned from Italy where she had been living for her health. At the time of her visit she was appearing on stage in *The Nutmeg Tree* with Winifred and Arnaud.



Figure 7 In *The Nutmeg Tree*, 1941.

WOMEN AND SHAKESPEARE

Members of the Effingham Junction Women's Institute held their first Shakespearean festival at the Rowland Lubbock Memorial Hall on Monday. It was produced by Miss Oughton, assisted by Mrs. Boxall and Mrs. Lowry as stage managers. "Half an Hour in Shakespeare's England" was presented by Mesdames Church, Edwin, Ford, Goddard, Manning, Pimm, Williams, Wood, and Frances Edwin, and in the scene from "The Merry Wives of Windsor" Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Manning were particularly entertaining. Miss Oughton (the president) introduced the Shakespearean actor, Mr. Leslie French, who entertained with songs and episodes from the plays of Shakespeare. He was accompanied at the piano by Mrs. Hugh McLellan (Miss Yvonne Arnaud). Scenes from "A Midsummer Night's Dream" were played by Doreen Boxall, June Crane, Tony Freeman, Donald Gotts, Audrey Williams, Wendy Freeman, and Pat Merrell. During the interval Miss Oughton gave a resumé of the activities of the Institute, including adoption of the trawler Roletta and sending comforts and gifts for the crew for Christmas, the canning of 9cwt. of tomatoes, and aid to Russia. She also spoke of the two funds the Institute was particularly interested in—Cancer Relief and the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford. The proceeds on this occasion were for the Cancer Relief Fund, and her appeal for it was endorsed by Mrs. McLellan. Later Miss Oughton mentioned extra entertainments that had been arranged by the Institute, including a play on Russia, special speakers on America and Russia, children's entertainments, and another Shakespearean programme on Shakespeare's birthday, April 23rd.—A total of £9 0s. 6d. was realised for the Cancer Relief Fund.

Figure 8 In the Effingham Junction WI, 1942.



Figure 9 Naomi Jacob.

Figure 10 Jacob at Effingham Junction WI, *The Surrey Advertiser*, 21, Nov 1942.

Naomi Jacob was famous for her butch and flamboyant appearance, crew cut hair, wearing a monocle and a First World War Women's Legion uniform (Figure 9). She enjoyed discreet affairs with other women, although her many romantic novels were much more conventional. According to *The Surrey Advertiser* (Figure 10) the packed audience enjoyed from her:

'... a most delightful talk on her travels through France to Italy and her experiences there before the War.'

TWO NOTABLE VISITORS

ENTERTAIN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE AT EFFINGHAM

Effingham Junction Women's Institute held their monthly meeting on Monday this week, and there was a large assembly.

Miss Oughton (president) was in the chair. Announcements included a proposal to hold a course of dress-making classes, commencing on April 23rd next at 2 p.m., and as one of the items will be renovations it should prove a useful help in war time.

Many people have responded to Mrs. Godfrey's appeal for toys, etc., to be sent to the Malden Children's Nursery for war workers' children, but more are required and should be sent to Downe, Cobham Road, East Horsley. During the week commencing April 20th there is to be a house-to-house collection by the members of the Institute for the Blind. In previous years about this time an appeal has been made to members and friends for fresh eggs for the hospital at Guildford, and although this year eggs may be rather scarce the president asked members to bring what they could to the meeting on May 4th.

After the business the President welcomed Miss Naomi Jacobs, the well-known novelist, and also members from eleven other institutes and their friends, about 100 being present altogether. Miss Jacobs gave a most delightful talk on her travels through France to Italy and her experiences there before the war.

The surprise item, promised to the members some time ago, turned out to be the welcome appearance of Miss Yvonne Arnaud (Mrs. Hugh McLellan), who played the piano in a manner which delighted all present. Another appreciated item was given by Miss Barbara Sharp, who played the violin. Tea was later served to the members and visitors (about 140).

Dame Sybil Thorndike, one of the greatest actors of the 20th century, was another visitor to the Effingham Junction WI. Dame Sybil was associated with Winifred's career from its start at the Old Vic, and Winifred had been a member of Dame Sybil's company through the 1920s. Dame Sybil had been one of the patrons of the Schools Theatre and, as mentioned, they had appeared together in *Grief Goes Over* at The Globe in June 1935.

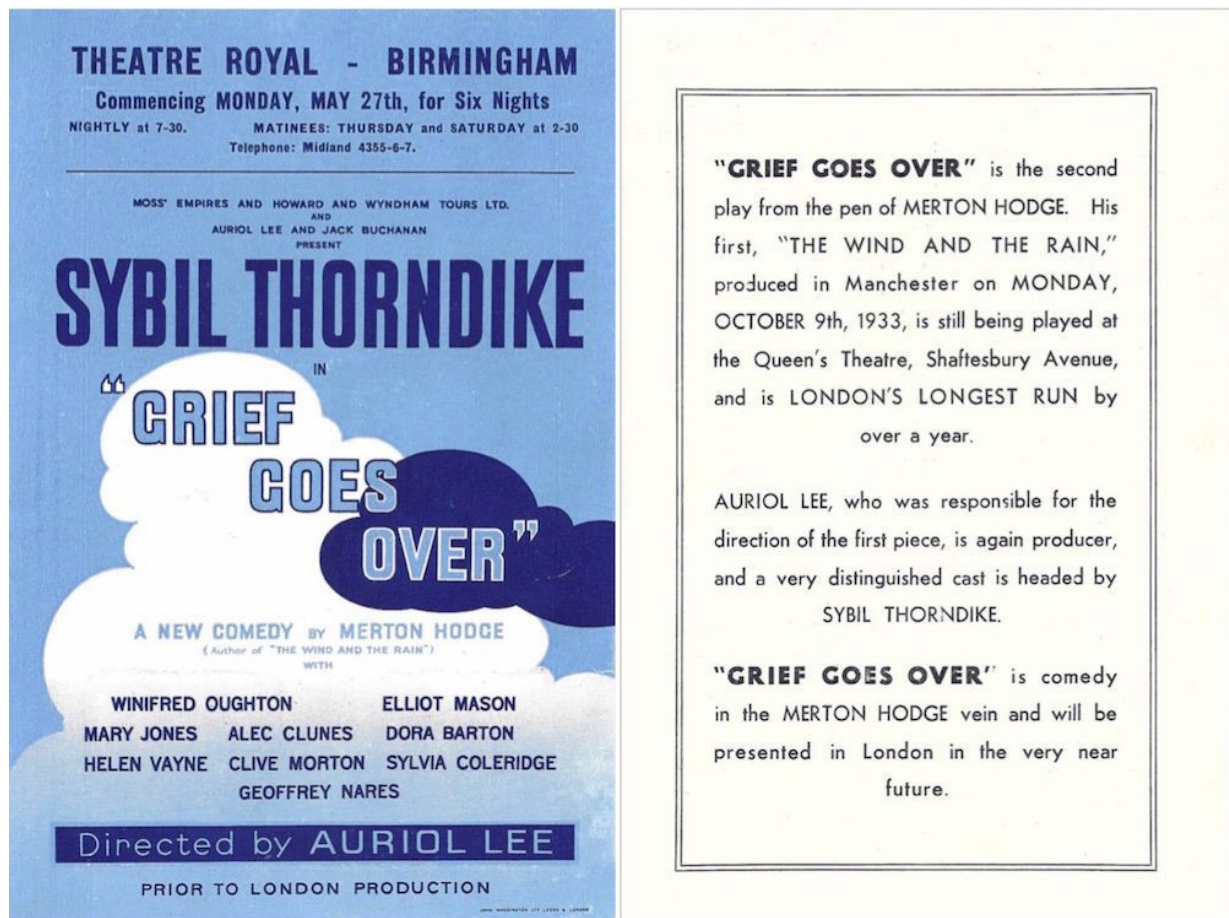


Figure 11 An original flyer for *Grief Goes Over*, for the run commencing 27 May 1935 at the Theatre Royal.

On Winifred's instigation Dame Sybil visited the Effingham Junction Women's Institute's sold-out meeting in March 1943, described by *The Surrey Advertiser* (Figure 12) as follows:

'Her wonderful rendering of Shakespeare, in drama and comedy, her charm of voice and manner in the rendering of verse, and her dramatic art in the scenes from *Macbeth*, delighted the audience.'

Dame Sybil was also present at Winifred's probable last public appearance in June 1963. This was at a celebration of the Old Vic hosted by Dame Sybil, prior to its temporary closure for refurbishment. Dame Sybil's association with Surrey was cemented when Leatherhead's Thorndike Theatre was named after her and opened in September 1969. This also marked Dame Sybil's last appearance on stage, in John Graham's *There Was an Old Woman*, playing 'a poor old blighter who sleeps in the park every night'.

Winifred also co-authored with a lady named Brenda Cross two plays based on books – *Wuthering Heights* and *Little Women*. The former premiered at the Guildford Repertory Theatre on Tuesday 3 September 1946. *The Stage* (5 September) praised her adaptation, saying:

'Five weeks ago Winifred Oughton was asked to produce *Wuthering Heights* for the Guildford Repertory Co and ... decided to write a new one in collaboration with Brenda Cross. The result is a fine adaptation. The play though faithful to the original retains nothing of its disconnected nature.'

although the reviewer thought that Winifred's success was marred by indifferent acting. *Little Women*, again written with Cross, was reported on as early as 28 December 1940 when the Surrey Gardens Repertory Company read a scene from it at a WI meeting. However it was then adapted for the BBC in 1950-51 into a six-episode series, giving it the distinction of being one of the first dramatic series to be shown on

television. It was broadcast live from 12 December 1950 but as it was not recorded it is now considered 'lost'.

VISIT OF DAME SYBIL THORNDYKE
 The attendance at the March meeting of Effingham Junction Women's Institute, which was an invitation one, packed the Rowland Lubbock Memorial Hall on Monday. Miss Oughton (president) announced that the collection at the "Aid to Russia" evening, given recently, amounted to £6 13s., and gave a reminder of the M.O.I. film show on March 15th. The president then introduced Dame Sybil Thorndyke, who gave excerpts from her varied and extensive repertoire. Her wonderful rendering of Shakespeare, in drama and comedy, her charm of voice and manner in the rendering of verse, and her dramatic art in the scenes from "Macbeth," delighted the audience. Mrs. Pimm, a vice-president, expressed thanks to Dame Sybil for her kindness in coming and for her entertainment, and presented her with a "utility basket" containing home-made produce, such as preserves, eggs and spring flowers, collected by the committee. The president introduced Dame Sybil to the committee, and afterwards showed her the display of potato dishes prepared by members of the Institute and presided over by Mrs. Martin and the food committee. The posters and decorations of "Potato Pete" were lent by the Ministry of Food.

Figure 12 Dame Sybil at Effingham Junction WI, March 1943.

That it was not recorded may have had something to do with a dispute between Equity and the BBC concerning payments for actors when recorded transmissions were repeated. Recording technology was a relatively recent innovation for television. For *Little Women*, after protests from Equity, its student actors were paid a minimum wage (*The Stage*, 18 January 1951). ELHG has discovered that one photograph (Figure 13) of the cast has survived.



Figure 13 Cast members in *Little Women*, from *The Sketch*, 3 January 1951.

Her last appearance on stage was in the first run of Agatha Christie's *The Unexpected Guest* at The Duchess Theatre in August 1958.

The description of her performance as Miss Bennett, contained in her obituary in *The Stage*, summed up her appeal:

'... an old family retainer, loving but unsentimental, wise and true, when she gave a characterisation of singular verisimilitude, perfectly timed and projected. She was one of those sensitive, experienced, thoroughly reliable artists who is an asset to any production.'

Her retirement after this play also coincided with her retirement from teaching. In recognition of the esteem in which she was held, after her death on 26 December 1964, RADA established the Winifred Oughton Memorial Prize.

Her obituary in *The Stage*, issue of 21 January 1965, is shown in Figure 14.

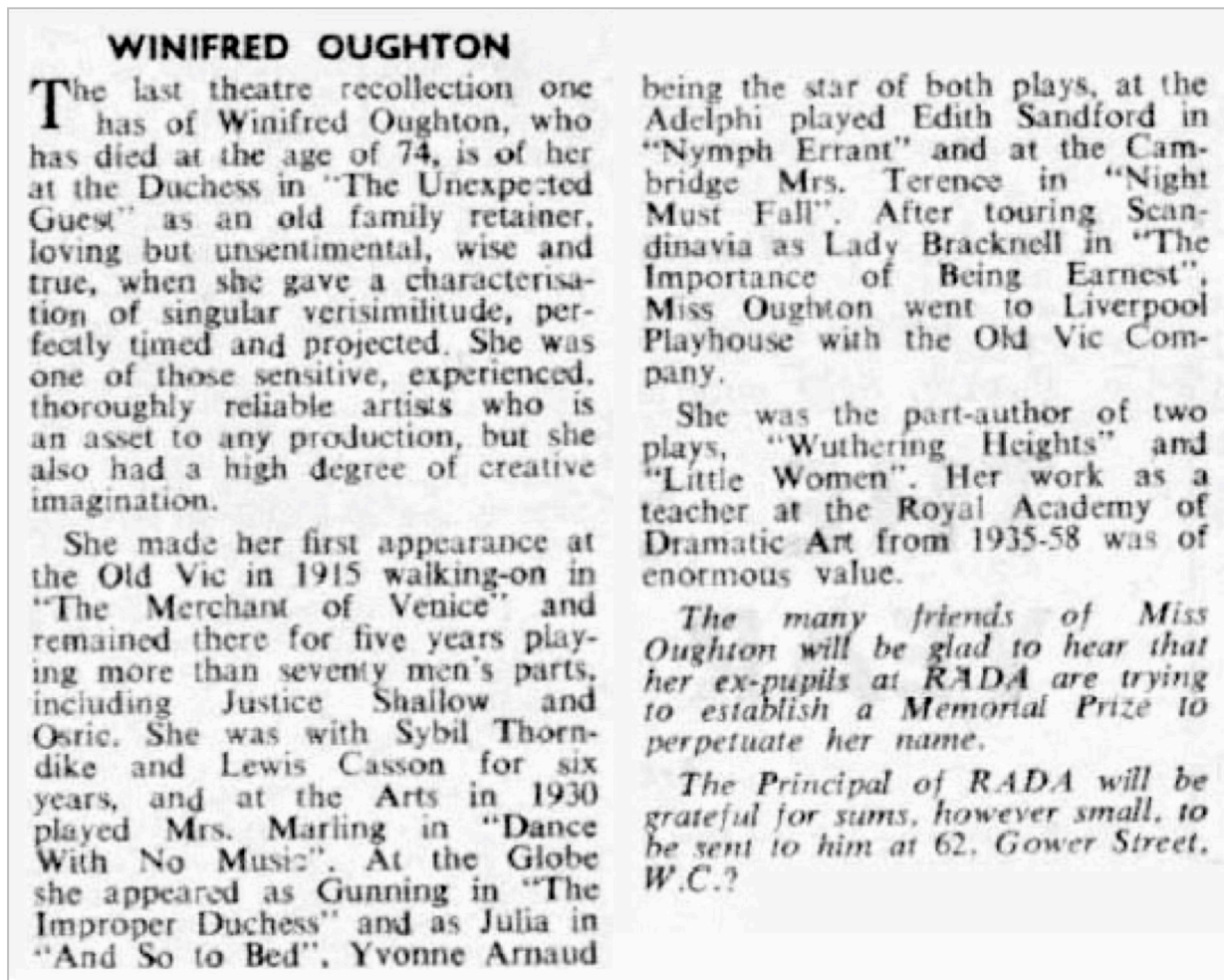


Figure 14 Obituary for Winifred Oughton, January 1965.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1: from the British Newspaper Archive © British Library Board

Figures 2, 8, 10, 12: from the British Newspaper Archive, by kind permission of Reach plc / *Mirrorpix*

Figures 3-7, 13, 14: under Licence from the Mary Evans Picture Library

© Illustrated London News Ltd. / Mary Evans

Figure 9: public domain

Figure 11: from Jeremy Palmer

Nicholas and Audrey Waterhouse – Generous Contributors to the Arts

JEREMY PALMER

Sir Nicholas Edwin Waterhouse, a prominent accountant and philatelist, and his first wife Audrey, accomplished musician, composer and philanthropist, together provided warm hospitality and generous support to many key figures in the Arts, making their home at Norwood Farm a well regarded hub of artistic and social activity. They also contributed significantly to the Effingham community, just one example being their substantial donation towards the purchase of the KGV Playing Fields.

Introduction

At the heart of Effingham's Bohemian scene in the 1930s were Sir Nicholas and Lady Audrey Waterhouse of Norwood Farm on Effingham Common. They had lived there from 1930 and had established links to various artistic circles in London, cultivating friendships with musicians, actors and writers, some of whom – like Yvonne Arnaud shown below with the Waterhouses – had followed them to live in Effingham.



Figure 1 From *The Tatler*, 21 April 1926; under Licence from the Mary Evans Picture Library.

Norwood Farm is located to the north of Lower Farm Road and is a Grade II listed Hall house dating to the early 16th century [Historic England: List Entry No 1029390 (formerly 288665)]. An account of life at Norwood Farm before the Waterhouses owned it can be read in the Oral Histories section of Effingham Local History Group (ELHG)'s website as a transcript of an interview with the late Doreen Emily Hemus.

Origins

Sir Nicholas (born 24 August 1877, died 28 December 1964) was the second son of Edwin Waterhouse who had co-founded the accountancy practice of Price Waterhouse in 1865. His uncle Alfred Waterhouse was the architect responsible for designing London's Natural History Museum and, as an assessor for architectural competitions, was very influential in promoting the neo-Gothic idiom of many Victorian buildings.

Sir Nicholas grew up in the Waterhouse's country retreat of Feldemore in Holmbury St Mary, built in 1879.



Figure 2 Feldemore in Holmbury St Mary.

His father had employed George T Redmayne, a Manchester architect who had worked extensively for Alfred, to design the house. It is especially notable for the Arts and Crafts decoration chosen by Edwin, including furnishings by William Morris and tiles by William de Morgan. After Edwin's death in 1917 Feldemore passed into the hands of the Waterhouse Trust and later would become the Belmont Preparatory School.

Sir Nicholas was educated at St David's School in Reigate, followed by Winchester and then New College, Oxford. His first wife, Audrey Hale Lewin (born 26 June 1883, died 7 September 1945), was the third and last child of Colonel Thomas Herbert Lewin of Parkhurst in Abinger, which is in close proximity to Feldemore.

Audrey had been exposed to the Arts from an early age. Her father was a close friend of the artist Edward Burne-Jones and also of the novelist George Meredith who lived at Box Hill. Through Meredith Colonel Lewin may well have known the Maxse family at Effingham Hill in the far south of Effingham parish. Beyond these local connections, Audrey's uncle William Terris and his daughter Ellaline were both famous London stage actors.



Figure 3 Parkhurst in Abinger, 1906.

Audrey learnt music from an early age, and later studied violin at the Royal College of Music. Under the name 'Audrey Hale' she had musical compositions performed in London, in the 1920s. John Whitehead notes in his biography of her father *Thangliena: A Life of T. H. Lewin* that her father thought Audrey 'perhaps the cleverest and most original of the three (children)' (p344) and also mentions that Audrey composed 'light music hall songs' (p393).



THE WIFE OF A FINANCIAL EXPERT : LADY WATERHOUSE

Lady Waterhouse is the wife of Sir Nicholas Edwin Waterhouse, K.B.E., of the famous firm of Price, Waterhouse & Co., chartered accountants. He was Director of Costings at the War Office from 1917 to 1919. Lady Waterhouse was married in 1903, and is the daughter of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Lewin, of Parkhurst, Abinger, Surrey.

Photograph by Bertram Park.

Figure 4 From *The Sketch*, 1 February 1922; under Licence from the Mary Evans Picture Library.

Married life

Audrey and Nicholas married on 22 August 1903 at Abinger Parish Church. They lived at 71, Victoria Road in London W8 until in 1926 their main London residence became 2, Swan Walk, Chelsea.

She accompanied him on overseas business trips and holidayed with him across Europe. In his unpublished memoirs *Reminiscences* Sir Nicholas remembered how they toured San Francisco's Old China Town in 1906 just prior to its destruction by the great earthquake. From 1908 onwards they visited remote parts of France, Spain and Germany, relying, as Sir Nicholas recounts, on Audrey's linguistic skills:

'Her French, German and Spanish were such that when in those countries she was usually taken as a native and she also could get on pretty well with Italian and Swedish.' [*Reminiscences*, p67 – Sir Nicholas Waterhouse]

Their marriage did not produce any children. John Whitehead describes how Audrey filled her days, including doing works of philanthropy among Jewish immigrants to London from south Germany (*Thangliena*, p394). She also enrolled in the Royal College of Music in February 1910, her testamur being issued on July 1914 where she was graded 2 in the violin. During WW1 she drove an ambulance, as recorded by a later friend, Wyndham Lewis. Her husband's pre-War Rolls Royce was also put to good use by the Belgian Red Cross.

Upon his father's retirement from Price Waterhouse in 1906, Nicholas was elevated to the partnership. Although his apprenticeship had been decidedly average, his avuncular charm and ability to balance competing points of view enabled him to become a very successful partner in the firm. Effingham resident Michael Waller reported the same impression that many others held:

'... he appeared very approachable, quite tall, bespectacled and distinguished ...'

Edgar Jones, in his history of Price Waterhouse [*True and Fair – A History of Price Waterhouse*, publ Hamish Hamilton, 1995], echoed this in his description of Sir Nicholas (p218):

'He had a capacity for self-deprecation and his puckish humour could often defuse a tense situation ... he manifested the qualities of a gentleman: honesty, reliability, modesty, an absence of show or ostentation, reserve and probity.'

Norwood Farm

In 1930 Sir Nicholas bought Norwood Farm on Effingham Common from the Effingham property developer Anthony Nicholas Diamantidi, funding the purchase from selling one of his collections of stamps.

Sir Nicholas was an internationally known philatelist, with a world-famous collection of stamps from the United States. He would build up further collections, keeping them in a walk-in safe in Norwood Farm. He had astutely acquired stamps of the United States cheaply and before they became desirable items, selling his first collection for £13,700 on 14 November 1924 through Puttick and Simpson [*Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, 15 November 1924]. This funded the purchase of 2, Swan Walk but Waterhouse kept sufficient stamps back to form the basis of a new, and subsequently award-winning, collection. This was sold by private treaty in America in order to fund the purchase of Norwood Farm, although again a few were retained to form the nucleus of a third collection [*Reminiscences*, p86].

Norwood Farm would be their country residence until the outbreak of war, at which point they moved to Effingham to escape the Blitz. We know that Swan Walk was badly damaged in late November or early December 1941. The St Lawrence Church accounts show Sir Nicholas donating money through the 1930s and we know that he also gave £5 for the restoration of the cricket pavilion just across Effingham



Figure 5 No 2, Swan Walk in Chelsea.

Common Road from Norwood Farm. His generosity extended in other directions too; descendants of his chauffeur, John Hubert Jebbitt, have told ELHG that Sir Nicholas allowed Jebbitt (who lived in Balham) to borrow the Rolls Royce and take local children for rides in it. Sir Nicholas was also a significant (but anonymous) donor toward the fund raised in the 1930s for the purchase of the King George V Playing Fields in Effingham.



Figure 6 Norwood Farm in Effingham; © Ronald George Burton.

Norwood Farm was a working farm with a herd of cows. The farm manager was a man named Bertram Lewis who lived with his wife Ellen (née Colborne) in Tyrley, Surrey Gardens; their marriage had been solemnized at St Lawrence on 20 February 1936.

Norwood Farm was close to Orchard Cottage where Teddie Gerard, the revue artist, lived. Probably, Audrey already knew Teddie through Gwen Farrar, since Audrey and Gwen were two of the four women who had opened the Chelsea Art Gallery on the King's Road for young artists on 1 February 1921. Audrey and Teddie were also guests at Gwen's partner Norah Blaney's engagement party in April 1922.

Another star of stage and screen, Yvonne Arnaud, would also come to live a short walk away at Banks Way Farm. Arnaud and her husband Hugh McLellan built their new home on land which, it is believed, had been gifted to them by the Waterhouses from the Norwood Farm estate.

Arnaud stayed at Norwood Farm from January to May 1937 (as evidenced by correspondence between Arnaud and Val Gielgud in the BBC archives) while this new house was being completed. On 16 June Arnaud took part in a photoshoot and the results provide us with a unique view of the interior of Norwood Farm in the 1930s (see Figure 7). We might infer that her newly completed house was deemed insufficiently photogenic and that she therefore posed in the Waterhouses' home instead.

Parties and visitors

Norwood Farm seems to have been the venue for wild parties in the 1930s although Sir Nicholas is circumspect about them in his *Reminiscences*. However, Eileen Ascroft, working as a journalist for *The Daily Mirror* during this time, and whose mother lived in Flower Cottage next door to Norwood Farm, did leave us a hint. Writing in that newspaper on 24 February 1938 she says:

'I think that Lady Waterhouse has this charming gift of real hospitality. Invitations to her lovely country home on Effingham Common are much prized, and all the young people who flock down on Saturdays and Sundays adore her. She makes everything such fun and so homely.'



cc013578

SOURCE: Historic England Archive

Figure 7 Yvonne Arnaud at Norwood Farm; © Historic England.

One of Sir Nicholas's close friends, the author and artist Wyndham Lewis, went further when writing to him in June 1952, complaining that the *Reminiscences* had excised the more exciting stories of the parties in Effingham. Audrey's Russian Ballet party at Swan Walk in the Twenties was at least recorded in a list of memorable Chelsea parties [*The Queen*, 8 March 1939]. This was probably due, as Sir Nicholas mentions in the text, to the influence of his second wife, Louise How (born 22 May 1907, died 23 November 1986). She seems to have had various roles in the Waterhouse household, employed as a hairdresser according to

the 1939 National Register, as the housekeeper, and as the teacher / ward of the wartime child refugees. They married on 12 August 1953.

Wyndham Lewis, co-founder of the Vorticist art movement and now seen as one of the most important of all British Modernist artists, had met the Waterhouses in 1926. They became generous and consistent supporters and Lewis in turn dedicated his novel *The Apes of God* to them. Despite controversy never being far from Wyndham Lewis (for example he was sued for libel by one of Sir Nicholas's other friends, the writer Godfrey Winn), Sir Nicholas steadfastly supported him through illness and crisis, even helping his widow after Lewis's death. Lewis's letters to the Waterhouses sent during the War describe his memories of them and of visiting Norwood Farm. Late in life, Lewis would also base his character Percy Lamport in his novel *Self-Condemned* on Sir Nicholas.

Another visitor to Norwood Farm from the Arts was the French violinist and impresario André Mangeot. Audrey had met Mangeot through her youthful musical circles and it had proved an enduring friendship. We know of one recital at which he appeared with Bienvenido Socias at their Swan Walk residence on 4 November 1926 (see the flyer in Figure 9, reproduced here by kind permission of the Royal College of Music, London).

The flyer, on which the year is not stated, has been manually altered to read Tuesday (instead of Thursday) 4 November, from which we can infer that the concert must have taken place in 1926; this fits in with another concert, at which Mangeot and Bienvenido Socias performed together on 29 October at the Bedford Music Club, in the Hall of Bedford High School where Mangeot was teaching violin.

The 1923 Membership List of Mangeot's Music Society includes Yvonne Arnaud and Lady Waterhouse amongst other luminaries. Audrey would also become friendly with Mangeot's second wife, the Australian violinist Beatrice Huckell, who would come to live at Norwood Farm for a period during WW2. We believe that the undated photograph in Figure 10 shows André Mangeot (on the left) with the other two members of his Cembalo Trio, John Ticehurst (centre) and Beatrice Huckell (on the right).

André Mangeot's greatest contribution to the Arts was through fostering young talent, such as the conductor John Barbirolli who joined Mangeot's



Figure 8 Wyndham Lewis with his portrait of T S Eliot, controversially rejected by the Royal Academy in April 1938; under Licence from the Mary Evans Picture Library.

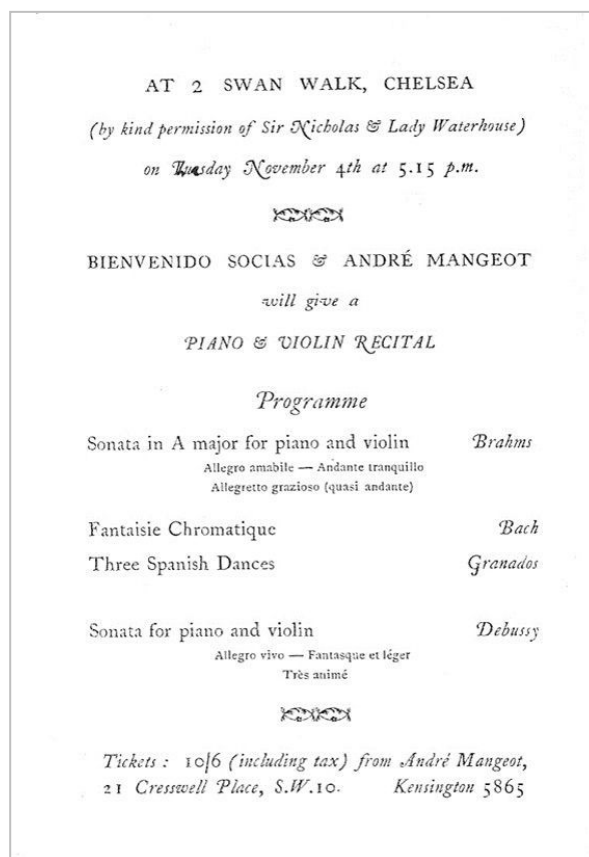


Figure 9 Flyer for concert at 2, Swan Walk, 1926.

Quartet as a cellist in 1922. A mutual friend was Yvonne Arnaud, who frequently accompanied Mangeot on piano in concert, as late as 1939. They corresponded even after she had moved to Effingham and indeed Mangeot would write an unpublished biography of her. She remained a lifelong friend of Barbirolli too, and her last written letter from May 1958 describes meeting him in Manchester.



Figure 10 Mangeot (at left) in his Cembalo Trio; licensed from the Royal College of Music / ArenaPAL.

AEOLIAN HALL
NEW BOND STREET, W. 1

MONDAY, MARCH 22nd at 8.45

THE CEMBALO TRIO

ANDRÉ MANGEOT BEATRICE HUCKELL JOHN TICEHURST

in a Programme of
CONCERTED MUSIC for HARPSICHORD and STRINGS of the
XVIIth and XVIIIth CENTURIES

SMOKING ALLOWED

TICKETS (including Tax): Reserved, 8/6 and 5/9 Admission, 3/-
May be obtained at Adams' Box Office, 130, New Bond Street, W.1; usual Ticket Offices; and
IBBS & TILLET, 124, Wigmore Street, W.1

Telephone: Welbeck 2325 (5 lines)
Telegrams: "Organo!, Wendo, London."

Ticket Office: Welbeck 8418
Hours 10-5 Sat. 10-12

FOR PROGRAMME P.T.O.

Figure 11 Flyer for the Cembalo Trio; reproduced by kind permission of the Royal College of Music.

The photograph in Figure 12, dated to the 1940s, shows Yvonne Arnaud and André Mangeot and may have been taken in the garden of Arnaud's Effingham home.



Figure 12 Yvonne Arnaud with André Mangeot; licensed from the Royal College of Music / ArenaPAL.

Mangeot was also closely involved in the early career of Benjamin Britten, participating in the first concert and broadcast performances of Britten's *Phantasy Quartet* in 1933. We further know from Britten's diaries from this time that he accompanied Mangeot out to Effingham to play tennis, most likely on the court at Norwood Farm. The novelist Christopher Isherwood, as a young man, was also employed by Mangeot as the Secretary for his Music Society, and his relationship with Mangeot and his family is discussed at length in Peter Parker's biography *Isherwood* [publ Picador, 2004]. ELHG has been told anecdotally that Isherwood was another visitor to Norwood Farm.

Mangeot and his wife Beatrice appear in the 1939 National Register at Banks Way Farm, evidently staying with Yvonne Arnaud and her husband. Beatrice would also live at Norwood Farm later in the War. Afterwards, having separated from Mangeot, she remarried to the career diplomat Sir Patrick Hancock.

Wartime events

Lady Waterhouse, writing in French to Mangeot on 9 August 1940 [letter held in the André Mangeot archive at the Royal College of Music], wrote evocatively of the dangers in the Blitz. Sir Nicholas was still commuting into London:

'Docker goes 2 to 3 times a week and almost each time his train is stopped by raids so we never really know when he will be arriving.'

'Docker' was Sir Nicholas's nickname; Audrey's being 'Mauve'. The reason for either is now long lost. The Waterhouses had also helped out an old employee. Audrey writes:

'Do you remember Emily, the parlourmaid at Victoria Road? Very nice girl who married one of the P.W. employees and who has a 13 year old daughter. Their house got destroyed by a bomb and the little girl has been chased by a dive bomber while she was cycling to school. So we offered them to come and rest here for 1 month during which the husband will try to find a new house.'

'Emily' is probably the parlourmaid Emily Holt listed in the 1911 Census return for 71 Victoria Road. Audrey also mentions the evacuees staying in the bungalow on Norwood Farm, saying the children had to sleep in her husband's study because of the intensity of the raids. The Waterhouses took in a series of child evacuees from South London. Effingham Local History Group interviewed one of these Norwood Farm evacuees, Ronald George Burton, in October 2013, recording his memories of an idyllic life at Norwood Farm, fishing and collecting birds' eggs with Sir Nicholas, working with the dairy herd on the Farm and watching wartime aerial dogfights over the Common. Ronald's friendship with Sir Nicholas continued after the War and he recalled a children's Christmas Party hosted by the Waterhouses at Swan Walk.

However he was not among the Norwood Farm evacuees whom Audrey formed into what became her so-called 'Cockney Choir'. The newspaper articles in Figures 13-15, all from *The Surrey Advertiser*, provide examples of the entertainments they provided.



Figure 13 7 December 1940.

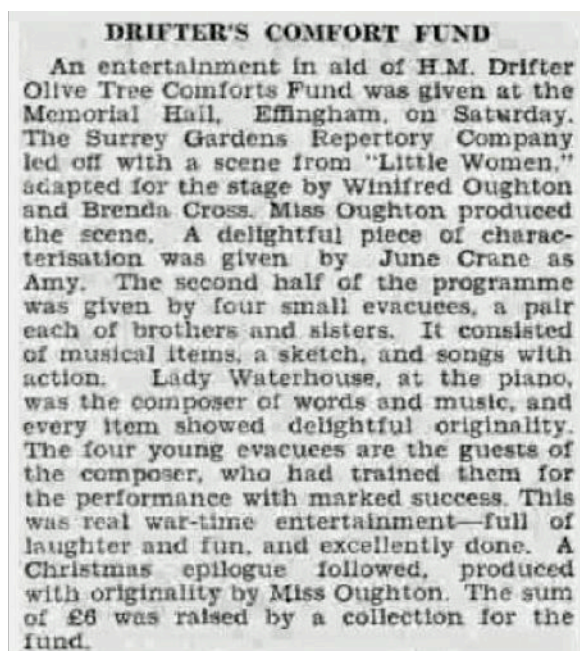


Figure 14 28 December 1940.

There were other shows around the immediate area. Audrey, writing about a year later to Wyndham Lewis in Canada, told him that her activities with the evacuees led to a variety show and a tour of canteens and hospitals, describing their popularity thus:

‘We used to go down like Nervo and Knox on Saturday night at the Palladium ...’

The BBC had apparently recorded the Cockney Choir but regrettably the recordings were lost in the Blitz. Ronald Burton mentioned that another evacuee, named Ron Bailey, had had a lovely singing voice and was a particular favourite of Audrey. However, he ran away back to London with his sister Rosie, causing much distress to Lady Waterhouse.

By this point, however, Lady Waterhouse must have been seriously ill. Sir Nicholas had written to Wyndham Lewis on 8 December 1941 describing her illness. He would continue the gloomy prognosis in later letters through the War. Lewis returned to England in August 1945, and having taken time to get his affairs in order, wrote to Audrey on 19 September. However he was too late. Lady Waterhouse had died at Norwood Farm on Friday 7 September, aged 62.

Her death certificate recorded the cause of death as ‘1a Myocardial degeneration; b Chronic bronchitis; 2 Carcinoma of breast’. The informant, present at the death, was ‘B Lewis’, presumed to be the farm manager Bertram Lewis.

The Surrey Advertiser reported her passing a week later. Her father, Colonel Lewin, had chosen to be cremated at Golders Green, and similarly Audrey was laid to rest in a private ceremony at Woking Crematorium on Monday 10 September 1945.

Aftermath

Sir Nicholas continued at Price Waterhouse until 1960, when at the age of 82 he finally retired. His retirement was commemorated by a visit to Norwood Farm by the Dean of Westminster Abbey, as Sir Nicholas had held the Auditorship of the Abbey from 1916.

After a brief illness he died on 28 December 1964 at the Nuffield Nursing Home in Woking. Like Audrey he was cremated and his ashes interred in the Waterhouse family plot in the churchyard at Holmbury St Mary. An article about his Will is shown in the Appendix.

Audrey’s niece Eileen Margaret Lewin, who had married Major Cecil Bednall in Jerusalem in 1937, would move into Norwood Farm in the mid-1960s. Lady Louise Waterhouse who had been living there then moved to Flower Cottage, a property adjacent to Norwood Farm. They were essentially swapping houses as the Bednalls had been associated with Flower Cottage from at least 1941, at which time they had probably bought it from Winifred Ascoft when she moved to London to live with her daughter Eileen.

Major General Bednall would become Paymaster-in-Chief at the War Office from 1948 to 1955 and then Colonel Commandant of the Royal Army Pay Corps until 1960.

Thereafter he retired from the military and became a Lonrho director in Rhodesia. From what we can tell the Bednalls occupied Norwood Farm from late 1965.

A fuller biography of Major General Bednall’s life and military career was set out in *The Staffordshire Sentinel* on 31 August 1948 and in his obituary in *The Times* on 2 June 1982; the former article can be read in full on ELHG’s website.

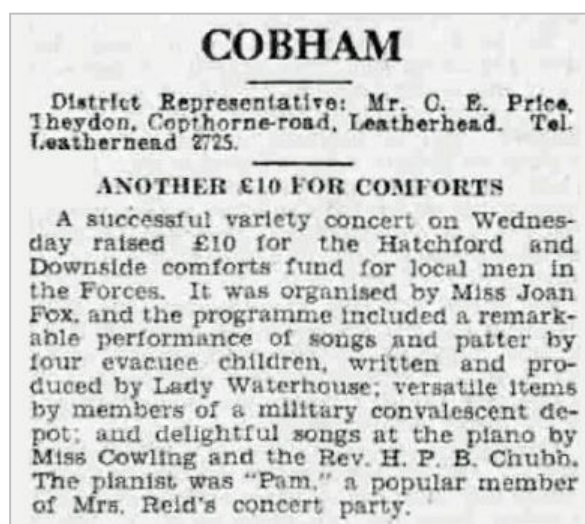


Figure 15 16 August 1941.

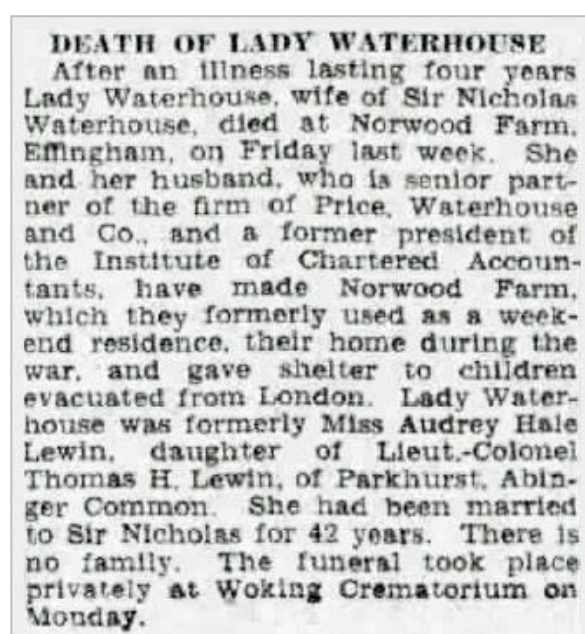


Figure 16 Report of Lady Waterhouse's death.



Figure 17 From *The Bystander*, 18 November 1936.



Figure 18 Major General Sir Cecil Norbury Peter Bednall by Walter Stoneman, 1954; NPG x164002, licensed from NPG Creative Commons.

General Bednall (a keen golfer) was giving The Club House, Effingham Golf Club as his address in the UK. Lady Louise Waterhouse continued living in Flower Cottage until at least 1972, before moving to Worthing. The Waterhouses' long association with Effingham had come to an end.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figures 1, 4, 8, 17: under Licence from the Mary Evans Picture Library; © Illustrated London News Ltd. / Mary Evans
 Figures 2, 5: photographed by Jeremy Palmer
 Figure 3: from Jeremy Palmer *via* <https://goodnessgracious.co.uk>
 Figure 6: from Ronald George Burton
 Figure 7: Historic England Archive, Ref: cc013578; © Historic England
 Figures 9, 11: by kind permission of the Royal College of Music
 Figures 10, 12: licensed from the Royal College of Music / ArenaPAL
 Figures 13-16, 19, 20, 22: by kind permission of Reach plc / *Mirrorpix*
 Figure 18: National Portrait Gallery, Ref: NPG x164002; licensed from NPG Creative Commons
 Figure 21: from *Ancestry*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ELHG would like to thank those persons who have contacted us with information on the Waterhouses and Norwood Farm: Jane Proud, Anne Taylor, John Sutherland and Ronald Burton. Particular thanks to the Jebbitt family and Gill Hill, and to Christian Goodwillie for his unstinting effort helping us with Sir Nicholas's autobiography.

APPENDIX

Article about the Will of Sir Nicholas Waterhouse

Sir Nicholas remembers rail guard in his will

SIR Nicholas Edwin Waterhouse, of Norwood Farm, Effingham, the former senior partner of Price, Waterhouse and Company, the well-known firm of chartered accountants, who died on December 28th, left £100 to Mr. William Barns, a guard on British Railways, of Effingham Junction.

Sir Nicholas, aged 87 years, left £291,396 16s. gross, £289,047 15s. net value. (Duty paid £157,315.)

In addition to his legacy to Mr. Barns he left:

£500 to Miss Tora Alund, masseuse, late of Bedford Court Mansions, London, and now of Stockholm;

"My painting by Guard," to John N. MacLeod, of The Gramophone Company, Barcelona;

£500 to the Chartered Accountants Benevolent Institution;

£250 to St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, for amenity or research purposes in connection with St. Luke's Hospital for Advanced Cases;

£250 each to the Salvation Army and the P.D.S.A.;

Tyrley, Surrey Gardens, East Horsley, to Bertram Lewis, if occupying same at the date of his death, and his half-hunter gold watch and chain and the sum of £2,500 (or £5,000 if not residing at Tyrley);

£600 to his secretary, Doris Glover;

£300 each to his former secretaries, Clairette L. Dering and Dorothy M. Atthill;

£500 to his former chauffeur, John H. Jebitt;

£250 to Mrs. Edith Rees, formerly in his service;

£250 each to Elizabeth, widow of James Everitt, formerly in his service and Ronald Everitt;

£750 to Sarah Filmer, formerly in his service;

£6 for each period of six months in his service to his indoor and outdoor servants.

£500 TO DOCTOR

He also left £1,000 to Sir Harold Claughton of Netherton Grove, Chelsea; £5,000 to Miss Agnes Bedford, of Eaton Mews North, S.W.; £3,000 to Mary Barnett, or to her children; £1,000 to Albert H. Ingram; £500 to Dr. Alan Easton, of Bookham; £1,000 to Leslie Stroud, of Minstead; his residence to his late wife's niece, Eileen Margaret, Lady Bednall (or to her husband, Sir Peter Bednall), if she makes it her principal place of residence and vacates Flower Cottage, her present residence (and subject to his wife's right of residence at Norwood Farm for 18 months after his death); his farming business to Lady Bednall and £1,000 (or £11,000 if she does not accept the aforesaid bequest of property) to her (or her husband); £2,000 and Flower Cottage, to his wife absolutely, and, subject to other personal bequests, the remainder of his property variously to her and other relatives.

Figure 19 From *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 13 February 1965.

The Will of Sir Nicholas Waterhouse (Figure 19 above) contains many fascinating clues to the character of the man, and also to a particularly challenging period of his life. The newspaper story leads on the seemingly idiosyncratic gesture of leaving £100 to William Barns, a guard on British Railways, of Effingham Junction. However Sir Nicholas remembered many other people, formerly in his employ, some of whom,

like Jebbit his chauffeur, we have met in the main article. However, here we will focus on two people whose actions were of particular significance to Sir Nicholas within two days of each other in early 1930.

The first concerns a terrible fire in Chelsea, described in the article shown in Figure 20. This broke out in a motor garage close to Sir Nicholas's residence at 2 Swan Walk, with many people evacuated and cars destroyed; it would have been much worse but for the firemen successfully preventing the fire reaching the giant petrol storage tanks in the building. However, the flames did reach Sir Nicholas's home:

'The rear of the fifteenth century home of Sir Nicholas Waterhouse ... was damaged by flames. Sir Nicholas told [sic – told] a reporter that he and the family were roused by a 24 years' old parlourmaid, Miss Edith Hodges [sic – Hodge]. She was awakened by the crackling of the fire and rushed upstairs to give the alarm.'

BIG CHELSEA BLAZE.

Royal Hospital Road Garage Guttled.

PEOPLE ROUSED FROM SLEEP LEAVE THEIR HOMES.

One of the most terrifying fires in Chelsea for many months occurred in the early hours of yesterday (Thursday) morning, when a garage in Royal Hospital-road was gutted in a big blaze that engaged the attention of the firemen for over two hours. The garage belongs to the Albert Bridge Engineering Co., Ltd., and is situated at No. 7 Royal Hospital-road. The outbreak was discovered by the night charge-man, Mr. Edward Lane, of 121 New-road, Battersea, who told a reporter that he was startled by the lights in the garage failing. On entering the main central building to make investigations he found that flames were already leaping up, and had involved some motor cars. He hurriedly sounded the fire alarm at the junction of Royal Hospital-road and the Embankment.

The fire had secured a strong hold, however, and the flames, fed by the petrol and other inflammable material on the cars garaged in the building, spread with remarkable rapidity. The fire brigade arrived within a few minutes of the alarm, but the building was then blazing fiercely, and they were confronted with dangerous and difficult work. The petrol tanks of the cars exploded ominously, and owing to the fumes many of the firemen had to wear gas masks. Some also wore heat resisting clothing.

Three Large Petrol Tanks.

There are three large petrol storage tanks—one of which holds a thousand gallons—underground at the entrance to the central building, and despite the risk of explosion firemen stood over them with hoses keeping the flames back. The danger was so apparent that a district call was circulated, and fire engines came from all parts of London.

Great sheets of flame swept the streets round the block of houses of which the burning garage was the centre, and there was an imminent danger of the conflagration involving not only the adjoining houses but those in Swan-walk and Paradise-row. As a precautionary measure the police aroused those who had not been already awakened by the commotion, and the inhabitants joined the great crowd which had gathered in the neighbourhood. The majority of

those in the tiny working class homes in Paradise-row answered the police call so quickly that they did not stop to dress, but came out into the street with just a garment over their night attire.

Within the vicinity of the fire are both tenement houses and luxurious flats, and the inhabitants mingled together in a curious crowd. The expensive coats, covering gorgeous dressing gowns and vivid pyjamas of the men and girls of Chelsea's artistic quarter, contrasted with the overcoats and shawls of their poorer neighbours, and there were also many men in evening dress and opera hats, and women in evening frocks and brilliant opera cloaks, who, on leaving West End parties, had been attracted by the glare in the sky. It was an awe-inspiring sight, and spectators stood helplessly by while the motor cars in the blazing garage were destroyed.

Awakened by Crackling of the Fire.

Many notable people in Hospital-road and Cheyne-place were also roused and advised to leave their homes. The rear of the fifteenth century home of Sir Nicholas Waterhouse, at 2 Swan-walk, was damaged by flames. Sir Nicholas told a reporter that he and the family were roused by a 24 years old parlourmaid, Miss Edith Hodges. She was awakened by the crackling of the fire, and rushed upstairs to give the alarm. Describing the fire, Miss Hodges said: "When I rushed upstairs flames were lighting the house, and I thought the master would be burned in his bed. As we left by the stairs we were scorched by the heat and flames which came through the broken windows. We took shelter in a taxicab outside the door."

Iron girders which supported the roof of the central garage crashed down on to the blazing vehicles, but the fire brigade were able to prevent the fire from spreading to an annexe where about 40 cars were garaged.

After two hours' work the fire was under control, and the energetic efforts of the brigade had saved the petrol storage tanks. A few cars just inside the back entrance to the main building were also damaged.

An eye-witness said it was humanly impossible to get any of the cars from

the main garage. When the owners of some of the cars heard about the fire they came rushing to the garage in the hope of saving their property. When they saw that it was impossible, some of them were in a dreadful state. It was pitiful to see them standing helpless, while their cars were being destroyed. One man, who came down in his pyjamas, was able to drive away his car, which was standing in the yard.

A party of girl artists who had been aroused by the police watched the fire for a long time, and then as it was still inadvisable to go back to their flat, decided to

Hunt Round for Breakfast.

"Eventually we persuaded a dear old woman whose house is not in the danger zone," one said, "to give us some tea and eggs and bacon. A breakfast pyjama party is a unique function, even for Chelsea." Others breakfasted at a coffee stall.

The wrecked garage presented an indescribable scene after the fire was put out. Only the walls and steel framework, scorched and twisted, were standing, and everywhere was chaos and confusion. About 30 cars were destroyed, and the owners looked ruefully at the unrecognisable wrecks.

Figure 20 The fire at the home of Sir Nicholas; *West London Press*, 28 February 1930.

It is not inconceivable that Edith saved the lives of the Waterhouses through her brave and selfless actions. Edith seems to have stayed in their employment until at least the time of the 1939 National Register which finds her at Norwood Farm as Edith M Hodge, with her married name Rees later inserted.

Norwood Farm, He Common 257		1	Waterhouse Mildred E	-	M	24 Aug	74	M	Partner Accountant in Practice
		2	Waterhouse Catherine H.	-	F	26 June	83	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties

E.D. Letter Code	DNLM	Borough, U.D. or R.D.	Guildford	Registration District and Sub-district	33-3
------------------	------	-----------------------	-----------	--	------

ADDRESS.	SCHEDULE.		SURNAME AND OTHER NAMES.	O. V. S. P. or I.	M. or F.	BIRTH.		S. M. W. or D.	PERSONAL OCCUPATION.
	No.	Sub. No.				Day.	Year.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Norwood Farm, He Common	257	3	Beraldi Gilbert S.	-	F	31 Oct	85	D	Dressmaker, He Common
		4	Atwood John W.	-	M	30 July	03	S	Managing Director, He Common
		5	REES Edith M.	-	F	4 July	04	S	Domestic Servant, He Common
		6	CORNICK Hilsona Daisy	-	F	1 Aug	06	W	Domestic Servant, He Common
		7	Hine Ellie A.	-	F	12 Sept	08	S	Domestic Servant, He Common
		8	SNELLING Louise	-	F	16 Oct	08	S	Domestic Servant, He Common
		9	How Louise	-	F	22 Nov	08	S	Hair Dresser

Figure 21 The household at Norwood Farm in the 1939 National Register; Edith is the fifth member listed.

Later, in 1947, Edith would marry George F Rees [GRO Ref: Croydon 5g 205, 1947 (Q4)]. Sir Nicholas clearly valued her, leaving her £250 in his Will.

Two days after the fire, Sir Nicholas received even worse news, this being the suicide of a long term, close friend and medical help, William Whitehorn Brooke Barnett. William Barnett had taken his own life on Saturday 1 March 1930 at Barons Court Tube Station, and Sir Nicholas was called to appear at the inquest at Hammersmith Coroner's Court on the following Tuesday.

William Barnett's association with Sir Nicholas had begun in 1904, as recounted in Sir Nicholas's *Reminiscences*. In his recollection of his school years, Sir Nicholas tells us how an existing knee injury had been made much worse by a kick to it [Reminiscences, p35]. Although the injury recovered, a further blow to it while playing soccer saw him laid up for a year. He describes it as having happened shortly after he had married Audrey in 1903 and states that in 1904 it had:

'entailed a long stay in Madeira and an operation on my return to London. It was a horribly painful experience and if it had not been for the clever diagnosis and help of a total stranger in Madeira who saved me from having my leg amputated at the Seamen's Hospital there and got me back to London I would, according to Sir Victor Horsley, have surely died during the next few days. The kind stranger was W B Barnett ("Beaver") a masseur who became my closest and dearest friend and companion till his death in 1930.' [ibid, p80]

The enforced recovery did have one benefit for Sir Nicholas, insofar as it spurred his interest in philately, as mentioned previously. Sir Nicholas also notes [ibid p109] that the knee had caused him to be rejected as unfit for service in WW1, although he would serve in an administrative capacity in the War Office.

The 1911 Census finds Barnett, described as a Medical Electrician, as a visitor to the Waterhouses' home at 71 Victoria Street. At the inquest Sir Nicholas described his erstwhile friend as suffering from heightened anxiety due to financial problems, with Mary his wife also expecting another child. The Coroner passed a verdict of 'Suicide while temporarily of unsound mind' and Sir Nicholas promised to pass on his condolences to William's wife, Mary Barnett.

In fact Sir Nicholas did more than that, as he bequeathed a sum of £3,000 to Mary or to her children. He further left a sum to a Miss Tora Alund, also a masseuse, whom we might reasonably presume to have fulfilled the same role after William Barnett's passing.

The Waterhouses' thoughtfulness to their servants extended in other ways too. ELHG has also been contacted by a descendant of a woman named Adelaide Louise King, who described to us how Adelaide had also been in service to the Waterhouses at 71 Victoria Road from 1911. This period had been an exceptionally happy period of Adelaide's life, not least because 'she was treated more like a family member than just a housemaid'. After Adelaide left their employ, the Waterhouses continued to keep in touch, as well as using her exquisite sewing skills. Lady Waterhouse, it is noted, illustrated her letters to Adelaide with detailed ink sketches and cartoons, such as one portraying herself as a mouse.

BARONS COURT STATION TRAGEDY.

Man Who "Worried Himself to Death."

Sir Nicholas Waterhouse, the chartered accountant, whose home at 2 Swan-walk, Chelsea, was endangered by a devastating fire at an adjoining garage last week, attended Hammersmith Coroner's Court on Tuesday to give evidence at an inquest on a friend who met with a shocking fate at Barons Court Tube Station on Saturday. The inquiry concerned Mr. William Whitehorn Brooke Barnett (55), medical electrician and masseur, of 320 Earl's Court-road, who was seen to place himself across the rails in front of an oncoming train, and two carriages passed over his body before the driver could pull up. The train had to be uncoupled before the body could be extricated, and the mangled remains taken to hospital.

The coroner (Mr. H. R. Oswald), remarked that he did not understand why the body, obviously lifeless, was taken to hospital. Why the body was not removed to the mortuary passed his comprehension. He (the coroner) understood that there was a regulation that unless a doctor certified death, an injured person must be conveyed to hospital, but when the corpse was so mangled, as in this case, he did not see any reason why the constable should not use his discretion and remove the body direct to the mortuary. Extra public expense was likely to be incurred by the removal of the body from the hospital to the mortuary, but in that case he (the coroner) had saved that expenditure by viewing the body at the hospital.

Petty Business Worries.

The widow was spared the ordeal of attending the inquest by evidence of identification being given by Sir Nicholas Waterhouse. Sir Nicholas said he had been an intimate friend of Mr. Barnett for 25 years. He was a healthy man, of sober habits. For the last few weeks he had been suffering from marked depression, due to business worries, which witness considered were petty. He became anxious because he thought that some shares in which he had saved some money were dropping, and also over the fact that the number of his patients was decreasing. His nervous condition became acute, and he was treated by the family doctor.

The Coroner: Have you ever heard him threaten to take his life?

Sir Nicholas: No, but he has said he was afraid he would go off his head.

On account of his worries? Yes. They were comparatively trifling, but they got him down, as it were. When I saw him in bed about a week ago he said he was afraid to work because of his head, but I had a telephone talk with him the night before the tragedy, and he then seemed rather more cheerful, and mentioned that he had attended to one or two more patients during the week. "Mr. Barnett was a most popular and pleasant man, on good terms with everybody," added Sir Nicholas. "He and his wife were a most affectionate couple, with two children. Mrs. Barnett is

Expecting Another Child,

and from a financial point of view, that again worried her husband.

Alice Rose Jones, nurse to Mr. Barnett's children, said he left the house about 9.30 on Saturday morning, saying he was going to the bank. She saw him as he left the nursery and he remarked he would not be long.

How Mr. Barnett deliberately laid himself across the rails in front of an oncoming train was described by William Robertson, a railway inspector of 70 Bollo-lane, Chiswick. Mr. Robertson had just alighted from another train, and was standing on the platform when he first saw Mr. Barnett, who had got down on to the track and was standing between the platform and the running rail. At that moment a train from Hammersmith was entering the station, and when it was about three yards away he deliberately placed himself across the rails. The driver had no chance to pull up, and two carriages passed over the body before the train was brought to a standstill. The train had to be uncoupled before the body could be extricated.

The train-driver, Samuel George Middleton, of 53 Russell-road, Northolt, gave a similar version. His attention was attracted to the man, he said, because he was the only person at that particular end of the platform, and when the train was six or seven yards away, he ran from the centre of the platform to the edge and jumped on to the track. He alighted between the two rails, and then

Placed Himself Across the Metals

before witness could pull up. The alarm was given and the body extricated with all haste.

P.C. Martin, 645B, who was called to the station soon after the fatality, said the body was identified by a business envelope on the clothing. There was no money nor any railway ticket in the dead man's possession.

Dr. David Bethune Purves, house surgeon at the West London Hospital, said the body was extensively mangled, but there was no sign of electrocution. The injuries included fractures of the skull in several places, extensive crushing of the chest and ribs, and fractures of both arms and legs.

The coroner remarked that Mr. Barnett's mind had become distraught, and he worried himself to death.

After recording a verdict of "Suicide while temporarily of unsound mind," the coroner expressed sympathy with the bereaved, and Sir Nicholas Waterhouse promised to convey his condolence to the widow.

Figure 22 The suicide of William Whitehorn Brooke Barnett; *Fulham Chronicle*, 7 March 1930.

Yvonne Arnaud – Effingham's Star of Stage and Screen, Pianist and Comedienne

JEREMY PALMER

Yvonne Arnaud, after an initial career as an internationally admired concert pianist and singer, changed direction and became one of Britain's most accomplished and much loved actors. She was cast very often in comedic and light-hearted plays, allowing full scope to combine her delightful vivaciousness with her impeccable command of timing and highly perfected stagecraft. She acted often with other well-known actors living in Effingham.

Early career

Of all the stage entertainers who made Effingham their home, none worked harder than the French pianist, singer and actress Yvonne Arnaud. From 1905 through to her death in 1958, she was consistently one of the most popular stars of the era, whether on stage, in films or through television and radio broadcasts. That she lives on via the Guildford theatre named in her honour is a testament to the level of stardom she achieved in her lifetime.

She was born Jeanne Germaine Arnaud on 20 December 1890, to Colonel Charles Leon Arnaud and his wife Antoinette. The family lived in the Bordeaux region of France. Once Germaine's early musical talent was recognised, her mother made every effort to develop her daughter's skills, controlling and directing her life in this direction. Germaine was educated in Paris and studied music at the Paris Conservatoire where in 1905 she won the Premier Prix for her piano playing.

By 1906 her mother had taken her on tour throughout Europe. The earliest review we have found is dated 29 November 1906 and appeared in the *Morning Post* newspaper. Arnaud was appearing at the Aeolian Hall; the reviewer commented on her 'exceptional command of the keyboard' and finished by saying:

'Mademoiselle Arnaud displayed much taste and feeling, but if she had revealed all the poetry of the music doubt would have been thrown on the statement as to her age. She was received with great and well-deserved cordiality.'



Figure 1 Arnaud photographed by Dorothy Wilding; Picturegoer Series, No 378a.

By 1908 her reputation as a pianist of great promise had taken her to the United States. She was one of the guest soloists for the Boston Symphony Orchestra in 1909, arriving in January and promptly garlanded with rave reviews. Tours in Germany and Scandinavia followed, then in Russia and as far as Siberia on the Trans-Continental Railway.

The last we hear of her in the role of performing pianist was in February 1910, when she appeared in Nice's *King Carnival* celebrations where her interpretation of Saint-Saëns' Toccata was highly praised. However, after this appearance she seems to have dropped out of the public eye for a while, for reasons we have not been able to ascertain.

From piano to stage

It was not until the summer of 1911 that Germaine reappeared. Oriel Malet, in her 1961 biography (p63 onwards) of her godmother Arnaud entitled *Marraine* (this being the name Malet gave to Arnaud) recounted Arnaud's brother Edmond saying that she accepted a challenge to appear on stage for one night only. This was to be in a theatrical role and not as a pianist. She approached the impresario Georges Edwardes to fulfil this wish. After conquering both Edwardes' and her mother's opposition, Germaine was cast in a soubrette role as Princess Mathilde in the musical *The Quaker Girl*. The one night became several weeks of touring. Arnaud appears in the cast lists as 'Germaine France', the earliest mention being an advertisement from the *Leeds Mercury* on 22 August 1911. *The Quaker Girl* had been a massive success. Starring Gertie Millar, it had opened at the Adelphi Theatre on 5 November 1910, running to 536 performances. It was therefore a risky decision to cast Germaine Arnaud in a supporting role, even in the touring version, and one that was not well received backstage, as Arnaud described:



Figure 2 From *The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*, 14 September, 1912.

'Gertie Millar, Elsie Spain, James Blakeley and Hayden Coffin were in the cast. Joe Coyne was the only one who was kind and who would rehearse with me. There was a terrible uproar in the theatre, you see, because of the understudy who was ready to play ... everybody was against me, even the chorus girls who were all very fashionable ladies, very well kept, and I was just like a flea amongst all those beautiful girls.' [*Marraine*, p65-66]

The tour lasted until May 1912. Arnaud commented in *Marraine* (p67) that she was due to go back to France but contracted typhoid and so had to remain in England. This is perhaps doubtful because Arnaud also states that she again demanded a theatrical role from an impresario when she approached Michael Faraday, manager of the Lyric Theatre. Since 'Yvonne Arnaud' was announced in *The Stage* on 1 August 1912 as being in the cast of Faraday's *The Girl in the Taxi*, this implies a period of only three months between her first and second plays on the stage. Given casting and rehearsals, it would be reasonable to assume the break between the two was even shorter.

The Girl in the Taxi opened on 7 September 1912. Based on a French farce, it seems that Faraday showed great patience and faith in the untrained Arnaud as well as having to negotiate with her mother to allow her underage daughter to perform. Faraday also rechristened Germaine as Yvonne, after deciding that 'Germaine' sounded too much like 'German'.

The Girl in the Taxi ran for 385 performances. Arnaud's performance was singled out for praise. *The Westminster Gazette* issue of 6 September 1912 described her as:

'... a very attractive young artist who in the part of Suzanne achieved instantaneous success on the score alike of her personal charms, her sprightly action and her tasteful singing.'

Other publications accorded her similar accolades, *The Observer* calling her 'an attractively arch and demure little rake', for example.

From Oriel Malet's account it also seems that 'Yvonne Arnaud' was Germaine's means to escape her mother's tight control; the character Yvonne, vivacious, charming and bubbly, was everything the pianist Germaine had been denied.

'It is plain that something was released in her from the moment that she stepped onto a stage. Her own comments make this plain: "I thought it was the easiest thing in the world and such fun ... how I enjoyed it ... By then, I had taken a liking to play." Inside the solemn, round-faced little girl there was someone else, spontaneous and gay ... Inside that warm circle of light, she found herself taking part in a delicious game; and it had nothing at all to do with Maman.' [*Marraine*, p70]

WHO LEAPT
From Obscurity to Fame in a Single Night.



MLLE. YVONNE ARNAUD *Bassano*

The clever young French actress who made an instantaneous success in that entertaining musical play, "The Girl in the Taxi." Miss Arnaud's Suzanne is a sheer delight from start to finish, and her voice is used to good purpose in some pretty songs. Miss Arnaud speaks with a slight French accent which enhances her charm. She had previously appeared in the provinces, but her chance came in the Lyric piece and she seized it with both hands

Figure 3 From *The Tatler*, 11 December 1912.

Arnaud used her considerable musical skills in comedies, farces and operettas through the 1910s. Here are some examples from this period, including a widely covered story about an anonymous admirer gifting her a lemur. She tried to keep it but after an appeal for help on what to feed it, and the lemur then eating one of her hats, it was passed on to London Zoo.



Figure 4 From *The Sketch*, 13 May 1914.



Figure 5 From *The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*, 18 March 1916.



Figure 6 From *The Tatler*, 2 July 1919.

Her run of farces and light comedies culminated in *Kissing Time*, with Arnaud now billed alongside stars such as Stanley Holloway, Leslie Henson and Phyllis Dare. This ran for 13 months at the Winter Garden Theatre, closing on 3 July 1920.

Silent films

Arnaud had by this time taken some first steps into silent films. She was reported in October 1919 as taking a role in *The Temptress*, adapted from a story by Balzac and produced for the British and Colonial Film Company. She followed this with a second production for B&C entitled *Desire*, also from a novel by Balzac. She complained at the heavy workload this caused, appearing in film during the day and on stage at night. This may have been the reason why Arnaud would not work in films again for another ten years and made no further silent movies.



Figure 7 From *The Bioscope*, 20 November 1919.



Figure 8 Promotional card for Arnaud, 1920s.

A change now became inevitable; an operation to repair her vocal chords damaged them further, resulting in Arnaud no longer being able to sing professionally (as mentioned without citation on the *stagebeauty.net* website's page on Arnaud – via the Biography link there).

Marriage

A report published in *The Pall Mall Gazette* on 28 October 1920 does mention that Arnaud had only recently recovered from an operation, although this was a passing reference; the main subject of the report was her surprise marriage that same day to Hugh McLellan at Kensington Register Office. It emphasised how much of a shock this was to the theatrical world and how few were in the know.

The Times seems to have been the only newspaper given notice of the wedding, announcing on the 28th:

'The marriage arranged between Hugh McLellan, only son of the late C M S McLellan and of Mrs McLellan, and Germaine Yvonne, only daughter of the late Colonel Arnaud, of the French Army, and of Mrs Arnaud, will take place very quietly today in London.'

Hugh McLellan was the son of Charles Morton Stewart McLellan, a highly successful and prolific American writer of musical comedies for the stage. He had enjoyed major success in the West End in 1898-99 with *The Belle of New York*. This had toured overseas and been frequently revived. He resided at Earnshaw Cottage in Esher, a property previously owned by Charlotte Despard of the Women's Freedom League. Hugh, born in New Jersey in 1895, had become a naturalised British citizen in December 1914 while studying at Trinity College, Oxford. His father had died in 1916, although the family was still involved in theatre via Hugh's uncle, George Brinton McLellan, who would rise to be the managing director of the Wernher Group of West End playhouses. Hugh had tried his hand at writing for the theatre, had acted and would later become his wife's manager. Otherwise he seems to have had a peripatetic career; in various places he is described as an amateur golfer, an actor, an academic and an accountant. When the couple moved to Effingham he would then become a pig farmer.

With her ability to sing on stage compromised, Arnaud re-established herself in farces and comedies, enjoying early success in *Tons of Money*, the first in the hugely successful series known as the Aldwych Farces. This was the first venture of a new theatrical partnership. As W MacQueen Pope wrote in *The Footlights Flickered* (p94-95), as the curtain rose on the opening night of 13 April 1922, following a desperate battle to find investors, it could easily have fallen again on two new bankrupts. Instead *Tons of Money* lived up to its name. It ran for 737 performances and ushered in 13 years of lucrative and similar hits for the Aldwych. Arnaud played Louise Allington, wife to Ralph Lynn's Aubrey and forever coming up with a new plan, each more preposterous than the preceding. It gave her a catchphrase – 'I've got an idea', a phrase to which Aubrey clings like a limpet in the hope that each new one will rescue them from their impecunious state. *Tons of Money* re-made Arnaud as a star of light comedy. She would return to the Aldwych Farces but such was her mastery of what was called the 'comedy of pure fun', she would have roles written specifically with her in mind. This was precision-tooled comedy, overlaid with Arnaud's infectious humour and unique delivery. Audiences knew what to expect and even if the material was thin, her commitment and expertise were never in doubt.

The McLellans now lived in the heart of Belgravia, giving their address variously as 44 Eaton Mews North or Lyall Cottage, perhaps both referring to the same property. It would remain their home until the move to Effingham in the mid-1930s.



Figure 9 *The Pall Mall Gazette*, 28 October 1920.

August 24, 1932

The Sketch

343



THE STAR'S HOUSE — MODERN TYPE; YVONNE ARNAUD'S MEWS HOME.

The stage star of the pre-war period expected a home with an impressive approach. We have changed all that nowadays, for many of the most important and celebrated people live in converted mews flats, or houses with very simple façades, though the interiors are beautifully decorated and full

of labour-saving devices and luxury gadgets. Miss Yvonne Arnaud, for instance, has a cottage in a Mayfair mews. She is, in private life, Mrs. Hugh McLellan, and will be seen at the Globe next month in a new play, "Will You Love Me Always?" It will have a preliminary run in Manchester.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SAGHA.

Figure 10 The McLellan's London home, Lyall Cottage, pictured in *The Sketch*, 24 August 1932.



Figure 11 Hugh McLellan, his wife Yvonne Arnaud and Anita Elson pictured in *The Sketch*, 19 August 1931.

Broadway

Arnaud's next notable role was as Mrs Pepys in J B Fagan's *And So To Bed* which opened at the Queen's Theatre on 6 September 1926. With Arnaud starring alongside Edmund Gwenn, this was another substantial, critical and commercial hit, with a run of 8 months. She then continued in the cast when the play transferred to the Shubert Theatre on Broadway in November 1927. Arnaud received praise on both sides of the Atlantic. The review in *The Tatler* published on 29 September 1926 began:

'Not for a long time have I enjoyed a new play so much as I enjoyed Mr. Fagan's comedy on the Pepys menage, *And So To Bed*. It began rather slowly, and for a little while I thought it was going to be just a wee bit dull. But the moment Miss Yvonne Arnaud, as Mrs. Pepys, appeared on the scene she "lifted" the play to a wonderful extent. A great performance. Moreover, at her entrance the play itself seemed to get into its stride, so to speak, and for ever afterwards was enchanting.'



Figure 12 *And So To Bed* from *The Sketch*, 22 September 1926.

In New York the *Brooklyn Times Union* echoed this with:

'It was Yvonne Arnaud who ran away with the chief honours of the evening though. As Mrs. Pepys she is a joy.'



Figure 13 *And So To Bed* from *The Sketch*, 22 September 1926.

During the Broadway run, Sir John Gielgud was also appearing in New York for the first time. He mentions Arnaud in his autobiography *Backward Glances* (published by Hodder & Stoughton, 1972) saying she was 'enchantingly kind' to him whenever they met (p173). *And So To Bed* enjoyed a six month run in New York, Arnaud sailing back on 11 June 1928. This would be one of the highlights of Arnaud's stage career. Oriel Malet mentions that the only portrait of Arnaud which came close to capturing her personality was of Arnaud in costume as Mrs. Pepys (Figure 13), saying it captured her strength and determination as well as the solemnity of the child prodigy she had been. It hung on the staircase in her Effingham home.

Yvonne Arnaud would appear only twice on Broadway, the second time in *Canaries Sometimes Sing*, a comedy play by the British writer Frederick Lonsdale. She initially appeared in its 1929 staging at The Globe Theatre, then sailed to the US in October 1930 to recreate the role at the Fulton Theatre. However it received poor notices, the *Brooklyn Times Union* this time branding it a 'lean comedy'. Arnaud returned on 12 December 1930 and would not perform in America again. In the meantime a film version of the play had been released in the UK in September, as Arnaud relaunched her acting career on screen.

Effingham connections

She reunited with J B Fagan on stage in *The Improper Duchess*, another substantial critical and audience success at The Globe which ran from January to November 1931. This united her on stage for the first time with soon-to-be fellow Effingham residents and actors, Winifred Oughton and Andrea Malandrinos. All three would also be cast in a revival of *And So To Bed* that followed on in November at The Globe.

Oughton in particular was a long-term friend, and would be Arnaud's regular companion travelling back on the train from Waterloo to Effingham. *The Improper Duchess* was a satire on America, big oil and impoverished Ruritanian nobility.



Figure 14 In *The Improper Duchess* from *The Sketch*, 11 February 1931.

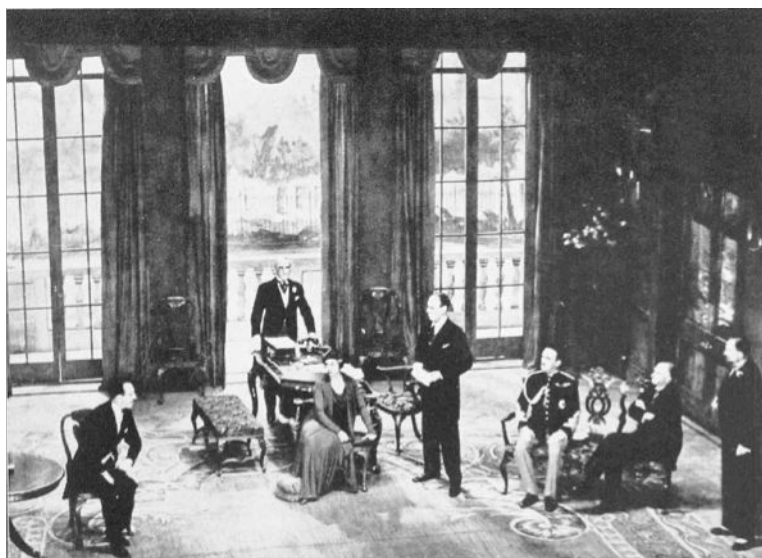


Figure 15 In *The Improper Duchess* from *The Sketch*, 21 February 1931.

Arnaud would again reprise her role of the Duchess in the movie version three years later. This seems to have been a mixed blessing; her movie roles would ensure she stayed in the public eye when unable to work on the stage, and perhaps compensate for her no longer travelling abroad for work. However, interviewed for the *Norwood News* on 1 April 1932 she stated:

‘There is nothing about making pictures at all, except that they make you get up early every morning for nothing at all. Often when you get there early you are not wanted until four o’clock in the afternoon, and if you do not do the thing right the first time it can be done again and again – a million times if necessary. Seldom is it a spontaneous performance.’

Arnaud’s grumpiness was understandable. It transpired at the end of the tour of *The Improper Duchess* that she had continued working while needing an operation for fibroids. *The Daily Mirror* reported on 12 April 1932 that she was in a Park Lane nursing home.

OPERATION ON YVONNE ARNAUD

Famous Actress Leaves Play to Enter Nursing Home

Miss Yvonne Arnaud, the actress, underwent a severe operation yesterday at a Park-lane nursing home.

Her husband, Mr. Hugh McLellan, told the *Daily Mirror* last night that the operation had been satisfactory, and that Miss Arnaud hoped to leave the nursing home in about four weeks' time.

Until Saturday Miss Arnaud was playing the name-part in "The Improper Duchess."

"Last week she was acting in the play at Golders Green, and when she left the cast on Saturday for the operation she was in the best of spirits," a member of her household said.

Miss Arnaud, who was born of French parents, has achieved many successes on the English stage.

She is also a distinguished singer and pianist.

Miss Yvonne Arnaud

Figure 16 From *The Daily Mirror*, 12 April 1932.

She was discharged a month later in May; she and Hugh were captured by a photographer for *The Sphere*. She would not be seen on the stage again until the autumn.

Perhaps this brush with mortality encouraged Arnaud to expand her range into more serious roles. In February 1934 she appeared as Queen Katherine in Sir Oswald Stoll's revival of Shakespeare's *Henry V* at the Alhambra for which she received respectful reviews. However, although thereafter roles by the great comic writers of the age would be offered to her, Arnaud would mostly avoid serious dramas.

Home life

By 1935 the McLellans' thoughts may have turned to escaping from London and putting distance between Arnaud's professional and family lives. In a report in *The Daily Mirror* dated 26 November 1935



Figure 17 From *The Sphere*, 14 May 1932.

the McLellans were seen playing tennis at Norwood Farm by Effingham Common, guests of long-time friends Sir Nicholas and Lady Audrey Waterhouse:

'A loud report coincided with every double fault served by Miss Yvonne Arnaud over the weekend – not as a reprimand, but as a signal that her husband, Mr Hugh McLellan had accounted for another rabbit somewhere nearby.

She was playing tennis with Sir Nicholas Waterhouse and Lady Waterhouse on their hard court at Effingham, and with relentless energy repaired to the barn to play badminton as soon as it became dark.

Sir Nicholas Waterhouse, distinguished accountant, went to his study to stick in stamps, of which he has such a fine collection that he told me he bought the house entirely from the proceeds of his "swaps".'

We know that the Waterhouses and McLellans had been friends as far back as 1926, as shown by a photograph of them playing tennis together [*Studies in the History of Effingham*, Volume 8, Article 69, publ Effingham Local History Group (ELHG)]. Sir Nicholas in his privately-published *Reminiscences* described the tennis parties they enjoyed:

'He (Godfrey Winn) was a very fine [tennis] player and when I partnered him in doubles at our parties here I usually lay down under the net all the time except when I had to serve. In mixed doubles he often partnered Yvonne Arnaud and they made a wonderful pair. If I were on the other side my only chance would be to try and put them off their strokes by improper remarks.'

Godfrey Winn as an actor appeared in many plays and films but went on to write novels and became a star columnist on *The Daily Mirror* and *The Sunday Express*.

Arnaud's sporting skills were not limited to tennis and badminton, as the photograph in Figure 18 showing Arnaud playing table tennis demonstrates. She may have started with this sport in 1923, since an article in the *Birmingham Gazette* on 10 March 1923 described how she and Ralph Lynn had taken it up in order to keep in trim for their roles in *Tons of Money*.



Figure 18 From *The Daily Mirror* Archive.

The Waterhouse / Arnaud circle of friends illuminates how she had also continued her musical career even after the loss of her singing voice. Lady Waterhouse's friendship with the French violinist and impresario, André Mangeot, is discussed in ELHG's Waterhouse article [*op cit*]. We know that Arnaud occasionally accompanied Mangeot's International String Quartet as a pianist. For example, a flyer in the André Mangeot Archive held in the Royal College of Music (RCM) library shows them performing together in May 1922 at St. John's Institute in Tufton Street, the highlights being Bax's Second Violin Sonata and the first performance in England of Honegger's Violin Sonata. Another document held in the RCM library indicates that both Arnaud and Lady Waterhouse were members of Mangeot's Music Society in 1923. Indeed there is a letter in the RCM library, dated 6 September 1940, from the publishers Hutchinsons, in which they declined to publish Mangeot's biography of Yvonne Arnaud. She may also have first met Sir John Barbirolli through his role as cellist in one of Mangeot's string quartets, although Barbirolli's official biography states that he met Arnaud when she overheard him playing in a theatre orchestra in 1923. Their friendship would last throughout her life with Arnaud frequently appearing in concert with Barbirolli. She also included a recording of Barbirolli conducting the Hallé's performance of *The Marriage of Figaro Overture*, in her *Desert Island Discs* selection broadcast in January 1951.



cc013579

SOURCE: Historic England Archive

Figure 19 Arnaud at Norwood Farm, 16 June 1937; by courtesy of the Historic England Archive.



cc013580

SOURCE: Historic England Archive

Figure 20 Arnaud at Norwood Farm, 16 June 1937; by courtesy of the Historic England Archive.

We can be reasonably sure that by 1937 the McLellans had taken up residence at their new home, Banks Way Farm in the north of Effingham parish, situated down a lane leading away eastwards from Effingham Junction railway station. The above photographs from the Historic England Archive were taken on 16 June 1937, but although they purport to show Arnaud in her new home they were actually taken in Norwood Farm. This was probably because Banks Way had not yet been completed. Godfrey Winn wrote in July 1937 in *The Daily Mirror* that the McLellans would be moving into Banks Way that month.

The photograph in Figure 21 captures her in what appears to be a relaxed and happy moment. The house seen behind her is Grove Paddock (now The Paddock), built by Anthony Nicholas Diamantidi and leased as a country retreat during 1934-38 to the singer, instrumentalist and comedienne Gwen Farrar. As Arnaud moved to the village probably in late July 1937, and Gwen Farrar surrendered the lease of Grove Paddock on 9 May 1938, the picture may well have been taken in the summer of 1937.



Figure 21 Arnaud in cheerful mood; perhaps summer 1937.

Farming in wartime

One of the first things that the McLellans did was to establish a piggery holding 600 pigs. Godfrey Winn, writing in *The Daily Mirror* on 11 March 1937 indicated that this was part of their original plans:

‘Yvonne Arnaud and her husband (are) in the process of moving into a most attractive home near Effingham. Mr Hugh McLellan is taking up pig farming and is most enthusiastic about it. So is his wife. “You must come one day and see Hugh’s pigs,” Yvonne exclaimed. “The poor pig, he is a much maligned animal. He is not nearly so dirty as human beings pretend. Hugh’s piggery is spotless and to prove it I am going to give a house-warming party in it soon.”’

Monica (née Mooney) German-Ribon, who gave ELHG her oral reminiscences on 22 May 2013, was a young girl living in Effingham at this time and painted a different picture of Yvonne Arnaud and her pigs:

‘I went into the Land Army and I was sent to this pig farm run by Yvonne Arnaud’s husband, and I loved the pig farm and the pigs loved me! Yvonne Arnaud didn’t love the pigs and they didn’t love her very much. There was Basil the boar used to waddle towards me for back scratching every day ... He [McLellan] had about 12 pigs and lots and lots of piglets and Basil the boar who I was very fond of. Yvonne Arnaud used to come down and look rather disdainfully at the pigs and sniff at them, that sort of thing and Basil would turn his back on her. She only came down once a week to see what was going on. I was only there for a month so I saw her about four times.’

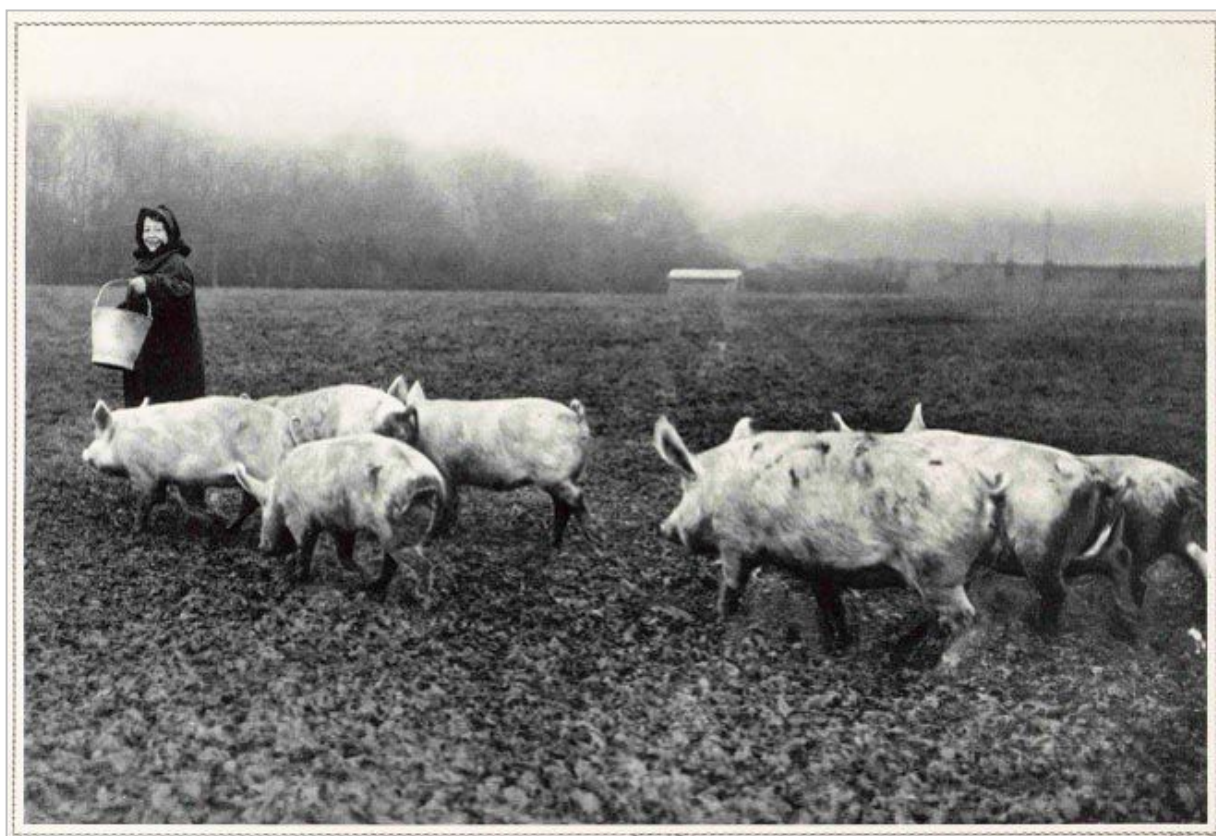


Figure 22 The McLellans at Banks Way Farm, pictured in *The Sketch*, 26 January 1938.

The move to Effingham was initially spoiled by a burglary in the following November in which thieves scaled a ladder to break into Arnaud’s bedroom while she was away broadcasting. Although her dogs were barking furiously, the staff were oblivious, allowing the burglars to steal jewellery worth £2500. Some items were later found discarded on the railway. We have not found a record of anyone being apprehended for the theft.

Arnaud’s career was still in full flow and she used her stardom for good causes in her new home once the War had broken out. In March 1940 she appeared alongside Gerda Brown, the commandant of the local Red Cross detachment, to appeal for donations for the Finnish Comforts and Refugees Fund. After a performance she would always head home to Effingham, as Gielgud writes:

'She would not sleep in London during air raids but would send her dresser out to shop for her, rushing off to Waterloo as soon as the play was over laden with bags and parcels, and riding triumphantly in the guard's van of a train to reach her country house, coaxing smiles and friendly help from everyone on the way.' [*Backward Glances*, p174]

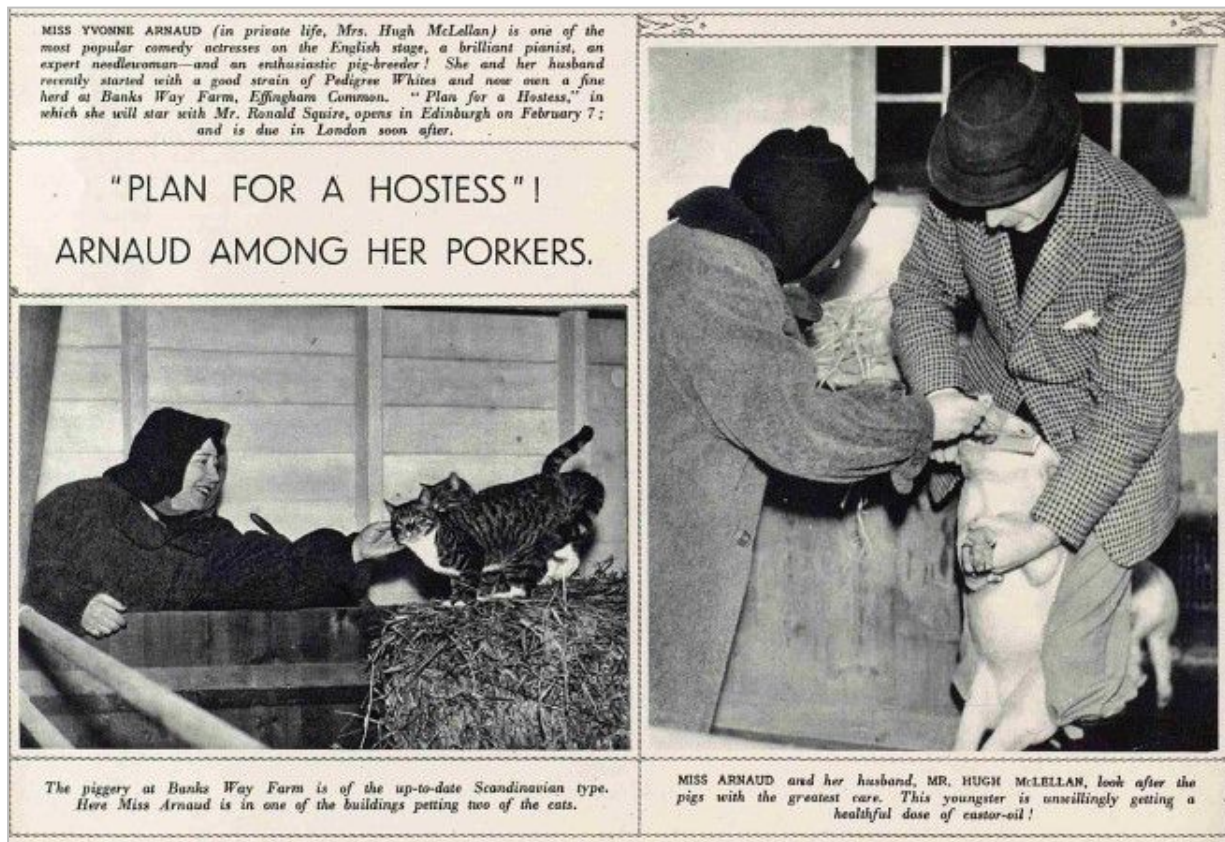


Figure 23 The McLellans at Banks Way Farm, pictured in *The Sketch*, 26 January 1938.

She travelled back with her friend and fellow-actor Winifred Oughton, their sumptuous supper being noted in the *Evening Telegraph and Post* (Dundee) of 25 May 1942 – a packet of sandwiches and a flask of coffee. Not that Effingham was always a safe destination. Writing to a Mrs Salmon on 30 September 1940 she complained: 'We are in the front line here and we have air raids, bombs etc. on our fields and unpleasantly near.'

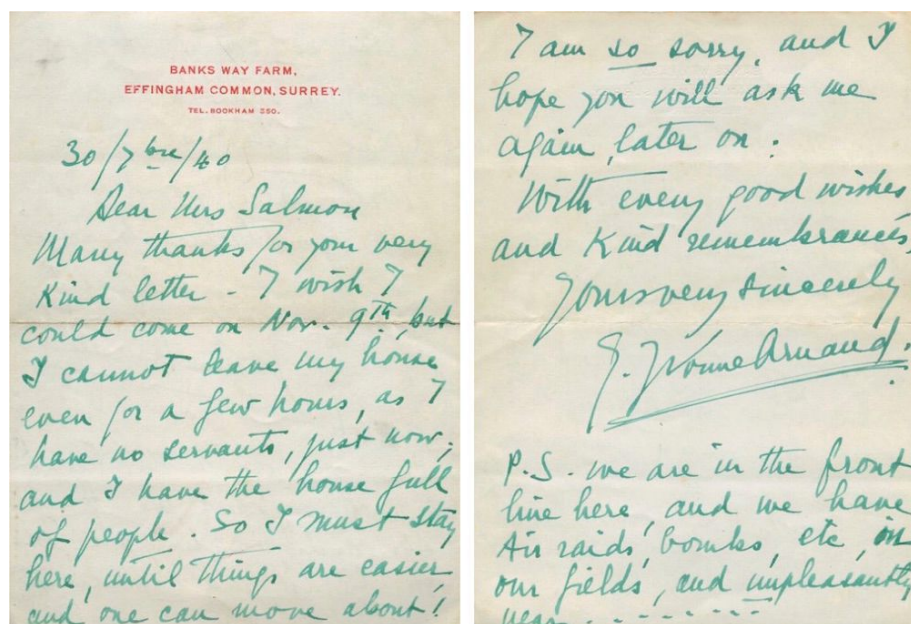


Figure 24 The letter from Arnaud to Mrs Salmon.

There is a partial corroboration of this because we know that the raids on Brooklands by German bombers had started on 24 July. We also know from the evacuee Ronald George Burton, who was staying with the Waterhouses at Norwood Farm, that German aircraft had dropped incendiaries on and around Effingham Common, and this may be what Arnaud is referring to in the period between July and September 1940.

Winifred Oughton served as the first President of the Effingham Junction Women's Institute which met at the Rowland Lubbock Hall at Effingham Junction after it formed in December 1940. Arnaud would often entertain the members on the piano. In April 1942 Oughton persuaded her co-stars from *The Nutmeg Tree*, Arnaud and Naomi Jacob, to entertain a packed-to-the-rafters WI meeting, and followed this with a Shakespeare Festival on Monday 16 November. Arnaud accompanied Leslie French, the great Shakespearean actor of his day, on the piano performing songs from the Shakespearean canon. A fortnight later on Monday 30 November she was opening a Chinese Exhibition at Bookham First Aid Post, this time to publicise an 'Aid to China' fund. Arnaud was eager to recommend Madame Chiang Kai-Shek's philosophies of courage and determination.

The articles from *The Surrey Advertiser* shown in Figure 25 report the above three occasions.

WOMEN AND SHAKESPEARE
Members of the Effingham Junction Women's Institute held their first Shakespearean festival at the Rowland Lubbock Memorial Hall on Monday. It was produced by Miss Oughton, assisted by Mrs. Boxall and Mrs. Lowry as stage managers. "Half an Hour in Shakespeare's England" was presented by Mesdames Church, Edwin, Ford, Goddard, Manning, Pimm, Williams, Wood, and Frances Edwin, and in the scene from "The Merry Wives of Windsor" Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Manning were particularly entertaining. Miss Oughton (the president) introduced the Shakespearean actor, Mr. Leslie French, who entertained with songs and episodes from the plays of Shakespeare. He was accompanied at the piano by Mrs. Hugh McLellan (Miss Yvonne Arnaud). Scenes from "A Midsummer Night's Dream" were played by Doreen Boxall, June Crane, Tony Freeman, Donald Gotta, Audrey Williams, Wendy Freeman, and Pat Merrell. During the interval Miss Oughton gave a resumé of the activities of the Institute, including adoption of the trawler Roletta and sending comforts and gifts for the crew for Christmas, the canning of 9cwt. of tomatoes, and aid to Russia. She also spoke of the two funds the Institute was particularly interested in—Cancer Relief and the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford. The proceeds on this occasion were for the Cancer Relief Fund, and her appeal for it was endorsed by Mrs. McLellan. Later Miss Oughton mentioned extra entertainments that had been arranged by the Institute, including a play on Russia, special speakers on America and Russia, children's entertainments, and another Shakespearean programme on Shakespeare's birthday, April 23rd.—A total of £9 0s. 6d. was realised for the Cancer Relief Fund.

Figure 25a 18 April 1942.

CHINESE EXHIBITION
OPENED BY MISS YVONNE ARNAUD AT GREAT BOOKHAM
Miss Yvonne Arnaud opened a week's Chinese exhibition on Monday in aid of Lady Cripps's "Aid to China" Fund at the First-Aid Post, Great Bookham.
Everybody should read Madame Chiang Kai-Shek's book, Miss Arnaud said, and they would learn a lot about China. This great lady had, with unflinching courage and determination, taught the Chinese much in hygiene and other forms of welfare. "We can all learn from the steadfastness and patience of the Chinese if our own country is to achieve its aims," she added.
It was their duty to thank China and to prove their gratitude by trying to help as much as they could. It was not only a most deserving, but an absolutely necessary cause to help. In the exhibition they would see the beauty and the culture of Chinese work.
The Rev. H. A. Floud, vicar of Effingham, acknowledged Miss Arnaud's kindness in coming to open the exhibition. She had given charm and delight to many in various ways, and they were all glad to have the privilege of seeing her there that day.

Figure 25b 21 November 1942.

TWO NOTABLE VISITORS
ENTERTAIN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE AT EFFINGHAM
Effingham Junction Women's Institute held their monthly meeting on Monday this week, and there was a large assembly.
Miss Oughton (president) was in the chair. Announcements included a proposal to hold a course of dress-making classes, commencing on April 23rd next at 2 p.m., and as one of the items will be renovations it should prove a useful help in war time.
Many people have responded to Mrs. Godfrey's appeal for toys, etc., to be sent to the Malden Children's Nurseries for war workers' children, but more are required and should be sent to Downe, Cobham Road, East Horsley. During the week commencing April 20th there is to be a house-to-house collection by the members of the Institute for the Blind. In previous years about this time an appeal has been made to members and friends for fresh eggs for the hospital at Guildford, and although this year eggs may be rather scarce the president asked members to bring what they could to the meeting on May 4th.
After the business the President welcomed Miss Naomi Jacobs, the well-known novelist, and also members from eleven other Institutes and their friends, about 100 being present altogether. Miss Jacobs gave a most delightful talk on her travels through France to Italy and her experiences there before the war.
The surprise item, promised to the members some time ago, turned out to be the welcome appearance of Miss Yvonne Arnaud (Mrs. Hugh McLellan), who played the piano in a manner which delighted all present. Another appreciated item was given by Miss Barbara Sharp, who played the violin. Tea was later served to the members and visitors (about 140).

Figure 25c 5 December 1942

This coincided with John Gielgud announcing at the start of November that he would be reviving Congreve's *Love for Love* at the Phoenix Theatre after a nationwide tour, and that Yvonne Arnaud had been cast as Mrs. Frail. He writes in *Backward Glances*:

'Her technique was as unailing as her instinct. One might have supposed that the elaborate verbiage of Congreve would have proved something of a problem for her ... but she used her breathing and timing as cunningly as ever and rose to the challenge like a bird. She was the only leading actress I have ever known who looked forward to a first night with happy anticipation and really seemed to enjoy every single moment of it.' [*Backward Glances*, p174]

Love for Love transferred to the Theatre Royal, Haymarket and ran until May 1944.



Figure 26 A scene from *Love for Love*, pictured in *The Tatler*, 5 May 1943.

Arnaud continued as part of its repertory company in Somerset Maugham's *The Circle* and also toured Germany to entertain British Army troops on the Rhine as part of the ENSA organisation. This was followed by another Maugham adaptation, simply called *Jane*, in which Arnaud was partially cast against type as a dowdy but wealthy Liverpoolian widow who marries a much younger man. Figure 27 shows Arnaud and Leslie Banks, appearing in Somerset Maugham's *The Circle*, outside the entrance to the ENSA theatre in Iserlohn.

Post-war years

If neither play was exactly tailored for Arnaud at her best, 1948 redeemed this with *Traveller's Joy* at the Criterion Theatre, in which Arnaud played a scheming Englishwoman marooned abroad who has exhausted her traveller's allowance (there were



Figure 27 *The Sketch*, 19 September 1945.

extensive restrictions on how much foreign exchange British travellers could take outside the country). The plot follows her ingenious attempts to escape her impoverishment.



Figure 28 A scene from *Traveller's Joy*, pictured in *The Sketch*, 21 July 1948.

This was a perfect piece for Arnaud and helps us understand her comic persona from the critical adulation it received. This is from *The Sketch* published on 21 July 1948:

'It is strongly Yvonne Arnaud's evening; comedy rides sparkling in her eyes and bubbles from her lips. She has a taking trill and an equally infectious gurgle. She will toss up an idea like a gay balloon, keep it hovering for a moment, then release another and another ... Any Arnaud performance is effortlessly airborne though the apparent lack of effort needs an unremitting attention to technique ... her performance in *Traveller's Joy* must be a delight to a playgoer who has learned to admire those expressive hands, the twitch of the mouth, the flickering eyes, and the relish with which Miss Arnaud can decorate and colour the most innocent-seeming line.'



Figure 29 A scene from *Traveller's Joy*, pictured in *The Sphere*, 26 July 1948.

An interview with Arnaud was published in *Woman's Journal* in 1949. This was conducted at Banks Way Farm by Alan Ivimey, one of the people behind the inception of *Woman's Hour* on BBC Radio. The full interview can be read in the Appendix.

If Arnaud was feeling these roles were not stretching her, in her private life she was becoming more vocal for causes she believed in. Her presidency of the League Against Cruel Sports in 1948 began with a furious row covered in all the newspapers when the Duke of Beaufort weighed in against both Arnaud and an Anti-Blood Sports Bill then being debated in Parliament. The League condemned his remarks that labelled her a French actress who couldn't know anything about hunting and how it should be conducted. Arnaud replied with withering Gallic sarcasm saying:

'The Duke must be a very charming man to say such nice things about my acting. But the days are gone when an actress was expected to know about nothing outside the theatre. Because my husband farms I know quite a bit about animals and hunting. Many of my friends hunt but they do not mention the subject because they know my views.' [*Manchester Evening News*, 16 February 1949]

There was further upheaval later in 1949 when her brother Edmund died. He was buried at Our Lady of Sorrows, Effingham on 29 September.

Traveller's Joy would be the biggest hit of Arnaud's career and would not close until December 1950 when it had clocked up more than 900 performances.

This was followed by a rare misstep when she was cast as a bitter ageing actress in *Colombe*, a play by Jean Anouilh translated and produced by Peter Brook. The critics agreed that Arnaud failed to be so detestable that she would justify her son's hatred towards her, and that this unbalanced the rare moments of comedy in the play.

Much more successfully at the end of 1952 and into 1953 she played a witty and cultured mother in *Dear Charles* at the New Theatre, summoning her three children to inform them that the picture of the man they had assumed to be an absent father was in fact bought from a Brighton junk shop, and that each child had a different father. It was high comedy again and once more a substantial hit, running for a year. However, exhaustion and torn cartilage in her knee forced Arnaud to retire from the play which then closed in February 1954.



Figure 30 A scene from *Dear Charles* in *The Illustrated London News*, 3 January 1953.

Time was catching up with her, even if Arnaud's precise age remained in doubt. The *Liverpool Echo* called on her birthday on 20 December 1955 to wish her happy birthday, whether her 60th or 63rd. If her gravestone and obituary in *The Times* are to be believed, it was actually her 65th. There were more productions – Alan Melville's *Mrs Willie* was another vehicle designed just for Arnaud, and he was duly rewarded with a hit which ran for a year from July 1955. And when she was not on stage there was a constant series of TV and radio programmes for her fans to lap up. Over-exposure does not seem to have been a concern for Yvonne Arnaud.

By the end of the run of *Mrs Willie* the McLellans had decided to sell Banks Way Farm. It was advertised in the *West Sussex Gazette* on 12 July 1956. The sale particulars by Weller, Son and Grinsted included 274 pure- and cross-bred pigs together with many farm implements and machinery. The sale took place at the Effingham farm.

Oriel Malet wrote that the McLellans sold up because of the difficulty in acquiring live-in domestic help. Anyone who has tramped over Effingham Common on a bleak winter's day will recognise her description:

'No one will stay in such a lonely, out-of-the-way place, with a private drive, half a mile long as the only means of access. In winter when the rain lashes against the house and the fields are troughs of liquid clay, Bank's Way seems a bleak and lonely place, shut away at the end of its long lane.'

The McLellans bought a small house at 35 London Road, Guildford, living in a flat in Brighton while it was decorated. Arnaud returned to the stage in June 1957 in Robert Morley's *Six Months' Grace* at the Phoenix Theatre but the reviews were poor and after Arnaud contracted influenza its opening night had to be put back.

There was to be one more farce, *A Ticklish Business*, which premiered in Brighton on Easter Monday, 7 April 1958 before being retitled *The Big Tickle* when it reached London. Arnaud played a South American pianist roping in burglars to raise money for dubious reasons. Maybe the plot was just too far-fetched as it managed only 27 performances before closing on 14 June.

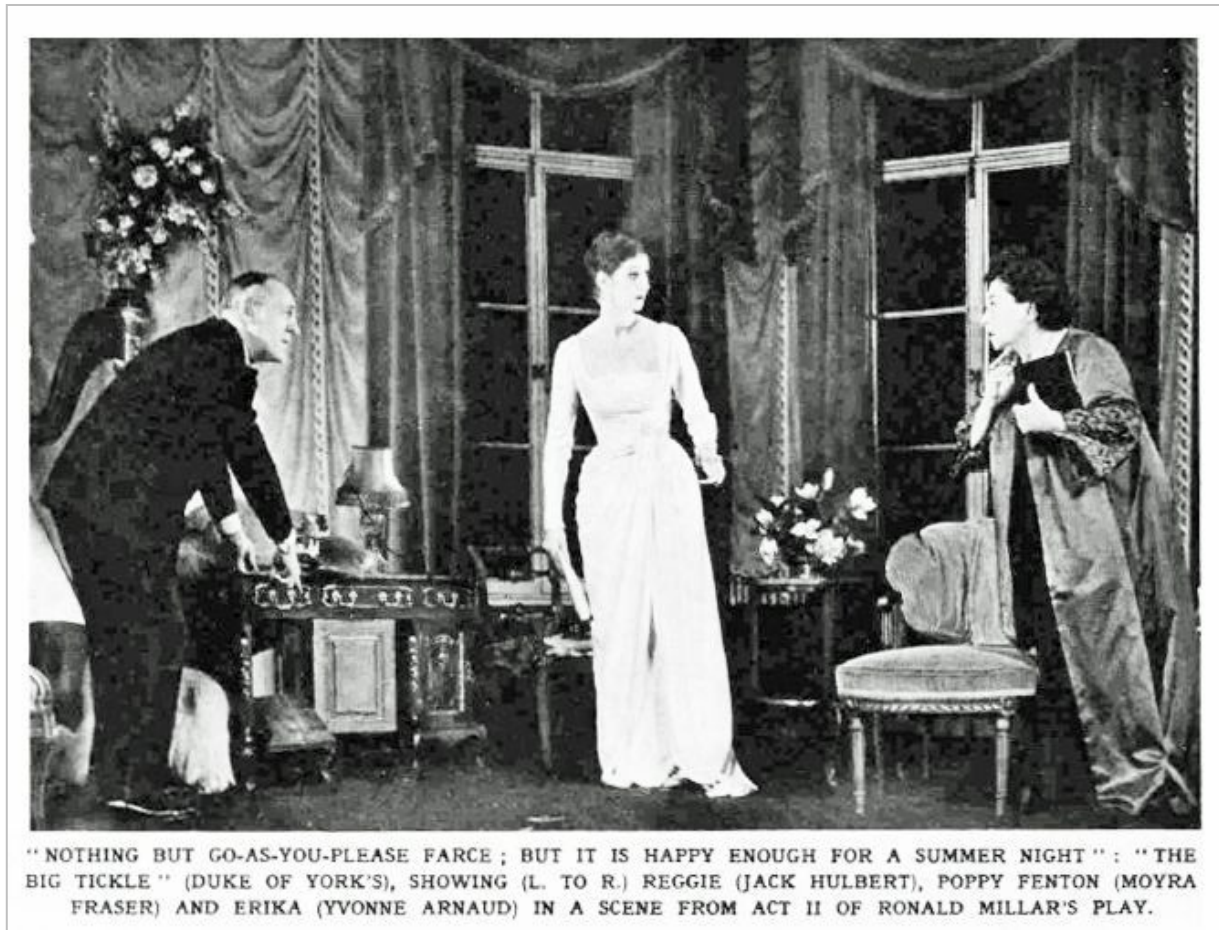


Figure 31 A scene in *The Big Tickle* in *The Illustrated London News*, 7 June 1958.

Her final appearance may have been at the London Palladium for a midnight revue on 24 July called *Night of 100 Stars* in aid of the Actors' Orphanage – Arnaud is listed amongst the crowd of celebrities who had promised to attend but we have not been able to find confirmation that she appeared on the night.

Illness and death

A week later, on 31 July, Yvonne Arnaud suffered a stroke and collapsed in her garden while picking flowers. Oriel Malet stated that she was tired from the strain of moving house and the failure of her latest farce. She was alone, Hugh walking their dog and the visiting Malet was elsewhere. She was admitted to St Luke's Hospital, Guildford and then transferred to the National Hospital in London, where a team of specialists operated and tried to save her life. She recovered consciousness in August but by 6 September was again giving great cause for concern. She died on 20 September 1958.

Her obituary in *The Times* was published two days later:

'Her death removes from the stage an actress of abundant charm: it was impossible to resist her. Yet she was much more than a delightful creature with whom every playgoer instantly fell in love; she was the wittiest of actresses too, witty in the essentially theatrical way in which a gesture has all the effect of an epigram.'

The Stage's obituary, published on 25 September, expanded upon Arnaud's unique genius:

'Her individual talent, refined to brilliance by an art which, in turn, was the outcome of unremitting concentration and work, remained fresh because she herself remained so. It appealed to younger generations as it continued to appeal to those who had seen Yvonne Arnaud long ago, because in its composition there was an eternal quality.'

We have always had, and always will have, silly women who are gifted with wise inspirations; who chatter and get involved in ridiculous situations, yet who know exactly how to behave when real danger is near; who are at heart daring and original, and not merely stupidly reckless or wantonly affected. Yvonne Arnaud typified this type upon the stage, and generation after generation understood what it was all about.'

Her ashes were scattered at St Martha's churchyard on St Martha's Hill south-east of Guildford, a beautiful spot overlooking the Surrey Hills. Her gravestone was erected against the boundary wall.

Figure 33 shows a brief article published in *The Daily Mirror* on 31 December 1958, about her Will and charitable activities.

A memorial service was held in St Martin in the Fields church in London at noon, Thursday 16 October. There was considerable surprise that in her Will she had left only £1,593, a tiny amount after a lifetime of work and fame. A possible reason was that she had effectively worked for the love of it, without the commensurate salary expected for a top-line performer.

An alternative explanation was that although she had earned up to £10,000 per annum, she gave most of her wealth to animal charities, a view backed up by the then secretary of the League against Cruel Sports. This begs the question – did Arnaud deliberately choose to focus on material that she knew her audience wanted, so that these plays would have long runs and thus maximise the amount she could give away to charity? Could this explain why she rarely deviated into serious or challenging work?

Acclaim and lagacy

By May 1961 it had been decided that the new theatre in Guildford would bear her name. This opened four years later and continues to this day. However, despite being one of the very few women to star on the West End stage from the pre-First World War era right up to the late 1950s, and acknowledged by her contemporaries as one of the finest comic performers of her time, the memory of Yvonne Arnaud has since faded. This is probably because the films and plays she appeared in have largely not lasted. However, right at the end of her career, Arnaud was cast in Jacques Tati's film comedy *Mon Oncle*, as a maid named Georgette. It was Tati's first film in colour, with a minimum of dialogue but using sound effects for humorous purposes. Production began in 1956, with the film released in 1958, becoming both a critical and box office success. *Mon Oncle* won the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film, a Special Prize at the 1958 Cannes Film Festival, and the New York Film Critics Circle Award for Best Foreign Language Film, receiving more honours than any of Tati's other cinematic works. Although she was close to the end of her life, Arnaud would have known of its success at Cannes, which we might speculate brought some relief from the succession of poorly received comedy plays at the end of her stage career. Few of her farces have been revived in London, *Tons of Money* being a rare exception. Hardly any recordings of Arnaud the pianist are available. There is no single archive of Arnaud's copious correspondence, even though Hugh had apparently despaired at how many hours she spent at her desk writing to people all over the world. This mirrors an apparent lack of academic interest in re-evaluating her life and career. Perhaps this would have suited Germaine Arnaud, who kept her private life so exclusively out of reach that Eric Johns, trying to interview her during the run of *Traveller's Joy*, came away empty-handed and despaired at Arnaud's refusal to meet him even half-way.

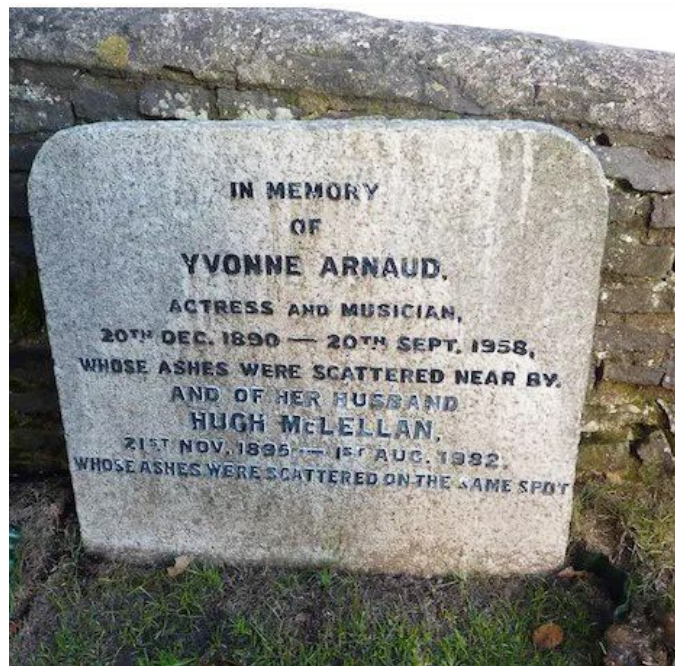


Figure 32 The McLellans' gravestone.



Figure 33 From *The Daily Mirror*, 31 December 1958.

The last word here belongs to Naomi Jacob, with whom Yvonne Arnaud acted in *The Nutmeg Tree* and *Love for Love*. These are extracts from an appreciation she wrote for *The Times* on Friday 26 September 1958:

‘As an actress she was superb and how she hated a bad play! How she would work at it, suggest alterations, improvements for her knowledge of stage craft was very great. Her real love was comedy not farcical comedy. In one of her last letters to me Yvonne Arnaud wrote “I hate farce. They want me to be a clown, and I loathe being a clown,” How admirable she was in *Love for Love*: that scene played with Marion Spencer seated on a sofa was surely one of the most masterly exhibitions of polished comedy. It all looked so easy, no matter how often you listened to the scene; you felt that every line was being said for the first time.

Another great comedienne, Marie Lloyd, once told me that “You must make your audience love you – really love you.” That was what Yvonne Arnaud did.’



Figure 34 Yvonne Arnaud by Bassano Ltd; whole-plate glass negative, 17 October 1912; NPG x33369 © National Portrait Gallery, London.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figures 1, 24: from the internet, unattributed

Figures 2-6, 10-15, 17, 22, 23, 26-31: under Licence from the Mary Evans Picture Library;
© Illustrated London News Ltd. / Mary Evans

Figures 7, 9: from the British Newspaper Archive, courtesy of The British Library Board

Figures 8, 18: from Jeremy Palmer

Figures 16, 25, 33: by kind permission of Reach plc / *Mirrorpix*

Figure 19: by courtesy of the Historic England Archive, Ref: cc013579; © Historic England

Figure 20: by courtesy of the Historic England Archive, Ref: cc013580; © Historic England

Figure 21: kindly supplied from the family of Gwen Farrar

Figure 32: from *The Guildford Dragon*, 28 December 2012

Figure 34: National Portrait Gallery, Ref: NPG x33369; licensed from NPG Creative Commons

APPENDIX

Article about Yvonne Arnaud by Alan Ivimey, Woman's Journal 1949



Welcome to Banks Way Farm! High up on the North Downs overlooking broad acres of farmland stands the country home of actress Yvonne Arnaud



The Forest of Fontainebleau comes to life by a Surrey fireside, in a tapestry woven by skilled French fingers



And So To Bed—and Miss Arnaud passes a favourite portrait of herself as Mrs. Pepys

Yvonne Arnaud

By
Alan Ivimey

She laughs—and the world laughs with her!

IF my heart had ever been tempted to bleed for Yvonne Arnaud—instead of as usual just beating a little faster—it would have been upon watching from the orchestra stalls of London's Criterion Theatre her sufferings in that hotel in Stockholm. For I, too, have felt the pangs of that particular phase of "Traveller's Joy"—yes, in that very hotel, with the view over the water to the Royal Palace and the sound of the orchestra coming up the well outside one's room. And that hollow feeling as the supply of *kronor* gets shorter and shorter. But even being short of money in Stockholm would be worth it, I felt, in her company; just to find all one's

troubles dissipated so delicately in a silver, small fountain of laughter. And it is to the accompaniment of that laughter that I shall remember my visit to her home on that high hinterland of the North Downs.

A private road from the little station turns sharply upon itself in a thicket and then runs straight beside a line of young poplars to the white house at the end. And, that day, a feudal retinue of flowers was drawn up on either side, in welcome.

The house is called Banks Way Farm—it is close to Banks Common—and looks across pleasant farmland to the green, tree fringed crest of open downland; an easy slope from this side, but a sudden drop when you reach that near the



Photos specially taken for Woman's Journal by Tom Blau



Introducing an important member of the Arnaud ménage, Billie—or would it be Grannie?—who has a weakness for fish teas

Boy, the Golden Labrador, proffers an elegant paw from a settee printed with Latin words set to medieval music in scarlet and black



An actress through the looking glass pauses for reflection

horizon. It is an L-shaped house, with wings of white, lime washed brick, modern but built with the bland proportions of the Georgian farmhouse which fits so easily into a Surrey landscape; and the front door is in the angle of the L. Upon arrival, a window above this door opened swiftly outwards and there was the lady of the house, leaning out with a hand and arm flung forwards in impetuous welcome.

If I had a sailing ship I would like that attitude immortalized as the figurehead for it.

I had first met Yvonne Arnaud in a B.B.C. programme called *What Makes Me Laugh in the Theatre?* At rehearsals we had to argue about this deep question while a girl took down what we said—or some of it—in shorthand. Of course the short answer was “Yvonne Arnaud”—and not only in the theatre but anywhere

else one might meet her, because she laughs and makes laughter so much. And now, here she was, opening the door.

The hall, following the angle of the house, revealed a staircase full of afternoon light, and four doors, each with its own separate mystery to be explored—the momentary excitement which good houses offer when you enter them for the first time. But contemplations on this theme were complicated at once by a large and slowly

paceing Golden Labrador Retriever who was doing his best to take my hat. “This is Boy,” said Yvonne “and always he must carry something. Wait, I have something for him,” and during a few moments of good natured struggle with a large amount of cold, wet nose thrust up my sleeve, she had found a green and red woolly mitten which Boy at once accepted in lieu of my hat. To this fastness with a little country station, Yvonne Arnaud hurries gladly every night. During the run of *Traveller's Joy* she has twelve minutes after the curtain has come down, in which to catch her train, and she travels down with her stage make-up still on. She reaches home at midnight and then starts on her correspondence. And it is a big correspondence because she is on the committees of various organizations for helping hospitals, for invalid children, for certain French

charities and, of course, for animals. Letters read and answered, she plans the next day's meals for her husband and household, reads for an hour—and so to bed.

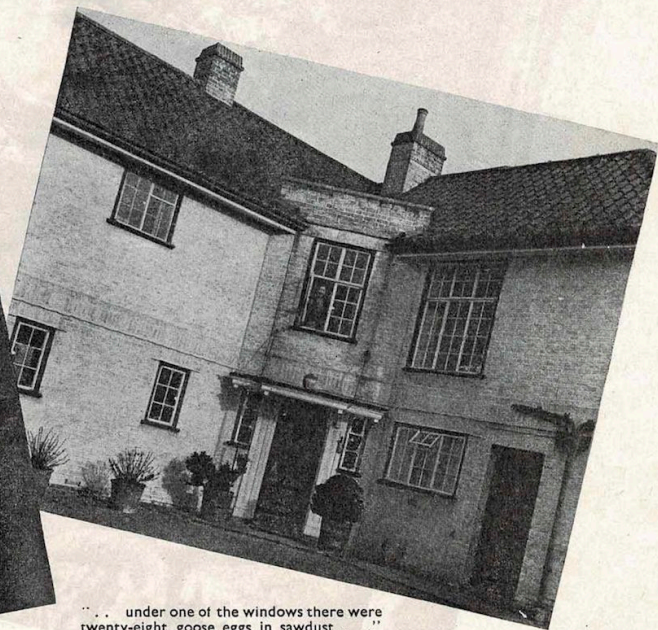
“My pet aversion,” she said, “after those who are cruel to children and animals, are the people who ring me up and say ‘But what do you do with yourself in the country?’”

In the drawing room the first thing which caught my eye was a Grotrian Steinweg grand and, on top of it, a signed photograph of John Barbirolli. There is a story behind that photograph and I found the beginning of it in another photograph taken outside the Paris Conservatoire before the First World War. It showed a group of people, including a famous professor of the piano and, beside him, a very serious little girl of thirteen with short black hair in a fringe, white frock and black cotton stockings. Little Yvonne won the first prize at the Conservatoire for piano playing that year, and not long afterwards she was touring Europe and America as a child prodigy. And though this very gifted person eventually adopted the stage, she has never ceased to love her piano and has played with some of our finest symphony orchestras, including the Hallé. And so its conductor watches her from the piano top every time she sits down to play.

Close beside the Barbirolli photograph is another of her favourite possessions, a little sketch by her friend, James Bridie, showing himself interviewing a patient on a hospital ship with which he served during the last war, a ship to which Yvonne Arnaud was godmother—a fairy godmother, supplying comforts.

The drawing room is full of pleasing things. It is lighted by four French windows curtained and pelmeted in yellow French linen and has a settee

Please turn to page 113



... under one of the windows there were twenty-eight goose eggs in sawdust ...

Farewell to the farm—our hostess waves goodbye from the window above the porch

cottages whose secret cupboards had not got their hidden store of French brandy and tobacco.

Dr. Crane lived alone in his creeper covered dark little house, waited on by his old sailor servant Tom Pearse and by no one else. He had been a naval surgeon for most of his life and had a hearty distaste for all female society. He did not dislike women when they were ill, provided they were genuinely ill, for then in his view they were no longer women but suffering bodies, and for suffering bodies he had a compassionate sympathy that made them almost sacred in his eyes. And at Stella's age they were hardly women yet but merely children; though he would never himself have put the word "merely" before the word children, for he worshipped childhood even as he worshipped the starry Heavens, the windswept corn, untrodden snow and all things healthy and fresh.

Highly paradoxical was the love of this strange old man, for he gave with equal passion to the ideal and to its opposite, to the whole thing and to the broken thing that had fallen by the way. But for careful people, those who could not leap for fear of falling, who kept their windows shut against fresh air and guarded minds, hearts or purses against the possibly painful inroads of truth and compassion, for the evasive, the plausible, dawdlers and the self absorbed, he had nothing but a contempt so biting that few patients subjected to it called him in again. But there were plenty of the other sort about. For one malingerer, he'd say, you'd meet fifty who carried pain like a banner, and for one skinflint there were a dozen who'd give you their last penny and never let you know there wasn't a pocketful where that came from. But he liked to catch 'em young, and batter their minds and hearts wide open with whatever tool came readiest to his hand. He had caught Stella very young, and was mercilessly beating her mind into shape with all possible speed, before domesticity submerged her altogether. But her heart he tried not to touch at all, because for some reason or other she had been born with a wounded heart. In his opinion it was salves that she needed for it, not a hammer.

Stella parted with Sol at the doctor's gate and with Daniel leaping around her ran up the paved path between the bushes of rosemary and lavender to the open front door. Here she paused, gripping Daniel's collar.

"Come in, can't you," shouted the doctor impatiently from the shadows within. "Don't dawdle. If you think that mind of yours is

already sufficiently well informed to permit of dawdling upon the threshold of education, then say so, and I'll waste no further time upon you, but if—"

"I've got Daniel," interrupted Stella, who was no more afraid of the doctor than she was of Father Sprigg. "I don't know what to do with him."

"What in the name of thunder made you bring that great gangling nunny of a beast to a lesson on the death of Socrates?"

"I had to. I promised."

"Then bring him in and tie him to the table leg."

Stella towed Daniel over the scrupulously scrubbed flags of the dark bare little hall to the open door of Dr. Crane's study. Only in the worst weather were any of the doors shut; his passion for hospitality was only equalled by his passion for fresh air. The study was as clean as the hall, but mercifully not quite so dark and bare. It was stone flagged, the walls completely lined with books. An old table of Spanish chestnut stood in the centre of it, with two beautifully carved chairs pulled up on either side. The one with its back to the window, the doctor's, had no cushion, but the one facing the light was comfortably supplied with a couple of them.

Patients and pupils, and many who came to consult the doctor about problems other than physical or intellectual, sat in this chair, and while they poured their troubles into the comforting depth of his comprehending silence he watched their faces in the soft light that shone through the spotless muslin curtains draped in the window, and learned more from the shadows round the eyes and the play of expression about the mouth than he did from the flow of confused words tumbling about his ears. He knew how a flow of words, like a flow of blood, can wash away poison.

The room had an Adams mantelpiece and a basket grate filled with firebricks. Pipes and tobacco jars and medicine bottles were piled on the mantelpiece, and over it hung an engraving of one of the doctor's three heroes, Lord Nelson, with whom he had once been shipmates. His writing desk was in one corner of the room and in another corner was a big locked cupboard containing his drugs, bandages and splints. An engraving of Shakespeare and another of the bust of Socrates, his other two heroes, hung over these.

He glanced up from the great tome he was reading when Stella entered, pointed to the chair opposite and was at once engrossed again. She tied Daniel to the table leg and

sat down to wait patiently till he got to the end of the paragraph and was free to attend to her. "Never stop in the middle of a paragraph," he had said to her once, "for any reason whatever except the dire need of another or your own death. Finish one thing as completely as possible before turning your attention to the next, even though the next be invasion by the enemy, and allow other people to do the same. A divided allegiance leads to woolly mindedness, and that to senility of the intellect at an unnecessarily early age. You have been warned, Stella. I shall not speak again."

And he had not needed to speak again, for Stella sat still and upright in her chair and studied him lovingly. Though he was nearly seventy his rough iron grey hair was still thick and plentiful, receding only on the temples, and he wore it neatly brushed back and tied in a queue in the nape of his neck.

The hot suns of his seafaring life had burned his skin mahogany colour and the endurance of many things had seamed it as though it had been gouged with a bradawl. He had a huge domed forehead, a large ugly broken nose twisted slightly to the right and dark, penetrating eyes beneath bushy white eyebrows. His jaw was aggressive but his mouth was mobile and sensitive. He was always scrupulously clean shaven and his large yet delicate hands well tended. His well cut shabby clothes were well brushed and the voluminous stock that he wore twisted round his throat, snowily white. He had a few little vanities: an eyeglass on a watered silk ribbon, a bunch of fine old seals attached to his watch chain, and always a fresh flower in his buttonhole.

He reached the end of the paragraph, shut the book and looking up met the direct and loving glance of the child opposite. The light seemed to reflect back from the still, lovely little face as from the surface of some pool pellucid to its depths. The old man's face twisted suddenly. God, how he loved the child! To keep her just as she was, unsullied and happy, he would have given his surgeon's skilled right hand. Happy? But she was not happy. Though she was smiling now, both her dimples showing, she was not the same Stella that she had been when she came to him last. There were no candles burning in her eyes. There was a new maturity in the thin brown face, a wistfulness about the mouth that had not been there before.

To be continued in Woman's Journal next month.

Yvonne Arnaud *Continued from page 48*

covered with a printed material showing medieval music in a four line stave—black square notes on scarlet lines—and the Latin words are there as well. Yvonne sang the melody, too, which seemed a nice thing to be able to do with one's loose covers.

The huge open chimney piece has a noble fire back with the royal arms of England stamped upon its black iron.

Then Boy having been held back, we went to see the cats, Arthur (black), Billie and Grannie (tabs), awaiting their fish tea, each on a stool of its own. Then we went upstairs, past a huge mother pig of white and black china with a rose pink tail, and so to see the family of cactus plants which are just so many more shades of green in a green bedroom. But there were coloured prints on the walls—one of the old Vauxhall Gardens—a Russian ikon bought in Aberdeen, and the curtains and the covering of the dressing table were of the tint of ripe loganberries. The dressing table itself was loaded with bowls of flowers and leaves and a potted cyclamen, and some money in a little china tray.

"The change from the fishmonger," nodded Yvonne, and it somehow became a comedy line as she said it.

Then we went along a corridor to the far end of one wing of the house to her own special room which she calls Capharnaüm, the French equivalent to our "glory hole." But though it was as full of things as a princess's playroom, it was all very tidy, and lit, too, by a window at either end.

Two corners were filled with bookshelves each with an arched space holding tiny glass toys. Then there was a frame with a piece of tapestry in the making which showed part of the Forest of Fontainebleau. She does three needlefuls (if that is what you call them) every day, and there is *petit point* in it, too.

Under one of the windows there were twenty eight goose eggs in sawdust in a cardboard box. Turning them periodically is just another little task that goes on up here. When the geese go "broody" the eggs are put under them for hatching. Yvonne tells me that those not wanted for hatching make the very best omelets.

Next I examined a small reversible table of walnut with an embroidered centre, the authentic work—checked at South Kensington by the needlework experts—of Queen Anne's own embroiderer.

So much of what was in this house seemed

to have the gaiety of the most exciting kind of toys.

Through the window I could see a weeping willow in all its glory and an almond waiting to welcome all comers on either side of the drive. And then we found a very large straw hat with a wide and floppy brim. So we went out to see the garden. Of course, before long, Boy was carrying the hat. He has to carry something. I had hidden mine.

The flowers were guarding a long fringe of boscage behind the poplar row, filled with primroses and wood anemones. Arthur trotted by; white pigeons clustered on the roof, and this part of the afternoon in Surrey seemed at peace with the world.

As she waved goodbye from an upstairs window, I thought I knew the secret of how Yvonne Arnaud can throw such enchanting little handfuls of laughter—as blossoms tossed in a carnival—night after night to the world in front of the footlights. And the secret is three-fold.

You need a house filled with treasures whose value is renewed each time you show them to your friends; a Capharnaüm, and a Golden Labrador Retriever to carry your hat.

THE END

Beatrice Thomson – Prolific Stage Actor and Aviator

CHRISTOPHER JOHN HOGGER

Beatrice Thomson was another great stage actor associated with Effingham. After training at RADA in her early twenties, she went on to perform in a huge range of plays in Britain, as well as some in Broadway. Besides acting she was interested also in theatre management and play-writing. Another strand in her life was as an aviator – she was proud of being Britain's first actress to become a qualified pilot. During the Second World War she toured the Far East with ENSA to entertain the troops, but paid a personal price for this by contracting a debilitating illness that interrupted her career for several years.

Early life

Beatrice Lindsay Thomson was the fifth of six children born to parents Benjamin Thomas Lindsay Thomson and his wife Esther Florence (née Bowker). All the children had 'Lindsay' among their forenames. Beatrice was born on 13 March 1900 and was baptised on 14 May at St Barnabas' Church at Clapham Common, her father being described in the register as a civil engineer. The family was then living at 117, North Side on the northern edge of Clapham Common.

The 1901 Census finds the family at this address with Beatrice entered as aged '1'. Her father described himself as a retired civil engineer. They remained at that address for at least six further years but by 1909 had moved to Lindisfarne, Copse Hill in Wimbledon. This is where Beatrice was living at the time of the 1911 Census. The house number was evidently 53. The Thomsons remained there until at least 1914. London's Electoral Registers give their address in 1918 as 10, Great Stanhope Street in Westminster but it is known from other sources that by October 1918 they were living in Effingham.

The Thomsons resided in Effingham as tenants of Effingham House, recently vacated by the family of the late Charles Edward Lambert. Electoral Registers show the Thomsons residing there from 1919 up to 1924. It is not known where Beatrice had received her education, nor how much time (if any) she lived at Effingham House. Her parents were very wealthy and may have assisted her financially to pay the expenses of living in London as she entered her twenties. What is known is that by the summer of 1921 she had enrolled with the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) to train as an actor.



Figure 1 Effingham House, early 20thC.



Figure 2 RADA's new theatre in Malet Street, Bloomsbury, May 1920; © Historic England Archive bl24944.

Early acting career

Beatrix was already a RADA student at the time of the 1921 Census (19 June) which finds her staying in the household of her married sister Margaret Lindsay Usmar at 7, Old Court Mansions in Kensington. A short article in *The Era* on 21 December 1921 mentioned her in an afternoon performance at RADA.

The programme included 'extracts from the work done by the Final Division Students during the autumn term'. Diplomas were competitively awarded to some of these students by the appointed judges Sir Arthur Pinero, Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson and Miss Lilian Braithwaite. Beatrix was one of eight students awarded one of these diplomas.

This performance took place on 15 December at the Academy's theatre in nearby Malet Street behind their Gower Street buildings. The theatre had been built in 1920, the same year in which RADA had been granted its Royal Charter. The Prince of Wales had opened the new theatre.

Beatrix's diploma, bearing the date 1921, was sold many years ago by the auctioneer Ewbank's together with other items including a pencil sketch of her made by the artist Charles Buchel.

On 11 April 1922 the RADA students gave a special matinée performance at The Globe Theatre of several items including the second act of Somerset Maugham's play *Caroline* in which Beatrix played the lead part and, by the accounts in the Press, acquitted herself well:

'The Caroline was Miss Beatrix Thomson who, with all her fellow players, shows a remarkably easy acquaintance with the airs and graces of comedy and handled the author's witticisms like old hands.'

[*The Westminster Gazette*, 12 April 1922]

'The Globe Theatre was full of theatrical managers on the look-out for budding histrionic talent when I looked in at the annual matinée of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art yesterday. Some exceptionally good work was to be seen, and I shall be surprised if we do not hear more of Miss Beatrix Thomson who was excellent in the title role of W S Maugham's comedy "Caroline."' [*The Daily Mirror*, 12 April 1922]

Her performance in this event was rewarded by her being awarded the Academy Silver Medal as reported on 13 April in *The Stage*:

'... admirable gifts of sparkling and vivacious comedy acting being shown by Misses Beatrix Thomson ...
... the Academy Silver Medal [was awarded] to Miss Beatrice [sic] Thomson ...'

Her talent had been spotted by the actor, director and impresario Basil Dean who, as reported in *The Daily Mirror* on 30 May 1922, had engaged her in his new production of John Galsworthy's play *Loyalties*, later made into a film in 1933. The grainy image seen in Figure 3 is the earliest one we have of Beatrix, then aged 22.

She evidently did well in this role, as shown by the following comments:

'A Modest Debutante

Beatrix Thomson, who has taken up Meggie Albanesi's part in "Loyalties" at the St. Martin's with such success, implored me not to boom her as a star. "Wait," she said, "till I have learned how to act!" She had only four terms at the Academy (where she got the Silver Medal), but she has been very greatly helped by Irene Vanbrugh and Sybil Thorndike. And now Mr. Basil Dean has engaged her on a long contract, and she will probably have a part in the Barrie play which he is going to revive.

British Acting.

In view of the theatrical slump, it is particularly instructive to note that managers who have relied on all-British productions have weathered the storm best. I am also glad to find that some managers are looking-out for new home-grown talent. British acting is

good enough for any play, but most of the plays are not good enough for British acting.



Miss Thomson.

New Talent.

The young actress, Beatrix Thomson, whose abilities I was prophetic enough to praise when she played at the matinee of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, has, I hear, been engaged for a Basil Dean production. Her career will be watched with interest. She is sister to Gordon Thomson, the Cambridge oarsman.

Figure 3 Beatrix praised at age 22.

"It's a wonderful stroke of luck to come straight home from school into this fine play with this fine company under such a splendid management, and now my hard task is to prove myself not quite unworthy of my good fortune. They're all trying to spoil me, but heaven knows I have a shrewd idea how much I have to learn."
' [The Pall Mall Gazette, 24 June 1922]

Dean's production of *Loyalties* ran from 3 March 1922 until 24 February 1923 at the St Martin's Theatre in the West End, with Beatrix playing the major role of 'Mabel Dancy'. Altogether there were 407 performances.

The next engagement for Beatrix appears to have been in early 1923. On 15 February a brief announcement was made in *The Stage* that she was to appear (but not in the leading role) in A A Milne's comedy *The Great Broxopp*, with 'rehearsals now in full progress', again under the production of the Reandean Company which Basil Dean had founded in 1919 with Alec Rea.

The play was performed at St Martin's Theatre, with Beatrix playing the character of 'Norah Field', the first performance being on 6 March. The run ended on 7 April after 37 performances.

Beatrix appeared soon afterwards with a significant role in another of Dean's productions, this being the play *R.U.R.* written by Karel Capek. The initials stand for 'Rossum's Universal Robots' and the play tells the story of how events unfolded when a factory began making humanoid robots from synthetic organic matter. It was this play which first introduced the word 'robot' to the world's languages. The play and its performance received much enthusiastic discussion in the media. Beatrix played the part of the robotic typist named 'Sulla'. The opening night at St Martin's Theatre on 24 April 1923 was reported extensively in *The Stage* on 26 April and complimented Beatrix as follows:

'St Martin's. "R.U.R."

On Tuesday, April 24, 1923, was produced here a fantastic melodrama, by Karel Capek, adapted by Nigel Playfair, entitled "R.U.R. (Rossum's Universal Robots)" ... a typist – Robotess – and a clerk, whom Domain [the factory's Manager] had ignorantly called Sulla and Marius, were played and made up capitably by Miss Beatrix Thomson and Mr Gilbert Ritchie.'

The complete Programme can be viewed on the website of Effingham Local History Group (ELHG).



Figure 4 In "Loyalties"; *The Sketch*, 22 December 1922.

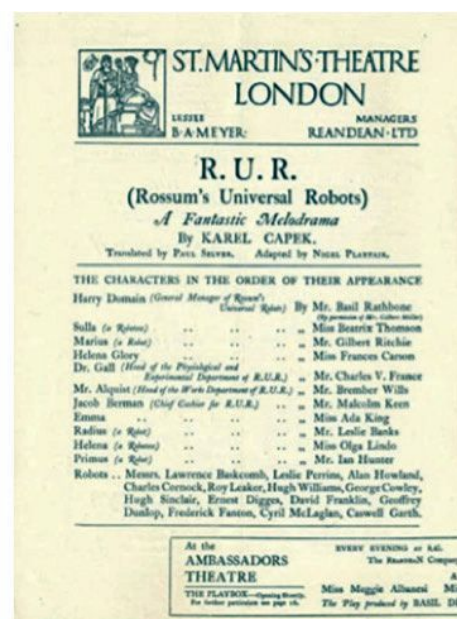
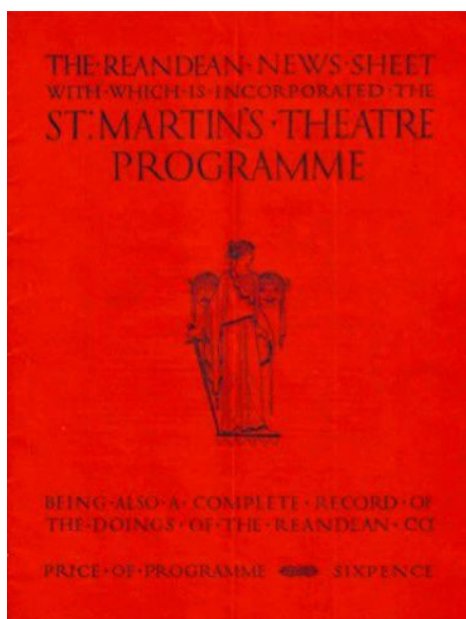


Figure 5 Cover and first page of the Programme for *R.U.R.*



Figure 6 Scenes showing Beatrix in *R.U.R.* in *The Sketch*, 16 May 1923.

The *R.U.R.* production ended at St Martin's on 11 August after 127 performances and then moved to the provinces. In October, for example, it was running at the New Theatre in Cardiff.

According to RADA's records Beatrix graduated in 1923, being awarded the RADA Diploma (Acting).

In early 1924 Beatrix was engaged by Dean for another Galsworthy play *The Forest*, as an alternate or understudy to Hermione Baddeley for the role of 'Amina'. This show ran at St Martin's Theatre from 6 March until 26 April, totalling 58 performances. Baddeley was highly acclaimed in the reviews.

The Daily Mirror said, in its review on 7 March, that the opening night ‘was regarded as the theatrical event of the season’. It is not known how many performances, if any, Beatrix appeared in.

Beatrix next acted in George Bernard Shaw’s *Getting Married* at The Everyman Theatre in Hampstead. It opened on 9 July 1924. Her part was a rather minor one, playing the part of a young girl ‘Leo’. Reviews were mixed:

‘It will be surprising if *Getting Married* does not pack the Everyman. It remains astonishingly fresh. ... Mr Claude Rains as the intellectual coxcomb Hotchkiss is also first-rate. He is an actor of very considerable possibilities. Unfortunately the heat-wave caused him to stream with perspiration, although he was supposed to be as cool as a cucumber.’ [*Sunday Pictorial*, 13 July 1924]

‘... Miss Beatrix Thomson making a mere flapper of the two-men desiring Leo, and either gabbling off her words, or mumbling through her teeth.’ [*The Stage*, 17 July 1924]

‘On the first night *Getting Married* was warmly received. The satire seemed more brilliant than ever. ... Apart from Miss [Edith] Evans, the acting of the women at the Everyman was weak, but most of the men were excellent. ... Mr Claude Rains (in spite of his over-long trousers) as Hotchkiss was particularly good. The only serious fly in the Everyman was the fact that, despite the heat of the night and provision of jugs of lemonade on the non-alcoholic refreshment counter, the management had omitted to provide more than two (or was it three?) tumblers.’ [*The Sphere*, 19 July 1924]

‘... Miss Irene Rooke as the gentle Mrs Bridgenorth, and Miss Beatrix Thomson as the flippant, foolish Leo were all good. ... Go to Hampstead. Such good stuff should not be missed.’ [*The Sketch*, 30 July 1924]

Getting Married had 33 performances, ending on 9 August. Beatrix may not have had her mind wholly focused on her part. Instead, her thoughts may have been directed more towards her co-actor in the play, the above-mentioned Claude Rains; because a few months later she would marry him.

First marriage

William Claude Rains was just over ten years older than Beatrix and had already become an accomplished actor both in Britain and Australia by the time she first entered RADA. He had also already been twice married and divorced. During the early 1920s he was giving widely acclaimed performances as well as teaching at RADA.

Among his students were several future giants of stage and screen, including John Gielgud and Charles Laughton. Beatrix had also been one of his students. It was known that young women were easily attracted to him, and Beatrix was no exception.

An account of how they came to marry is given in the book *Claude Rains: an Actor’s Voice* written by the late David John Skal (1952–2024) in association with Jessica Rains, published in 2008 by The University Press of Kentucky. Skal notes Rains’ description of Beatrix as an ‘elfin, charming tiny thing’, as a good actress and rich. Rains called her ‘Trixie’.

The wealth of her family was evident from their home at Effingham House displaying masterpieces of art, including paintings by Goya.



Figure 7 Claude Rains, from IWM Lives of the First World War.

Skal wrote:

'Rains was a bit surprised when Beatrix approached him privately one day. "She wanted to take me home for a weekend. She thought I had a glamorous life." They drove down to Effingham one night after a performance to meet her family. "I don't know if they ever really accepted me," Rains said. But he had his own clear opinion about Beatrix's brother Gordon. "Terrible snob, the brother. Never did any work, just went to the Devonshire Club and rowed in the Oxford-Cambridge boat race." His oars and cups were prominently displayed in the house.'

Rains recalled that when he awoke in Effingham House (then usually called The Manor House) the next morning in one of the guest bedrooms it was to find the family's butler holding and contemptuously staring at a shirt which still bore earlier stains from Rains' stage makeup. The dismissive description of Beatrix's brother Gordon (Lindsay Maxwell) Thomson should not be taken as a complete account of his character since, even if some elements of it were true, Gordon had some very significant earlier achievements to his name.

Beatrix married Rains at the Windsor Register Office on 24 November 1924. It is possible that she was staying briefly at Long Walk House in Windsor, the house to which her parents moved after departing from Effingham in about 1924. So far no contemporary newspaper report of their wedding has been found, which is consistent with the fact (as later admitted by them) that they had kept their marriage a closely guarded secret. They moved together into part of a three-storey house, No 28 Camden Grove in Kensington, the same house in which the author James Joyce would later live for nearly a year after marrying Nora Barnacle in 1931. Skal writes that the Rains occupied the property's basement flat but Electoral Registers record them as occupying both the basement and the ground floor (which seems far more likely) up to 1926.

Claude's acting continued without interruption after the wedding, but Beatrix appeared in just one more show in 1924, a new play by W. Lemon Hall entitled *The Tyranny of Home*. It was given 7 performances over the period 16-24 December at The Everyman Theatre. Beatrix played a minor role as 'Winnie Glanville' and '... with little to say, managed to get a good deal of character into the part of a young girl.' [*The Era*, 24 December 1924].



Figure 8 No 28, Camden Grove; the Blue Plaque is for James Joyce.

The mid-Twenties

The next year, 1925, would be a busy one for both of them. For Beatrix her first engagement in 1925 was a significant part in a revival of Sheridan's play *The Rivals* in which she played one of the central characters, 'Julia Melville'. Claude was also in the cast playing another important role, as 'Faulkland' who is in love with 'Julia' but ever doubting her fidelity. (There would be something prophetic about this for Claude's marriage to Beatrix).

The casting was further complicated, in principle, by the inclusion of Claude's two former wives, Isabel Jeans and Marie Hemingway. The theatre reviewers discreetly refrained from mentioning this. The production, at The Lyric in Hammersmith, ran from 5 March until 23 May, involving a punishing 93 performances delivered in a span of just 80 days. By the end the actors must have been drained.

Claude's performance was highly acclaimed in most of the reviews:

'Mr Claude Rains played Faulkland purely for comedy, and the result was a tremendous success.' [*The Daily Herald*, 6 March 1925].

'Mr Claude Rains gives a popular and effective performance, yet one is bound to say there is a subtlety in the character which he does not satisfy.' [*The Daily Mirror*, 6 March 1925].

'Perhaps the most outstanding acting success was that achieved by Claude Rains, who gave a masterly study of the love-torn Faulkland.' [*The Western Mail*, 7 March 1925].

The critics seem not to have commented on Beatrix's performance. However, *The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News* published an article on 14 March extolling instead the 'absolutely exquisite' part played by Claude's first ex-wife Isabel Jeans and analysing in great detail what she had worn, having only this to say about Beatrix:

'Very attractive, too, as worn by the Julia of Beatrix Thomson, is a similar hat of delicately mauve straw ...'



"OH THAT I SHOULD LIVE TO HEAR MYSELF CALLED SPINSTER"
Lydia Languish (Miss Isobel Jeans) bemoans her fate to Julia (Miss Beatrix Thomson)

Figure 9 Isabel and Beatrix (at right) in *The Rivals*, from the *The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*, 14 March 1925.

Beatrix appeared next in *Caste* playing the part of 'Polly Eccles', the sister of a ballet dancer 'Esther' who becomes a penniless widow shortly after having made an inappropriate marriage. The production was staged at The Everyman Theatre, being performed 14 times during 3-15 August. It had good reviews:

'The outstanding performance was that of Miss Beatrix Thomson as Polly Eccles.' [*The Westminster Gazette*, 4 August 1925]

'Miss Mercia Swinburne is a sweetly sympathetic Esther – how could she be otherwise? – and Miss Beatrix Thomson and Mr. S. Victor Stanley are both amusing and eminently likeable as Polly and Sam.' [*The Stage*, 6 August 1925]

'The spontaneous outburst of applause at the end of the performance, when the curtain had to be raised time after time, must have been most encouraging to every person concerned in its production.' [*The Hendon, Finchley, Edgware and Mill Hill Times*, 7 August 1925]

'Miss Beatrix Thomson's Polly was as bright and gay as could be.' [*The Era*, 8 August 1925]

Only a fortnight later Beatrix was back on the stage in another production at The Everyman, playing the role of 'Biddy Bellingham' in Purdell's and Henderson's play *I'll Tell the World*, in which a father who disapproves of his daughter's friends hosts a party to which they are all invited and encouraged to say what they like, after which he opens a cabinet to reveal that all they have said has been broadcast to the world by a hidden piece of apparatus. Biddy, being one of those friends, has feather-brained pretensions to being 'arty' yet knows nothing about art. The show was reviewed favourably, seeing 17 performances at The Everyman from 28 August until 12 September, after which it ran for a further fortnight at the Golders Green Hippodrome:

'The Piece had an entirely favourable reception at the Everyman, and should win success both at Hampstead and elsewhere. ... Miss Beatrix Thomson, as Biddy Bellingham, who becomes human when Shipley, who had proposed to her, is exposed ...' [*The Stage*, 3 September 1925]

In November 1925 Beatrix appeared as 'Imogen' in Reginald Berkeley's mystery play *The World's End* which was given a single performance on the 8th at the West End's Aldwych Theatre:

'... Mr Reginald Berkeley has reiterated the familiar truth that if people were granted their highest ambitions they would not be any happier ... This curious mixture of realism and fantasy had the advantage of being exceedingly well produced by Mr. Norman Page, and finally acted by the loyal company that was willing to take so much trouble for a single performance. Every part was beautifully acted. ... Miss Beatrix Thomson had some fine moments as the young girl ...' [*The Era*, 11 November 1925]

Beatrix's last stage engagement in 1925 was at the 'Q' Theatre where she took the leading role of 'Flora MacLeod' in John Brandane's tense drama *The Lifting*, set in the Hebrides in the mid-18th century. Flora is the sister of a man who has been accidentally killed by the friend of a man wrongly condemned to execution as the victim's purported murderer:

'There are some scenes of quite striking beauty in *The Lifting* which was hailed with marked favour at Kew Bridge on Monday evening. ... As the two girls, Misses Beatrix Thomson and Beatrice Lewisohn nicely accentuate the tenderness of the one and the spitfire wildness of the other ...' [*The Stage*, 17 December 1925]

In their reporting of *The Lifting* some publications took the opportunity to draw attention also to the recent revelation that Beatrix and Claude had married a year previously and had kept this fact secret from the public. The article in Figure 10 quotes Beatrix as saying that the couple felt they had been 'very clever' in this but no explanation is offered as to the reason for being secretive. It may have been for professional reasons, to prevent the fact from influencing casting decisions. It is not clear whether the disclosure was made at this time deliberately by the couple or they had felt compelled to confirm it owing to its discovery by someone else.

In early 1926 Beatrix gave one of her finest performances yet. She had been assigned the part of 'Irina' in Chekhov's long and emotive play *The Three Sisters* in a production at the Barnes Theatre running for at least three weeks from 15 February. John Gielgud, who had trained at RADA with Beatrix under Claude

Rains, was also in the cast. There were many reviews in the Press, all highly praising, and the show was acclaimed as being, at that time, the finest anywhere in London, the acting all of the highest standard.

THIRD WEDDING OF MR. CLAUDE RAINS.

SECRET KEPT FOR A YEAR.

The marriage of Mr. Claude Rains, the actor and producer, and Miss Beatrix Thomson, a young actress, which took place at a Windsor register office about a year ago, was disclosed last night.

Mr. Rains is now playing in "The Madras House" at the Ambassadors Theatre and Miss Thomson is rehearsing the leading part in a new Scottish play "The Lifting," which will be produced at the "Q" Theatre on Monday.

"Our wedding was known to only a few very intimate friends," Mrs. Rains told the Westminster Gazette last night, "and we feel that we have been very clever in keeping the secret so long."

"I first met my husband when I was studying for the stage at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art at which Mr. Rains was one of the coaches. When I left he engaged me to play the leading part in "Loyalties" at the St. Martin's Theatre. I was only 21 at the time."

Mr. Rains started his career as a call-boy at His Majesty's Theatre and worked his way up to become prompter and eventually stage-manager. Since then he has become well known as an actor and producer.

This is his third wedding. His first wife was Miss Isabel Jeans, who played in "The Man with a Load of Mischief" at the Haymarket Theatre until recently, and his second wife was Miss Marie Hemingway, who has been playing an important part in "No No Nanette."

Both marriages were dissolved.

Figure 10 Revealing the secret marriage; from *The Westminster Gazette*, 10 December 1925.



THE COLONEL MEETS THE THREE SISTERS AFTER MANY YEARS: VERSHININ (ION SWINLEY), MASHA (MARGARET SWALLOW), OLGA (MARGARET SHERIDAN) AND IRINA (BEATRIX THOMSON).

Figure 11 *The Three Sisters*; from *The Sketch*, 24 February 1926.



VASSILY SOLYONY AND IRINA: MR. ELLIOTT SEABROOK (THE WELL-KNOWN LANDSCAPE-PAINTER) AND MISS BEATRIX THOMSON.

Figure 12 *The Three Sisters*; *The Sketch*, 24 February 1926.



Figure 13 *The Three Sisters*, from *The Sphere*, 27 February 1926.

Here is a selection of extracts from the newspapers commenting on *The Three Sisters*:

'Mary Sheridan, Beatrix Thomson, and Margaret Swallow as the sisters are so true to the author's conceptions that we do not think of them as the clever actresses they are but as the ill-fated sisters intended.' [*The Westminster Gazette*, 17 February 1926]

'No one should miss the beautiful production of this play at the Barnes Theatre. Its appeal is universal ... The play was so perfectly acted that to mention one player and not another would in some slight measure damage the harmony of the whole.' [*The Daily Herald*, 17 February 1926]

'... for power and acting and imaginative producing, this is the most remarkable play now running in London.' [*The Westminster Gazette*, 18 February 1926]

'London's Best Plays ... Particularly moving are the performances given by Beatrix Thomson in *The Three Sisters* ...' [*Sunday Pictorial*, 21 February 1926]

'Its acting is up to the high standard which Mr. Ridgeway [the producer] has set himself, and the sisters of Miss Beatrix Thomson, Miss Margaret Swallow and Miss Mary Sheridan could not be improved upon.' [*Truth*, 24 February 1926]

'The Three Sisters ... at the Barnes Theatre is meeting with an enthusiastic reception by crowded audiences.' [*The West London Friday Observer*, 26 February 1926]

In June Beatrix was back at The Everyman playing the role of 'Gilberte' in Jean-Jacques Bernard's complex and passionate play *The Years Between*, in a run which began on the 14th. It was the first occasion on which one of this French dramatist's plays had been translated for the English stage. 'Gilberte' is a daughter married to a man who is also loved covertly by her own mother. The reviews were mostly excellent although the play's subtlety was evidently lost on some:

'Audience perplexed by hazy plot. ... The Years Between, by Jean-Jacques Bernard, is an irritating play. ... This haziness may have been induced by translation. ... I am doubtful also as to the necessity of those fiercely acted emotional storms that so spoil the looks of beautiful Beatrix Thomson.' [*The Westminster Gazette*, 16 June 1926]

Others were far more positive:

'One of the most subtle, touching and beautiful plays that have been seen in London for a very long time was produced last night at the Everyman Theatre. Miss Beatrice Wilson and Miss Beatrix Thomson, as the mother and daughter, force one to use a strong phrase and to say that they approach perfection. Certainly one could not imagine the parts better acted.' [*The Daily Herald*, 15 June 1926]

'Miss Beatrix Thomson enables us to watch the daughter searching in distress for a key to the mystery which threatens, she knows not how or why, her own happiness; her performance appears, when the play is done, as a long and subtle prelude to the final discovery.' [*The Times*, 15 June 1926]

'The great thing is that The Years Between is a deeply interesting play, providing immense opportunities for emotional acting, and that it was received with the utmost favour at Hampstead on Monday. ... Miss Beatrix Thomson, as the daughter, is better in the earlier scenes than in the big emotional passage at the finish. She gives, however, a very skilful portrait of the kind of young wife whose innocence would naturally lead her to suspect the worst. Miss Winifred Oughton satisfactorily completes the short cast as a servant.' [*The Stage*, 17 June 1926]

The above mention of Winifred Oughton is interesting in that she came to live near Effingham Junction in East Horsley around 1934, a move which may have been influenced by Beatrix, although there were several other major artistes also living in and around Effingham in this period.

It appears that Beatrix performed in one further London production in 1926. The play *Pillars of Society* by Ibsen was staged at The Everyman during 13-24 July with Gwendolen Evans playing the role of 'Dina Dorf', with Beatrix possibly as her alternate or understudy.

The Everyman (pictured in Figure 14 in about 1920) was a small and intimate theatre and usually staged plays not requiring, or not suitable for, the larger formats offered by the mainstream theatres in the West End. The 1926 production here of Ibsen's play was very well received and might have concluded its run in July had there not occurred a significant failure at the West End's Royalty Theatre, where another play had been withdrawn after just a small number of performances. The outcome of this was that *Pillars of Society*, having been so successful, was transferred to the Royalty for a second run of two weeks, spanning 5-21 August.

At least five of the roles were re-cast for this run including making Beatrix the principal actor for 'Dina Dorf'. She was well received:

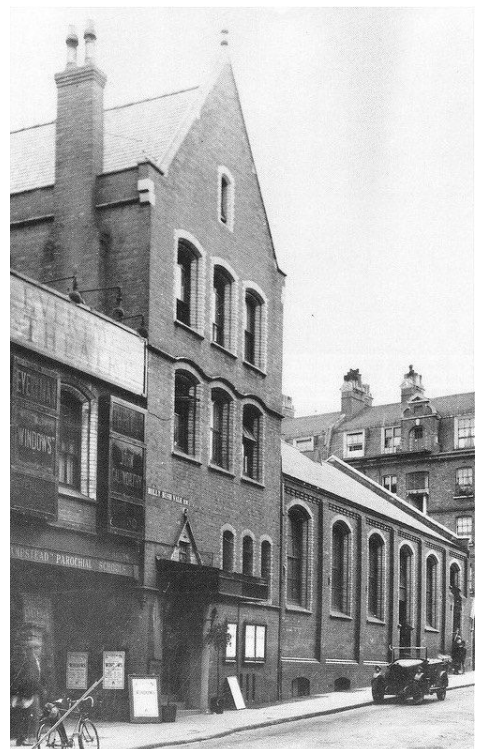


Figure 14 The Everyman theatre in Hampstead, c1920.

'Miss Beatrix Thompson [sic] deserves praise for her fine performance of Dina.' [*The Era*, 16 August 1926]

"Among the newcomers [i.e. those brought into the second run by the re-casting] I liked Miss Beatrix Thomson, who now plays Dina Dorf." [*The Sketch*, 18 August 1926]

Broadway

As 1926 drew to a close Beatrix was given an exciting new opportunity – she was engaged as the leading lady for the role of 'Tessa' in *The Constant Nymph*, a play adapted by Basil Dean and to be staged under Dean's direction at the Selwyn Theatre on New York's Broadway.



Figure 15 From *The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*, 19 February 1927.

According to Skal [*op cit*] Claude was pressured somewhat against his will by Beatrix's brother (Gordon, presumably) to accompany her to America because of her reluctance to undertake the journey alone. Rains accepted a minor role in the same production, a rather lowly position considering his status in Britain.

In New York they took up residence in Madison Avenue at the New Weston Hotel. Beatrix received generally good reviews in *The Constant Nymph* and the production, which had opened on 9 December, continued into April 1927.

'It [*The Constant Nymph*] has already been running in New York, where the roles of Lewis and Tessa are being filled by Mr. Glenn Anders ... and Miss Beatrix Thomson, the English actress, who won great praise in the Russian plays last year at the Barnes Theatre.' [*The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*, 5 March 1927]

After the run concluded the Rains went back to London and terminated their Camden Grove tenancy before returning to America. There, the show was taken to other venues outside New York, but with Rains now taking the leading male role. They obtained more excellent reviews before returning to New York for the winter. They were now living on East 86th Street and both performing in Don Marquis's play *Out of the Sea*, with Rains playing 'Arthur' and Beatrix 'Isobel'. It opened at Werba's Brooklyn Theatre on 9 November and moved to the Eltinge Theatre in Manhattan on 5 December. Reviews were mixed:

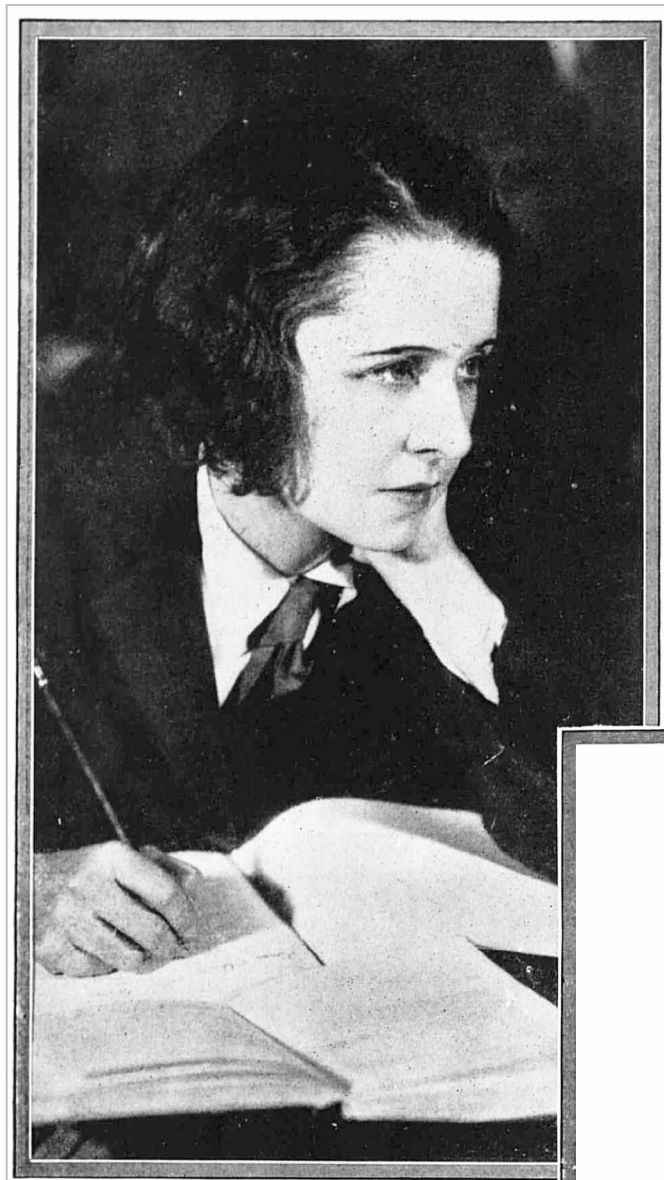
'... much of the piece was received with rapt attention. ... Miss Thomson is not as well fitted as she was in *The Constant Nymph*; her Isobel lacks mystery.' [*The Stage*, 22 December 1927]

Skal states that in the spring of 1928 the Rains moved to West 57th Street. Claude was getting consistently good reviews but Beatrix less so. They undertook various joint and separate engagements, including a spell in Connecticut, before returning to New York.

Marriage troubles

During 1928, whilst in New York, Claude now aged nearly 40 met a young would-be actress named Frances Proper, aged just 18, and began sleeping with her. Skal writes that according to Claude, 'I was lonely, and she was weary of virginity'. Matters must have been getting difficult in his personal dealings with Beatrix who was living mostly apart from him.

By late October Beatrix was embarking on a new production, a three-person play *The Unknown Warrior* in which she played the part of 'Aude'. It opened at Broadway's Charles Hopkins Theatre on 29 October but had only 8 performances owing to Beatrix being compelled to withdraw in order to comply with the requirements of the American Actor's Equity Association. Skal does not mention this fact, merely recording that she had told Claude that she no longer loved him and wished to return to Britain.



America's Tessa

Miss Beatrix Thomson, who is appearing on Broadway in the very successful New York production of *The Constant Nymph*

Figure 16 From *The Graphic*, 12 March 1927.

Claude failed to dissuade her and sank into misery. Equity's issue with Beatrix was reported in the Press after she had got back to England. The problem arose from Equity's rule that when a British artist in America had completed a run, irrespective of its duration, there had to follow a period of at least 6 months before they could embark upon another one there. In this instance, Beatrix had taken on this new work too soon after her most recent engagement. Beatrix was just one of many British actors who fell foul of this rule.

'I appreciate Equity's point of view,' Miss Thomson said, 'but it is very hard on English artists like myself, who have made a home in America. Although I have been in the States for two years, I have only worked about 50 weeks in all. I am barred from working either in America or Canada until May at the earliest. That is a bad season to open in, and it means that I cannot work in America again until next autumn. As I did not want to be out of work all that time, I decided to come back to England, at least for a time. I may work here till I can return to the States.' [*The Evening Telegraph*, 7 January 1929]

Given the situation with Claude, it may be that even had the Equity problem not arisen she would have left America anyway.

Claude now distanced himself further from Beatrix by taking on a different apartment at 158 East 33rd Street, and continued in his career with notable success. Beatrix meanwhile was preparing in London for a production of *Two Women*. In the summer of 1929 Claude visited Beatrix in London, but found that there was no prospect of patching things up with her; they agreed to separate. He returned to America and to Frances Proper.

In 1934 he filed a divorce suit against Beatrix in the American courts citing her desertion as the cause and was duly granted a *decree nisi* in January 1935 made absolute in early April. A few days later, on 8 April, Claude married Frances.

Beatrix, however, decided to challenge the American court decision and hence also the marriage to Frances, claiming that Claude had married the latter bigamously. This claim had the potential to damage significantly his reputation and career. Moreover, she filed a countersuit against him and Frances, engaging heavy-hitting lawyers for the purpose. Skal records that in the English newspapers Beatrix queried whether she was 'free to make my own life'. He writes 'Beatrix had answered the question to her own satisfaction when she left Rains for another man in the first place', but this seems to overlook Claude's apparently prior dalliance with Frances. Skal's sources for all this dirty washing lay mostly within a large collection of Claude's memorabilia to which he had access after the latter's death, but he appears not to have had the benefit of any comparable materials surviving from Beatrix. His conclusion that Beatrix was acting out of a 'vindictive streak' must therefore be one-sided. None of us can ever know the full truth of such happenings. Skal's condemnatory language in describing Beatrix's behaviour seeks to convey to us something about the woman, but the fact of Claude eventually having to divorce no fewer than five wives (including Frances) in his lifetime may also tell us something about the man. Indeed, other sources present many unsavoury anecdotes about Claude to which Skal makes no reference at all.

Beatrix eventually won her action against Claude and was granted a divorce under English law, obtaining a *decree nisi* in late 1936 with finalisation on 26 July 1937, receiving also (according to Skal) a settlement of \$25,000. Her address at that time was given as Southwick Street in Marble Arch.

The end of the Twenties

Beatrix resumed work rapidly after her return to England. Her first engagement in 1929 was in Cosmo Hamilton's play *Two Women* presented by the Lyceum Club Stage Society. It was performed at The Savoy on 13 January. Beatrix played the role of 'Mary Hubbard'.



Figure 17 From the *Daily Herald*, 19 December 1936.

'Miss Beatrix Thomson, although her material was not very worthy of her, gave an exquisitely beautiful performance as Mary Hubbard. She made the character quite credible and lifelike, a by no means easy task.' [*The Era*, 16 January 1929]

'... the tender, gentle and delicately charming Mary of Miss Beatrix Thomson.' [*The Stage*, 17 January 1929]

Ernest Raymond's highly dramatic play *The Berg*, presenting moving scenes aboard the sinking *Titanic*, was staged at the 'Q' Theatre for a run starting on 4 March and then for another in the West End at His Majesty's Theatre starting on the 12th. Beatrix played the part of newly-married 'Monica', her husband in a state of collapse when facing their separation as the liner begins to sink.



Figure 18 From *Britannia*, 29 March 1927.

The play, and she, received excellent reviews:

'The acting is magnificent.' [*The West Middlesex Gazette*, 9 March 1929]

'A lovely silver evening gown embroidered with diamanté was worn on the stage by little dark-haired Beatrix Thomson who, during the intensely pathetic scene with her young husband (Wallace Geoffrey) in the second act, moved the audience to tears which were a much greater tribute than even their enthusiastic applause!' [*The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*, 23 March 1929]

'A beautiful play, beautifully acted ... Mr. Wallace Geoffrey, appealing in his solicitude for his young wife, and tragic in his collapse under stress ... Miss Beatrix Thomson as the young wife, as emotional as her powers would permit.' [*The Sketch*, 27 March 1929]

'Miss Beatrix Thomson wrings our heartstrings as the young wife who is expecting to become a mother.' [*The Illustrated London News*, 30 March 1929]

On 14 July Beatrix gave, by all accounts, a truly superb performance as the leading lady in the nine-scene play *The Subway*, presented by the Lyceum Club Stage Society at The Garrick. She played the role of 'Sophie Smith', a clerical drudge in a soulless office condemned to travel at the end of each day to an equally dreary home. She comes to a tragic and horrific end. The reviewers said:

'There is a young, inexperienced girl, longing vaguely for beauty and companionship, hating her life with its drab office work and hours spent in travelling in the subway ... given a part deep with possibility, Miss Beatrix Thomson made a brilliant success of the young girl.' [*The Era*, 17 July 1929]

'The performance ... was rendered noteworthy by a very beautiful and sensitive representation of a shop-girl victim of that modern juggernaut, the New York Subway, given by Miss Beatrix Thomson.' [*The Stage*, 18 July 1929]

'Miss Beatrix Thomson, who played the part of the shop girl, gave the greatest performance of her career, and was altogether admirable ... let us hope those managers who saw Miss Thomson's brilliant performance may at last realise that we have there a really very great actress, and will give her a part worthy of her talents.' [*Kensington Post and West London Star*, 26 July 1929]

Meanwhile, Beatrix had been acting in a long run of G B Stern's play *The Matriarch* at The Royalty, which opened in mid-May and continued into August. As the leading lady, she played 'Toni Rakonitz', the Jewish grand-daughter of the despotic Anastasia.

'In a big cast Beatrix Thomson has her first big chance on the London stage, and she does not miss it. The final scene with her young lover, when he throws her over because he sees in her the Matriarch over again, was played with power and understanding.' [*The Courier and Advertiser*, 10 May 1929]

'A powerful performance is given by Beatrix Thomson as Toni ...' [*The Sporting Times*, 18 May 1929]

'Miss Beatrix Thomson lights the lamp of Toni's burning ardour with sensitive understanding.' [*The Tatler*, 12 June 1929]

'The Matriarch, at the Royalty, reaches its 100th performance tomorrow. Miss Beatrix Thomson was absent one night through illness ...' [*The Stage*, 1 August 1929]



Figure 19 From *The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*, 25 May 1929.



AN IOU WRITTEN ON THE FAMILY TREE

Toni (Miss Beatrix Thomson) signs an IOU for her Uncle Ludovic's debt to Isaac Cohen (Mr. Abraham Sofaer) on the back of the Rakonitz genealogical table, of which she is so proud. A well-cut little cameo of Jewish sense and sentimentality

Figure 20 From *The Graphic*, 25 May 1929.

Airborne

In late 1929 Beatrix obtained a pilot's certificate. She took great pride in being Britain's first actress to have been granted one. We do not yet know when she had taken up her interest in flying nor what her motivation was. She may have taken inspiration from her brother Gordon who had been decorated for his flying service in the Great War. The photographs in Figures 21-22 were taken on 29 December 1929 after she had made her first solo flight at Hanworth Aerodrome, whilst Figure 23 shows her in 1930 with her instructor, the highly distinguished Capt Harry Methuen Schofield. Her flying was based at the Hanworth Park Club, the headquarters of National Flying Services Ltd.



Figure 21 Beatrix after her first solo flight; 29 December 1929.



Figure 22 Beatrix after her first solo flight; 29 December 1929.



A TALENTED YOUNG ACTRESS TAKES TO THE AIR: BEATRIX THOMSON WITH HER PILOT-INSTRUCTOR, CAPT SCHOFIELD, AT HANWORTH.

Women are again showing their prowess in the Alps this winter in curling as well as ski-ing, and our upper picture shows a match in progress for an International Cup at St. Moritz. Below is seen Miss Beatrix Thomson, the young actress who took the name part of "The Constant Nymph" in America, and has lately been playing the youthful lead with Mrs. Patrick Campbell in "The Matriarch." Miss Thomson is learning to fly at the Hanworth Park Club, the headquarters of National Flying Services, Ltd., in Middlesex.

Figure 23 Beatrix with her instructor Capt Harry Methuen Schofield, 1930.



Figure 24 Beatrix at the Reading Air Pageant with Air Vice Marshal Sir William Sefton Brancker, 1930.

In April 1930 she attended, and evidently flew at, the Reading Air Pageant, which was held to mark the opening of a new club-house and hangars of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Aero Club. She is shown at the pageant in Figure 24 in the company of Air Vice Marshal Sir William Sefton Brancker, Director of Civil Aviation, who later that year on 5 October was killed in the catastrophic crash in France of the R101 Airship. The author of an article in *The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News* published on 18 October wrote 'I remember his enthusiastic comments over the flying ambitions of Miss Beatrix Thomson, the actress, and how eager he was to see more people making flying a hobby for week-ends and spare time.'

Her initial flying certificate did not allow her to take passengers into the air with her. A newspaper article of 1933 mentioned this and also gave a colourful account of her earlier solo flights:

'Actress Airwoman

Beatrix Thomson, who is to play the Princess in C. B. Fernald's play "The Princess in the Cage", which will be produced at the Westminster Theatre on February 22nd, is the only British actress who flies an aeroplane.

She has not yet qualified for the certificate which would entitle her to pilot a passenger-carrying machine. She has, however, made a number of solo flights. On the first of these she looped seven times.

Scared Him

Her instructor meanwhile was in a fever of anxiety. When she landed he gave her a piece of his mind. "I never heard of such a thing," he said, "a pilot on a first solo flight looping!" "And I thought you'd be proud of me," answered Beatrix demurely, "I was doing credit to your instruction.' [*The Daily Mirror*, 11 February 1933]

The Thirties

The Thirties was another busy decade for Beatrix, much of her time devoted to stage acting but also taking her first steps as a playwright and film actor. The above account of her in the Twenties is sufficiently detailed to demonstrate the high regard in which her acting was held almost universally. For this next decade a selection of her work is presented more briefly in summarised form. She also appeared in, or managed, many other works during this period which are not listed here.

The Way Out – Comedy Theatre

‘Beatrix Thomson commands a great deal of sincere emotional power as the much-tried wife.’ [*The Daily Mirror*, 24 January 1930].

Wooden Shoes – Kingsway Theatre

‘The adapter, Beatrix Thomson, has seen to it that she plays a part which runs the gamut of the emotions, and does it very well.’ [*The Bystander*, 26 November 1930]

Lilies of the Field – Grafton Theatre

‘These latest and youngest theatre managers, Helena Pickard and Beatrix Thomson, received endless congratulations after their opening performance at the tiny Grafton Theatre.’ [*The Daily Mirror*, 7 May 1931]

I want! – Grafton Theatre

‘Miss Beatrix Thomson ... did work of emotional value as the embittered secretary ...’ [*The Stage*, 18 June 1931]

East Lynne – Grafton Theatre

‘Miss Thomson’s concern for her falsely-accused brother ... hidden beneath a cloak of seemly reticence, was real and moving.’ [*The Sketch*, 7 October 1931]

The Dreyfus Case – (film) Empire Theatre and others

‘Beatrix Thomson, the only woman in the cast, gave a sympathetic rendering of the role of the unhappy but devoted wife of Dreyfus. The film is an all-British production.’ [*Northern Daily Mail*, 17 November 1931]

Somebody Knows – St Martin’s Theatre

‘Only Lily (finely played by Beatrix Thomson) “comes alive”.’ [*The Bystander*, 25 May 1932]

Charity Show – Scala Theatre

‘When so charming a theatrical manager as Beatrix Thomson chooses to make a gesture of gratitude, one takes it as a matter of course that it will be as novel as it will be gracious.’ [*The Era*, 8 June 1932]

Playground – Royalty Theatre

‘Beatrix Thomson is the one player with anything of an emotional chance, and she takes it forthrightly, laying bare the Cockney barmaid’s feelings with appealing realism.’ [*The Era*, 23 November 1932]

Love for Sale – (her own play) St Martin’s Theatre

‘On Sunday May 14 1933 the R.A.D.A. Players presented at the St Martin’s a play, in three acts, by Beatrix Thomson ... a talented young actress ...’ [*The Stage*, 18 May 1933]

Clean Hands – Piccadilly Theatre

‘Rosemary was played with much sincerity and also charm by Miss Beatrix Thomson in a role affording her good chances for emotional work.’ [*The Stage*, 15 June 1933]

The Voysey Inheritance – Sadlers Wells Theatre

‘Alice Maitland, who finally decides to throw in her lot with Edward *quand meme*, was presented with some effect by Miss Beatrix Thomson ... in one of the strongest scenes of the play.’ [*The Stage*, 10 May 1934]

The Night Hawk – Q Theatre

'Miss Thomson has the extraordinary power of digging deep into the heart of the abandoned among women.' [*Acton Gazette*, 17 August 1934]

Magnolia Street – Adelphi Theatre

'Probably one of the most successful adaptations of a novel ever made ... Miss Thomson the typical heartless strumpet.' [*The Scotsman*, 9 March 1934; *The Stage*, 15 March 1934]

There Go All of Us – Grand Opera House, Belfast

'Beatrix Thomson in a role that demanded such talent as is seldom found gave a performance that can only be described as moving.' [*The Northern Wing and Belfast Post*, 30 April 1935]

Duet by Accident – (her own play) Q Theatre

'It says much for the skill in theatre-craft of Beatrix Thomson that she has succeeded admirably in the formidable task of writing a full-length two-character play which never loses interest.' [*The Stage*, 12 December 1935]

For the Defence – Duke of York's Theatre

'... there is the frail charm of Barbara Keeble, excellently portrayed by Beatrix Thomson. She has a part which could so easily be over-acted but she carries it through with a restraint and understanding ...' [*Folkestone, Hythe, Sandgate and Cheriton Herald*, 5 October 1935]

Crown v Stevens – (film) various cinemas

'It looks as though the producers have discovered a new British star in Beatrix Thomson, who gives a vivid performance as a murderess. Already a favourite on the West End Stage, nothing is more certain that that she will become equally famous on the screen.' [*The West Middlesex Gazette*, 15 August 1936]

Mingled within these activities there were, of course, other things happening in Beatrix's life. During the run of *Somebody Knows* in 1932 she had a bad car accident, forcing her to withdraw for several days. Her car had skidded into a telegraph pole when she swerved to avoid a motor-cyclist. The *Charity Show* she staged in June of that year was held in aid of the Osteopathic Association Clinic in recognition of the treatment she had received.

ELHG's website shows two embedded Getty images of her. One was taken on 21 November 1932 when she was described as shortly to appear in the play *Magnolia Street*, but that play was delayed and not staged until early 1934. The other shows her name liberally displayed at the Vaudeville Theatre in September 1934 during the run of *The Night Hawk*.

In 1934 Beatrix was living at 2, Shepherd Market in Mayfair, but Electoral Registers for 1935-39 give her address as No 19 just around the corner in Hertford Street. She clearly had the means to live in one of the most expensive parts of London.

From the start of the Thirties Beatrix was broadening her interests in the performing arts and in 1931 she teamed up with another very fine actress Helena Pickard, also born in 1900 like Beatrix. She too had been on Broadway besides London's stages. Together they took out a lease on a small basement, formerly a cinema, in Tottenham Court Road and converted it for use as the 'Grafton Theatre' where during 1931-32 at least they managed – and often acted in – many small-scale productions, some of which are listed above. Figure 25 shows



Figure 25 Helena and Beatrix in *The Tatler*, 13 May 1930.

Helena and Beatrix on the Grafton's opening night when *The Lilies of the Field* was staged.

Occasionally Beatrix took roles in films. Those most commonly cited are *The Dreyfus Case*, *Crown v Stevens*, *The Story of Shirley Yorke* and *The Old Curiosity Shop*. The best of these was probably *Crown v Stevens* in which she played the part of a woman being tried in the courts for murder. None of them was especially memorable by today's standards. The studios where they were being made were taken over by an American corporation which blocked the films from being shown in America. Consequently they were shown only in Britain.



Figure 26 Beatrix in a screenshot from the film *Crown v Stevens*, 1936.



Figure 27 Beatrix photographed by Madame Yevonde, probably in about 1936.



Figure 28 Beatrix photographed by Bassano Ltd, 1936; from the National Portrait Gallery NPG x83490.

Beatrix had written at least one play, *Love for Sale* in 1933, but a few years later she returned to writing in earnest and produced a suite of four plays, staged at the Richmond Theatre during 1938-39. The photograph shown in Figure 29, referring to these works, was published in 1938.



ACTRESS-PLAYWRIGHT: Beatrix Thomson, who has so often delighted London with her fine acting, is also a talented writer, and four varied new plays of hers are being presented in succession in a short season which began at the Richmond Theatre on February 7

Figure 29 Beatrix in *The Sphere*, 12 February 1938.



Figure 30 A very rare original print signed by Beatrix which ELHG was able to purchase for its own archives. It is signed 'Beatrix Thomson 1938'.

Beatrix's decision to write the play *The Sons of Adam* established that her motivation in stage production was not confined to mere entertainment but was rooted in a wider awareness of what was happening in the world and the calls it made upon personal and collective conscience.

The Sons of Adam was a raw and topical exploration of the persecution and extermination of Jewish peoples. Beatrix was offered several West End venues for it:

'[She] had been inspired to write it by the plight of the thousands of refugees pouring out of Germany and Austria, and the story is closely bound up with this theme.' [*The Birmingham Mail*, 16 February 1939]

War was coming.

Wartime

In September 1939, after War had been declared, the Government drew up a National Register having some similarity to the standard Census. In this register Beatrix is found with a few other individuals at the address 14, Money Hill Road in Rickmansworth, Herts and described as an authoress.

The National Portrait Gallery has a note (with some photographs it holds of her) that she 'volunteered her services at an aeroplane production plant during the Second World War', but whether that relates to her having this Hertfordshire address is not known.

It seems that she was also retaining at least one residence in London, as the London Post Office Directory for 1940 lists her at Flat 19 within No. 20, Grosvenor Square W1. On 6 March 1940 she performed in the play *Belle Vue* at the Chancery Theatre in South Kensington, but nothing is known of her activities during the remainder of 1940.

In early 1941 it was announced in the Press that Beatrix was to remarry, to Capt Robert Gerald de Quincey, as reported by *The Manchester Evening News* on 8 February 1941.

Her address at this time was given in the Press as Barley Mow Cottage in Horsell, Woking, but this may have been the home of a family member. However, this intended marriage did not take place and Capt de Quincey instead married someone else in 1947.

Whatever the reason for the apparent hiatus in 1940, Beatrix did some stage work during 1941. In January she and Gwendolen Brogden with others contributed to a well-received concert of entertainment for a Home Guard platoon in Worplesdon, Surrey. In December she was the leading lady in several performances of the play *Trousered Apes* at the Prince's Theatre, Bradford and the Palace Court in Bournemouth and probably elsewhere, obtaining some good reviews. The play was advertised as 'Prior to Presentation in London' but appears not to have been staged there. Also in December, for five nights, she acted in *Set to Partners* at the Theatre



Yevonde

MISS BEATRIX THOMSON

There can hardly be many busier present-day playwrights than this famous young actress, for she has four brand-new plays on the hooks, all to be presented during the four-weeks' season which opened at the Richmond Theatre on February 7th. Their titles are: "Special Delivery," "Set to Music," "Woman Alive," and "Sons of Adam." Miss Beatrix Thomson is one of the outstanding products of the R.A.D.A., and made her first success under the banner of Basil Dean in "Loyalties" in 1922

Figure 31 Beatrix in *The Tatler*, 9 February 1938.

ACTRESS TO MARRY 	MISS BEATRIX LINDSAY THOMSON, actress and playwright, is to marry Captain Robert Gerald de Quincey, youngest son of Mrs. M. K. de Quincey, of Aldeburgh, Suffolk. Miss Thomson, a daughter of the late Colonel and Mrs. B. T. L. Thomson, was formerly the wife of Claude Rains, the film actor. Mr. Rains obtained a divorce in the New Jersey Courts in 1935 on the ground of desertion. Miss Thomson obtained a decree nisi in the English courts in 1936. Three years ago she made theatre history by presenting four of her own new plays in consecutive weeks at the Richmond Theatre.
---	---

Figure 32 *The Manchester Evening News*, 8 February 1941.

Royal in Brighton. In early 1942 she obtained excellent reviews for her acting in the play *Ducks and Drakes*, performed firstly at London's Apollo Theatre and then on tour at, for example, the Theatre Royal in Brighton, the Prince of Wales in Cardiff and the Grand Theatre in Blackpool. During the summer and autumn of 1943 she played with great success the part of a cabaret singer in the comedy *Time for Bed*, appearing at such places as Hammersmith's King's Theatre, Brighton's Theatre Royal, Cardiff's Prince of Wales and the Exeter Theatre.

Illness and decline

In 1939 Basil Dean had formed ENSA, the Entertainments National Service Association. The organisation provided entertainment to British armed services during the Second World War.

In March 1945 newspapers were reporting that Dean had recently returned to England after his 25,000-mile tour of India, Burma, Iraq, Egypt and Italy. At that time his star entertainers in India included Beatrix and Joyce Grenfell, and his first mobile entertainment unit of half a dozen performers had just left Calcutta bound for a three-month tour of Burma. It is certain that Beatrix visited Burma with ENSA but not clear whether she had already done so in 1944 or was now about to do so in 1945. A report in *The Stage* on 4 July 1946 stated that Beatrix 'had just returned to London after two adventurous years in the Far East.'

Whichever the case, in Burma she contracted a serious, disfiguring facial condition that was to interrupt her acting career. The story was told in various newspapers some years afterwards. Figure 33 shows an example, told partly in her own words, published in the *Sunday Advocate*, Barbados on 17 February 1952. Here it is claimed that her condition emerged in 1944. Elsewhere it was claimed that it was contracted during an ENSA tour in 1945.

It is clear from all such reports, however, that Beatrix suffered greatly from this illness and was forced to suppress her career for several years, choosing to 'live in seclusion in Surrey', possibly with brother Gordon. The illness was never diagnosed with certainty. A doctor who described it as some kind of bacteria-induced allergic urtication put her on a long course of vaccine injections which by 1952 had cured it. She had also undergone some operations.

The Shadow Has Gone From A Lovely Face

BEATRIX THOMSON

If on looking in the mirror one morning you saw a strange and horrible distortion of your face, what would you do?

If, instead of the familiar face, you saw an incredibly swollen, balloon-like face covered with disfiguring weals and blemishes.

That was what happened one day in 1944 to pretty Beatrix Thomson, the actress.

Mystery Germ

For the next six years she was to suffer at intervals the same horror, never knowing from hour to hour when the transformation would strike again.

A mysterious agency was at work in her blood-stream. She had picked it up in Burma while entertaining troops.

Now she has been cured after doctors had said she was incurable.

And yesterday, after her come-back to the stage, she told the story of those six terrible years.

"When I looked in my mirror that first day the reflection was horrible. My face and throat were all puffed up.

Always Hoping

"It went away, but only to return again and again. I began to feel like a leper.

"I was even told that death might come at any time. When my tour with the troops finished I couldn't face coming home.

"So I went from place to place, searching for a cure, and always hoping. Eventually, in 1946 I did return home and went to live in seclusion in Surrey.

"Sometimes I ventured out. I might be sitting in a restaurant or watching a show with friends. Then suddenly my face would undergo that hideous change as people watched it.

"Usually I left hurriedly, utterly humiliated."

It was by chance that Miss Thomson found a young physician who suggested a long course of vaccine injections.

He diagnosed that she was suffering from a rare allergy, urticaria caused through bacteria of some noxious substance in the body.

His treatment was successful, but the mystery of the cause of the illness itself remains.

—L.E.S.

Figure 33 Beatrix's illness described in the *Sunday Advocate*, 17 February 1952.

Beatrix was probably not working significantly in the immediate aftermath of the War although her films, such as *Shirley Yorke*, were doing the rounds in the cinemas. In 1952 she was acting again in *The Enemy of Time*, a play whose theme involved – perhaps appropriately – facial rejuvenation and plastic surgery; this was performed at the King's Theatre in Southsea with 'a full West End cast' and so may have been performed in London as well. Her obituary in *The Times* on 4 March 1986 remarked that in the 1940s and 1950s 'she concentrated on her second love, writing, achieving productions at several of London's fringe theatres'.

New pathways and remarriage

In 1952 a company named Orion Productions was presenting a play *Royal Command* at numerous venues. Among its directors was former Lieutenant Peter Lupino, who had been in the Royal Naval Reserve during the War. He was born in 1912 into the Lupino family well-known for its work in England's theatre world.

In particular he was the son of the comedian and film actor George Barry Lupino-Hook ('Barry Lupino'). It appears that he and Beatrix were good friends. In adult life he rendered his full name as Peter Don Studholme Borrett Lupino in recognition of the fact that as a young child he had been adopted by the actress Carolina Maria Lupton (stage name 'Marie Studholme') whose second marriage was to Harold Borrett. She was reputed to have been the most photographed stage beauty.

In 1956 an application to London County Council was made for a licence to conduct the business of an employment agency for theatrical, variety and cinema artists. The directors of this company were to be Beatrix together with S B Goldsmith and Peter Lupino, whilst its premises were to be No 2, Mount Street in Berkeley Square.

Meanwhile, Beatrix had taken up an entirely new career, as shown in Figure 34. The writer Eileen Ascroft had probably known Beatrix from the early Twenties, as Eileen's parents had then been living at Flower Cottage on Effingham Common. Beatrix's new business, making floral arrangements for sale, is described here as having been 'lucrative' but for how long it continued is unknown.

However, Beatrix was still active to some extent in acting, taking a small part in the TV play *Night Was Our Friend*, broadcast as part of the BBC's Sunday Night Theatre on 7 August 1955.

In 1958 Beatrix and Peter married in Westminster.

London's Electoral Registers show Beatrix and Peter living at the aforementioned address in Mount Street, but by 1962 they had moved to Weyside Cottage in Red Lion Lane, Farnham, the address at which her brother Alexander had been living when he died two years later.

In Farnham Beatrix and Peter became important supporters of the Castle Theatre.

In 1969 she appeared in the West End's Duchess Theatre acting in Ackland's play *The Old Ladies*. In 1971 the great actor Michael Redgrave inaugurated the building of a new venue in Farnham, the Redgrave Theatre, and as part of a public campaign to raise money for this a three-week run was staged at the Castle of the play *Relative Values*, in which Beatrix played 'the Countess of Marshwood'. In the photograph of this production in Figure 36 she is seated right-most on the sofa.

THE GIRL WHO BEGAN AGAIN

HOW much courage does it take to see a career crash through no fault of one's own, and then set to work to build a new one?

Too much for many people. One meets them everywhere. The physical or mental invalids who "could have achieved so much" if it hadn't been for this or that.

I met a woman with real courage. As Beatrix Thomson she was a well-known actress but during an ENSA tour in the Far East in 1945 she contracted a rare germ, which necessitated six years of operations and treatment on her face.

This small-in-size but large-in-spirit blonde then turned to a new career, creating long-lasting flower decorations for restaurants and hotels.

* * *

I've seen the first fruits of her creative fingers. And very beautiful they are. What started as a hobby has now turned into a lucrative business with two assistants.

Miss Thomson uses real stems, wood, bark, leaves, grasses and flower petals for her arrangements. These she wires into position and paints them in their natural colours. She services her flower decorations and guarantees them a life of three months.

—EILEEN ASCROFT.

Figure 34 Beatrix's new interest; *Evening Express* (Aberdeen), 22 June 1954.



Figure 35 Lt Peter Lupino RNVR, 25 August 1943, Liverpool; Imperial War Museum: © IWM A 18980.



Figure 36 Beatrix at the Redgrave Theatre; from *The Stage and Television Today*, 1 July 1971.

She had evidently lost none of her stage capability:

‘The part of the Countess of Marshwood in Noel Coward’s comedy “Relative Values” is an admirable one for Beatrix Thomson to choose for her return to the stage at the Castle. The illness that put an end to her acting career after the war is happily a thing of the past and she is in this play completely at home on the stage. The role of the Countess suits her admirably and her experience enables her to give an assurance to the part that might well elude a less polished performer.’ [*The Stage and Television Today*, 1 July 1971]

This may have been her last act upon the stage and we do not yet know any more of her life in her final years. She died on 23 February 1986, leaving a net estate of just under £3,000. Obituaries published in *The Times*, *The Guardian* and *The Stage* paid unreserved and handsome tribute to her acting, writing and theatre management career, especially in the pre-war years. *The Times* stated:

‘Beatrix Thomson’s contribution to the pre-war movement to popularise thoughtful and unusual theatre, and the skill and charm of a unique personality, will not be easily forgotten by those with memories old enough to recall London’s West End between the wars.’ [*The Times*, 4 March 1986]

Peter died on 15 December 1994 at Bishops Heights, a nursing home in Beales Lane, Farnham. His net estate was just over £12,000.

In 1998 some of Beatrix’s possessions were auctioned by Ewbank’s. They included the diploma she had been awarded in 1921 when still a student at RADA and a pencil sketch of her by the British artist Charles Buchel (Karl August Büchel). In 2017 an album was auctioned by Toovey’s and described as containing a ‘portfolio of flower photographs by Miss Beatrix Thomson, wife of Claude Rains’.

It is not yet known where her or Peter’s last resting places are.

Retrospect

Born into an exceedingly rich family, Beatrix could well have chosen to live a life doing little other than basking in that wealth and marrying well. Instead she chose to make something more of her life and moreover to do so in a challenging field. Learning scripts and stage choreography to perfection, travelling to venues with cramped and frenetic dressing rooms, walking out onto stages under the bright lights in view of hundreds of expectant strangers, dealing with the ensuing reviews and all else that goes with such a public-facing role – this is a path which must command respect. And more than that, Beatrix held down this way of life for over twenty solid years, hardly ever receiving a poor review and giving pleasure and entertainment to thousands of people, here and abroad.

She was a daughter of Effingham to be proud of.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1: from the late Mary Alfreda (née Bridger) Rice-Oxley

Figure 2: by courtesy of the Historic England Archive, Ref: bl24944; © Historic England.

Figures 3, 17, 32: by kind permission of Reach plc / *Mirrorpix*

Figures 4, 6, 9, 11-13, 15, 16, 18-20, 23, 25, 29, 31, 36: under Licence from the Mary Evans Picture Library;

© Illustrated London News Ltd. / Mary Evans

Figures 5, 30: from ELHG-owned archives

Figure 7: © Imperial War Museum: Lives of the First World War; Claude Rains ID: 8541844

under IWM Non-Commercial Licence

Figure 8: from Google Street View

Figure 10: from the British Newspaper Archive, courtesy of The British Library Board

Figures 14, 24, 26, 27: from the internet, unattributed

Figures 21, 22: originally taken by the Planet News Archive, then acquired by the Science and Society Picture Archive, then by Getty Images, Inc; but Getty no longer lists them so presumed now to be public domain

Figure 28: National Portrait Gallery, Ref: NPG x83490; licensed from NPG Creative Commons

Figure 33: from the Digital Library of the Caribbean: <https://www.dloc.com>

Figure 34: Image © D.C.Thomson & Co. Ltd (Newspapers), courtesy of The British Library Board

Figure 35: © Imperial War Museum; Lt Peter Lupino RNVR, 25 August 1943, Liverpool; IWM: A 18980

under IWM Non-Commercial Licence

Effingham Common – Early Commoners' Days

VARIOUS CONTRIBUTORS

The registration of Effingham Common in 1976 was the culmination of a long and hard-fought campaign by Effingham Parish Council together with many residents and stands as one of the most distinctive historic achievements of the Effingham community as a whole. The commoners' rights established at that time have since been celebrated by a series of Commoners' Days intended to demonstrate the continuing exercise of those rights. This article describes the earliest such events.

Effingham Common and commoners' rights

There are many commons still in England, but

Effingham Common is special because commoners' rights have been preserved, which is very rare.

From medieval times and even earlier, most villages across the country had a common which was an essential source of sustenance for villagers. Commons were owned by the Lord of the Manor, but usually the soil was in some way unsuitable for tillage so it could not be rented out like other fields. Instead, depending on what the land was like and what it could offer, villagers were permitted to use it for other purposes such as grazing for animals (horses, cows, sheep, geese etc), allowing pigs to forage for acorns (known as 'right of pannage'), collection of fallen wood for fuel ('estovers'), collection of turf ('turbary'), fishing ('pescary') and so on. The households which were allowed to make use of the common in this way valued their 'commoners' rights' because they were such an invaluable supplement to their diet and domestic economy.

The land making up today's parish of Effingham was never the property of just one manor but of several. Manors which held land in Effingham have included Effingham, Effingham East Court, Effingham La Legh, Effingham la Place, Byfleet, East Horsley and Little Bookham. Most of these held areas of common in Effingham at various times, but down the centuries the areas they owned constantly fluctuated as pieces were bought, sold or swapped and even manors themselves were merged. This means it is hard to say 'Effingham Common belonged to X manor' – it will depend on what year one is talking about.

In the past furthermore the acreage of common in Effingham was far more extensive than just the single area we have today and was dispersed more widely through the parish. There was a large area in the south, and on the western boundary with East Horsley was also Brookhill Common. What we today call 'Effingham Common' was formerly known as 'Effingham North Common' to distinguish it from these others. This was not the isolated island it is now. It continued seamlessly with Horsley, Cobham and Bookham commons (in other parishes and manors) to the west, north and east.

When the great national drive to improve the yield of agricultural land began in the late eighteenth century, many landowners completely reorganised the way village land was farmed (the Inclosure movement). Commons were taken into private farming use and, despite protests, villagers in many areas lost their customary commoners rights. Other areas were absorbed by the encroachment of the private estate or parkland of manor houses. Both Brookhill Common and the southern Effingham common succumbed to these pressures and 'disappeared'. Effingham North Common however escaped and by the 1870s it was the sole survivor. However, there was a great village battle over it still to come.

By 1965, there was national concern that remaining commons were being sold off for one purpose or another, or being built on, so historic green spaces were being lost and villages spoiled. An Act was passed which allowed villages to register not only their commons, but also any surviving commoners' rights. This would mean the common was preserved from development for ever, and the commoners' rights could never be taken away from them.

In Effingham by this time, the Calburn family owned both manors into which the land of Effingham Common then fell – Effingham manor, and Effingham East Court manor. Effingham residents wanted to register it, but the Lord of the manor(s) opposed this, feeling, perhaps understandably, that as he owned it, it was his private land to do with as he wished (and planning applications to develop it for housing were put in in 1937 and 1973). A village campaign was started and residents contributed a considerable amount of money to pay for the legal costs. Many ancient documents and proofs were exhaustively researched, examined and discussed. Finally, in 1976, the Commons Registration Commission gave its verdict. The Common was registered, and four Effingham properties had successfully proved their entitlement to commoners' rights. These are now preserved in perpetuity.

The four properties which today have registered commoners' rights are:

1. Slaters Oak, Effingham Common Road
2. Huckamoor (formerly Brickfield Farm), Orchard Close
3. Leebrooke, Effingham Common
4. The Willows, Effingham Common Road

and their locations are indicated in Figure 1.

The decision by the Chief Commons Commissioner to confirm the registration of the rights attaching to these properties was set out in a 9-page document dated 15 March 1976 and specified precisely what those rights were. A slight complication in the arrangement is that the properties have varying rights on three different areas of the Common, specifically (i) 5 acres in the northern part of Hooke Common, (ii) the remainder of Hooke Common and (iii) part of the manor of East Court. Given that, the rights are as follows:

1. *Slaters Oak*

On northern Hooke Common:

to graze 3 ponies, 1 cow and 10 geese

On East Court:

to graze 2 donkeys, 2 sheep, 1 cow and 10 geese

2. *Huckamoor*

On northern Hooke Common:

to graze 24 sheep and 12 geese

3. *Leebrooke*

On East Court:

to graze 1 sheep and 15 geese, and estovers

On northern Hooke Common:

to graze 1 horse, 4 cows, 20 sheep and 15 geese, and estovers

On the remainder of Hooke Common:

to graze 1 sheep and 15 geese, and estovers

4. *The Willows*

On East Court:

to graze 1 horse

On northern Hooke Common:

to graze 6 cattle or horses, and estovers

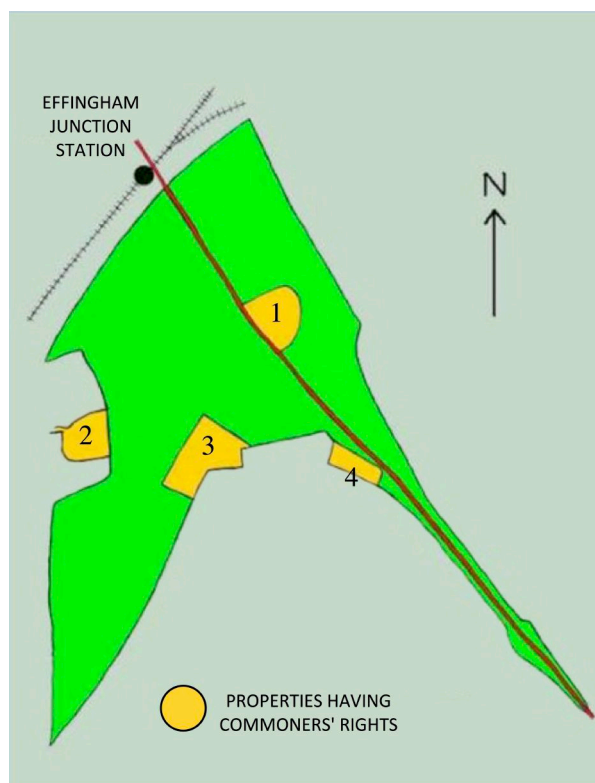


Figure 1 Properties having commoners' rights.

Note – some of the designated numbers of animals and geese given in ELHG's early book Studies in Local History: Effingham Common [publ Effingham Local History Group (ELHG), 2011] were not correct.

Early references to commoners' rights on Effingham Common

The matter of commoners' rights on Effingham Common can be traced at least as far back as the 1930s, as can be seen in this extract from the very extensive and deeply researched article *An account of the sad, splendid lawsuit of William of Effingham* by Susan Morris in ELHG's *Effingham Common* book [op cit]:

On 1 September 1926 the provisions of section 194 of the Law of Property Act 1925 had come into force. From that day forward, to 'enclose' any land subject to commoners' rights would require the consent of both the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the County Council. 'Enclose' means a whole variety of activities involving permanent structures or changes, such as laying areas of hardstanding, buildings, walls, ditches – not just fencing around the edge of an area.

By itself this provoked no problems in Effingham but soon afterwards the 1932 Town and Country Planning Act required District Councils to prepare a Planning Scheme. Thus it came about that Guildford Rural District Council (GRDC) 'zoned' (identified) Effingham Common as 'public open space' subject to rights of common. In other words, it was the GRDC's view that some properties around the Common had inherited ancient rights to pasture their animals or gather firewood etc. on it. The Council didn't know for certain that these rights existed, nor, if they did exist, what specifically they were. But it was enough for GRDC to record the fact that rights were believed to exist. It would be for another body to determine the question one way or another.

When GRDC submitted its Draft Planning Scheme to the Ministry of Health for approval in 1937, Mr. [Robert Reitmeyer] Calburn objected. He believed Effingham Common was his own private land, not public open space, and that any commoners' rights which may once have existed were long since extinguished. He had already generously given Banks Common to The National Trust in 1925, so by 1937 he may justifiably have felt he had already done his bit for public open space and as will be seen presently, his objection at this time did not bring to an end his role as village benefactor. Various investigations and researches followed. It transpired that the property called Slaters Oak looked as if it would be able, should it be necessary, to prove commoners' rights recorded on its deeds since at least 1907 (but these still had not been tested in court). Furthermore, Mr. Estler had been actually exercising the commoners' rights which belonged to his property Leebrooke and which went as far back as anyone could remember.

As noted in the extract above, the issue of commoners' rights on the Common had come to the fore in 1937 when, acting upon the guidelines set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1932 for the submission of planning schemes, GRDC had on 8 April 1937 submitted such a scheme for the district to the Ministry of Health for approval, being publicly announced by the notice in Figure 2. This scheme had designated the Common as a public open space subject to 'rights of common'. Calburn, however, had already applied for planning consent to develop the entire Common for housing, in direct conflict with the scheme. Accordingly, on 1 April the Town Planning Committee rejected Calburn's plan. The Committee's Chairman, Reginald Arthur Bray, made this brave claim about the Common: 'Until a few years ago it was a common in the ordinary sense of the word, there being a lord of the manor and owners who had rights of common. The rights of common prevented any possibility of enclosure.' This claim would in due course be put to the test. Appendix II presents a long newspaper article describing the Committee's deliberations on this occasion.

No mention of commoners' rights appears in the Minutes of the Ordinary Meetings of Effingham Parish Council [EPC] from 1930 onwards until July 1948. Such mentions as appear in certain periods from that date are presented in Appendix I, which provides verbatim extracts from both the Ordinary Minutes and the Chairman's Reports delivered at Annual Parish Meetings.

In the 1940s and 1950s EPC's activity in this matter was mostly a process of enquiry, trying to ascertain whether commoners' rights really did still prevail on the Common, whether (if they did prevail) such rights could be overridden by the land owner (Calburn) and whether a scheme could be put in place to regulate the use of the Common. EPC looked a good deal to the GRDC for information and support in these endeavours. However, little was clearly established about the matter during these two decades. In the mid-1950s EPC was still enquiring of GRDC as to whether certain residents did have common rights and whether these were compromised by Calburn's claim to absolute title over the land.

As narrated in Susan Morris's article, it was in 1957 that an event took place that would propel these questions into the jurisdiction of the courts. Mr Estler of Leebrooke, a house on the edge of the Common, had his horse William impounded by one of Calburn's tenants and moreover was sued for the damage (with costs) that William's grazing had allegedly inflicted upon Calburn's land. Estler believed he had rights of

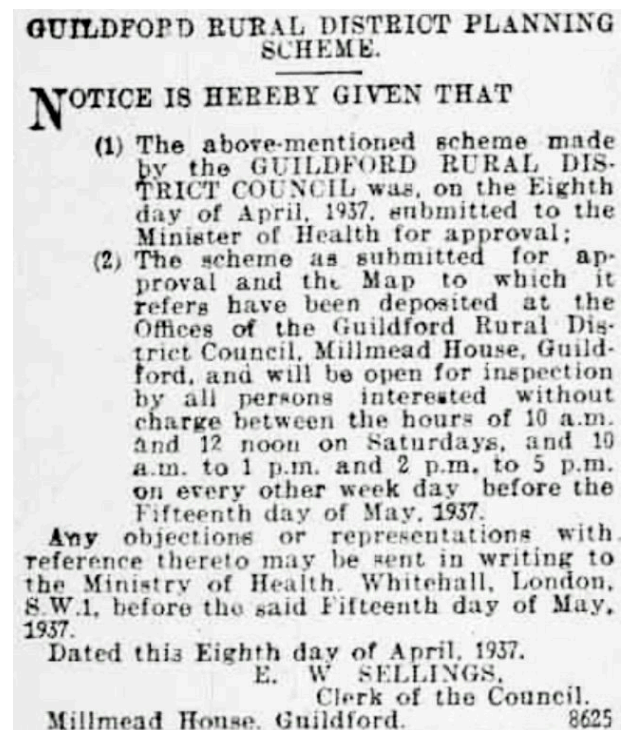


Figure 2 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 17 April 1937.

common, entitling him to let William graze on the Common. However, he lost the case and also lost his subsequent appeal, but in the course of this it was apparently conceded in the court's judgment that he did have some limited rights of common, though not to the extent that he had first claimed.

It was not until 1965 that the question of the rights on the Common would be explored to the full. In that year the passing of the Commons Registration Act opened the door for claims to be made to a new Commons Registration Authority in support of the registration of particular areas of land as commons, including the detailing of any rights of common.

The beginnings of Commoners' Days

The registration in March 1976 of Effingham Common and of the rights attached to it was the culmination of a long-drawn-out campaign extending from the late 1960s up to the mid-1970s. It was triggered in 1968 by the announced intention of Guildford Rural District Council to register Effingham Common, notwithstanding the known opposition of Mr Calburn as principal owner and Lord of the relevant manors. In response, Effingham Parish Council encouraged the residents to assemble the best evidence they could to demonstrate the existence of both historic and continuing rights on the Common. It gave the fullest backing it could to the mounting of a joint legal action aimed at proving, before the Commons Commissioner, the claims of four particular households (those noted above) as to their rights. The many twists and turns in this mighty enterprise are narrated in the above-mentioned article by Susan Morris.

The registration of the Common and the details of the commoners' rights were subsequently recorded in the *Commons Register for Surrey* maintained by Surrey County Council; in this register, Effingham Common is designated as Unit CL24.

Although many residents of Effingham had played substantial roles in the achieving of this outcome, particular credit must be accorded to the members of Effingham Parish Council and – especially – to the dedication and driving force of its Chairman, Antony (“Tony”) Donald Page. Tony, who lived with his wife Jessica Elizabeth (née Harrold) and their children were then living very close to the Common, at Wrens Hill in Lower Farm Road. Jessica, who had grown up in Effingham, had known the Common from childhood. Tony chaired the Parish Council during the electoral years 1968-70 and 1971-80, spanning the entire period of the campaign for registration of the Common. Shown below is the draft he made – in his characteristic red ink handwriting – of the noting in his Chairman's Report for the 1975-76 year of the case having been won.

Effingham Common
 – as many of you will know, we have won our case before the
 Commissioners of Common, so that the Common is registered as such, for ever.

Figure 3 Tony Page's note for his Chairman's report that the case for registration had been won.

Besides this, both he and Jessica made major contributions over many decades to the Effingham community and beyond, as well as becoming in later years enthusiastic members of ELHG. Most of the photographs presented in this article were taken by Jessica and later donated to the Parish Council.

Although the registration had ostensibly provided legal underpinning and protection of the established rights, the view was formed among those most closely connected with the subject that, with the long term future in mind, that protection might be consolidated further by the regular exercising in public of those rights and preserving records of this having been done. This seemed especially appropriate given how important the proving of earlier exercising of rights had been to winning the case.

Thus in 1980 the first of Effingham's Commoners' Days was staged, taking place on 20 September. This was not a formal event and nor – as far as we can ascertain – was it widely advertised. The only documented note of it happening is one made by Tony in his final Chairman's Report to the Parish Council for the 1980-81 year, which read as follows:



Figure 4 Tony Page in 1973.

‘Commons Rights

The Parish Council arranged for those residents on Effingham Common who have rights to graze sheep, horses and donkeys, and to collect wood, to exercise those rights on 20th September. It is important that these rights should be seen to be exercised in order that they may be preserved, and there will now be an annual event on these lines.’

This small-scale but important step marked the beginning of (up to the present day) a quarter of a century during which the rights have been periodically exercised on Effingham Common, not without occasional hiatuses in past decades but nowadays forming a fairly regular event in the Effingham calendar, usually witnessed and enjoyed by several hundred people.

The best evidence we possess at present as to the years in which the early Commoners' Days took place consists of the Minutes of EPC's Ordinary Meetings and the EPC Chairman's Reports from the Annual Parish Meetings (see Appendix I). After the first Commoners' Day in 1980 they did take place annually up to and including 1989, but the Minutes and Reports make no mention of any during 1990-93. The next was in 1994 and in the Report for that year is the phrase ‘our initiative to revive the annual Commons Day’, confirming that there had indeed been a hiatus. EPC's Minutes for 1992 and 1993 support this conclusion. A remark in the Minutes for 1995 notes agreement to hold a Commoners' Day in July 1996. A letter from Tony Page to Ray Davies dated 24 February 2001 indicates that Jessica, who was now EPC's Chairman, was proposing to hold a Commoners' Day ‘in June or early July’ 2001 and the Minutes confirm that this took place on 21 July. The Minutes and a small batch of correspondence confirm that another took place in 2002. The Minutes and some correspondence show that a Commoners' Day had been scheduled for 13 October 2007 but cancelled owing to Foot and Mouth restrictions on animal movements. Another planned for 19 September 2009 was likewise cancelled by EPC owing to insufficient time to prepare for it.

To summarise, then, the years prior to 2010 for which we *know* that Commoners' Days were held are just the following: 1980 to 1989 inclusive, 1994, 1996, 2001 and 2002.

The Friends of Effingham Common

The flyer shown in Appendix III explains the origin of The Friends of Effingham Common as follows:

‘When Guildford Borough Council purchased the largest section of Effingham Common in 2002, a joint steering group called The Friends of Effingham Common was set up to guide future management of the Common.’

The purchase had been completed in January 2002. From that point onwards Guildford Borough Council [GBC], EPC and The Friends acted in partnership in planning and managing the subsequent Commoners' Days. Prior to this, Commoners Days had been informal events driven by the initiative of EPC as a body as well as of certain individuals in particular, such as Tony and Jessica Page, who were passionately committed to the upholding of commoners' rights.

We do not know why the Commoners' Days became less regular through the 1990s. Perhaps their importance became eclipsed by mightier concerns within EPC's remit. However this may be, when Jessica became Chairman in April 2000 she probably took advantage of that position to galvanise EPC into reviving the tradition. We see from the Minutes that by February 2001 she was already planning a Commoners' Day for that year and was writing to the rights holders to invite their participation.

After GBC had entered the picture, the Commoners' Days became gradually more elaborate, being able to take advantage of the additional resources that GBC was able to provide. The Borough's involvement was steered with great enthusiasm and vigour for many years by its newly-appointed Trees and Countryside Manager, Mr Adam Owen, working in close partnership with The Friends and in particular with Brian Hendry who lived near the edge of the Common and served for some time as their Chairman. Despite these developments, the frequency of Commoners' Days once again became patchy during the first decade of the 2000s, with an eight-year gap between the events of 2002 and 2010.

The Photographic Record

We have accumulated a growing collection of photographs of the Commoners' Days (as well as some video clips); a selection of those from the years 1980-96 forms the remainder of this article.

Commoners' Day 1980: Saturday 20 September

The first four photographs of this event (Figures 5-8) were donated by Barbara Henry to ELHG and dated by her. The next two (Figures 9-10) are in an album donated to EPC by Jessica Page.



Figure 5 (John) Derek Alun-Jones and his wife Gillian (née Palmer) of The Willows with ponies.



Figure 6 Derek Alun-Jones (at centre) with Richard Parton of Huckamoor; Gillian Alun-Jones at right.



Figure 7 Richard Parton with his wife Islay Reneira 'Joy' (née Watson); she died in June 1985.



Figure 8 Joy Parton with grazing sheep on Hooke Common.



Figure 9 Richard and Joy Parton, centre; Gillian Alun-Jones and unidentified person at left; by Lower Farm Road.



Figure 10 Adrian George Estler of Leebrooke on his cart pulled by horse William 2nd ('Bill'); in Lower Farm Road.

Commoners' Day 1981: Saturday 19 September

The following five photographs also appear in Jessica's EPC album and are dated by her.



Figure 11 Adrian Estler standing on his cart, on East Court Common.



Figure 12 The man in the foreground was identified by Jessica as 'John Thompson'; we are currently uncertain as to where he was living at this time.



Figure 13 Adrian Estler at rear; John Thompson and others in the foreground.



Figure 14 Adrian Estler and a friend collecting wood.



Figure 15 Derek Alun-Jones with pony.

Commoners' Day 1982 (presumed): Sunday 10 October

The next two photographs are labelled 'April 1983' in Jessica's EPC album, but only because that is the processing date stamped on their reverses; they must have been taken in 1982 but printed much later.



Figure 16 Adrian Estler collecting wood with Bill.



Figure 17 We do not currently know the identity of the woman in the foreground.

Commoners' Day 1985 (presumed): Saturday 12 October

The next three photographs are labelled 'April 1986' in Jessica's EPC album, but only because that is the processing date stamped on their reverses; they must have been taken in 1985 but printed much later.



Figure 18 Adrian Estler collecting wood again.



Figure 19 Adrian Estler.



Figure 20 This woman is not named in Jessica's album but is almost certainly Gillian Alun-Jones.

Commoners' Day 1986: Saturday 18 October

The first photograph below is labelled 'October 1986' in Jessica's EPC album. The one below it is unlabelled but, judging from Estler's attire, is contemporary with it.



Figure 21 Jeremy Alun-Jones with groom at centre, on East Court Common next to Lower Farm Road, with The Willows in the background at right; Adrian Estler, with log, to the left of the group.



Figure 22 Adrian Estler with Bill on Lower Farm Road.

Commoners' Day 1994: Saturday 29 October

The photograph below is labelled 'Oct 29th 1994' in Jessica's EPC album.



Figure 23 (L to R): Tony Page, Keith Cornwell (Chairman of EPC), Peter Grobel and Richard Parton (at front).

Commoners' Day 1996: precise date unknown

The next five photographs were donated to ELHG by Liz and Chris Hogger.



Figure 24 Grazing of goats; Valerie Chapman (in red coat) at right.



Figure 25 Grazing of goats.



Figure 26 Grazing of goats.



Figure 27 Perhaps (now Sir) Derek Alun-Jones.



Figure 28 Ray Davies of Slaters Oak, former lead singer of The Kinks, with donkey.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1: simplified map of Effingham Common, produced by David Putland

Figures 2, 29: courtesy of Reach plc / *Mirrorpix*

Figures 3, 4: from the archives of Effingham Parish Council

Figures 5-8: from Barbara Henry

Figures 9-23: from Jessica Page / Effingham Parish Council

Figures 24-28: from Elizabeth Irene Hogger and Christopher John Hogger

Figure 30: from Susan Morris

APPENDIX I

*Extracts from EPC Minutes and Chairman's Reports***Extracts from EPC Minutes of Ordinary Meetings: 1948-57***5 July 1948*

'The Clerk was instructed to make enquiries for the Roll of Rights pertaining to Effingham Common.'

13 September 1948

'Correspondence was read on the subject of the Common Rights from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and Guildford Rural District Council suggesting the desirability of making a Scheme under the Commons Act for the regulation of the Common. The Council agreed to the Ministry's suggestion and the Clerk was instructed to proceed in the matter.'

13 December 1948

'The Sub-Committee dealing with the Common, Mrs Bristow and T F Flack, reported progress in the endeavour to establish certain Common Rights of residents in the vicinity of Effingham Common.'

7 February 1949

'In view of the letter received from the Rural District Council on the subject of the Control and Management of Effingham Common, the Council agreed to further press for its accomplishment, under the Commons Act.'

7 March 1949

'The Council agreed, in view of the reply from the Clerk of the Rural District Council on the subject of the Control and Management of the Effingham Common, that it should be asked to ascertain:-

1. Whether Mr Calburn is the Lord of the Manor.
2. Any significance in an overriding veto.
3. The Council would like to be told of the nature of the suggested alternative scheme.
4. Whether the Rural District Council have made any efforts to view the Roll of Rights of Effingham Common.'

13 June 1949

'The Sub-Committee in their pursuits had discovered an historical map of Effingham, of considerable interest in the present search for information respecting the Common Rights, and promised to endeavour to obtain either the original or a copy for the Council's retention and reference. The Chairman observed that it was now incumbent of the Council to commence collecting historical records.'

21 April 1953

'It was reported that a lease was being drawn up by the Lord of the Manor and a Football Club with regard to land on Effingham Common. The Clerk was requested to ascertain whether any of the property owners adjacent had common rights.'

27 May 1953

'The Clerk reported that although it appeared that certain people may have common rights, Mrs Bristow to write to the Guildford Rural District Council.'

3 December 1953

'Common Rights. This matter was deferred until the next meeting.'

4 January 1954

'Common Rights. The Clerk reported on the previous correspondence with regard to common rights and the proposal turned down by the Surrey County Council for the acquisition of the Manorial Rights. The Clerk to write to the Agricultural Executive Committee to ascertain their intentions with regard to the land at present under requisition on the Common.'

24 September 1954

'Mr [sic – Mrs?] Bristow raised the question of rights on the Common in view of the Lord of the Manor's claim of absolute title. Mr Johnson to raise the matter with the Clerk of the Guildford Rural District Council.'

15 March 1955

‘The Council agreed to the suggested rectangular site to be ceded [by the Lord of the Manor], necessary legal action would now be taken. Mrs Bristow raised the question of common rights, the Clerk to look up the previous correspondence on the matter for the next meeting.’

6 February 1956

‘In view of the complex matters arising out of Common Rights it was agreed to leave this matter to a fuller committee meeting.’

31 July 1957

Mr Johnson reported that the Guildford Rural District Council were supporting Mr Estlar [sic – Estler] in an action regarding Common Rights.’

Extracts from EPC Minutes of Ordinary Meetings: 1976-78

21 December 1976

‘It was agreed that in replying to the Lord of the Manor the Chairman should make reference to the rights of the Commoners, in particular that sufficient common land should be made available for the exercising of the right of estovers.’

25 January 1977

‘The Chairman reported on correspondence with the Lord of the Manor who was now in process of writing to the Common Right holders.’

30 May 1978

‘Common Rights Case. It was agreed the Clerk should write to the Law Society and enquire as to from when [sic] the result of the Society's deliberations would be conveyed to the Parish Council.’

25 July 1978

‘Col Tyrwhitt-Drake declared an interest. The Council learnt that the Law Society had upheld Guillaume & Sons' case and the Council therefore reluctantly agreed to settle their account.’

Extracts from EPC Minutes of Ordinary Meetings: 1992-95

29 December 1992

‘Commons Day, Effingham Common. It was agreed this should be revived in 1993.’

28 December 1993

‘Effingham Common. It was agreed to try and organise another “Commons Day” sometime in the autumn 1994. It was agreed the Clerk should write to the known holders of Commons Rights – Ray Davis [sic – Davies], Sir Derek Alun-Jones and Richard Parton – to enquire as to whether they would be willing to participate. Also to enquire of the Open Spaces Society of any difficulty which might arise from the lapsing of the usage of rights.’

26 January 1994

‘Effingham Common: The Clerk reported on [sic] encouraging response from Common Rights holders with a view to arranging a Commons Day.’

22 February 1994

‘Effingham Common: Confirmation had been received from Alun-Jones that he would participate in a Commons Day.’

28 June 1994

‘Effingham Common: The Council noted that the cultivation rights for the Common had passed to Mr Hugh Milian of Te Where, Heath View, East Horsley. It was agreed that the Clerk advise Mr Milian of the requirement to leave sufficient land for exercise of Common Rights.’

30 August 1994

‘Effingham Common: Saturday, October 29th at 10.30am was the proposed date for the holding of a Commons Day.’

27 September 1994

'Effingham Common: Confirmed that October 29th would be a Commons Day.'

25 October 1994

'Commons Day: Common Rights holders had been advised of the arrangements for the Commons Day on Saturday, 29th October.'

27 June 1995

'Effingham Common: The Borough Chief Executive advised that the Council were seeking to see whether it would be feasible to re-open the possibility of public acquisition of the Common, although judging by past experience he was not entirely hopeful.'

28 November 1995

'Commons Day: It was agreed the day be planned for a day [in] July 1996.'

Extracts from EPC Minutes of Ordinary Meetings: 2001-09

27 February 2001

'Commons Day: The Chairman reported that she had contacted two of the four known holders of Common Rights on Effingham Common with a view to arranging a Commons Day. It was agreed July would be the best month. The Chairman and Clerk to arrange.'

26 June 2001

'Commons Day: Confirmed would be held on 21st July next. The Clerk to advise Commoners.'

31 July 2001

'Commons Day: Had proved to be a successful event, grazing and wood collection had taken place with commoners exercising their rights.'

29 January 2002

'Effingham Common: The Council noted with great pleasure that the purchase of Effingham and Hook Common by the Borough had been completed.'

26 February 2002

'Effingham Common: It was agreed the Clerk write to the Borough to suggest a lessor meeting to discuss arrangements for the setting up of a managing committee which should include representatives of the Borough and Parish Councils, commons rights holders, and Friends of the Common.'

30 July 2002

'Effingham Common: A Commons Day would be held on August 24th, a date acceptable to Commons Rights holders.'

27 August 2002

'Effingham Common: A successful Commons Day was held on August 24th with a good attendance.'

29 October 2002

'Effingham Common: The public meeting had resulted in the formation of a Friends' Executive Committee, who would be meeting shortly to elect officers.'

26 November 2002

'Effingham Common: A meeting of the executive committee had been chld and the following appointments made:

Chairman	CEW Crouch
Secretary	TRE Driscoll
Treasurer	P Bergman'

28 January 2003

'Effingham Common: The next meeting of The Friends of Effingham Common will be on 10 February 2003.'

25 February 2003

'Effingham Common: The potential for Friends of Effingham Common will be discussed at the AGM (May).'

28 April 2006

'Friends of Effingham Common: Cllr Hogger reported that the recent work-day was very enjoyable but sparsely attended, and hoped more Parish Councillors would attend future dates. The annual public meeting is due.'

25 July 2006

'Friends of Effingham Common: Since there are parish councillors on this committee the opportunity to report will become a standing item.'

22 May 2007

'Friends of Effingham Common: Following tradition, EPC will hold a Commoners Day, probably Saturday 22 or Sunday 23 September; the Clerk to write to the Commoners.'

31 July 2007

'Friends of Effingham Common: GBC will cut the grass and spray the docks in September. There will be a visitor survey on 11, 12 and 14 August, and a scoping survey for flora and fauna. Replacement signage has been ordered. Mrs Page has asked for regular information from GBC and will convene a public meeting of the Friends in the autumn. EPC's Commons Day will need to be in October, after spraying.'

28 August 2007

'Friends of Effingham Common: Cllr Symes reported that the Volunteers will meet for a work party on 16 September. The AGM will be on 30 October; Adam Owen to be invited. Signage is on order; the grass will be mowed but weather has been a problem (the Common has been virtually impassable for most of the summer); scoping surveys for the ecology have been completed and data is being reviewed. The Clerk reported that the Commoners' Day planned by the Parish Council will be on Saturday 13 October.'

25 September 2007

'Friends of Effingham Common: Commoners had been invited to the Commons Day on Saturday 13 October but in view of the Foot & Mouth restrictions on animal movements it was agreed to postpone this.'

24 March 2009

'Proposed Commons Day this summer: GBC Parks and Countryside officer Adam Owen had contacted the Parish Council to suggest reviving this and a meeting will be held. It was agreed Cllr Symes will let the Friends of Effingham Common know.'

30 June 2009

'Friends of Effingham Common: A Commoners' Day was planned for 19 September, but the Clerk apologised for not having progressed arrangements. Cllr Nicholls volunteered to help, having organised them before. Apparently GBC thinks it owns the lordships of both manors.'

28 July 2009

'Postponement of Effingham Commoners' Day: Cllr Symes and the Clerk had had to come to the conclusion that there was not enough time remaining to organise this properly, but another meeting could be held to try to identify another date. Parish Councillors reiterated their support for continuing the tradition, and it will be arranged.'

29 September 2009

'Village Day, July 2010 and Commoners Day, September 2010: A meeting had been held with GBC and a new date had been set. GBC plans to send out a flyer to alert local residents as of now.'

1 December 2009

'Friends of Effingham Common: A successful AGM had been held with an interesting report by Adam Owen. Commons Day would be held on 26 September 2010.'

Extracts from Chairman's Reports: 1976-96*Chairman's Report for the year ending 1976 (ie ending on 31 March 1976)*

'Effingham Common – as many of you will know, we have won our case before the Commissioners of Common, so that the Common is registered as such, for ever.'

Chairman's Report for the year ending 1981

'Commons Rights. The Parish Council arranged for those residents on Effingham Common who have rights to graze sheep, horses and donkeys, and to collect wood, to exercise those rights on 20th September. It is important that these rights should be seen to be exercised in order that they may be preserved, and there will now be an annual event on these lines.'

Chairman's Report for the year ending 1982

'Commons Rights. The Parish Council arranged another "Commons Rights Day" on 19th September when residents on Effingham Common who have rights to graze animals or collect wood, did so. It is important that these rights should be seen to be exercised and we hope that this will now be an annual event.'

Chairman's Report for the year ending 1983

'Commons Rights. We held another annual "Commons Rights Day" on 10th October, when residents on Effingham Common who have rights to graze animals, or collect wood, etc, did so.'

Chairman's Report for the year ending 1984

'Commons Rights. We held what has now become our annual Commons Rights Day on 30th October, when some of the residents of Effingham Common who have rights to graze animals, or collect wood, etc, exercised those rights.'

Chairman's Report for the year ending 1985

'Commons Rights. We held what has now become our annual Commons Rights Day on 3rd November, when some of the residents on Effingham Common who have rights to graze animals, collect wood, etc, exercised those rights. It is important that these rights should be seen to be exercised regularly and recorded.'

Chairman's Report for the year ending 1986

'Commons Day. On 12th October, we held what has now become an annual Commons Rights Day, when residents on Effingham Common who have rights to graze animals, collect wood, etc, exercised those rights. It is important for the future of the Common that these rights should be exercised regularly and recorded.'

Chairman's Report for the year ending 1987

'Commons Day. On 18th October we held what has now become our annual Commons Rights Day, when residents on Effingham Common who have rights to graze animals, collect wood, etc, exercise those rights. It is important for the future of the Common that these rights should be exercised regularly and recorded.'

Chairman's Report for the year ending 1988

This made no mention of Commoners' Rights or Commoners' Days but noted that negotiations for Guildford Borough Council to purchase the Common had been notified to the Parish Council as being 'in the early stages'.

Chairman's Report for the year ending 1989

'Effingham Common. It is disappointing that Guildford Borough Council have unfortunately been unable to proceed with the purchase of the Common. We hope to resume this year what had become a traditional annual Commons Day, when residents on Effingham Common who have rights to graze animals, collect wood, etc, exercise those rights and are seen to do so.'

Chairman's Report for the year ending 1990

This made no mention of Commoners' Rights or Commoners' Days.

Chairman's Reports for the years ending 1991 and 1992

We have not so far been able to find these, if they exist.

Chairman's Report for the year ending 1993

This made no mention of Commoners' Rights or Commoners' Days.

Chairman's Report for the year ending 1994

'Effingham Common. We have been encouraged by the response to our initiative to revive the annual Commons Day when rights of common are exercised. It is likely to be in the autumn so watch the village notice board by the post office (which we hope you are using as much as possible) for the actual date and bring your cameras.'

Chairman's Reports for the years ending 1995 and 1996

We have not so far been able to find these, if they exist.

APPENDIX II

Guildford's Town Planning Committee rejects Calburn's plan to develop the Common

FUTURE OF EFFINGHAM COMMON

COUNCIL REJECT PLAN FOR DEVELOPMENT

—

INFORMATION AS TO RIGHTS SOUGHT

The Guildford Rural Council met at Millmead House, Guildford, on Thursday. Mr. Jocelyn Bray (chairman) presided, and there were also present Mr. J. E. Forrest (vice-chairman), Brigadier-General and Mrs. F. C. More-Molyneux, Brigadier-General F. S. Derham, Capt. C. A. Jones, Messrs. H. A. Baldock, T. W. Berry, H. C. Binsted, C. A. Botting, R. A. Bray, G. J. Briggs, J. S. Byron-Brown, A. E. Fowler, A. L. Kelly, S. Marshall, C. Nottage, E. F. Stovold, A. Sykes and W. B. J. Wall, with the Clerk (Mr. E. W. Sellings) and other officials.

EFFINGHAM COMMON

The Town Planning Officer reported to the Town Planning Committee that a plan had been received on behalf of Mr. R. R. Calburn, of Effingham, for development of the whole of the land forming Effingham Common, in respect of which the Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society were assisting the Council with a view to establishing proof of rights of common. From inquiries made by the society it appeared that the information obtained would indicate that prima facie rights of common were exercisable in respect of Effingham Common, and it was felt the society's information, if capable of proof, would be sufficient to prevent the enclosure of part of the common without the consent of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The Clerk reported that in accordance with the instructions of the Council at the last meeting the society had been informed that the District Council very much appreciated the action being taken by them in the matter, and would like the society to take further steps with a view to establishing proof of rights of common, the area in question being included in the Council's planning scheme as a public open space, following the advice of the Preservation Society.

ZONED AS PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

The Council adopted a recommendation that approval of the development plan should be refused on the grounds that the land proposed to be developed was (a) subject to rights of common and (b) zoned as a public open space in the planning scheme. Also that the Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society be informed of the Council's decision in the matter, and supplied with other relevant information with regard thereto.

Mr. R. A. Bray (chairman of the Town Planning Committee) said the matter was of the greatest importance to Effingham and the district as a whole. It was a proposal to develop the whole of Effingham Common. Until a few years ago it was a common in the ordinary sense of the word, there being a lord of the manor and owners who had rights of common. The rights of common prevented any possibility of enclosure. The Council zoned the common as land, subject to rights of common, and the owner objected, stating he had bought not only the common but all the land to which common rights were attached, and he claimed that the common ceased to be a common. Had he bought before 1925 what he said would have been right. Before 1925, if one was the lord of the manor and in addition purchased all land to which were attached rights of common, the common became private land.

The Council consulted the Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society to which they belonged, and on the society's advice this land should be zoned as a public open space to give the land protection. The society had been inquiring into certain owners' rights, and it was probable there were one or two owners who had rights. If there was a single owner who could say he had rights it was quite sufficient to prevent the common being enclosed. There might be people holding land in the neighbourhood holding rights, and he hoped they would communicate with the clerk of the Council, who would send on the matter to the society. He hoped the society would be able to show that there were owners, and therefore that the common could not be closed. In the meanwhile the Council's recommendation stood, refusing the request for the development.

Mr. J. Bray said he thought it was a matter in which the whole Council would be unanimous. They must take every step they could to secure the common.

Figure 29 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 3 April 1937.

APPENDIX III

Flyer introducing The Friends of Effingham Common

The Friends of Effingham Common

When Guildford Borough Council purchased the largest section of Effingham Common in 2002, a joint steering group called **The Friends of Effingham Common** was set up to guide future management of the Common.

The members of this steering group are:

- Representative/s of Guildford Borough Council (in practice, this is the Countryside Manager, Parks and Leisure Department)
- Representative/s of Effingham Parish Council – in practice, the Chairman
- Effingham's Borough Councillor – currently Cllr Liz Hogger.
- Representatives of local residents.

Currently, the Chairman of **The Friends** is Martin Smith, and the Secretary is Peter Bergman. Both are local residents.

The Friends hold occasional meetings to discuss issues and progress, and also public meetings to let interested residents know about plans etc. In the past **The Friends** also arranged work parties to tackle some of the work needed to clear the Common of the invasive scrub which was such a feature until recently. **The Friends** is also one of the three groups which organizes and runs Commoners Day every two years.

When a meeting is to be held, leaflets are delivered to residents in all the roads immediately adjacent to the Common. People from other local areas can also be involved. We maintain an email circulation list, which is much the most efficient way of keeping people in touch.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM THE FRIENDS,

EITHER

EMAIL YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS TO PETER BERGMAN, THE SECRETARY, at
 peterbergman@talktalk.net

OR

COMPLETE THE SLIP BELOW AND HAND IT IN.

* * * * *

I would like to receive information from **The Friends of Effingham Common**

Name

Address

Email

Figure 30 Flyer for The Friends of Effingham Common.

Public Events in Effingham 1920-1929

CHRISTOPHER JOHN HOGGER

During the decade after the first world war there were many changes, and especially upheavals, in Britain's social, political and economic life. Effingham, like everywhere else, would have felt the impact of these, although a century later it is not easy to discern this from surviving sources. In this article we cast the net wide in presenting the diverse happenings that would have engaged public attention in our village during the Twenties.

Introduction

At the beginning of the 1920s Britain was still struggling to recover from the devastating losses – especially of young men of working age – that had resulted from the recently-ended First World War. The number of women in Britain exceeded that of men for the first time in more than a century. There had also been heavy losses in all age groups from the ‘Spanish flu’ pandemic of 1918-19. Many men were disabled physically or mentally.

Many kinds of employment that had been filled traditionally by men had been taken over during the War by women, giving them a far wider range of skills and experience than afforded to them previously in the more limited stations of domestic service. The Twenties would bring about a variety of improvements in the status of women, including new career paths such as serving as policewomen. The earlier suffragettes' campaigns had secured limited voting rights for women by 1918, although a further decade would pass before they gained full voting rights equal to those of men. Divorce, which had been such a taboo subject, became officially categorised as a declarable marital status in the 1921 Census.

The perceived character of the new decade varied according to social class. Among the young generation born into at least moderate wealth it became manifested as the ‘Roaring Twenties’, typified by the exhibiting of liberal attitudes, lifting of prohibitions on attire and conduct, wild ‘flapper’ partying and devotion to new musical genres, these drawn especially from America. For the poor, by contrast, it was a decade of ever worsening unemployment and suppression of wage levels. Jobs were slashed in the traditional heavy exporting industries, such as shipbuilding, due to the decline in foreign markets. At the same time, surviving ex-servicemen were returning from the battlefields of Europe and beyond in expectation of resuming their civilian work; this presumption had been established through agreement with the trade unions soon after the War had started. The women who had filled the jobs left by the soldiers sent off to war were now displaced as those men returned. However, as already noted, jobs were drying up. A scheme devised by the Ministry of Labour to find work for 50,000 ex-servicemen was abandoned after securing jobs for barely more than 200 of them; by 1921 nearly half of the rest, mostly former building trademen, were still on unemployment benefit. The plight of such men gave impetus to new political entities such as the Communist Party of Great Britain, founded in 1920.

As the Twenties unfolded the Labour Party began moving into the ascendant, displacing the Liberals as the dominant party of opposition, and in January 1924 Labour had become the elected party of government although having no overall majority. Their government lasted less than a year, with the Conservatives returned to power in the following October. In 1925 Winston Churchill, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, restored Britain's adherence to the gold standard but the result was to make British exports more expensive, consequently exacerbating the country's economic woes and raising unemployment still further. As wages fell, especially for nearly a million coal miners, a surge of industrial agitation and resistance culminated in the National Strike of 1926.

Notwithstanding all these troubles, the decade introduced various welcome innovations – at least, for those who could afford them. Americans had begun producing refrigerators and these gradually began appearing in British homes. Commercial aircraft began operating and by the middle of the decade several tens of thousands of British passengers had flown in them. For ordinary people there was the pleasure of owning a wireless and listening to the offerings of the British Broadcasting Corporation whose first daily radio service went on the air in 1922.

How did these themes at the national level impact upon those living in the little parish of Effingham? It seems there is not a lot of concrete information available to Effingham Local History Group (ELHG) to answer that question, beyond local newspaper articles, one or two recorded oral histories of past residents and a few local photographs taken in the Twenties. Additionally we can observe the re-purposing of some of the ‘big houses’ following the deaths of their former owners, precipitated by their estates having

to confront high death duties or increasing difficulties in procuring and retaining servants. Social organisations in Effingham such as the Women's Institute and the branch of the British Legion were significantly active in the decade; the former's own records of that time have survived but the latter's have not. The only other known locally-written record of Effingham activity sustained throughout the Twenties is the school log book maintained by the head teacher Joseph Stewart Adams; although concerned mostly with the daily minutiae of events in the school it occasionally alludes to happenings further afield. In what follows, we draw upon these various resources in order to build a picture of Effingham life in this period. The events described involve pro-active public participation in some cases, but are mostly ones to which public attention would have been drawn by the Press.

1920

In the school's log book Joseph Stewart Adams regularly noted the leaving dates for children who had reached the age of 14. The Education Act 1918 had raised the leaving age from 12 to 14 and had also made state education free. A child aged at least 12 wishing to leave before the age of 14 in order to take up work was required first to pass a Labour Examination. The log book for January 1920 notes that pupil John Botting had done exactly this and so had left the school. In February the school was having difficulty obtaining coal for heating, as the local coal agent was 'apparently unable to supply'. The coal industry at this time was in serious difficulty (which would turn to crisis in 1921) and the newspapers in Surrey were reporting coal shortages in many parts of the county (and elsewhere). On 11 November, the second anniversary of Armistice Day, Effingham's children

'marched to the Shrine which was draped with The Flag and decorated. A wreath and rosemary were then deposited. At 11 o/c all stood to attention in silence for two minutes. Subsequently, games played till noon.'

Stewart Adams ended his record of the year by recording the death in late December of Effingham resident Sir Adelbert Cecil Talbot KCIE of High Barn who in 1919 had addressed the school's children on Empire Day (24 May), shortly before the village's Peace Day celebration.

Effingham Football Team



Figure 1 'Effingham Football Team 1919-20'; from Effie Jane Ross's Album No 2.

The photograph in Figure 1 appears in Ross Album No 2 which had once belonged to Effingham resident Effie Jane Ross, since donated to ELHG. In the album it is captioned 'Effingham Football Team 1919-20'. No identification is given in the album of the players and ELHG has no independent information to help

identify them. A report of a match played in September 1920 gives the names of the team playing then as B Hart, B and L Coote, A Poland, Daligson, E Page, L Mills, F Garge, C Cunningham and G Earle, together with one listed anonymously as 'A N Other'.

Whist Drive for the Football Team

Effingham's Football Club was clearly a valued asset to the village, as on Wednesday 28 January a whist drive was staged for its benefit, attended by notable residents such as 'F' [sic – E?] Loxley of Home Farm, Joseph Stewart Adams and Mrs Pauling of The Lodge who presented the prizes. The article in Figure 2 does not disclose the venue but it was probably the Village Hall.

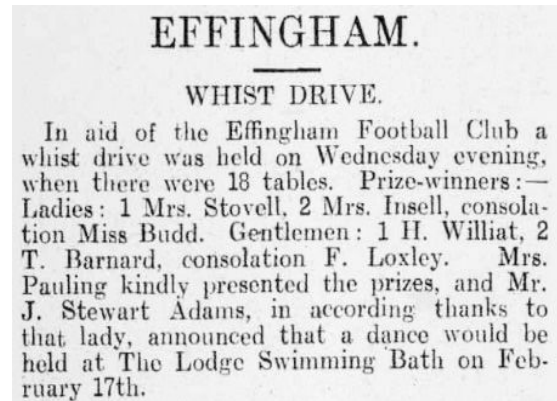


Figure 2 *The Surrey Advertiser*, 2 February 1920.

Memorial Service for Mr Pauling

Mrs Pauling had been widowed for less than a year, following the death on 10 February 1919 of her husband George Craig Saunders Pauling. On the first anniversary of this event a memorial Mass was held at Our Lady of Sorrows, the church he had caused to be built in 1913. The report in Figure 3 notes the priests who officiated, all close former friends of George. Those present also included his widow Dolores ('Lola') López (née Guibara), daughters Dolores Angela and Jane Josephine, and son George Henry.

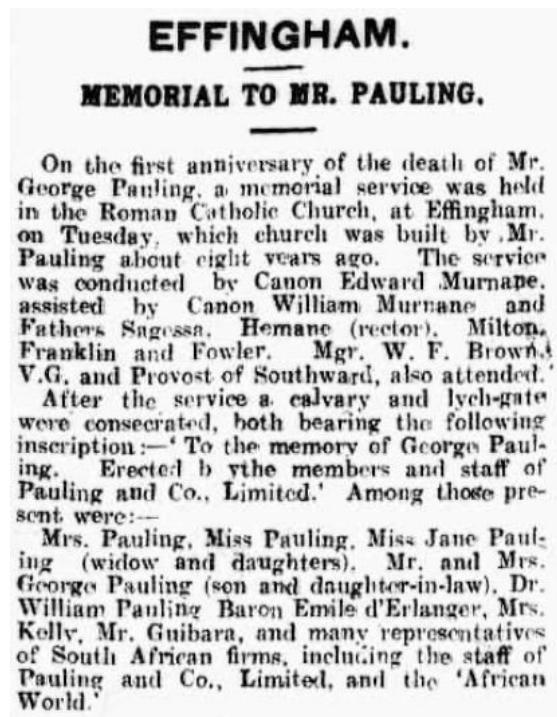


Figure 3 *The Surrey Times*, 13 February 1920.

Fancy Dress Ball at The Lodge

It was characteristic of Lola's generosity to the Effingham community that just a few days after the memorial service she hosted, on Tuesday 17 February, a fancy dress ball at The Lodge (Figure 4).



The fancy dress ball raised funds both for the Football Club and for the Effingham Working Men's Club of which she was one of the vice-presidents. Mention is made there of Miss (Effie Jane) Ross, noted earlier, and of the Dodman couple who ran The Sir Douglas Haig Hotel in The Street. Also noted was Miss (Emily) Madge, a key member of the Effingham Women's Institute's committee and a notable contributor to many village celebrations and entertainments.

Figure 4 *The Surrey Advertiser*, 23 February 1920.

Death of Mr Ross

In sad contrast to these jollities, Effie Jane's father James Aitchison Ross died at his home, The Villa, on 10 April (Figure 5). The Villa had been built by Sir Thomas Hussey Apreece next to the Guildford Road, opposite the entrance to today's Golf Club. It had passed into the ownership of the Parratt family and Mr. Ross had been their last tenant.

Born in Scotland in 1851, James had married in 1880 to Amy Lydia (née) Cobb of Surbiton Lodge. She was the aunt of the racing driver John Rhodes Cobb who was the first to reach 400 mph on land (in Utah) and who died in 1952 in a crash on Loch Ness when attempting to gain the world speed record on water. James and Amy settled in Sunbury for some years until moving to Effingham around the late 1880s. They produced six daughters, one of whom died in childhood. Tragically, Amy became both physically and mentally ill and in 1897, while being cared for in Malvern, drowned herself in New Pool near Malvern Wells. James remained at The Villa, raising the five surviving girls.

Effingham Cricket Team

Cricket was also a prominent sport in the village, indeed all over the country. A cricket club had been operating in Effingham since the 1840s. The Surrey newspapers in the earlier decades of the 20th century contained pages packed with details of coming fixtures, matches already played and liberal amounts of commentary on the performance of teams, whether based in large towns or small villages.

Figure 6 provides an example of a match played on 5 June by the Ockham club on their home ground against the Effingham club (Ockham winning comfortably). Among the Effingham players were Ralph Edgar Street (Lola's head gardener at The Lodge), Edgar William John Richards (son of the village baker William Richards) and some who also belonged to the Football Club (Poland, Cunningham, Mills).

Cricket at The Villa

Effie Jane Ross, who never married, was an avid photographer and ELHG is fortunate in having been given a substantial collection of her printed photographs spanning 1904 up to the early 1920s, many of them meticulously labelled by her in her albums.

Naturally, many of her photographs show scenes at The Villa and among these is one (Figure 7) showing two Effingham boys playing cricket on the lawn there in August 1920. They are Wilfred Dodman and Frank Ernest Loxley.

Wilfred, born in 1908, was the son of Charles William Dodman and Edith Annie (née Mathew). In 1920 Charles was the publican at The Sir Douglas Haig Hotel in The Street, a position he had held since 1905. Frank, born in 1907, was the son of Ernest Albert Loxley and Ethel Almerna (née Mills).

Ernest Albert, born in Effingham in 1876, was the tenant farmer at Effingham's Home Farm where his parents Uriah and Sarah (née Hooker) had lived since marrying in 1869.

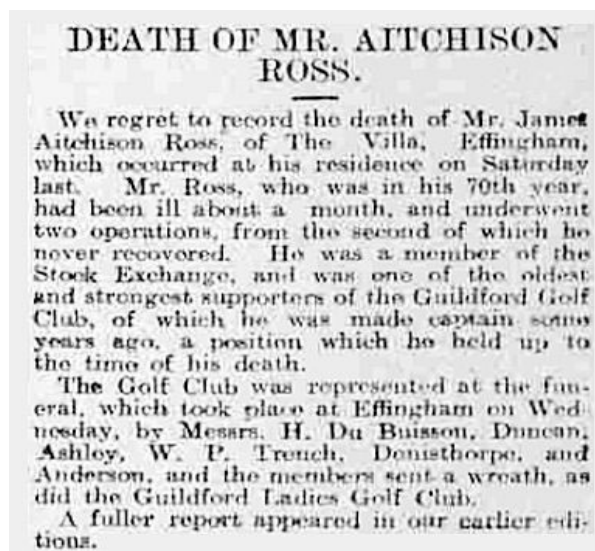


Figure 5 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 17 April 1920.



Figure 6 *The Surrey Times*, 11 June 1920.



Figure 7 Wilfred Dodman (left) and Frank Ernest Loxley (right) at the Villa, August 1920.

Shooting and the Gun Hut

Figure 8 shows another of Effie Jane's photographs, captioned 'Gun Hut July 1920'. Shooting had been a favourite sport of her father James Aitchison Ross and one of Effie Jane's albums has numerous photographs of shooting parties around Effingham and the Horsleys, the pages occasionally adorned with supporting artistry as in this example:

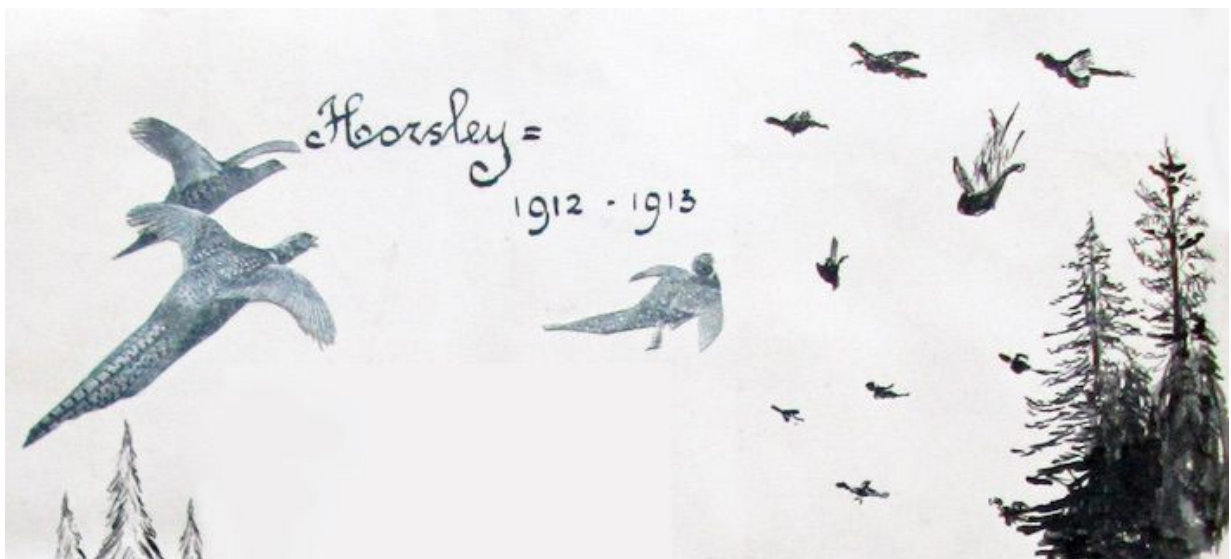




Figure 8 In Effie Jane Ross's Album No 2 she has captioned this 'Gun Hut July 1920'.

It may be that this Gun Hut was on the land of The Villa. The two boys standing 2nd and 3rd from left outside the hut's window are Frank Ernest Loxley and Henry Edward ('Ted') Tyrrell (born 1905), respectively, whilst the boy seated in the wicker chair is Wilfred Dodman. All the others are currently unknown to us.

Another group at The Villa

Figure 9 presents another of Effie Jane's photographs, almost certainly taken in the grounds of The Villa. It shows some curious seating arrangements – the main group appears to be posed upon some kind of roller. At the back, right of centre, is the Loxley boy and seated below him the Dodman boy; the rest are unidentified, although their faces often appear in other photographs of this period.



Figure 9 This one is simply dated 14 August 1920.

Accident at the Effingham crossroads

On Sunday 25 July 1920 a serious road accident occurred at Effingham's main crossroads. A man aged 33, Frank Holdsworth, was riding a motorcycle with an attached side-car bearing his wife and baby daughter. He was following another motorcyclist, also having a side-car. As they approached the crossroads they saw a car approaching, on the correct side of the road. The first motorcyclist passed the car but then heard the sound of a crash behind him and, looking back, saw that Holdsworth had collided with the car and been thrown violently to the side of the road. Figure 10 shows a brief report of the accident and notes that Holdsworth had been taken to hospital in Epsom.

A longer article [*The Surrey Advertiser*, 11 August 1920] states that Holdsworth had died there (from laceration to the brain) and gave the details of the ensuing inquest, at which the jury returned a verdict of misadventure and exonerated the car driver, Henry J Lonergan of Maida Vale. This accident was one of many to occur at these crossroads as the years passed.



Figure 10 *The Surrey Times*, 30 July 1920.

Effingham loses to Leatherhead

Figure 11 shows a report on the outcome of a football match played by the Leatherhead and Effingham teams. It appears that Effingham lost comprehensively. Its team included most of the players featured in the photograph in Figure 1, including 'A N Other'.

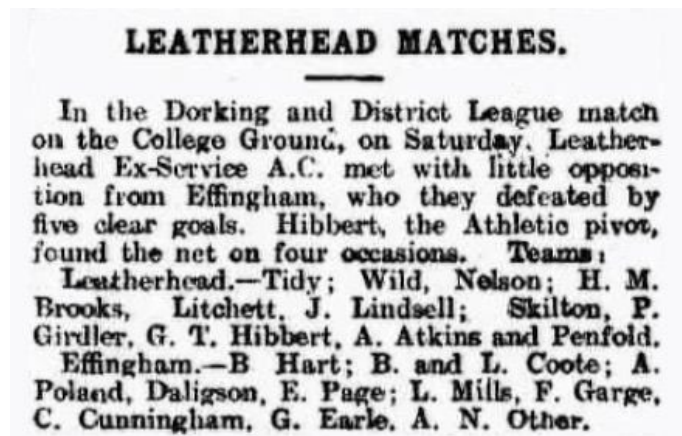


Figure 11 *The Surrey Times*, 17 September 1920.

Ploughing match

Here is another photograph from Effie Jane's Album No 2, where it is captioned 'Punch & Tinker, ploughing match Oct 1920'.

The haystacks in the background are of an impressive size. It is not known on which land this ploughing took place, nor whether the match competitors were just those pictured.



Figure 12 Ploughing match in October 1920.

1921

Death of Sir Adelbert Cecil Talbot

New Year's Day in 1921 was marked by the mournful occasion of the funeral of Sir Adelbert Cecil Talbot KCIE (Figure 13). Although he had been living in Effingham at the time of his death, he was buried in Frant, Kent. He and his family had lived there at Park Hill House in the early 1890s. This is where his wife Agnes Mary (née Clarke) had died on 16 March 1894 and where she had presumably been buried. Official records state that Sir Adelbert's death occurred on Saturday 28 December 1920, but in the school log book Stewart Adams recorded it as the 27th.

On 22 February Stewart Adams took 14 boys on one of his regular challenging 'nature rambles', this one via Newlands Corner and visiting Clandon Downs, Silent Pool, Albury, Shere and Gomshall, returning at 6.15pm. Many of these very long walks also included girls, together with his wife Florence.

On 8 March the school observed an annular eclipse of the sun.

The school closed for a day on 1 June, on account of it being Derby Day when the roads could be expected to be filled with traffic on its way to Epsom. A stream of traffic from Guildford, Dorking and elsewhere passed through villages such as Effingham to converge at Leatherhead where there was 'one continuous stream of motor-cars, char-a-bancs, motor-cycles and horse-drawn vehicles passing up the High Street all morning' [*The Surrey Advertiser*, 6 June 1921]. Children gathered to watch and call for pennies.

Following past practice, a wreath was deposited on the Shrine at St Lawrence by the schoolchildren on 11 November, the anniversary of Armistice Day.

Dance at The Lodge's skating rink

The article in Figure 14 attests to the continuing support of the school by Mrs Lola Pauling, by way of contributing to its sports fund the profit made on a dance she had held at The Lodge in July 1920. We see also that she had been unanimously re-elected as the Cricket Club's President. In this period the club was using part of her park land (today the King George V Playing Fields) as their home pitch.

Another dance at The Lodge

Yet another dance at The Lodge was hosted by Lola 'in aid of the School Children's Library', styled as a Mid-Lent (or 'mi-carême') dance, staged as usual on the retractable floor of her indoor swimming pool. Figure 15 shows that it was a substantial event with over 130 guests and an orchestra hired from Ashted, being in the charge of Frederick William Goldsmith who

The funeral of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Adelbert Cecil Talbot, K.C.I.E., who passed away at his residence at High Barn, Effingham, Surrey, took place at Frant on Saturday. The deceased gentleman, who was in his 76th year, was the son of the Rev. Hon. W. W. C. Talbot, and grandson of the 2nd Earl Talbot, K.G. The first portion of the service, which was choral, was held in the Church, and was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. Canon F. W. Champneys, the hymns sung being "Now the labourer's task is o'er" and "On the resurrection morning." The chief mourners were Mr. A. W. J. Talbot, I.C.S. (son), Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs S. H. Godfrey (son-in-law and daughter), Lieutenant J. T. Godfrey, Miss Peggy Godfrey, Mr. Armine Godfrey and Master Arthur Godfrey (grandchildren), the Hon. Lady Talbot (niece), Colonel W. G. Talbot and Miss Talbot, Mr. Humphrey Talbot, Captain Southam, Mr. Moncreiff Cockburn, Mr. C. Osburn, Miss Turner and Mr. A. A. Wace.

Figure 13 *The Chronicle and Courier*, 7 January 1921.

EFFINGHAM.

The accounts of the dance held at the Lodge Skating Rink last July have been audited, and a balance of £2 0s. 9½d. credited to the school children's sports fund.

CRICKET CLUB.

At the annual meeting of the above on Thursday week the secretary presented the accounts, audited by Messrs. Perry and Cunningham, of last season's working, showing a small credit balance to be carried forward to the current year. Detailed balance sheets will shortly be circulated amongst subscribers.

Mrs. Geo. Pauling was unanimously re-elected president, and she has again granted the club the use of The Lodge Park. A considerable number of ladies and gentlemen were elected as vice-presidents, the meeting cordially expressing their deep sense of gratitude for support and sympathy during the past season. Mr. F. E. Cripps, whose work as treasurer has been very valuable for a considerable number of years, having resigned the position, the secretary offered to assume the duties upon being relieved of the office of secretary. The meeting then elected as captain C. M. Cunningham, vice-captain C. Patten, and secretary M. C. Perry.

Figure 14 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 12 February 1921.

lived at Osborn in Ashtead's Grove Road. His entry in the 1921 Census described him as a musician, whereas in 1911 he had been entered as a draper. Besides managing and conducting his orchestra – which was in frequent demand, continuing at least into the 1950s – he also taught the violin to paying pupils.

EFFINGHAM.

The final game in the billiard handicap of 200 up at the Village Club was played on Tuesday evening, the contestants being W. Craddock (scratch) and W. Bartlett (received 70). Mr. Craddock won by 47 points. There were 18 entries.

MI-CAREME DANCE.

By kind permission of Mrs. George Pauling, a "mi-carême" or Mid-Lent dance was held on the parquet floor of The Lodge Swimming Bath on Monday evening in aid of the School Children's Library. The event was organised by Mr. J. Stewart Adams, who had the assistance of the following committee: Messrs. R. Yates, R. Street, H. Almond, and L. Jackson. There was an attendance of over 130 guests, and the orchestra was in charge of Mr. F. Goldsmith (Ashtead), who was ably assisted at the piano by Miss N. May. Mr. C. Dodman admirably carried out the duties of M.C. Refreshments were supplied during the evening by a small committee under the supervision of Mrs. E. Loxley. The function was one of the most enjoyable ever held at Effingham, and it is confidently hoped that a substantial sum will be placed to the credit of the library, which is a matter of much importance.—Prior to the last item Mr. J. Stewart Adams expressed their gratitude to Mrs. Pauling for her generosity in making such an enjoyable evening possible, and said that, apart from the actual pleasure which the dances provided, there was a development of good feeling which would have a permanent mark upon all who were able to be present.

Figure 15 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 12 March 1921.

Young Effingham footballers



Figure 16 From Effie Jane Ross's Album No 2, captioned 'March 1921'; Dodman at left and Loxley at right.



Figure 17 From Effie Jane Ross's Album No 2, captioned 'Boys' football team March 1921'.

The only clearly identifiable boys above are (in Figure 16) Wilfred Dodman and Frank Ernest Loxley and (right-most at rear in Figure 17) 'Ted' Tyrrell. In this period, and up to the 1930s, Effingham's football ground was located in the northern part of Madge's Field (or 'Carn Pit Field'), to the west of Home Farm House, and was made available for that purpose by the Home Farm tenant, Frank Ernest Loxley's father Ernest Albert. From about the mid-1930s they played instead on the park land of The Lodge.

Women's Social Guild concert



Figure 18 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 30 April 1921.

The above report about the Women's Social Guild is somewhat intriguing because it has so far not proved possible to discover just which group it was or who belonged to it. There was a local Wesleyan Women's Social Guild based in Guildford, but also a national Catholic Women's Social Guild established in 1916. The one reported here may have been either or neither of these and may have been just a small club put together by Effingham women. Miss Madge and the Misses Killick were evidently not Catholic. This report is the only one found so far mentioning the activity of the group in Effingham.

NSPCC Meeting

Figure 19 describes a meeting of the local branch of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, noting that the honorary district correspondent was Joseph Stewart Adams, head teacher at the Effingham school.

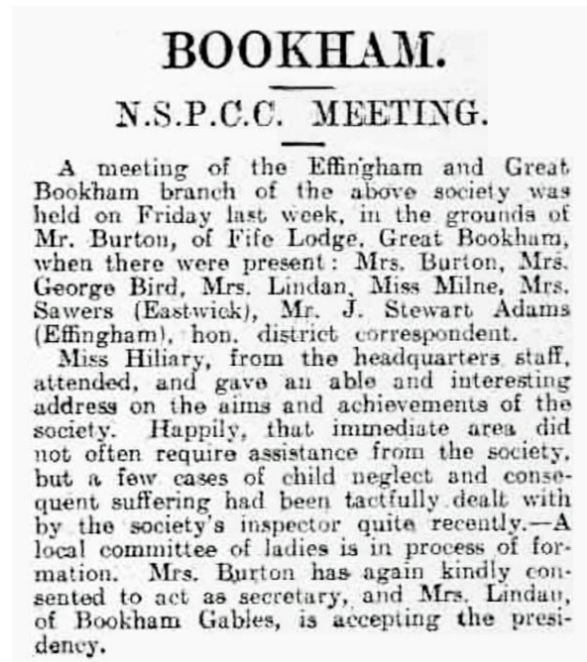


Figure 19 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 16 July 1921.

The Census of 1921

On 19 June the 1921 Census took place. The details for each household were not collected into the kind of schedules available for the 1841-1901 Censuses and consequently one cannot readily count the number of households or individuals in any particular parish. However, a global search for individuals present in Effingham produces 610 names for 1921 and 643 for 1911. There may be no specific reason for there being slightly fewer in 1921. Of course, a few men had been killed in the war, and some would have died anyway, but there are many other variables at play. One would not expect the figures to differ by very much across the intervening decade because there had been scarcely any new house-building in Effingham.

Football and cricket

In Figure 20 we see that Effingham's football team enjoyed the occasional win, defeating Leatherhead by 3-1. In Figure 21 Mrs Lola (Pauling) Booth (remarried as of 21 April) is seen being chosen again to be the Cricket Club's President with Stewart Adams continuing as Treasurer. Lola's head gardener Ralph Edgar Street relinquished his role as Chairman in favour of George Cox.

DORKING LEAGUE.

EFFINGHAM v. LEATHERHEAD ROSE.

At Effingham on Saturday the home side secured Dorking League points by three goals to one after leading by a goal at the interval. Almond netted from a corner for Effingham in the first half. In the second half Summersby equalised following a free kick, and Mills later added two goals.

Effingham.—B. Hart; L. Diligan and A. Woods; N. Land, A. Poland and H. Loxley; J. Tyrrell. R. Bishop, L. Mills, H. Almond and W. Wickens.

Leatherhead Rose.—W. Palmer; A. Thompson and J. Allen; G. Stevens, E. Wild and W. F. Harwood; G. Summersby, G. Wild, S. Darch, E. Lifford and A. Wickett.

Referee: Mr. J. May.

Figure 20 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 15 October 1921.

Pound Day in Effingham

EFFINGHAM.

Pound Day at Effingham on Wednesday was organised by Mrs. Robinson.

The children of Effingham paraded at the war shrine on Armistice Day, and deposited a wreath of laurel and poppies. Other wreaths were taken by bereaved relatives.

The death occurred suddenly in the early hours of Tuesday morning of Mrs. Edith Dodman, hostess of the Sir Douglas Haig, Effingham. She had resided at Effingham for about 17 years, and was a member of the Women's Institute and the local Nursing Association. She leaves a husband and a son aged 14½ years. The funeral took place yesterday (Friday) afternoon.

Messrs. White and Sons, auctioneers, Dorking, are conducting an important sale of farming stock at The Warren Farm, Effingham, on Wednesday next, under instructions from Mr. R. R. Calburn, of Effingham Manor, who has let the greater part of his land. Owing to the large number of lots the sale will start at 10.30 a.m. The advertisement will be found on page 1.

Figure 22 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 19 November 1921.

EFFINGHAM.

CRICKET CLUB

The annual general meeting of the Effingham Cricket Club was held at the Working Men's Club on Wednesday evening, when the balance sheet showed a balance of £3 4s. 9d. Mrs. F. C. Booth was re-elected president, with an expression of thanks to her for her kindness in permitting the club the use of The Lodge ground during the past season.—The vice-presidents were re-elected.—There was a ballot for captain and vice-captain, with the result that Mr. Geo. Cox was elected to the former position and Mr. C. A. Cunningham to the latter. Cordial appreciation of the efforts of the secretary, Mr. M. A. Perry, on behalf of the club during the past season was shown, and he again undertook to act in that capacity during the coming season.—The committee was elected as follows: Messrs. L. Mills, F. Forehead, E. Tyrrell, E. Hart, A. E. Jackson, W. Craddock, and L. Jackson; and Mr. J. Stuart Adams (treasurer) consented to act again.—Mr. Ralph Street, retiring chairman, was heartily thanked for his services.

Figure 21 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 5 November 1921.

The article in Figure 22 refers to several events, starting with a note about a Pound Day having been organised by Mrs Robinson. Pound Days had been instituted in 1892 and served to raise funds by asking people to contribute either £1 or one pound weight of groceries. There may have been Pound Days in Effingham prior to this one in 1921 but we have been unable to confirm that. Mrs Robinson was Violet Mary Boileau (née Willock-Pollen), daughter of Henry Court Willock-Pollen, Lord of the Manor of Little Bookham, and his wife Grace Amy (née Martin). In 1917 she had married civil servant Frederick Percival Robinson. In 1921 they were living in Effingham at 'Church Croft', today comprising Dormers and Thorncroft, at which time Frederick was a Principal at the Treasury. He and Violet moved from Effingham to Wykeham Lodge in Guildford in about 1924-25. In the 1940s Frederick became Permanent Secretary and was knighted in 1944.

After noting the ritual Armistice Day visit by the schoolchildren to the Shrine, the article reports the death of Edith Dodman, wife of the publican at The Sir Douglas Haig Hotel. She had contributed very significantly to several social organisations in the parish. Wilfred (born 5 Jan 1908) was not yet 14 years old.

Finally, the article draws attention to a forthcoming sale of farming stock at Warren Farm, then owned by Robert Reitmeyer Calburn, Lord of the Manor of Effingham.

1922

There was a cold beginning for Effingham in 1922. In his log book Stewart Adams recorded 'very heavy snow' on 16 January. (A month previously it had also snowed heavily, when he wrote on 13 December 'heavy fall of snow and 27° frost'.) On the next day the Ministry of Health recommended that schools be closed until 30 January, and Effingham's duly was.

On 28 February the marriage took place of the King's only daughter Princess Mary to Viscount Henry Lascelles. The school was closed 'in honour of that event and by [the] wish of His Majesty'.



Figure 23 *Beagles' Postcards* photograph of Princess Mary's wedding.

In spring the weather was very variable. Stewart Adams noted that on 3 April it was 'very snowy', but on 29 May there was 'intense heat'. On the 31st the school closed at noon on account of Derby Day. 'Intense heat' was noted again on 2 June.

After the summer, the school staff spent some time dealing with a collection of animal trophies. On 15 September Lola's second husband Capt Frederick Booth VC offered to the school a collection from

The Lodge of numerous heads of wild animals and other animal exhibits; probably, many of them had been obtained by George Pauling's second wife Edith Kate, a renowned traveller and big game hunter. Two weeks later the Booths also contributed 100 books for the school library. By 4 October the task of affixing the animal heads to the school's walls had been almost completed and on 10 October the School Managers formally took over responsibility for them. By 5 October Stewart Adams had completed the task of cataloguing the school's library collection, now amounting to 350 volumes.

The school log book's inner cover bears an inventory of the donated animal exhibits, noting which were in the main classroom and which in the infants' room. Each item had a valuation alongside, the total amounting to £155-13s-6d. Besides the heads of many species of mammals the collection also included a crayfish, a python and (mysteriously) a picture entitled 'And every soul was saved'.

On 15 November Violet Mary Robinson visited the school and announced that it would be the Managers' pleasure to give the children a Christmas tree on 4 January 1923. We might infer from this that she was one of the Managers.

Car accident in Beech Avenue

Another death from a car accident in Effingham occurred on 12 March, as reported in the article in Figure 24. More details were given in the subsequent inquest held at Epsom on 29 March, reported in *The Surrey Advertiser* on 3 April 1922. The deceased, Thomas Rooney of New Malden, had been driving his small car with his wife Ada and 5-year-old daughter up Beech Avenue. A witness sitting near the crest of the hill heard a crash and saw the car overturned, with Rooney, his wife and the girl all lying beneath it. The girl was uninjured apart from scratches, but her parents were unconscious. No other vehicle had been involved. A doctor who happened to be motoring nearby stopped and gave assistance. Mrs Rooney had sustained severe cuts. Mr Rooney had head injuries and was taken firstly to Leatherhead Cottage Hospital, from there to Epsom Cottage Hospital and finally to the Epsom Infirmary, where he died two hours later.

The car was found to have no defects. The inquest concluded that the probable cause was the driver attempting to brake (perhaps on suddenly encountering the steep descent after the hill's crest) and in the course of doing so losing control of the steering.

Tradesmen's Ball

On 22 March an annual ball was held by the tradesmen of Effingham and Bookham at Great Bookham's Memorial Hall (the building which today is the Bookham Baptist Church on Lower Road, just west of the crossroads at the lower end of Bookham High Street). There were about 120 guests and a London jazz band provided the music.

The role of MC was taken by Effingham publican Charles William Dodman, whilst Stewart Adams was the Honorary Secretary of the committee organising the event. This is just one

MOTOR FATALITY AT EFFINGHAM.

Husband Killed: Wife Injured.

Whilst driving through Effingham on Sunday afternoon a motorist noticed a small two-seater car lying overturned beside the road about a mile and a half from the village, and underneath it a man and woman severely injured; near by was a small child. The road is a hilly one at the point where the accident happened, and it appears that the car mounted the bank and overturned. The woman was removed to a doctor's house suffering from severe cuts and shock, whilst the injured man was taken to the Epsom Infirmary, where he died two hours later from a fractured base of the skull.

It was ascertained that the dead man was Mr. Thomas Rooney, of 29, Albemarle-gardens, New Malden, a fruit salesman, the other occupants of the car being his wife and little girl aged about 12 years. Mr. Rooney is stated to have left four children.

An inquest will be held at the Epsom Court House at 10.15 this (Wednesday) morning.

Figure 24 *The Surrey Advertiser*, 15 March 1922.

TRADESMEN'S BALL.

A merry company of about 120 assembled at the Memorial Hall on Wednesday evening, when the tradesmen of Bookham and Effingham held their annual ball. Mr. Dodman acted as M.C., and the music was supplied by a jazz band from London. Refreshments were provided by Mr. Moss. The arrangements were in the hands of a committee, with Mr. J. Stewart Adams as hon. secretary.

Figure 25 *The Surrey Advertiser*, 27 March 1922.

example among many of the numerous public roles undertaken by Stewart Adams who, despite often being laid low by the malaria he had contracted during the first world war, expended huge energy and commitment over many years in serving his local community.

Bus accident on the Guildford Road

Another road accident near Effingham occurred on 11 May, this time involving a bus. A motorcyclist Harold Carter emerging from Rectory Lane swerved in an unsuccessful attempt to avoid a bus heading eastwards down the Guildford Road. The bus collided with the motorcycle and then overturned. Its passengers were shocked but not seriously injured, their escape from death being reported as 'miraculous' – of the fourteen, eight had been on the top deck. However, the motorcyclist was seriously injured although his brother riding pillion with him was not.

MOTOR 'BUS OVERTURNS.

LIST OF INJURED PASSENGERS.

A motor omnibus belonging to the East Surrey Traction Co., overturned through an accident on the main Guildford road between Bookham and Effingham, on Thursday evening of last week. Ten of the fourteen or so passengers were injured, but none was seriously injured as far as has been ascertained at present. A motor-cyclist who was partly responsible for the mishap was, however, badly hurt.

The 'bus, leaving Guildford at 5.45 p.m. was travelling to Sutton. At about 6.45 it had reached the Old Rectory-lane, Bookham, where that side road joins the main road. A motor-cycle, driven by Harold Carter, aged 23, of 213, Waterhouse-lane, Southampton, and carrying his brother, Alfred George Carter, aged 31, as a passenger on the pillion seat, came from Old Rectory-lane into the main road in front of the 'bus. The 'bus driver swerved his vehicle to the off-side to avoid the motor-cycle. At the same time, the motor-cyclist swerved to his off-side also, and then, immediately afterwards, swerved again to the near-side. The front of the 'bus struck the motor-cycle, smashing the front of the latter completely. The front off-side wheel of the 'bus ran up the bank, and the 'bus overturned on to its near side. There were about 14 passengers aboard the 'bus, eight being on top. They had miraculous escapes from death. The driver of the 'bus, George Frederick Martin, of 4, Old Jolliffe Cottages, Mersham, the conductor, Herbert Skilton, of 3, The Crescent, Leatherhead, and the pillion rider all escaped uninjured except for the shock of their experience. The glass windows of the 'bus were smashed, and the glass caused injuries to some of those riding inside. The conductor of the 'bus went for a doctor quickly after the accident, and the injured persons were taken in motor-cars to the Leatherhead and Epsom Cottage Hospitals, and elsewhere.

The motor-cyclist, who appeared to be seriously injured, was found to be suffering from internal injuries. He was formerly employed at the International Stores, Leatherhead.

This is the first serious accident which has yet occurred to one of the vehicles run by the East Surrey Traction Company, Ltd. Considering that the mileage covered by 'buses owned by the company since its inauguration is some 4,000,000 miles, this is a record of which they may well be proud. Some of the narrow and hilly lanes of East Surrey call for skilful driving, and the difficulties they present add still more credit to the record.

On the arrival of the break-down gang the necessary tackle to lift the 'bus was soon rigged. An hour afterwards the 'bus was again on its wheels and ready to be towed back to the depot. The promptitude with which this work was carried out is worthy of the highest praise, and says much for the high standard of work of the garage staff.

Figure 26 *The Surrey Mirror and County Post*, 19 May 1922.

46th Bookham Flower Show

The 46th Bookham Flower Show, organised by the Great Bookham, Little Bookham, Effingham and Fetcham Cottage and Amateur Garden Society, took place on 12 July, being held in the grounds of The Grove (a large house, long since demolished) in Great Bookham. The excerpt shown in Figure 27 notes that Col Benjamin Thomas Lindsay Thomson of Effingham House exhibited '*celsia* and *traehalium*' (sic – probably meaning *celosia* and *trachelium*) there. Another Effingham exhibitor was Capt John Dumville Botterell of Browns.

John Dumville Botterell was a solicitor from a distinguished family in legal practice; his father John James Dumville Botterell JP had just finished serving as President of the Law Society for the 1921-22 year.

John is commonly, but incorrectly, reported as having been born in 1884; his birth registration fell into the first quarter of that year [GRO Ref: Edmonton 3a 327, 1884 (Q1)], but he had actually been born on 11 December 1883 according to his entry in the 1939 National Register. He had been baptised at Winchmore Hill, Enfield on 18 January 1884, his parents living there at 'Uplands'.

By 1911 he was living in Bayswater and working as a solicitor. In the First World War he served with the West Kent Yeomanry. He evidently took up residence in Effingham early in that war, as the Electoral Register for 1915 shows him living at The Willows on Effingham Common. It is thought that this property was then in the ownership of Lola Pauling who had had it built in 1911-12 – it was she who, according to the Land Registry, conveyed it to Miss Phyllis Mary Meacock on 11 August 1927. John had married in Kensington in 1913 to Nina Rosalind (née Hutchinson), producing their first child (and only daughter) Conchita in 1914. John and Nina were listed at The Willows in the Register for Spring 1921 but at Browns in the Register for Autumn 1921. John was elected to Effingham Parish Council on 21 April 1922 and served until April 1928, by which time he had been its Chairman for three years. He and Nina remained at Browns until about 1938 and then moved to London.

GREAT BOOKHAM. GREAT BOOKHAM FLOWER SHOW.

AN EXCELLENT DISPLAY.

The 46th annual show of the Great Bookham, Little Bookham, Effingham, and Fetcham Cottage and Amateur Garden Society was held in the beautiful grounds at The Grove, Great Bookham, on Wednesday, by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. V. Hayward. Fine weather prevailed, and the function was visited by large crowds of people during the afternoon and evening. The entries numbered rather more than last year, and the quality of the exhibits was very much better, especially in the cottagers' classes, where some fine exhibits were shown. The decorative classes were judged by Mrs. Athole Stewart, C.B.E., whose florist's shop at 1, Clarges-street, Piccadilly, is so well known. The task was a very difficult one, as they all showed an unusually high standard of taste, arrangement, and artistic sense.

Mr. C. S. Gordon Clark, of Fetcham Lodge (gardener, A. Rymill), had a fine collection of roses and various species of flowers and plants not for competition, and some beautiful celsia and traehalium were staged by Colonel Thomson, of Effingham (gardener, D. Barnard). Another fine collection was shown by Capt. J. D. Botterell, of Effingham (gardener, A. C. Jackson).

Figure 27 *The Surrey Advertiser*, 17 July 1922.

Garden Fête with the Effingham Band

CLANDON. FOR THE ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

ENJOYABLE GARDEN FETE.

High Clandon, the charming residence of Commander and Mrs. W. Ginman, was the venue on Thursday of an enjoyable garden fete held in the interests of the Alexandra Hospital for Crippled Children, several of the patients from which spent a happy time in the beautiful grounds.

A new wing consisting of a ward, bathroom, and two bedrooms, is shortly to be built on to the hospital, the estimated cost being £1,000. Of this amount only about £50 remained to be raised up to Thursday, and the object of the fete was to clear off the balance of the debt.

The stall-holders were: Provisions, Mrs. Collier and Miss Collier; old books, Mrs. Galtton; rummage, Mrs. Hurley and Mrs. Bixby; fancy work, Mrs. A. P. Glyn, Mrs. Lang, and Mrs. Paton; china, Miss Marson; cocoanut shies, Miss Ross; darts, Mr. Newman; skittles, Miss Anstey; treasure hunt, Mr. Holt; sandbags, Rev. A. P. Glyn; candles, Mrs. Marson; throwing pennies, Mr. Eggleton. Miss Mayor and Miss Thorold (matron at the hospital) also lent great assistance. Mr. Fisher was at the gate, and several of the nursing staff were also present. Tea was superintended by Mrs. Eggleton, Mrs. Newman, Mrs. Holt, and Mrs. Burden.

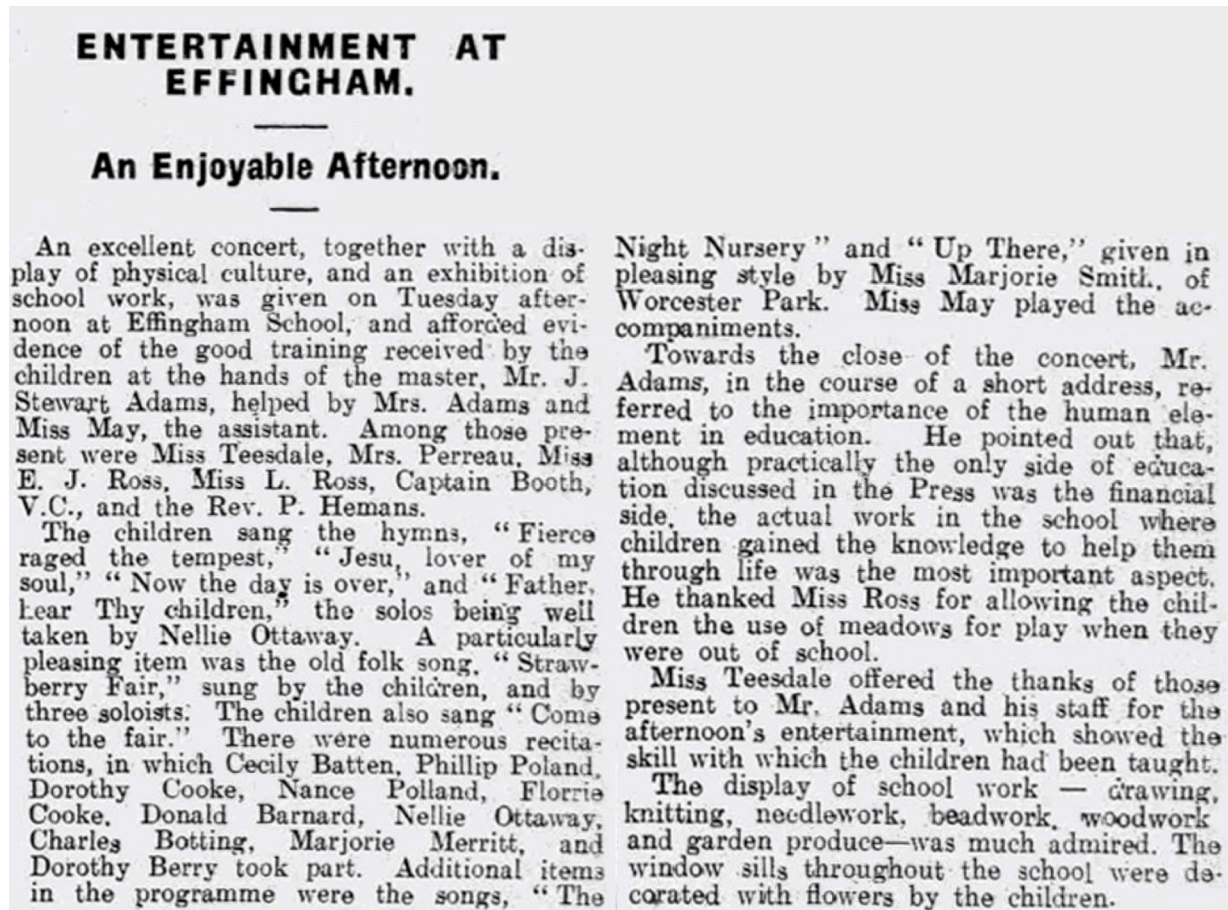
The Black Diamond Minstrels from West Horsley gave several enjoyable programmes under the direction of Mr. Eveleigh, and the Effingham Band was also in attendance. Sports, games, and dancing took place during the evening.

Figure 28 *The Surrey Advertiser*, 31 July 1922.

Figure 28 presents a report of a garden fête held in Clandon to raise funds for a hospital for disabled children. There is one reference to Effingham, namely to the 'Effingham Band', presumably meaning the Drum and Fife Band founded by Arthur Archibald Stovell, the village's boot repairer.

Effingham School concert

On 1 August a concert was given at the school by the schoolchildren, who had been trained by Stewart Adams and his wife Florence (Figure 29). The audience was made up of the School Managers and the children's mothers. An exhibition of the school's work was also on display. Mention is made of the two Teesdale ladies, Miss Ellen Augusta and her married sister Mrs Julia Perreau. Their father John Marmaduke Teesdale had owned The Lodge in the 1880s until his death in 1888. In that year Ellen and Julia had taken the tenancy of The Cottage in The Street. Ellen and Julia lived there together until Julia married in 1891 to Col Montague Charles Perreau, after which Ellen continued there (having purchased the house in 1923) until her death in 1941.



ENTERTAINMENT AT EFFINGHAM.

An Enjoyable Afternoon.

An excellent concert, together with a display of physical culture, and an exhibition of school work, was given on Tuesday afternoon at Effingham School, and afforded evidence of the good training received by the children at the hands of the master, Mr. J. Stewart Adams, helped by Mrs. Adams and Miss May, the assistant. Among those present were Miss Teesdale, Mrs. Perreau, Miss E. J. Ross, Miss L. Ross, Captain Booth, V.C., and the Rev. P. Hemans.

The children sang the hymns, "Fierce raged the tempest," "Jesu, lover of my soul," "Now the day is over," and "Father, hear Thy children," the solos being well taken by Nellie Ottaway. A particularly pleasing item was the old folk song, "Strawberry Fair," sung by the children, and by three soloists. The children also sang "Come to the fair." There were numerous recitations, in which Cecily Batten, Phillip Poland, Dorothy Cooke, Nance Pollard, Florrie Cooke, Donald Barnard, Nellie Ottaway, Charles Botting, Marjorie Merritt, and Dorothy Berry took part. Additional items in the programme were the songs, "The Night Nursery" and "Up There," given in pleasing style by Miss Marjorie Smith, of Worcester Park. Miss May played the accompaniments.

Towards the close of the concert, Mr. Adams, in the course of a short address, referred to the importance of the human element in education. He pointed out that, although practically the only side of education discussed in the Press was the financial side, the actual work in the school where children gained the knowledge to help them through life was the most important aspect. He thanked Miss Ross for allowing the children the use of meadows for play when they were out of school.

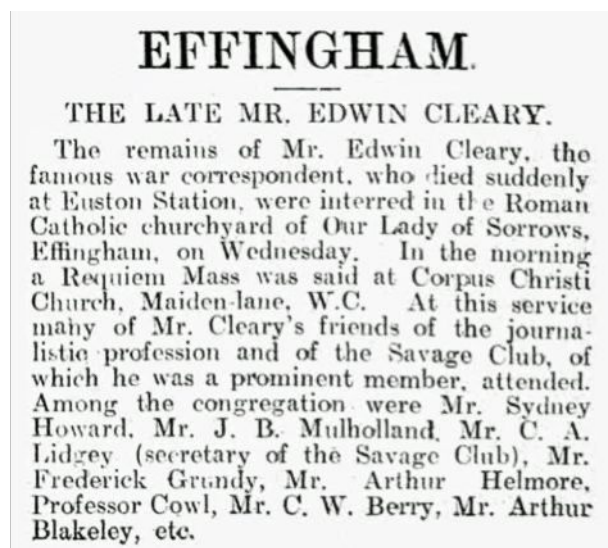
Miss Teesdale offered the thanks of those present to Mr. Adams and his staff for the afternoon's entertainment, which showed the skill with which the children had been taught.

The display of school work — drawing, knitting, needlework, beadwork, woodwork and garden produce—was much admired. The window sills throughout the school were decorated with flowers by the children.

Figure 29 Effingham School's concert; *The Surrey Advertiser*, 9 August 1922.

Death of Mr Pauling's friend Edwin Cleary

George Pauling's great friend Edwin ("Ned") Cleary, American-born theatrical producer, actor, playwright, adventurer and war correspondent died on 3 August while buying a ticket at a London railway station. He had played a strong part in managing Frank Fillis's *Savage South Africa* show at London's Olympia in 1899. He was buried at Pauling's church, Our Lady of Sorrows, on 9 August (Figure 30).



EFFINGHAM.

THE LATE MR. EDWIN CLEARY.

The remains of Mr. Edwin Cleary, the famous war correspondent, who died suddenly at Euston Station, were interred in the Roman Catholic churchyard of Our Lady of Sorrows, Effingham, on Wednesday. In the morning a Requiem Mass was said at Corpus Christi Church, Maiden-lane, W.C. At this service many of Mr. Cleary's friends of the journalistic profession and of the Savage Club, of which he was a prominent member, attended. Among the congregation were Mr. Sydney Howard, Mr. J. B. Mulholland, Mr. C. A. Lidzey (secretary of the Savage Club), Mr. Frederick Grundy, Mr. Arthur Helmore, Professor Cowl, Mr. C. W. Berry, Mr. Arthur Blakeley, etc.

Figure 30 *The Surrey Advertiser*, 14 August 1922.

Car accident on Standard Hill

Figure 31 concerns the aftermath of yet another road accident in Effingham. This one had happened almost a year before, on 29 September 1921, when a car driven by the well-known aeronautical innovator Thomas Octave Murdoch Sopwith, wealthy owner of the Horsley Towers estate, had collided in Effingham with a motorcycle ridden by Ernest Arthur John Cockrell (his surname widely misspelled in the Press) and carrying his wife Hannah Laura (née Taylor) as a side-car passenger. Hannah had been killed and Ernest had suffered various injuries, but had recovered; the accident had evidently been his fault. He and Laura had been married for seventeen years and Ernest was now left to raise five children without her. It seems a hard thing that having suffered such a loss he was hauled up in court by Sopwith nearly a year later for no other purpose than to be sued for the costs of the damage that had been caused to Sopwith's car. In the event, neither won the case.

EFFINGHAM.
THE MOTOR FATALITY.

In the King's Bench Division on Wednesday, an action was brought by Thomas Octave Murdock Sopwith, aeronautical engineer, residing at Horsley Towers, East Horsley, against Ernest Arthur Cockerell, proprietor of the Britannia Hotel, Surbiton Hill, to recover £72 18s. 3d., damages to his motor car through a collision at Standard Hill, Effingham, on September 29th, 1921. The defendant counter-claimed for damages in respect to personal injuries suffered by him in the collision, and for the loss sustained by him through his wife being killed.

Plaintiff said a two-seater car, travelling in the opposite direction, was almost on the point of passing his car, when, without any warning defendant's motor cycle combination shot out from behind the two-seater and came into collision with plaintiff's car.—Cross-examined, plaintiff said he was not troubling about the amount of damages he had claimed; but he was greatly concerned regarding the placing of responsibility for the accident.

The defendant, in evidence, stated that the accident was due to negligence on the part of plaintiff, who "suddenly shot out in front of the two-seater car" when witness was attempting to pass the two-seater.

The jury found for the plaintiff on his claim for £72 18s. 3d., and also on the counter-claim. Judgment was entered accordingly with costs.

Figure 31 *The Surrey Advertiser*, 28 October 1922.

Servant's throat cut at Effingham House

The same issue of the newspaper reporting the Sopwith court case also carried the article seen in Figure 32.

LOVERS' TRAGIC AFFAIR.
GIRL STILL IN HOSPITAL.

There was a sequel at the Dorking Police Court yesterday (Friday) to the sensational occurrence at the Manor House, Effingham, on Thursday week, when a man named Rudkins is alleged, through jealousy, to have cut the throat of his sweetheart, Jessie Scott, domestic servant in the employ of Lieut.-Colonel Thompson, and afterwards to have taken poison.

The magistrates present at the Court were Mr. F. D. Grissell and Mr. F. H. Harding; and James Rudkins (27), of 18, Bournemouth-road, Rye-lane, Peckham, was charged with attempting to murder Jessie Scott, of Effingham, and also with attempting to commit suicide by taking oxalic acid.

Inspector Lightfoot, of Leatherhead, said that, in response to a telephone message, he went to the Manor House, Effingham, in company with P.C. Pink, about 7.45 p.m. on the 19th instant. He saw the prisoner lying on the floor in the servants' hall apparently in an unconscious condition. There was a quantity of blood on the floor, and also vomit. He went upstairs and saw Jessie Scott in bed attended by two doctors, her throat being swathed in bandages. He came downstairs again and removed prisoner to the Leatherhead Cottage Hospital. After cautioning him that morning, he charged him with attempting to murder Jessie Scott and also with attempting to commit suicide, and then removed him to the police-station.

Prisoner, who had nothing to say, was remanded in custody to Brixton until Friday next.

Inspector Lightfoot stated that the girl, who was now in the Surrey County Hospital at Guildford, would not be well enough to appear for another fortnight, so that when the case came up next Friday a further remand would be necessary. The inspector added that prisoner, who was captured by the Germans during the war, worked for 3½ years in the salt mines, and whilst there was twice knocked down unconscious. Before the war he was in the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway Police.

Figure 32 *The Surrey Advertiser*, 28 October 1922.

This detailed a dramatic incident that had occurred at Effingham House (the 'Manor House') on 19 October. Further details can be read in Figures 33 and 34.

THE EFFINGHAM LOVE TRAGEDY.

PRISONER BEFORE THE MAGISTRATES.

"He was jealous because the girl he had been keeping company with for over two years had wanted to give him up, and was going out with someone else."

This was the statement made by Mr. Herbert J. Parham, who appeared for the Public Prosecutor, when James Rudkins, an ex-Service man, of Rye Lane, Peckham, was brought before the Dorking magistrates yesterday (Friday) morning, charged with attempting to murder Jessie Scott, a domestic servant at the Manor House, Effingham, by cutting her throat with a razor on October 18th, and also with attempting to commit suicide by taking oxalic acid.

Arthur William Andrews, butler in the employ of Colonel Thomson, at the Manor House, said he had known prisoner since July 3rd last. He came to the house two or three times to visit Miss Scott, who was head housemaid there, and on Wednesday, October 18th, he saw prisoner and Miss Scott together at Effingham, and also at the Leatherhead Picture House. He afterwards saw them at Leatherhead railway station, when Miss Scott went off between 8 and 9 o'clock. He and prisoner then had a conversation outside the station. Prisoner asked him if he understood that he had been going with Jessie Scott for two years. Witness replied that he was quite aware of it, but that the girl could please herself, as they were not engaged. Prisoner shouted "Good-night," and walked down the street, threatening that he would shoot the pair of them before the month was out. Witness had been out with Miss Scott on one or two occasions. The following day prisoner came to the Manor House, about 7 o'clock. He let him in, and prisoner apologised for what he said the night before. He asked him to step inside, and prisoner said he wanted to see Miss Scott to say good-bye, as he was going to Blackpool to finish his training. Witness asked him if he was quite all right, and whether he was going to attempt anything, warning him that if he did so they could quite easily put him outside. Prisoner said "No." Prisoner followed him down to the servants' hall, and at Miss Scott's request they were left in the hall, witness returning to his own room close by. Miss Scott went upstairs to attend to her duties, and on coming down she asked him to listen, as she felt nervous. He remained near the hall, and shortly after he heard what he thought was a muffled scream. He rushed into the hall, and Jessie Scott came towards him with her hand to her throat. He caught her and rushed her down to one of the other maids. As he entered the hall Rudkins was tipping a bottle into his mouth, and he collapsed and fell on the floor. The doctor and police were communicated with at once.

"WANTED TO GIVE HIM UP."

Jessie Scott said she had been keeping company with Rudkins for over two years. She wanted to give him up, which he did not like. She went to the Leatherhead Picturehouse on October 18th with him, and on the station when she was returning she told him that she wanted to give him up. Prisoner asked if there was anyone else, and said he had a razor in his pocket. The next day prisoner came to the Manor House to see her, and said he had come to say good-bye. She asked him if he wanted his presents back, and he said he did not. She went upstairs to finish her work, returning in about seven or eight minutes. She asked the butler to be within call, as she would then feel all right. Prisoner said he was cold, and she went to the cupboard to get him food and drink. He followed her, and drew a razor across her throat. She ran away, and could not say what he did next.

P.C. Pink said he went with Inspector Lightfoot to the Manor House, where he saw prisoner lying on the floor in the servants' hall apparently in an unconscious condition. From the floor near the window he picked up an open razor, and near to the razor he noticed a pool of blood. Just inside the door he picked up an empty bottle, labelled "oxalic acid." He thought some of the contents of the bottle were on the floor, and there was also a considerable amount of vomit.

Inspector Lightfoot gave similar evidence, and said he left the constable in charge of Rudkins and went upstairs, where he saw Jessie Scott, who was attended by Dr. Morrison and Dr. Candy. Her neck was swathed in bandages. He had the prisoner removed to Leatherhead Cottage Hospital. Later, on searching his clothing at the hospital, he found two letters, which were sealed, and an empty razor case. On October 27th he again saw prisoner at the hospital and charged him, when he made no reply.

Dr. Morrison said that on arriving at the Manor House he saw Jessie Scott lying on the bed, with a blood-stained towel around her neck. He removed the towel and found a wound on the right side of the neck, which might have been inflicted by a razor. The wound was at least three inches long, and a serious one.

Dr. Candy, of Great Bookham, also gave evidence.

When asked if he had anything to say, prisoner replied: "I plead not guilty to the first charge, and guilty to the second. I have no evidence to call. I wish to apply for legal advice."

Prisoner was committed for trial at the Assizes.

Figure 33 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 11 November 1922.

JILTED LOVER'S REVENGE.

Tragic Affair at Effingham.

The story of the revenge of a man who was twice jilted was told at Surrey Assizes yesterday (Tuesday), when James Rudkins (37), labourer, pleaded guilty to wounding Jessie Scott, his former fiancée, and with attempting to commit suicide. The charge of wounding had been reduced from one of attempted murder. Mr. A. H. M. Wedderburn prosecuted, and Mr. A. B. Lucy defended.

Rudkins, at a farewell interview with Scott, who had transferred her affections to the butler of the house at which she was employed, cut her throat and then drank oxalic acid. Fortunately the girl's wound was not a severe one.

Inspector Lightfoot said prisoner before the war was employed by the L.B. and S.C. Railway as a policeman. He had previously served in the Army, and in August, 1914, went out with the Expeditionary Force. He was taken prisoner in October, and for 3½ years worked in German salt mines. He was twice rendered unconscious by the German guard.

Mr. Lucy said prisoner was treated disgracefully by the Germans. While in the salt mines he had a terrible time. Before the war he was engaged to another girl, and, after writing him letters which cheered him in his captivity in 1916, she announced that she had married someone else. Then he met Scott, kept company with her two years, and intended to marry her as soon as he could afford it. The butler of the house where she was employed, named Andrews, like a snake in the grass, endeavoured to worm his way into the girl's affections. Thinking from her conduct that she was playing fast and loose with him, he made up his mind to teach her a lesson. He submitted that prisoner had great provocation. He now expressed the deepest contrition. Prisoner, he mentioned, was consumptive.

Mr. Justice Bray, passing sentence of 12 months' hard labour, said a woman had every right to change her affection.

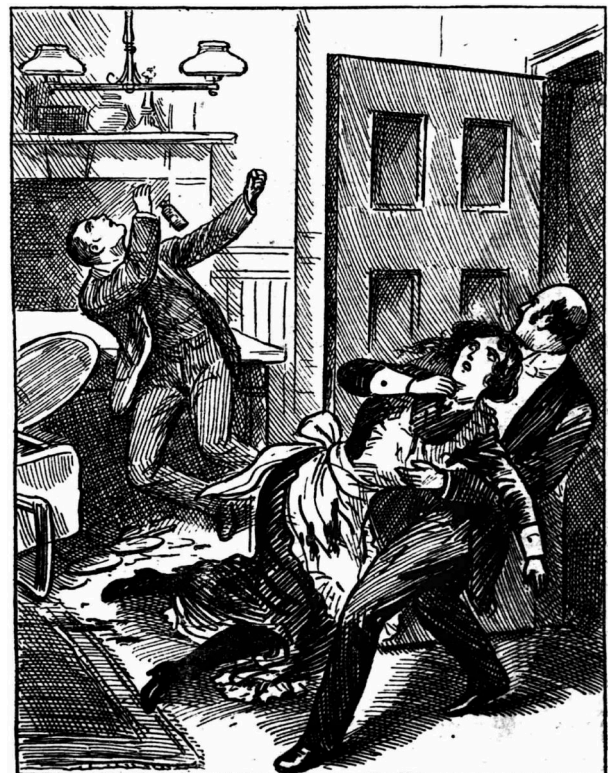
Figure 34 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 6 December 1922.

Col (or Lt Col) Benjamin Thomas Lindsay Thompson was the current tenant and employed a large array of staff, including a butler named Arthur William Andrews. Also employed there was the head housemaid Miss Jessie Scott who for two years had been the putative fiancée of an ex-soldier and ex-prisoner-of-war James Rudkins.

Rudkins suspected that Jessie and Andrews were having an affair (he was right). He confronted her at the house, cut her throat with a razor (but not too seriously) and then swallowed oxalic acid in an unsuccessful suicide bid. The sketch of the incident in Figure 35 was published a week later.

As can be seen above, Rudkins – having had a brutal war experience and now afflicted by tuberculosis – was not favoured with any leniency, even though the injury to Jessie had not been especially serious: he got 12 months' hard labour.

In early 1923 Jessie and the butler Andrews married in the Camberwell district. We have been unable to discover anything further about them.



SCENE AT A MANOR HOUSE AT LEATHERHEAD.

Figure 35 *The Illustrated Police News*, 26 October 1922.

Effingham Football Team

Turning now to more tranquil matters, the photograph in Figure 36 provides us with a view of Effingham's football team in (it has been claimed) 1922.



Figure 36 At rear: Harold Loxley (1st from left), Frank John Patten (3rd from left); at front: Frank Ernest Loxley, Noel Barnett (?), J Tickner (2nd, 3rd and 4th from left, respectively).

1923

47th Bookham Flower Show

The 47th Bookham Flower Show, organised by the Great Bookham, Little Bookham, Effingham and Fetcham Cottage and Amateur Garden Society, took place on 11 July in the grounds of The Old Rectory in Little Bookham, the home of Henry Court Willock-Pollen. Among the listed results for various competition classes (Figure 37) there are mentions of Eduardo Charles Delgado – 1st prize for boys' woodwork and 2nd prize for boys' school gardens – and Emilia (misspelled 'Amelia') Maria Delgado – 2nd prize for infant handicraft. These were the children of the Pauling family's long-serving Chilean valet Eduardo Delgado and his wife Emma (née Bensted). Eduardo had travelled extensively with George Craig Saunders Pauling (for example to Africa and Argentina), performing many practical functions in service to him, and would doubtless have been greatly affected when George died in February

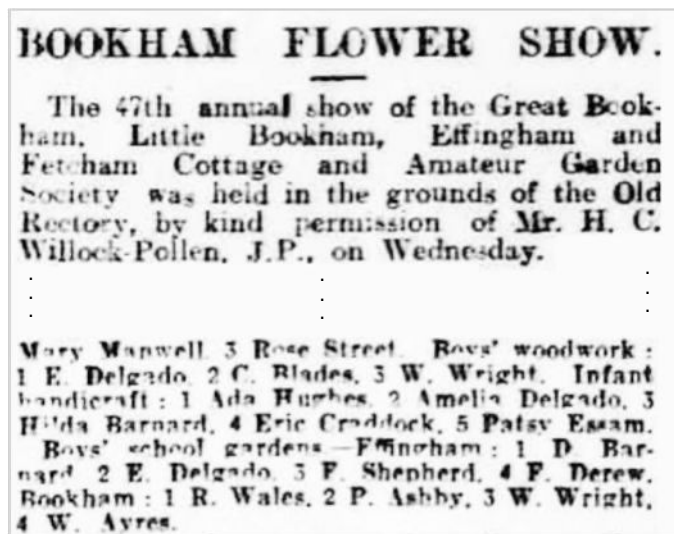


Figure 37 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 14 July 1923.

1919. He remained housed by Lola for some years afterwards but it is not clear whether he was formally employed by her – in the 1921 Census, living with his family in one of the cottages in the grounds of The Lodge, he described himself as a resident of Chile and occupied as a domestic valet, but ‘out of work’. We know from Lola's extensive correspondence that she retained his services, especially for the facilitation of her wide-ranging travels but also for local purposes. In a letter dated 11 February 1924 sent from her London residence 34, Phillimore Gardens, W8 she wrote to her daughter Dolores (‘Ores’) Angela:

‘Boots [Capt Booth, her new husband] & I & Edouardo [sic] went down to Effingham to Daddy's Mass yesterday. There was a very large congregation including the Mayor and Mayoress of Wimbledon & their son & daughter.’

Eduardo, born on 26 April 1878 in Valparaiso, Chile does not appear in the Electoral Registers in this period because he was still classed as a resident of Chile, not becoming a naturalised British Subject until 2 December 1931 (the day on which he swore his allegiance to the King), at which time he was living at Dene View, Gaywood Road in Ashted. He died on 19 June 1937, in Middlesex, but was buried in Effingham at Our Lady of Sorrows. Emma lived on until her death on 19 August 1971 and is commemorated on Eduardo's gravestone, possibly having been buried there also. She had been living at 47 Church Rise in Chessington.

The photograph of Eduardo in Figure 38 is taken from his 1927 passport, issued from the Chilean Consulate in Madrid, which describes him as ‘residente en The Lodge, Effingham (Inglaterra)’. His son Eduardo Charles, who won the prizes in 1923, lived to the age of 95, dying in 2005.



Figure 38 Eduardo Delgado, from his 1927 passport.

Girls Club trip to Brighton



Figure 39a ‘The Girls Club Trip to Brighton 1923’; a photograph donated to ELHG in October 2011.

The original photograph shown in Figure 39a bore the cited handwritten caption on its reverse. It is the only reference we have found so far to a Girls Club connected with Effingham. The woman and young girl seen directly below the boy paddling in the sea seem to appear also in a photograph (featuring Effingham Women's Institute) taken at the Peace Day celebration in 1919, but we do not know their names. The only name we have for anyone in the group is that of the young woman holding a balloon in the middle of the last-but-one seat in the charabanc. She appeared also in a photograph of the wedding in 1925 of Effingham resident (Frederick) Charles Patten and was identified by the owner of that photograph as having the name Lily King. It is not certain who she was. The only person with surname King in the 1921 Census for Effingham was Miss Lavinia King, a sewing maid employed by Col Thomson at the Manor (Effingham) House. She had been born in Frodsham, Cheshire [GRO Ref: Runcorn 8a 248, 1896 (Q4)] and baptised at Helsby on 27 December 1896. It may be that in Effingham she preferred to go by the name Lily rather than Lavinia.

Effingham Women's Institute also arranged charabanc outings to the south coast in this period. It was minuted at their Committee meeting held on 8 May 1923 that two such summer outings would be arranged, one to Worthing and one to Hayling Island.

Meanwhile, nothing exceptional had so far been recorded for 1923 by Stewart Adams in his school log book. The school had been closed 'by the wish of the King' on 26 April for the marriage of his son the Duke of York to Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, who would become King and Queen after the abdication of Edward VIII in December 1936. On 1 August, as Stewart Adams recorded, Eduardo Charles, son of Pauling's valet, left the school having attained the age of 14.

Gerald Coombs accused of trespass

In September a man by the name of Gerald Coombs was brought to the Dorking Police Court accused of having trespassed in search of game in an Effingham field (Figure 40). He had been seen, in the company of others in the possession of guns, by two local gamekeepers, Luther Cox of East Horsley and Leonard Tyrrell of West Horsley. It appears that Gerald had initially passed himself off as 'Frederick E Coombs'.

Gerald was an unlikely person to have been a wilful trespasser or poacher. He was holding a respectable position as an employee of the Ministry of Labour, working as the Branch Manager at the Employment Exchange in Leatherhead. Born in Adderbury, Oxfordshire on 3 January 1889, he had joined the Army well before the War, being already ranked in 1911 as a lance-corporal with the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. In 1914 he had married Katherine Margaret (née) Sawyer in Brentford and by 1921 they were living in Leatherhead's Bridge Street.

The report of the hearing seems to leave a lot open to question. Even so, he was fined 10 shillings. He and Katherine moved to Woodlands Road in about 1925 but left there in about 1929. In 1939 they were living at Southend-on-Sea where he was working as a technical administrator.



Figure 39b Lily King; detail from 39a.

FETCHAM.
GAME TRESPASS.

Gerald Coombs, who gave his name as Fredk. E. Coombs, of the Bell Inn, Fetcham, was summoned at the Dorking Police Court on Wednesday for trespassing in search of game on land at Effingham. Mr. Cecil Hodges appeared for defendant, who pleaded not guilty.

Luther Cox, gamekeeper, of East Horsley, said he saw defendant with another man, both of whom were carrying a gun, in a forty-acre field at Effingham. He heard a double shot while in hiding, and saw some partridges flying. He caught defendant up within 30 yards of the boundary between that field and another one, and in reply to a question defendant said he had been shooting at a hare.

Leonard Tyrrell, another gamekeeper, corroborated; and Ernest W. Little, the owner of the shooting rights, said he had not given defendant permission to shoot over the land.

Defendant said he was on his own land at the time, and he was not firing, as the right barrel of his gun was out of order. There was a man near him on his right, but he could not say who he was. There were about a dozen guns on the land at the time, and he heard no fewer than six shots.—Sydney Stevenson, of Bookham, said he gave Mr. Coombs 13 cartridges on the morning of September 9th, and they were all returned to him in the evening.

A fine of 10s. was imposed.

Figure 40 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 22 September 1923.

Harvest Festival at the Methodist Church

A harvest festival service was held at the Effingham Methodist (Wesleyan) Church on 30 September, as reported in *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times* on 6 October. Similar events may well have been conducted also at St Lawrence and Our Lady of Sorrows but there seem to be no newspaper reports of that being the case.



Figure 41 Harvest festival at the Methodist Church.

Fined for cruelty to a dog

An article in the same newspaper, on 13 October, (Figure 42) reports the hearing of a cruelty case against Nellie English. She had evidently arranged for a dog to be transported by rail in a box too small for it. We are not told where the dog's journey had begun, nor what its purpose had been. Nellie Susannah (née Turner) had married George Robert English in 1917 and around 1923-24 they moved to Effingham, taking up residence in Avenue Cottage, Beech Avenue.



Figure 42 Nellie's dog in a box.

Singing Princess at Effingham

On 12 October the article in Figure 43b was published, relating how a correspondent had wandered into Effingham's Catholic church, Our Lady of Sorrows, to be enraptured by the singing of a Romanoff princess, namely Princess Catherine Alexandrovna Yurievskaya. The moving story of the ordeals she had gone through after having to abandon her homeland and all she possessed in the wake of the Communist revolution of 1917 is told by Jeremy Palmer in ELHG's *The Bulletin*, No 12, 2018.



Figure 43a Princess Yurievskaya.

EMPEROR'S DAUGHTER.

SINGING PRINCESS AT EFFINGHAM

[CONTRIBUTED.]

A correspondent writes:—There is a little old-world village tucked away among the Surrey Hills—surrounded by green valleys and undulating country. The houses are mostly centuries old, and the people who live in them pride themselves on their lovely gardens, the placid simplicity of their lives, and the peacefulness of their surroundings.

I was strolling along a green, shady lane at this village of Effingham one golden morning this autumn, when I passed a little white-washed church dedicated to "Our Lady of Sorrows." I walked up the pathway and entered the tiny church. The pews were mostly filled, but I found a place in one of them, and followed the Mass that was in progress. At the offertory, when the priest and the people were silently kneeling, a glorious voice burst forth into a golden melody, the rich liquid notes filling the little church with their purity.

Someone invisible was singing a wonderful "Ave Maria," and as the clear, sweet notes rang out like a crystal stream of beauty, it seemed as if Heaven itself had opened to let a messenger bring to the congregation kneeling there a benediction with the song. "Ave maria, ridonna mi la calma, and a divine peace seemed to envelope one with healing and a blessing. Who was she? Later I heard, and now comes my story which might be culled from fairy land.

The beautiful singer is a lovely Princess—the youngest child of the Emperor Alexander II. of Russia, by his second marriage with the Princess Catherine Dolgorouky. When the cruel revolution broke out in Russia, devastating the whole country, the Princess Catherine Yourievsky was condemned to death as a Romanoff, her palace

seized, and all her possessions destroyed. She went through terrible hardships and privations, managed to elude her assassins, and after many disguises and experiences the Princess worked as a general servant in a little inn for months, then became governess to the landlady's daughter in a tiny "pension"; later passed off as a gardener's niece, when she had all the housework and cooking to do. Finally she managed to escape with the help of an International Red Cross Association, and through Switzerland and France reached England and safety. But the Bolsheviks had robbed her of all her worldly goods, and it was necessary for this daughter of a great Emperor to seek a livelihood.

The possessor of a beautiful mezzo-soprano voice, the Princess Catherine Yourievsky had received her training from Madame Litvinne, and she now determined to turn this Heaven sent gift to good account. She gave a brilliantly successful recital at the Queen's Hall soon after her arrival in London. This has been followed by several concerts and recitals in London and the provinces, where she has always met with an enthusiastic reception, and her lovely singing been a source of great joy to her hearers. She has been spending some peaceful weeks in this beautiful district before starting her work in London for the autumn and winter.

Her repertoire is extensive, and ranges from the old classical masters to the ultra modern composers. She sings in English, French, Italian, German and Russian, but whether she is interpreting the songs of her own country, or singing the chefs d'œuvres of other lands—the Princess's voice touches one's soul, and one goes on one's way rejoicing because she has brought God's blessing with her songs.

Figure 43b Princess Yurievskaya in the *Surrey Mirror and County Post*, 12 October 1923.

Teddie Gerard in collision

Another car accident occurred, on 17 October. It did not happen in Effingham but the driver of the car was Effingham resident Teddie Gerard (misspelled 'Gerrard' in Figure 44), famous and beautiful Argentinian actress who had recently taken up residence in Orchard Cottage, Effingham Common. Heading for London in the hands of her chauffeur, her car came into collision with a heavy van in the course of attempting to pass a milk float. Remarkably there was no serious injury done to any party and, as the article reports, Teddie simply engaged another car and went on her way.

WELL-KNOWN ACTRESS IN COLLISION.

Miss Teddie Gerrard, the well-known actress, who resides at Orchard Cottage, Effingham, was concerned in a motor accident on Wednesday, which happily did not result in any serious consequences. She left Effingham in her car about 12.30 p.m. for London, and when near Cobham Park, Downside, the chauffeur came out from behind a milk-float and tried to pass it. At the same time a one-ton van belonging to Mr. Braithwaite, the fruit gardens, Effingham, tried to pass the milk-float, and the van and car collided. Mrs. Miller, mother of the van-driver, was severely shaken, and Miss Gerrard, who was slightly upset by the accident, engaged another car and proceeded to London. Both the car and van were damaged.

Figure 44 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 20 October 1923.



Figure 45 Teddie Gerard in 1922.

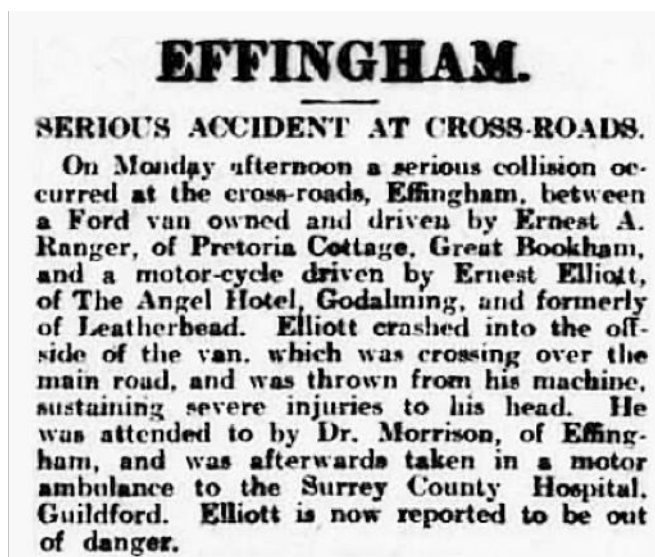


Figure 46 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 27 October 1923.

Another accident at the crossroads

Five days after Teddie's accident there was a more serious one, on 22 October (Figure 46). As so often was the case, the location was Effingham crossroads and again involved a motorcycle. The motorcyclist Ernest Elliott crashed into the side of a van driven by Ernest Albert Ranger. Born in 1903, Mr Ranger was employed as an assistant to Bookham butcher Sidney Madge and perhaps was conveying produce at the time of the collision. Mr Elliott appears to have come off worst, with severe head injuries, but later recovered.

Formation of a Poultry Society

Figure 47 shows a report about a meeting held at The Halt, Effingham Junction, on 27 October to discuss setting up a local Poultry Society. Mr Harding was evidently retired Major Charles Reginald Harding who at the time of the 1921 Census had been living with his wife Ada Gwendoline in Lowther Parade, Barnes and employed as a surveyor and land agent by Surrey County Council. It is not known why The Halt should have been the venue for this meeting, nor why Major Harding would have presided over it.



Figure 47 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 3 November 1923.

On 10 November the idea of a new Poultry Society was developed further (Figure 48), it being decided to make it a branch of the already established West Surrey Poultry Society and to cover not only Effingham but several neighbouring parishes.

In December it was announced that the new branch would hear a lecture at The Halt from the Secretary of the National Utility Poultry Society on 19 December (Figure 49).

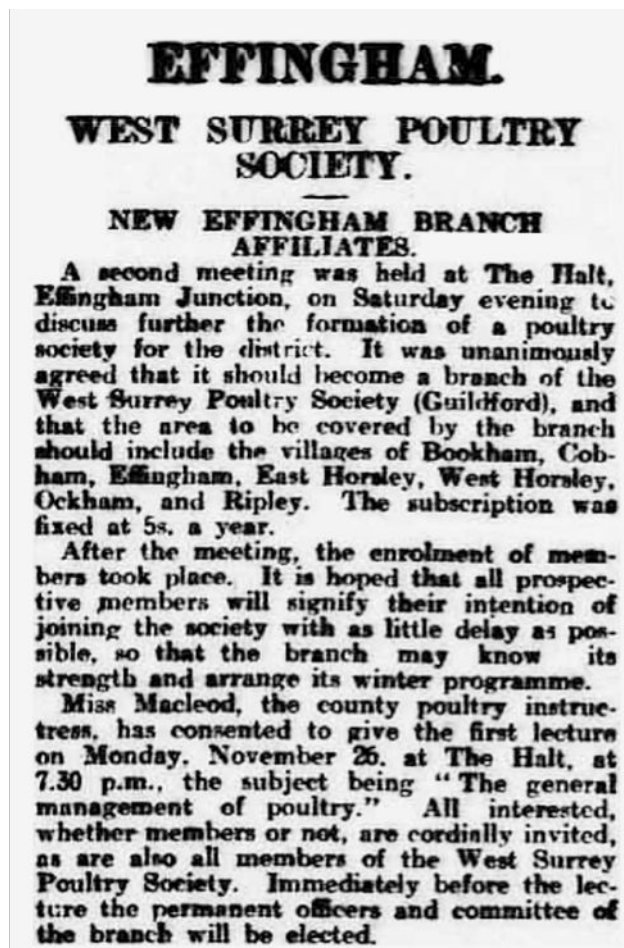


Figure 48 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*,
17 November 1923.

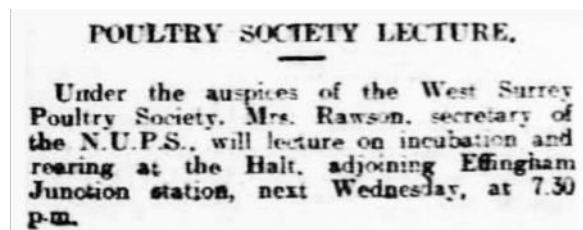


Figure 49 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*,
15 December 1923.

The ending of 1923 brought with it the prospect of a White Christmas, about which we can let Stewart Adams have the last words, from his log book:

28 November: 'A fall of snow which affects attendance.'

21 December: 'Snow falling. Closed School for Xmas Vacation.'

1924

Snowy conditions continued into 1925, Stewart Adams noting on 11 January how this was causing low attendance. A week later he and pupil Rosa Helen Street – daughter of Ralph Edgar Street – went through the entire school library to check the catalogue.

A sad event occurred later that month with the death of one of the pupils. The family of a journeyman electroplater Frederick Arthur Shepherd had taken up residence in Dirtham Lane at The Pit, also referred to as Pit House or Pit Farm. He and his wife Emily Annie (née Warrener) had five children, three of whom had been admitted to the school on 22 May 1923 – Frederick George, Grace Louise and Edward Franklin. Frederick George contracted acute rheumatism, a condition that frequently causes inflammation of the heart to produce endocarditis and pericarditis. This affliction took his life, at age 13, on 24 January 1924 at the Royal Surrey County Hospital in Guildford, his father present at the death. His funeral took place at St Lawrence on 28 January. On that day Stewart Adams recorded that

'18 boys and 12 girls attended funeral of Fred Shepherd and paid their last sad tribute of respect to his memory.'

The churchyard appears to contain no memorial to him.

The photograph in Figure 50 shows Emily Annie and Frederick Arthur Shepherd in later life. They seem to have left Effingham (and the county) around 1932.

Children visit Wembley and Bognor

Conditions remained wintry: the log book records 'heavy fall of snow – many children absent' on 3 March.

On 27 June Stewart Adams, his wife Florence and their assistant teacher Miss Attfield, together with 47 children and 15 adults, made a visit to the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley Stadium.

On 23 July he recorded that 'Miss [Effie Jane] Ross conveyed 8 boys to Bognor for an outing of boys' club.' Effie Jane is reputed to have initiated the village's Boys' Club. Near the end of her Album No 2 there are three photographs, mounted side by side, some or all of which may well have been taken during this trip (Figures 52-54).

On 25 July Stewart Adams, together with 15 boys, made another visit to the British Empire Exhibition.

Mrs Shepherd wrote to the school in late September to say that the conditions of her road were so bad that her four remaining children were unable to attend school.

On 28 October the school was closed so that the building could serve as a Polling Station for the General Election.



Figure 50 Emily Annie and Frederick Arthur Shepherd, parents of the pupil who died at age 13.

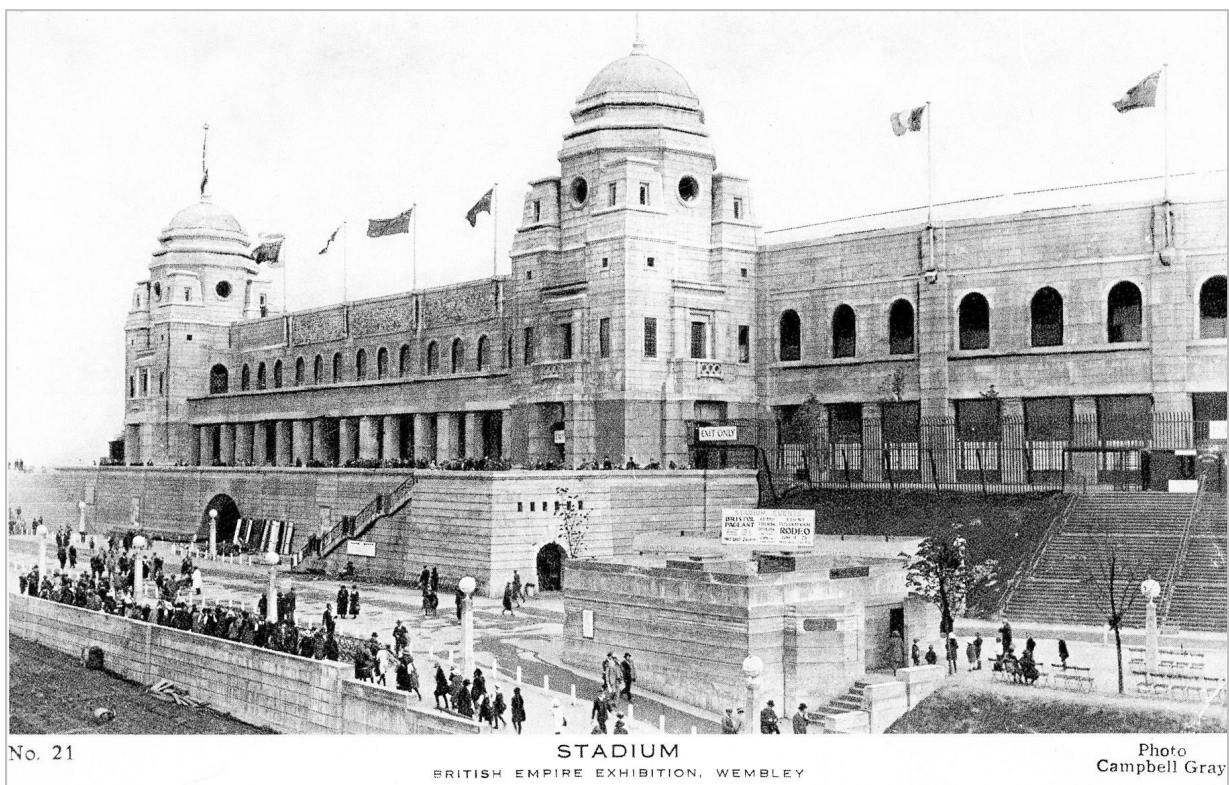


Figure 51 The British Empire Exhibition at Wembley Stadium; photographed in 1924.



Figure 52 Effingham boys at the seaside; perhaps at Bognor Regis on 23 July 1924.



Figure 53 Effingham boys at the seaside; perhaps at Bognor Regis on 23 July 1924.



Figure 54 Effingham boys at the seaside; perhaps at Bognor Regis on 23 July 1924.

Figures 52 and 53 clearly pertain to the same occasion. They were almost certainly taken at West Bognor beach. The background of beach huts and, further behind, shrubs or trees seen in Figure 52 very closely resembles the view shown on postcards of that beach taken in the 1920s. West Bognor beach also has numerous groynes like those seen in Figure 53. However, these two photographs do not necessarily show the outing made with Miss Effie Jane Ross on 23 July 1924.

Figure 54 is a good candidate for the latter outing, showing Effie at the centre; the other lady is so far unidentified. The Boys' Club included not only boys still attending school but other village lads no longer at school. To the left of Effie is (Henry Edward) 'Ted' Tyrrell, whilst the lad to the left of him at the rear resembles Frank John Patten, a stalwart of both the cricket and the football clubs in Effingham. The boys seen here appear not to be the same ones in Figures 52 and 53. It is unfortunate that Effie did not label the last few photographs in this album.

The Effingham WI entertains

Returning now to the newspapers, we are told that Effingham Women's Institute staged their (post-)Christmas entertainment on 9 January (Figure 55). Mrs F Madge clearly played an important part in this, conducting the choir and singing. This was Myra Phyllis (née Lambert), husband of Frank Madge. Miss D Madge, also singing, was most probably her 6-year-old daughter (Myra) Diana. It is noted that among the cast of the play was Miss King, presumed to be the servant discussed earlier, Miss Lavinia King employed at Effingham (Manor) House. Capt John Villiers Eyre, a retired Army captain, lived with his family at 24, St Ann's Road in Chertsey, quite some distance from Effingham, but in this period was frequently involved in entertainments here and in neighbouring places such as the Bookhams and Cobham, usually giving recitations, humorous sketches and suchlike. It seems that he was in high demand as a local entertainer.

EFFINGHAM.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE ENTERTAINMENT.

The Effingham Women's Institute held their annual Christmas entertainment on Wednesday, when a very good programme was given. Songs were sung by Mrs. F. Madge, Mrs. Tarling, Miss D. Madge and Capt. Eyre—who also gave an amusing monologue—and part songs were sung by the Institute choir, which was ably conducted by Mrs. F. Madge. Two short plays were acted by members of the Institute. The first, entitled "The Intellectuals," an amusing little sketch, was written by a member of the Institute, Mr. George Tyrrell. The parts in this and the subsequent play entitled "Neighbours in Gooseberry Court," which produced much merriment, were taken by the following members: Mrs. G. Tyrrell, Miss Killick, Miss F. Killick, Miss N. Dench, and Miss Saunders, Miss Madge, and Miss King. Afterwards there was dancing and supper.

Figure 55 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 12 January 1924.

Cricket Club whist drive

In late February the Effingham Cricket Club organised a whist drive, the outcome of which was to raise over £8 for the Club's funds. The report in Figure 56 names several people already discussed in this article. It also mentions Dick Whittington, one of the many children of Charles Whittington and his wife Ellen Maria (née Brush) who lived at Old Westmoor Cottage, running a laundry business there. Another named there is John Ottaway, a gardener born in Effingham and living with his wife Annie (née Warham) in Church Street, probably at 1, Church Cottages (where Annie was still living in 1939). Baptised on 6 May 1860 at St Lawrence, John lived all his life in Effingham except when away in military service; he served with the Royal Artillery in India, having enlisted in 1881. He had lost his first-born child and only son William, killed in action during the First World War on 27 September 1918. He died in 1928.



Figure 56 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 1 March 1924.



Figure 57 John Ottaway.

Robert Ganthony entertains

Also in late February an entertainment took place at the Leatherhead Institute, provided by Robert Ganthony. The article in Figure 58 claims that he was living in retirement at Effingham but we have so far been unable to discover any evidence to corroborate this. During the 1920s and up to his death in 1931 he lived at numerous addresses and continued entertaining in many places.

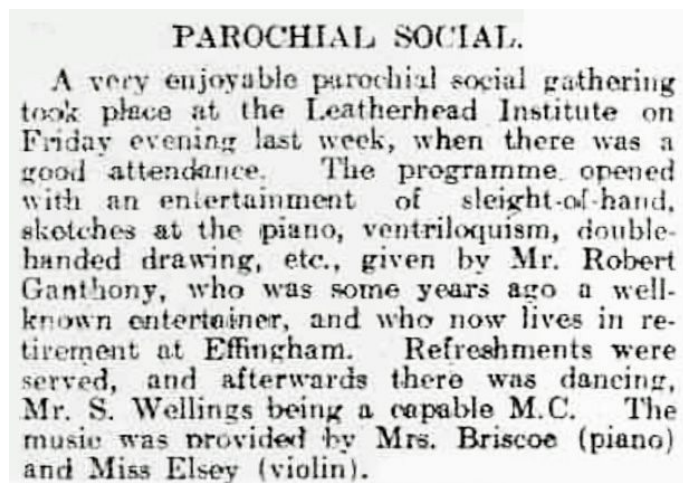


Figure 58 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 1 March 1924.



Figure 59 Robert Ganthony.

Fraud committed in Effingham

The article shown in Figure 60 reports a comparatively minor crime committed in early April 1924 by Sidney Bernard Goulter, the 21-year-old son of a Metropolitan Police Inspector Henry Goulter living in Kingston-upon-Thames. In 1921 Goulter (junior) had been occupied as an engineering student with the engineering firm Leyland Motors Ltd in Ham. The offence reported here happened at Effingham Junction. At The Halt Goulter had encountered Frederick George Searle, an Army veteran of the First World War and holder of the Military Cross with bar. Pretending to be a CID detective, Goulter defrauded Searle of £1 on each of two dates. He was charged at Dorking Police Court with these offences and also of another minor fraud committed in Ham. For all of these he was bound over.

We might have thought little more about this had it not been for a discovery of what happened later from the *Ancestry* source UK, *Calendar of Prisoners, 1868-1929* which lists the outcomes of trials held at the bi-annual Assizes (for very serious crimes) and the Quarter Sessions. In these it was recorded that on 17 August 1925 at the Feltham Petty Sessions Goulter was sentenced to a month's imprisonment for stealing a bicycle; on 7 January 1926 at the West Kent Sessions he was sentenced to 2 months' imprisonment for housebreaking in Gillingham, when he stole from the home of Henry Willis a suit of clothes, a hat, a pair of socks, a collar, a pair of shoes, a gold watch chain and other property; on 9 September 1926 at the Kingston Petty Sessions he was sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment for stealing a motorcycle. However, the worst was yet to come.

For some time Goulter had been acquainted with an unmarried typist aged 21 living in Battersea, Constance Gertrude Oliver. He arranged to meet her in the late evening of Sunday 2 October 1927 at Putney station, from where they took a bus to the Robin Hood Gate of Richmond Park, where they sat down 'in the ferns'. He asked her to meet him on the following Monday evening. But she declined, saying she had arranged to go on that evening to the Lyceum Theatre with a girl friend and two other men. In a fit of jealous rage over this, Goulter then attacked her, hitting her heavily several times on the back of the head with the handle of his umbrella. She fought back (for 5-10 minutes, as he later claimed) but fell, whereupon he gripped her by the throat and rendered her semi-conscious. He then ripped a piece of cloth from her underwear and used it to tie a ligature tightly around her neck. After taking the small amount of money contained in her purse, he left her there unconscious and wandered off. Her body was found sixty hours later, on the morning of 5 October, by a park keeper. (However, her death was not registered until the first quarter of 1928.) By the evening of the same day Goulter had been found and taken into custody.

On 6 October he was brought to the Kingston Police Court, accused of murder and remanded. Two months later, on 5 December, he was brought to trial at the Guildford Assizes in front of Judge Horridge, the court having been set up temporarily in the (now long-vanished) old Borough Hall on North

THEFTS FROM EFFINGHAM AND KINGSTON.

Police Inspector's Son Bound Over

Sidney Bernard Goulter, of Kingston, said to be the son of a police inspector, was charged at the Dorking Police Court on Wednesday with representing himself to be a Metropolitan Police officer at Effingham, and obtaining on two dates in April from Fredk. John Searle, two £1 Treasury notes, with intent to cheat and defraud; also with obtaining at Ham two 10s. notes.

Fredk. John Searle, The Halt, Effingham, said on April 5th he was called by his wife to the telephone box, and there he saw the accused, who asked: "Would you mind shutting the door, please?" He added: "I am a detective from the C.I.D. Department., Scotland Yard. I am working on the Bordon murder tragedy, and I am now speaking to my senior, Mr. Bevan, at Scotland Yard, who has given me instructions to go on to Portsmouth." He asked witness if he would be good enough to let him have £2 to enable him to get there. Witness endeavoured to speak to Mr. Bevan on the telephone, but accused put his finger on the trigger and prevented him doing so. At the same time accused showed him a badge with the word "Police" on it fastened on the inside of his coat. Witness handed accused £2, and the latter then caught the train to London. Witness thought it was perfectly genuine. The following day witness had a telephone message from a person calling himself Mr. Bevan, of the C.I.D., Scotland Yard, thanking him very much for the kind assistance to one of his staff, who was on his way from Portsmouth. and would call in that day. Witness expressed his willingness to assist the police in such a case, and asked if he would require any more cash. Prisoner came to his house later in the day, had tea, and chatted about various things. He told him he was working Downside, and he asked if he could stay there for three or four days. Subsequently witness telephoned to Scotland Yard, who requested him to place the matter into the hands of the police at once.

Figure 60 *The Surrey Advertiser*, 23 April 1924.

Street; in this period the building normally functioned as a dance hall but was occasionally used to house the Assizes when in session. The trial lasted just six hours and twenty minutes. Much of the evidence concerned the manner of Constance's death, the Home Office pathologist Sir Bernard Spilsbury giving it as his view that it had been strangulation caused by the ligature while she had been left unconscious. Evidence was also given that Goulter, although being very intelligent, had been mentally disordered for nine years, exhibiting many strange and sometimes alarming behaviours. His parents testified to the years of difficulties with him that they had had to deal with. Evidence was given that there had been insanity in earlier generations on both sides of his family. The possibility of Goulter being insane was the main plank in the defence case. Goulter had given a statement after his arrest in which he readily admitted what he had done, but declared he had not intended to kill her. However, as a point of law, the judge told the jury that if someone intentionally committed grievous bodily harm and their victim consequently died from that harm, then that counted as murder. The jury deliberated for about ten minutes before returning a guilty verdict, whereupon Horridge sentenced Goulter to death; he collapsed in the dock.

An appeal against the conviction and sentence was heard at the Criminal Court of Appeal on 20 December but this only confirmed that the jury had reached the correct verdict and that there was no criticism to be made of Horridge's summing up. The appeal failed and Goulter was executed at Wandsworth Prison at 8am on 6 January 1928. Considering the extensive published accounts of his trial we would take the view these days that this had been a case of diminished responsibility; but a hundred years ago there was no scope for mitigation on that basis. Soon after Goulter's execution it emerged that it had been botched, Spilsbury reporting at the inquest that Goulter had died from asphyxiation instead of spinal cord injury; he would have suffered.



Figure 61 Constance Gertrude Oliver and Sidney Bernard Goulter.

Residents of Effingham would have followed the trial and its outcome with interest if they had recalled Goulter's earlier offences at Effingham Junction three years previously.

Some of the alleged family insanity had been manifested not far from Effingham. Goulter's mother Sarah Jane Elizabeth (née Cottingham) was the daughter of Elizabeth (née Grout) who had been born and raised in Great Bookham with her five brothers. Her brother Thomas produced a son Robert Grout who in

1919 drowned himself in Fetcham Mill Pond. Her brother James Grout (Robert's uncle) drowned himself in the same pond in 1920. The inquests on both concluded they had committed suicide while insane.

Dangerous driving on Ranmore Common Road

While this article was being written the BBC's news from Surrey reported on 2 September 2025 that:

'Hundreds of motorcyclists were stopped by police in Surrey during a summer campaign to tackle noisy and anti-social riders. Ch Insp Karen Coyne said more than 400 motorcyclists were stopped for issues including speeding and loud exhausts during Operation Downsway.'

Concern about speeding motorcyclists was being aired a century ago, as shown in Figure 62.

EFFINGHAM.

RELIABILITY TRIAL COMPETITOR FINED.

DANGEROUS DRIVING AT EFFINGHAM.

Arthur J. Houghton, of Wallington, a competitor in a motor-cycle reliability trial, was fined £5 by the Dorking magistrates on Wednesday, and his license was endorsed, for driving to the common danger at Effingham on April 6th; a guinea was allowed for costs. Mr. P. M. MacMahon appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. E. M. Gibson defended.

In opening the case Mr. MacMahon said defendant was participating in a reliability trial. These trials had been held on the main roads, but now the by-roads were invaded, and pedestrians who had been driven off the main roads to the by-roads would not be safe.

Alan G. Rampton, of Kingston Hill, said he was rounding a hairpin bend in a motor-car at about 15 to 20 miles an hour, when defendant approached on a motor-cycle, "flying along." Defendant tried to swerve back to his near side, but skidded and struck witness's car on the off side. He told defendant, "It is your fault," and defendant replied, "Yes, I skidded." His motor-car was damaged.

Mrs. Violet Eliza Byles, of Dog Kennel-lane, Effingham, said close to Crocknorth, and between Mr. Tritton's cottage and his house, she saw defendant going at a terrible speed as he rounded the corner. She did not see the accident.

Mr. A. H. Tritton, J.P., of Crocknorth, East Horsley, described how he heard the motor-cycles approaching from the direction of Ranmore Common, and got up from his seat in his summer-house to see them. Defendant was travelling at certainly 30 miles an hour, and the motor-car at 10 or 12 miles an hour. He could not see the road at the actual bend.

Defendant said he was a motor engineer and a competent and expert driver. In the trial the competitors had not to exceed 20 miles an hour, otherwise they would lose the award. As defendant approached the corner he could neither see nor hear anything coming, and he sounded his horn. He was proceeding on his near side about 3ft. from the bank, his speed being about 15 miles an hour. The motor-car cut the corner on its wrong side, and Mr. Leeding, the front motor-cyclist, had difficulty in passing him. Defendant put both his brakes on, and if his motor-cycle had not skidded he would not have hit the car.

By Mr. MacMahon: If on some parts of the journey he only went 15 miles an hour he was not allowed to go over 20 miles an hour in other places to make up for it.

Arthur Leeding, of Sutton, in his evidence said he only had about 2ft. space to get by the car, and had not his handlebars been higher than the mudguard of the car he must have struck it.

Figure 62 Mrs Biles witnesses speeding in 1924; *The Surrey Advertiser*, 26 May 1924.

Mrs Violet Eliza (née Taylor) Biles (sometimes spelt as Byles), was the wife of a gamekeeper and farm worker John Biles. The Electoral Register entries in the 1920s describe them as living at Dog Kennel Green or at 'Cracknorth' (Crocknorth) Cottage, perhaps all referring to the same address. Violet had been born and raised at Effingham Lodge, one of the gate-lodges for the Earl of Lovelace's Horsley Park estate; it still stands today, at the southern end of Dirtham Lane. Her mother Jane Elizabeth (née Menchenton) had been the gate keeper there. A detailed article about the various gate-lodges in the area together with much information about Effingham Lodge (not to be confused with The Lodge in Lower Road) is contained in Article 26, Vol 3 of ELHG's series *Studies in the History of Effingham*.



Figure 63 Violet Eliza Biles, c1917.

Arthur Henry Tritton, stockbroker and magistrate, was the owner of Crocknorth Farm which he had purchased from the Earl of Lovelace in 1918.

Joseph Stewart Adams meets the King and Queen of Denmark

As noted earlier from the school log book, on 27 June Stewart Adams led an outing by a group of 47 children and 15 adults to the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley Stadium. Two days previously he had visited the exhibition 'to perfect arrangements for transport and tour of party'. The article in Figure 64 reports their visit and reveals that the party had been able to meet in person King Christian X and Queen Alexandrine of Denmark, who had come to England shortly before as guests of our Royal Family and had already visited the Exhibition on 24 June (Figure 65).

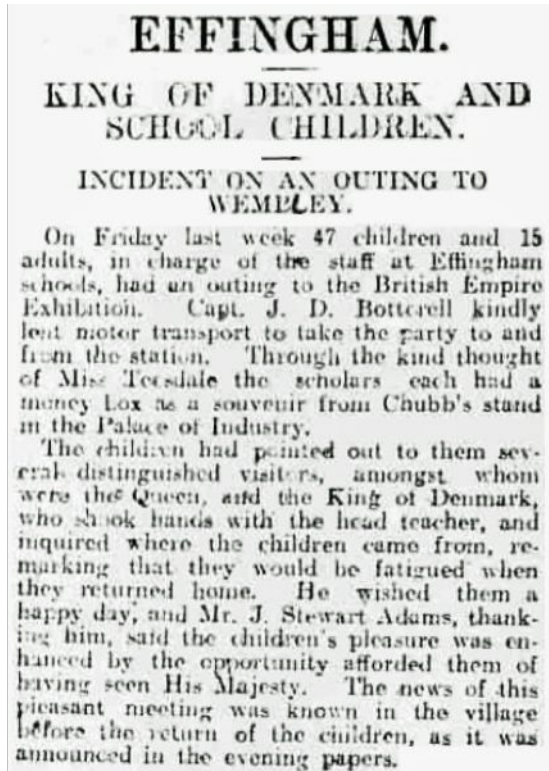


Figure 64 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 5 July 1924.



Figure 65 The Queen and King of Denmark (centre and right) at the Exhibition, 24 June 1924.

48th Bookham Flower Show

The Bookham Flower Show of 1924 was held on 16 July, once again by the Old Rectory in Little Bookham. Figure 66 is just a small excerpt from the full report and shows that Mrs (Pauling) Booth's head gardener Ralph Edgar Street was one of the judges. The reference there to 'Effingham Lodge' should more correctly have been 'The Lodge, Effingham'.

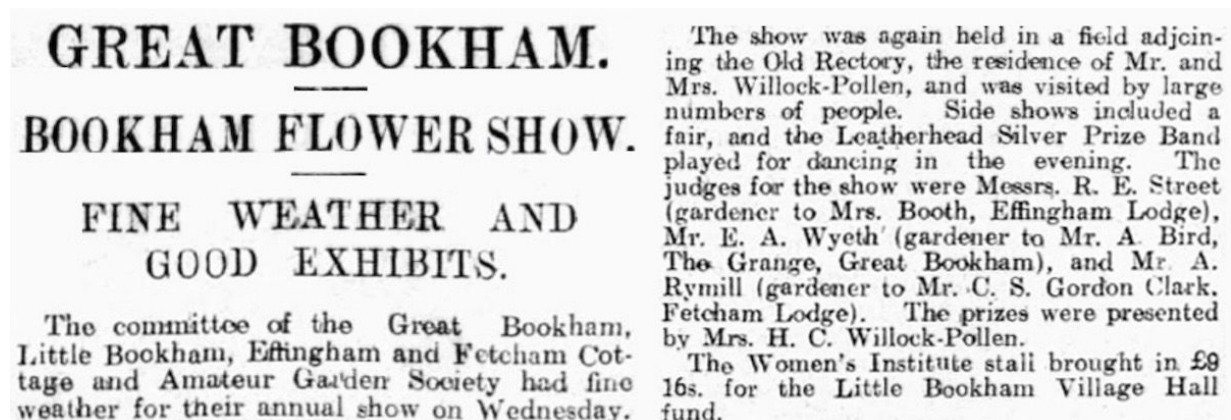


Figure 66 *The Surrey Advertiser*, 21 July 1924.

Fraud by gamekeeper

Luther Cox, the gamekeeper seen earlier who in 1923 had given evidence against Gerald Coombs in a case of trespass and illicit shooting, was now in trouble himself. As seen in Figure 67 he was charged at Epsom Police Court on 11 August 1924 with fraud arising from the renting of a 'shooting' (sic – shoot) on the Effingham Manor estate, this now being under the control of Robert Reitmeyer Calburn or of his company Effingham Estates Ltd. Calburn had – according to Monica Mercy O'Connor in her book *The History of Effingham in Surrey*, 1973 – taken over Col Thomson's lease on the estate on 21 January 1922. Luther had spent much of his working life as a gamekeeper, although in 1911 he had been working as a gas fitter's labourer. The report on this court case consists of a rather long tangle of who-did-what and who-sanctioned-what, but the essence seems to be that Cox had taken deposits from people for a shoot; he had shown some of them over the land, thereby annoying Calburn who disallowed the shoot and said he would have no further dealings with Cox. For some undisclosed reason, Cox did not then repay the deposits, telling the court he had been unable to, even though he had still held the cheques. Even so, he pleaded guilty. It was revealed that he had had earlier scrapes with the law and troubles with his employers. He was sentenced to a fortnight in prison.

EFFINGHAM SHOOTINGS.

GAMEKEEPER SENTENCED FOR FALSE PRETENCES.

The letting of shootings at Effingham was the subject of a prosecution at Epsom Police Court on Monday. Luther Cox, a gamekeeper, aged 42, of Briary Cottage, East Horsley, was charged with obtaining by false pretences with intent to defraud sums of money amounting to £28, belonging to Mr. Albert Spencer, a builder, of 208, High-street, Merton. He was ordered to repay the money, and in addition, he was sent to prison for 14 days.

Mr. Spencer said he was introduced to Cox for the purpose of negotiating for the renting of a shooting at Effingham Manor Estate. Cox showed witness and his friend over two shootings, and Cox was given two cheques, one for £5 and one for £10 as deposits. Later, Cox stated that the acreage of the shooting had been increased from 600 to 1,200 acres at 1s. 6d. per acre. On this, he was given a cheque for £10 as a deposit. Cox told witness that he was to take the deposit to Mr. Messenger, at Guildford, and get papers. He said he had authority to let the shootings.

In cross-examination, witness said he was introduced to Cox by a man named Alec Ramm. Cox said that another offer had been made for the shooting, and he showed witness a cheque. Witness understood that Cox was not the owner of the shooting. The owner was in Rome, the agent was Mr. Messenger, and Cox was authorised to act on behalf of the agent.

Thomas Alfred Clark, 2, Union-terrace, Merton, an accountant, said he was present when the first cheque was paid to Cox. He confirmed the evidence given by Mr. Spencer.

John Henry Messenger, of the Town Hall Chambers, Guildford, said he had had no negotiations with Cox nor any communication. Witness had not the right to let the shooting.

Mr. Alfred Burchett, of West Lodge, Effingham, said he was gamekeeper to the Lord of the Manor. He told Cox that the 1,200-acre shooting was to let. He said he knew some gentlemen who would like to have the shoot. Witness told him to send them to him, and he would show them round. Witness did not give Cox authority to let the shoot. Later witness told Cox that Mr. Calburn would not then let the shoot, because Cox had been seen showing people round.

In cross-examination, witness agreed that Mr. Calburn told Cox to see him with regard to the letting of the shoot.

EMPLOYED AT POLESDEN LACEY.

On behalf of Cox, Mr. MacMahon entered a plea of not guilty, but on being told that this would necessitate the case being sent to Quarter Sessions, a change to a plea of guilty was made. Mr. MacMahon said Cox received £28 as a deposit, and without making any condition he would return this money now in Court to the prosecutor. Cox had been connected with shooting in the Effingham neighbourhood for a good many years. He had been a working gamekeeper engaged for nine years at Polesden Lacey. He had frequently taken small parcels of shooting and then sub-let them. Hearing that Mr. Spencer wanted a large shoot, Cox got into communication with Mr. Calburn. No definite arrangements were made for the letting, but a deposit was paid. However, Cox had taken the gentlemen over the shooting without Mr. Calburn's authority. Mr. Calburn resented this, and said he would have nothing more to do with Cox, nor would he let the shoot. Cox at this time had the cheques for the money he would have received for commission had the letting gone through, but, unfortunately, he was not in a position to repay this money. When the deposit was taken, there was not the slightest intention to defraud anyone, and if the transaction had gone through, there would have been no trouble. For many years Cox had borne a good character.

Inspector Lightfoot said Cox was sentenced to two months' hard labour in 1909 for stealing a bicycle at Aldershot. Lately he had been employed at Polesden Lacey, but he was discharged because his conduct was unsatisfactory in taking people over a shoot. At Whitsun Cox made people pay for daisies which they picked in a large field in the neighbourhood of Horsley, and said that he was sending the money to a hospital. He told a lady that he took £13 on one day. No trace of any money being sent to a hospital could be found.

Defendant told the magistrates that he collected the money for the daisies for his employer. If his employer had not sent the money to the hospital, it was not his fault.

The magistrates ordered that Cox should repay the sum of £28, and that he should be sent to prison for 14 days.

Figure 67 *Surrey Mirror and County Post*, 15 August 1924.

Gerald Coombs accused of ill treating a horse

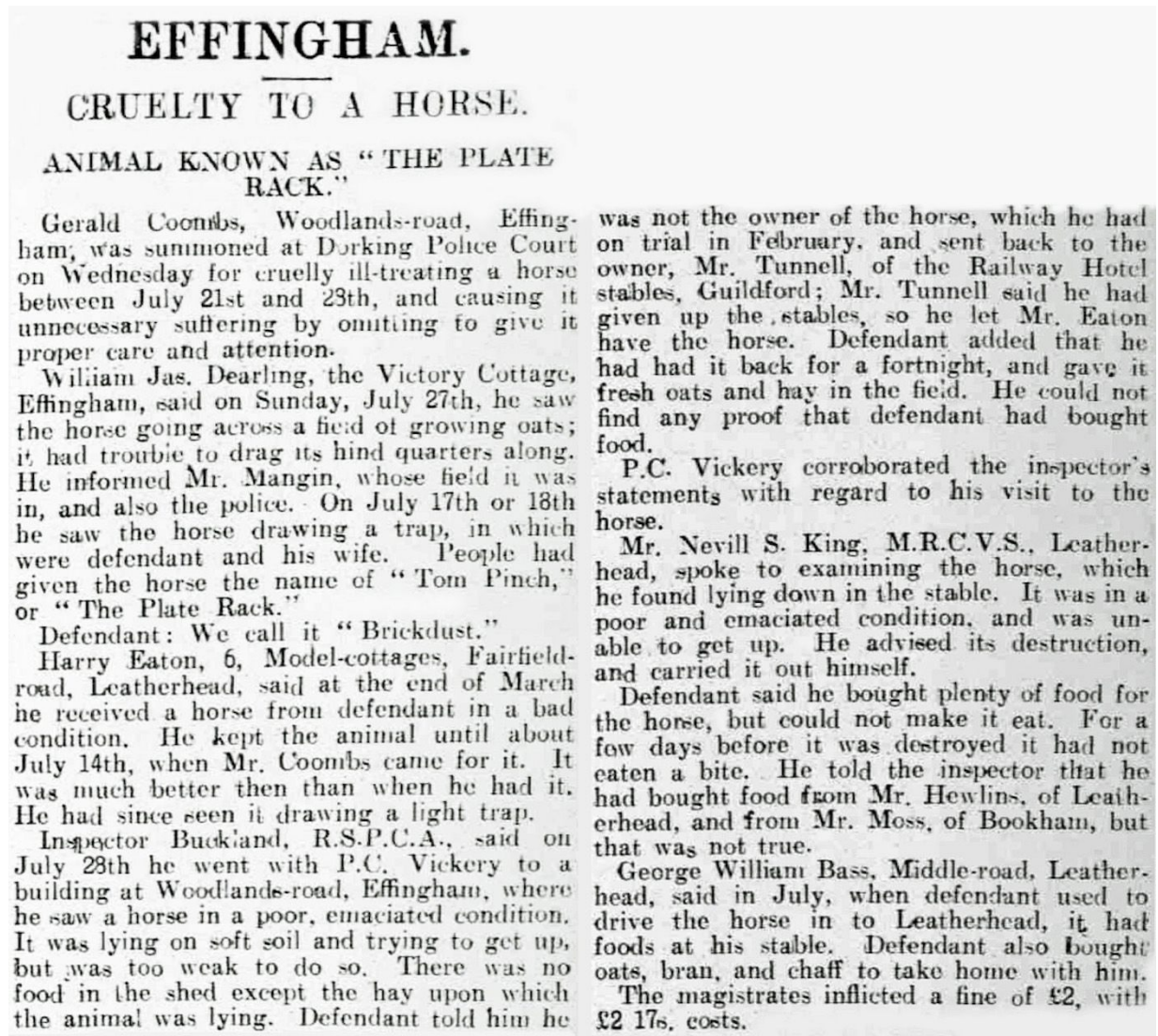
Curiously, Gerald Coombs, against whom Luther Cox had given evidence in 1923, now turns up again in the newspapers and once again is in trouble with the law (Figure 69). It may be remembered that he had at that time been the manager for the Ministry of Labour of an Employment Exchange in Leatherhead. This time the charge against him was that he had ill-treated a horse through insufficient care and attention.

Coombs claimed not be the horse's owner, who was a Mr Tunnell of Guildford. He had obtained the horse on trial in February and then returned it to Tunnell, but as the latter had by then given up his stables in Guildford, Coombs instead took it to Harry Eaton in Leatherhead, in late March. Eaton said that Coombs later came to collect the horse in mid-July.

Figure 68 William James Dearling, who reported the condition of the horse to the police.



The horse's poor condition was brought to the attention of the police by Effingham resident William James Dearling, who lived with his wife Rosemary at 1, Victory Cottages on the Guildford Road and had observed the horse having difficulty crossing a field. The police and an RSPCA official duly went to see the horse in Woodlands Road, finding it to be emaciated. Coombs claimed to have attempted, unsuccessfully, to induce the animal to eat, having purchased plentiful food for it. The court was told this was untrue. What the real truth behind all this was we cannot discern, but the magistrates issued a small fine with costs.



EFFINGHAM.

CRUELTY TO A HORSE.

ANIMAL KNOWN AS "THE PLATE RACK."

Gerald Coombs, Woodlands-road, Effingham, was summoned at Dorking Police Court on Wednesday for cruelly ill-treating a horse between July 21st and 23th, and causing it unnecessary suffering by omitting to give it proper care and attention.

William Jas. Dearling, the Victory Cottage, Effingham, said on Sunday, July 27th, he saw the horse going across a field of growing oats; it had trouble to drag its hind quarters along. He informed Mr. Mangin, whose field it was in, and also the police. On July 17th or 18th he saw the horse drawing a trap, in which were defendant and his wife. People had given the horse the name of "Tom Pinch," or "The Plate Rack."

Defendant: We call it "Brickdust."

Harry Eaton, 6, Model-cottages, Fairfield-road, Leatherhead, said at the end of March he received a horse from defendant in a bad condition. He kept the animal until about July 14th, when Mr. Coombs came for it. It was much better then than when he had it. He had since seen it drawing a light trap.

Inspector Buckland, R.S.P.C.A., said on July 28th he went with P.C. Vickery to a building at Woodlands-road, Effingham, where he saw a horse in a poor, emaciated condition. It was lying on soft soil and trying to get up, but was too weak to do so. There was no food in the shed except the hay upon which the animal was lying. Defendant told him he was not the owner of the horse, which he had on trial in February, and sent back to the owner, Mr. Tunnell, of the Railway Hotel stables, Guildford; Mr. Tunnell said he had given up the stables, so he let Mr. Eaton have the horse. Defendant added that he had had it back for a fortnight, and gave it fresh oats and hay in the field. He could not find any proof that defendant had bought food.

P.C. Vickery corroborated the inspector's statements with regard to his visit to the horse.

Mr. Nevill S. King, M.R.C.V.S., Leatherhead, spoke to examining the horse, which he found lying down in the stable. It was in a poor and emaciated condition, and was unable to get up. He advised its destruction, and carried it out himself.

Defendant said he bought plenty of food for the horse, but could not make it eat. For a few days before it was destroyed it had not eaten a bite. He told the inspector that he had bought food from Mr. Hewlins, of Leatherhead, and from Mr. Moss, of Bookham, but that was not true.

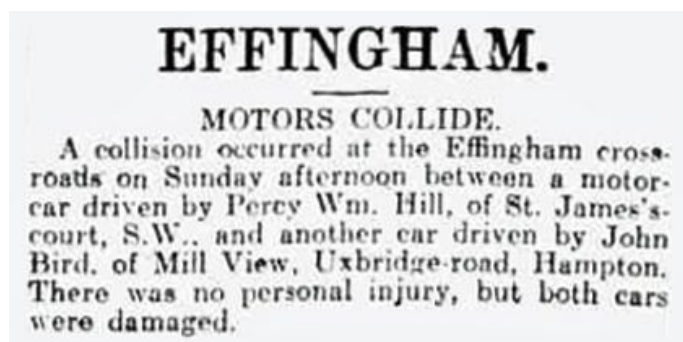
George William Bass, Middle-road, Leatherhead, said in July, when defendant used to drive the horse in to Leatherhead, it had foods at his stable. Defendant also bought oats, bran, and chaff to take home with him.

The magistrates inflicted a fine of £2, with £2 17s. costs.

Figure 69 *The Surrey Advertiser*, 8 September 1924.

Yet another accident at the crossroads

Not surprisingly, our account of 1924 ends with a report of yet another collision at the Effingham crossroads. It should be noted that in this period the Guildford Road passing east-west through these cross roads was not as wide or as linear as it is today, presenting less clear sight lines. Matters were perhaps not helped by the significant non-linearity of the transverse road from The Street into Beech Avenue. Whether all these accidents arose partly because of this, or partly because standards of driving had not been raised by the need to pass stringent driving tests, we cannot say.



EFFINGHAM.

MOTORS COLLIDE.

A collision occurred at the Effingham crossroads on Sunday afternoon between a motor-car driven by Percy Wm. Hill, of St. James's-court, S.W., and another car driven by John Bird, of Mill View, Uxbridge-road, Hampton. There was no personal injury, but both cars were damaged.

Figure 70 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 22 November 1924.

1925

49th Bookham Flower Show

The newspaper report (Figure 71) on the 1925 Bookham Flower Show makes curious reading, beginning as it does with rather gloomy prognostication as to whether the show should be continued in future years:

‘... the society had not been successful either financially or from a general point of view ...
The Chairman spoke of the failure of the show in recent years through lack of exhibits ...’

Yet in 1924 it had been reported that the show for that year had produced ‘more entries than in 1923 and the quality of the produce had been up to the usual standard’. The 1923 show had in turn been reported as ‘a brilliant success’. These inconsistencies warn us not to take Press reports too literally.

GARDEN SOCIETY.

SHOW TO BE CONTINUED.

The annual meeting of the Great and Little Bookham, Effingham, and Fetcham Garden Society was held at the Schools, Great Bookham, on Monday evening, the Rev. C. J. Vernon presiding, in the absence of Mr. H. C. Willock-Pollen, who had a chill.

The principal object of the meeting was to consider whether, as during the last two years the society had not been successful either financially or from a general point of view, they should close down or make another attempt to continue.

The Chairman spoke of the failure of the show in recent years, through lack of exhibits, and he asked whether it was the fault of the committee or the judges. He had heard of objection being taken to local judges, and he thought they should obtain them from outside. It would be well if they gave a little talk at the show on their opinion of the exhibits.

On the proposition of Mr. H. C. Boden, seconded by Mr. H. Bostock, it was unanimously decided to carry on, and to form an energetic committee. The date fixed for the show was Wednesday, July 29th, and the venue Eastwick Park, if available.

Mrs. Hansard proposed, and Mr. Bostock seconded, that outside judges be appointed, and this was carried.

Rule 2, limiting cottage exhibitors to members of the society holding not more than 20 rods of land in addition to their gardens, was deleted.

It was resolved to recommend to the committee that no prize be given in any of the classes unless there was a specified number of competitors.

Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: President, Mr. Arthur Bird; vice-presidents, as last year, with the addition of Mr. Berry, Mrs. Ward, and Mr. Drewitt; secretary and treasurer, Mr. H. F. Griffin; committee, Great Bookham, Mrs. Stanley Burton, Messrs. W. Evernden, Dew, H. C. Boden, A. E. Scott, and J. G. French; Effingham, Miss Ross, Mr. R. Street, and Mr. G. Jackson, a fourth name to be left to the committee; Fetcham, Mrs. Gordon Clark, Mr. Rymill, and Mr. Cooper; Little Bookham, the Rev. C. J. Vernon, Mrs. Hansard, and Mrs. Willock Pollen.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding closed the meeting.

Figure 71 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 7 February 1925.

In the above report we see that Effingham was accorded four places on the Society's committee, two of them taken by Effie Jane Ross and Ralph Edgar Street.

Whist Drive for the Working Men's Club

Miss Ross and Mr Street both feature in Figure 72 too, taking part in a whist drive held at Effingham's Village Hall for the purpose of raising funds to re-cover the Working Men's Club's billiard table. Lola (Pauling) Booth was there too, helping to distribute the prizes. Also present was Anthony Nicholas Diamantidi who had purchased Effie Jane's old home, The Villa (which he renamed as Grove house). Her father's estate had included the Village Hall and in due course she would sell the hall to Mr Diamantidi.

Figure 72 *The Surrey Advertiser*, 9 February 1925.

EFFINGHAM.

WHIST DRIVE.

A very enjoyable whist drive was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday evening, in aid of the fund for re-covering the billiard table at the Working Men's Club. There were 24 tables. Prizes were given by Miss Ross, Mrs. Booth, Miss Teesdale, Lady Perry, Mrs. Beaney, Mr. Nottage, the Rev. E. Bayly, Mr. Bottrell, and Mr. Diamantidi, and refreshments were given and served by the committee. The prize-winners were: Ladies: 1 Miss Churchill, 2 Mrs. Upchurch, consolation Mrs. Gregg, highest either half Mrs. Payne. Gentlemen: 1 Mr. W. Longhurst, 2 Mr. F. Bartlett, consolation Mr. Hearn, highest either half Mr. E. Killick, most sevens Mr. J. Ottaway, travelling prizes Mrs. Forehead and Mr. Robson. Mrs. Madge distributed the prizes, and Mr. R. Street acted as driver.

Effingham Junction resident claims to be cured of deafness

In February the local newspapers carried the somewhat bizarre advertisement shown in Figure 73a for an all-round cure of deafness, tinnitus and catarrh by some undisclosed and unexplained non-invasive procedure. 'Makenzie's Wonderful Method' had allegedly cured thousands of people all over England.

**DEAFNESS CURED IN
GUILDFORD.
HEAD NOISES BANISHED.**

**There is no Consultation Fee and you are
under no obligation.**

MAKENZIE'S TERMS ARE BENEFIT OR YOUR MONEY BACK.

**Thousands of Cases of Catarrh, Deafness, Nerve
Racking Head and Ear Noises Successfully
Treated Entirely Without Medicine.**

The main features of this Treatment are:

It is **PERFECTLY PAINLESS**. It renders **OPERATION UNNECESSARY**. It **RESTORES** the Natural Function of Hearing, making the use of expensive and Fragile appliances unnecessary. It is **INEXPENSIVE**. And finally, it is **PERMANENT**.

**UNDENIABLE FACTS OF CURES. SAME MAY BE A REVELATION TO
ALL SUFFERERS.**

**THOUSANDS HAVE BEEN CURED ALL OVER ENGLAND AND THE
CONTINENT BY MAKENZIE'S WONDERFUL METHOD, WHICH IS
RECOGNISED BY THE HIGHEST MEDICAL AUTHORITIES.**

It may be stated at once the new system, which is producing such remarkable results, bears no relation whatever to any of the numerous "quack," "simple remedies," or "quick cures," that have only proved their own worthlessness, but is a bona-fide scientific treatment that has borne the closest investigation in authoritative circles, and has been successfully administered to **DOCTORS, CHEMISTS, MAGISTRATES, SOLICITORS, and REV. GENTLEMEN OF ALL DENOMINATIONS**, and public men and women throughout the kingdom—humblest sufferers.

**Read below what Local People say
about Makenzie's Treatment.**

Figure 73a *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 14 February 1925.

Arthur Makenzie 'the Great Aural Specialist' had been touting these claims around the country for some time, setting up temporary consulting rooms in hotels or YMCA buildings in numerous towns and cities and splashing the newspapers with large-format advertisements like that above, accompanied by patient testimonials, often with photographs of themselves. It has proved difficult to determine precisely what his treatment method was, but it was described in one newspaper as 'the famous Sun Ray Radiation Cure ... the invention of Professor Finsen, of Copenhagen' [*The Leicester Mail*, 23 February 1926]. Niels Ryberg Finsen had been awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1903 for his discoveries of the curative properties of light radiation for certain skin conditions like *lupus vulgaris*; he had died just a year after the award. Makenzie had perhaps rigged up some kind of transportable ultra-violet source and given his patients a few minutes' worth of simulated sun tan.

Makenzie claimed to have been based in London in St Quintin's Avenue W10, as well as at a 'Permanent Institute' at 5, Boulevard des Italiens in Paris. In some of his treatment tours during the 1920s he called himself Arthur Lewis and it seems likely that this had been his true name. A warning that his treatment was

dubious was published by *John Bull* on 15 November 1924. Four years later, on 4 August 1928, the same publication printed a long attack on Lewis, describing him as a 'notorious eyesight and deafness quack' with aliases including Makenzie, Nicholson and Turner. It reported that patients were interviewed on arrival by other persons employed to sell the treatment. Some people employed by Lewis posed as patients themselves, mingling among the genuine ones and plying them with tales of how effective the treatment had already been for them. Investigations later revealed that Lewis had made a fortune from his quackery. As the treatment was wholly ineffective the hundreds of testimonials he had printed within his advertisements must have been either written by delusional patients or fabricated by himself.

Such a conclusion might apply to the testimonial shown in Figure 73b that appeared among several accompanying the main advertisement seen above. At 3, Railway Cottages on Old Road in Effingham Junction there were living in 1925 a widowed platelayer George Matthews, his son George (junior) – a railway porter – and the latter's wife Elizabeth (née Wrench). The son may have been the one who visited Makenzie, as he had served in the Royal Field Artillery during the First World War and perhaps had incurred deafness and tinnitus from that.

After the *John Bull* article in 1928 had been published, it seems that no more advertisements from Makenzie/Lewis appeared in the Press.

Burglary at The Lodge

An upsetting incident occurred later in February when a burglar made forced entry into The Lodge and stole items of value, both monetary and sentimental, belonging to Lola's teenage daughter Dolores Angela Pauling. There appears to have been no subsequent report in local newspapers that the thief had been apprehended or the stolen items recovered.

Effingham loses to Ashtead

Effingham Football Club continued to receive occasional mentions in the newspapers. In the report below of one match we see that Effingham made a good start, one of the goals scored by Frank John Patten, but the opposing Ashtead team eventually won the day. At this time Frank was lodging with the Dearling family at 1, Victory Cottages.

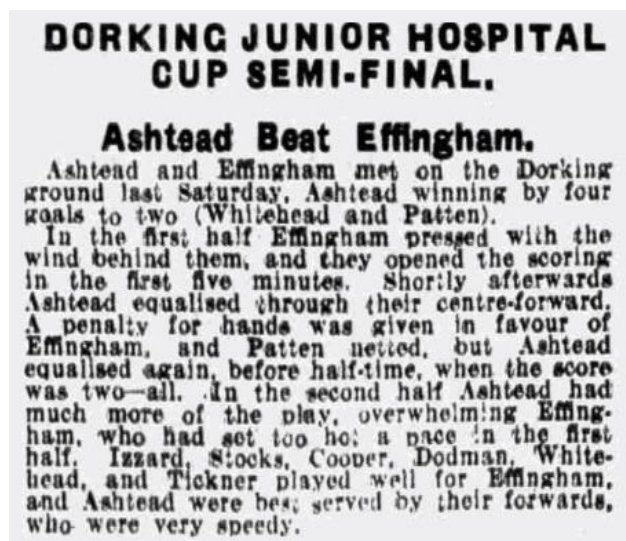


Figure 75 *The Surrey Advertiser*, 1 April 1925.

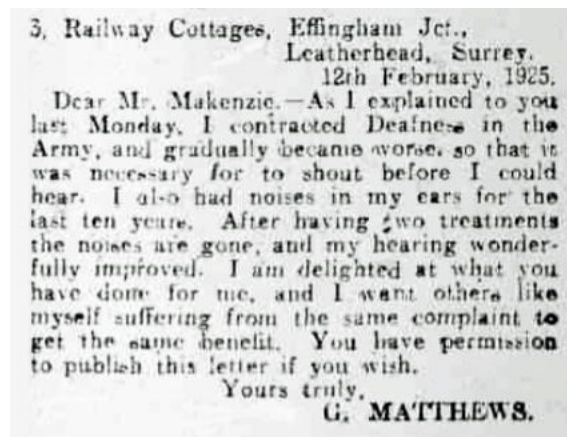


Figure 73b *The Surrey Advertiser etc*, 14 February 1925.

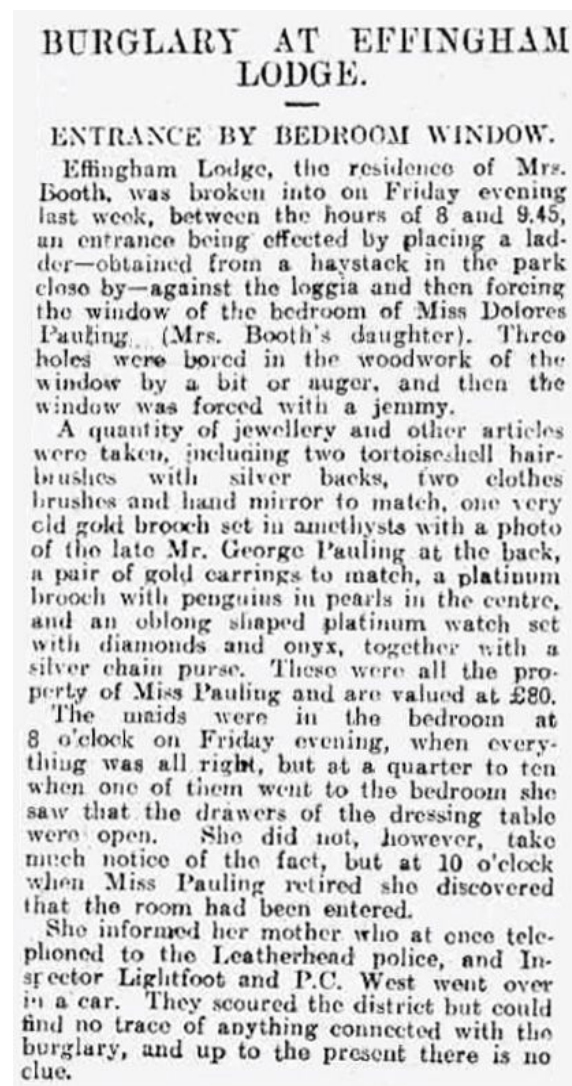


Figure 74 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 28 February 1925.

Charles Patten marries Eva Scarff

On 25 April 1925 the marriage took place at St Lawrence Church of (Frederick) Charles Patten and Eva (née Scarff), as reported briefly in the local newspaper. The ELHG archives hold a considerable collection of photographs of the Patten family, one being that below showing the wedding party assembled in Lower Road between the school and The Sir Douglas Haig Hotel (whose name appears on the signpost).

PATTEN : SCARFF.—On April 25th, at Effingham Parish Church, Charles, eldest surviving son of Mr. F. Patten, of Whitwell, near Welwyn, to Eva, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Scarff, of Shenley, Herts. db81

Figure 76 *The Surrey Mirror and County Post*, 1 May 1925.



Figure 77 The wedding party, 25 May 1925, with detail (at right).

Of the 32 people shown, we have identifications of 21. Among them are the Mooney family and, standing behind the lady seated at far right, ‘Ted’ Tyrrell. Present also is Lily King sitting fourth from left in the second row from the front – she is one of the few looking cheerful.

There is much to be told about the individuals seen here and there are many other interesting photographs of the wedding guests on the day, but the presentation of all that material is best reserved for future articles specifically about the families involved.



Furious bicycle riding

In May there was a bicycle collision in Leatherhead, caused by one of the cyclists – (Walter) George Ranger – riding through the town ‘furiously’. George, aged 16, was fined 10s by the Epsom magistrates. The report of this in Figure 78 mentions that George lived in Effingham at The Gate, referring to a cottage structured as two dwellings on the Effingham Common Road. In 1925 George and his siblings were living with their parents Albert and Annie (née Kemp) at No 2, whilst No 1 had been occupied in 1921 by the family of Henry (‘Harry’) Tyrrell. Figure 79 shows the only photograph that ELHG has ever seen of The Gate. It was taken in about 1916 and shows George's sibling Gladys Evelyn, born in 1911, standing outside No 2.

LEATHERHEAD.

Agnes Hilda Anderson, The Knoll, Hindhead, was fined 40s. at the Epsom Police Court on Monday for exceeding the ten-mile speed limit at Leatherhead.

George Ranger, The Gate, Effingham, was fined 10s. by the Epsom magistrates on Monday for riding a bicycle furiously through Leatherhead on April 18th. According to the evidence defendant collided with another cyclist at the corner of Bridge-street and North-street.

Figure 78 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 9 May 1925.



Figure 79 Gladys Evelyn Ranger at 2, The Gate, with detail (below).

As time went on George Ranger and Harry Tyrrell's adopted son Henry Edward (‘Ted’) Tyrrell would form the unincorporated building partnership Tyrrell & Ranger, George working as a carpenter and Ted as a bricklayer; another Effingham man, George Biles, worked with them, also as a bricklayer. Together they undertook a huge range of local projects over the years.

The Gate no longer exists but on its former site there now stands Tollgate Cottage, shown in Figure 80.





Figure 80 Tollgate Cottage on Effingham Common Road; © Copyright Andrew Longton.

Effingham WI has a distinguished visitor

The Effingham Women's Institute, together with members of the Institutes of Little Bookham and East Horsley, were addressed in May at Effingham Manor by a key founder of Britain's Women's Institutes, the Scottish-Canadian Mrs Margaret Rose (née Robertson) Watt. It seems quite apt that an entertainment was staged at the meeting by Miss Emily Madge, with assistance from other Madge family members, given that Mrs Watt was known familiarly as 'Madge'.



Figure 81 Mrs Watt.

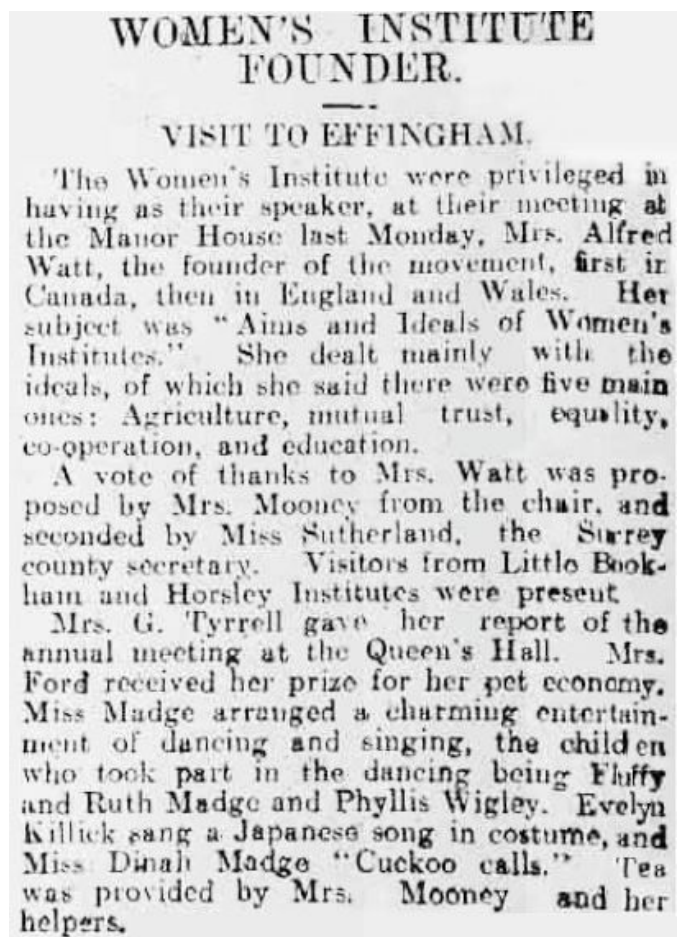


Figure 82 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 30 May 1925.

In the above newspaper article Mrs G Tyrrell is believed to have been the wife Winifred (née Bishop) of George Herbert Tyrrell, born (like Ted Tyrrell) to Harriett Tyrrell by partner(s) unknown. Harriett died in 1905 and the two boys were raised by her brother Henry ('Harry') Tyrrell. In 1925 George Herbert and Winifred were living in Effingham at 3, Victory Cottages.

No policeman in the wilds of Effingham

Figure 83 concerns Miss Dora Emily (née Beesley) Bretherton (misspelt there as 'Brotherton'). She had been born in Liverpool in 1873 to parents George Henry Beesley, a corn dealer, and his wife Elizabeth (née De Costa) who had married in 1865. It appears that by 1881 George and Elizabeth had separated: at the time of the Census he and three of their children were still in Lancashire, living at Sefton on the northern outskirts of Liverpool, whilst Elizabeth and three other of their children – including Dora – were living as one of three households at 10, Eversfield Place, a lodging house on the seafront at Hastings, East Sussex. Another household there consisted of the widowed lodging house proprietor and her three servants. The third household contained the elderly 6th Earl (George Thomas Keppel) and Countess (Susan) of Albemarle with their butler and housekeeper. Curiously, but surely entirely coincidentally, Keppel had in his childhood been educated for two years in Effingham, 'under the ferule' of the vicar Rev William Farley, as related in his autobiography *Fifty Years of my Life*.

One other person with Elizabeth at the lodging house in 1881 was a 'visitor' Charles Edward Bretherton, the Liverpool-born son of a solicitor; his occupation was entered in the Census as 'lawyer, United States'. He had studied law at Gray's Inn and would be admitted to the Inner Temple as a barrister on 19 May 1884. Elizabeth and Charles had become partners and would remain so for the rest of their lives, whilst her children would assume his Bretherton surname. For some unknown reason Dora would also change her first forename to Dorothea.

Dorothea pursued a well-acclaimed acting career spanning at least the period 1909-18, as newspaper reviews attest. The 1921 Census finds her living alone in London at 20, Northumberland Place, W2 and described as having no occupation. At about that time she purchased Leewood Cottages on Effingham Common where she is listed in the 1922 Electoral Register. She soon afterwards purchased the nearby Hooke Cottages as well. Here she developed a cattery and began exhibiting – and winning prizes for – her cats at the National Cat Club championship shows.

It became a significant bone of contention between her, Effingham Parish Council and Dorking Rural District Council that there was no road access to the cottages. Her battles over this and other topics of complaint cemented her reputation in Effingham as a reclusive but highly articulate and feisty protagonist, known to local children rather unkindly as 'the witch on the Common'.

Charles had died in 1911 and Elizabeth in 1913. Just a few months after Elizabeth's death in May her true husband George Henry Beesley, now finally free to remarry, did exactly that in August, marrying Emily (née Ritson) by whom he produced one child in 1915. In 1917, however, he died. Dorothea remained on Effingham Common until her death in Guildford's Mount Avernia Hospital in 1961.

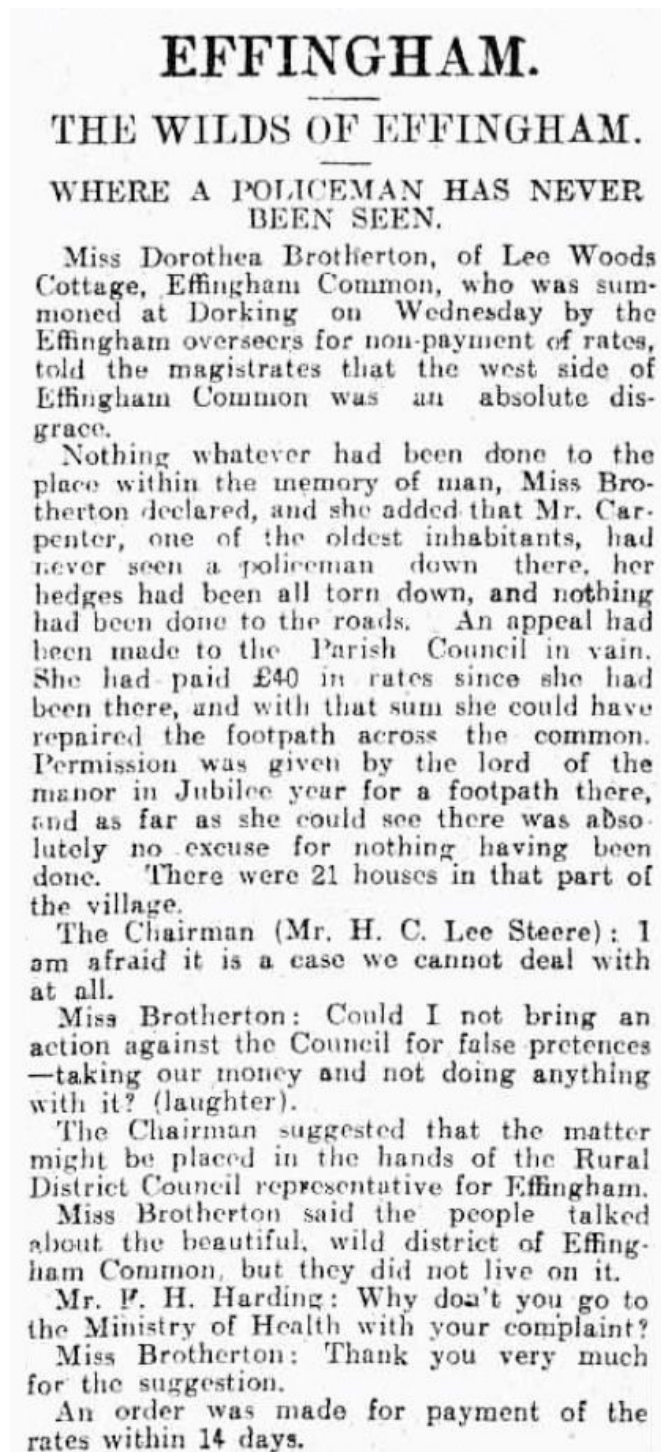


Figure 83 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 13 June 1925.

1926

Golden Wedding Anniversary in the Ranger family

In early 1926 a possibly notable anniversary was celebrated. It was the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Frederick Ranger – born in Effingham in 1850 and future father of Albert Ranger – and Ann (née Boxall) who had married at All Saints, Kenley in Coulsdon on 19 February 1876. It was potentially significant because, according to a family member, Effingham's vicar had said that it was the first Golden Wedding Anniversary to have been celebrated in Effingham for 180 years. Figure 84 shows the family assembled on that day at the home of the couple's daughter Florence Ann and the latter's husband Welcome Joseph Cooper, this being 5, Pemberton Road in East Molesey.



Figure 84a Family gathering for the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Frederick and Ann Ranger, February 1926.



Figure 84b Ann and Frederick Ranger; their son Albert is seen in 84a sitting to the right of Frederick, with his wife Annie standing behind him.



Figure 84c Albert's wife Annie.

Railwaymen blinded at Effingham Junction

A very unfortunate accident suffered by two men occurred on the railway at Effingham Junction on 1 March when they were working on the coupling of two parts of a train. An outline of what happened is given in the article shown in Figure 85 but this does not offer precise details. Both men, named only as Garner and Bowles, were initially blinded although Garner, at least, had recovered his sight by the next morning; Bowles had also received injuries to his face and chest but had not yet recovered his sight.

Investigation strongly suggests that the second man was William Thomas Bowles, born in Semley, Wiltshire in 1889 [GRO Ref: Tisbury 5a 211, 1889 (Q4)]. The 1911 Census finds him living in Love Lane, Shaftesbury and occupied as a railway porter. In 1915 he married Alice Emma (née Pipe) [GRO Ref: Tisbury 5a 555, 1915 (Q3)]; she had already produced a child Lily born in Axminster in 1913. The 1921 Census finds the family living at the Railway Crossing in Easthampstead, Bracknell where William was now a railway crossing keeper for the LSW Railway Company; with them was Lily and also their own child Gladys Marion Beatrice born in Easthampstead in 1916.

The Bowles family appears to have moved to Surrey in 1922-23, being listed in the Electoral Register for 1923 at 'Effingham Junction', with no more detail than that. From the later 1920s the Register was giving their address as '4, Effingham Junction' and, from other information possessed by ELHG about the occupants of '3, Effingham Junction', it may be that the Bowles family was living at one of the five so-called Station Cottages spread over the land just south of the station by the northern rim of the Common.

William died aged only 40 on 28 February 1931, at the Royal Surrey County Hospital in Guildford. His death certificate gives the cause as '1(a) cardiac failure (b) acute lobar pneumonia'; in such cases the pneumonia is the originating cause and the heart failure is the consequence. We do not know whether he had ever regained his sight. It seems plausible that the accident had led to long-term health problems resulting in his premature death, especially given the chest injury.

Alice and the two girls then moved to the property named Frieston in Forest Road where they are found in the 1939 National Register. Against Alice's name are notes indicating that she was playing a role in St John's Ambulance Brigade and serving as a full-time ARP warden for Esher Urban District Council. Lily was in domestic service at some private house and Gladys was a grocery shop assistant. Also in their household was a porter and trained railway shunter John Cullen.

Alice died aged just 51, on 10 December 1940 at St Luke's Hospital, 10 Warren Road in Guildford, the cause certified as '1(a) secondary carcinoma of intestines (b) carcinoma of body of uterus.' The informant was Gladys, still living at Frieston. The funeral took place on 14 December at St Martin's, East Horsley, a brief obituary stating that she had been a member of the working party at the Memorial Hall [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 28 December 1940].

In 1941 Lily married John Cullen and Gladys married a Surrey Police Constable Albert Russell Fox. On 1 November 1943 Gladys died at her home 21, Lea Pale Road in Guildford, aged only 27. The cause was a rare cancer usually having a poor prognosis, retroperitoneal sarcoma. Albert was then serving in the RAF. Her funeral took place at St Martin's on 4 November [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 6 November 1943]. Altogether this had been a very unfortunate family.

50th Bookham Flower Show

Figure 86 shows a report about the Bookham Flower Show in 1926 which was staged, as in 1925, in the grounds of Southey Hall School (formerly Eastwick Park). Mrs Lola Pauling (who in January 1926 had abandoned her use of Booth as a surname after her marriage to Capt Booth had run into trouble) was commended for her sweet peas and also 'gained chief honours for a collection of fruit'. Serving on the

RAILWAYMEN BLINDED.

A SERIOUS ACCIDENT AT EFFINGHAM.

One Man Regains his Sight.

Two railway train couplers, named Garner and Bowles, were seriously injured by an accident whilst at work at Effingham Junction on Monday afternoon. Both men were blinded, although one has now recovered his sight.

It appears that Garner, who lives at 3, Stoke Grove, Stoke Fields, Guildford, was formerly employed as shunter at Guildford, but a week or so ago he received promotion, and was transferred to Effingham as a coupler. Bowles lives at Effingham.

The two men were carrying out their duties between two halves of a train late in the afternoon, when an electric flash occurred from a cable conveying a heavy current. Both men were blinded, and Bowles received other injuries to his face and chest. After first aid they were brought to Guildford in a train and taken to the Royal Surrey County Hospital.

On inquiry yesterday (Tuesday) afternoon we were informed that Garner was discharged in the morning, with his sight restored. Bowles spent a comfortable night, and his condition is satisfactory. It is hoped that his sight, too, will be recovered.

Figure 85 *The Surrey Advertiser*, 3 March 1926.

show's committee as representatives of Effingham were Mrs Lilian Olivia Mooney of Rose Cottage, Lola's head gardener Ralph Edgar Street and two others.

**JUBILEE SHOW AT
BOOKHAM.**

**COTTAGE AND AMATEUR
GARDEN SOCIETY.**

Great Bookham, Little Bookham, Effingham, and Fetcham Flower Show celebrated its jubilee on Wednesday with an unbroken record. The exhibition surpassed all previous efforts both in the number of entries and in quality. The entries totalled 640, made up as follows: Great Bookham 308, Little Bookham 37, Effingham 52, Fetcham 243. Last year the total was 500.

The committee had again placed at their disposal the grounds of Southey Hall School, Eastwick Park, by kind permission of Mr. H. R. Fussell.

Staged in a large marquee in the centre of the grounds, with a smaller one for the industrial section, the exhibits received high praise from the judges. In the open classes the first prize for vases of roses was awarded Mr. C. S. Gordon Clark, of Fetcham Lodge, the High Sheriff of Surrey, and his collection was much admired. Some beautiful sweet-peas were sent by Mrs. Hansard, of Preston Cross, and Mrs. Pauling, of Effingham Lodge, the former just gaining the premier award. Mrs. Pauling gained chief honours for a collection of fruit. In the table decorations the judges had not much difficulty in picking out the first-prize winner, Mrs. Fussell arranging her table with some charming lavender-coloured sweet-peas. Mrs. Ward and Mrs. Land also fully deserved their awards of second and third prizes respectively.

Mr. H. C. Boden was the most successful exhibitor in the amateur classes, and he secured the president's challenge cup, the runner-up being Mr. J. G. French, of Dinwoodie, the genial assistant secretary.

In the cottagers' classes Messrs. F. Buckland, A. Tilley, and W. Over were the winners for the cottage gardens and allotments.

In addition to the prize exhibits there were several displays not for competition. A good collection of flowers came from the Southey Hall gardens, Messrs. Almond and Son, of Effingham, sent 11 baskets of tomatoes and a box of cucumbers, and Mr. S. Guilbert, Eastwick-road, Great Bookham, staged some lovely gladioli. Mr. G. J. Taman, of Ballands Hall Cottage, Fetcham, again showed honey.

The judges were Mr. W. H. Divers (Surrey Agricultural Committee) and Mr. F. Cordell (Reigate), while the industrial exhibits were judged by Mrs. Dashwood (Leatherhead). The other officials were: Secretary and treasurer, Mr. Henry F. Griffin; assistant secretary, Mr. J. G. French; committee, Mr. H. C. Willock-Pollen, J.P. (chairman), Mr. H. Bostock (vice-chairman); Great Bookham, Mrs. Burton, Messrs. Andrews, Beinder, Boden, Brockenbury, Scott, and Wyeth; Little Bookham, Mrs. Hansard, the Hon. D'Arcy Lambton, and Mr. J. West; Effingham, Mrs. Mooney, Messrs. Street, Tyrell, and Yates; Fetcham, Miss Medd, Messrs. Cocking, Cooper, Roe, and Rymill.

Figure 86 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 31 July 1926.

Gerald Coombs in trouble yet again

In October 1926 Gerald Coombs was back in the news and in trouble with the law yet again. He seemed to have become embroiled in some kind of dispute with a Bookham resident and, as an act of grievance, had set about damaging that person's water pipes.

The account in Figure 87 (which misspells his surname) does not indicate that he had been fined, but he had certainly been required to pay costs.

DAMAGE TO PIPES

—

**EFFINGHAM MAN'S SENSE OF
GRIEVANCE.**

At Dorking Police Court on Wednesday, Gerald Coombes, of Woodlands-road, Effingham, was summoned for wilfully damaging a quantity of water pipes, the property of Percy Wood, Perluma, Downs-lane Bookham, to the extent of £20.

The evidence was to the effect that defendant, who was under the impression that he had been unfairly treated, deliberately hacked the pipes with a pick.

Coombes was ordered to pay the cost of the reinstatement of the pipes and also the Court costs.

Figure 87 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 9 October 1926.

Effingham Cricket Club team photograph

Copies of the postcard photograph seen in Figure 88a showing the Effingham Cricket Club team have been brought to ELHG's attention by several sources over the years and there appears to be a consensus that it was taken in 1926. This copy has certainly been marked as such on both its front and its reverse. The reverse side (Figure 88b) also provides a complete list of the members' names.



Figure 88a Effingham's Cricket Club team; date claimed to be 1926.

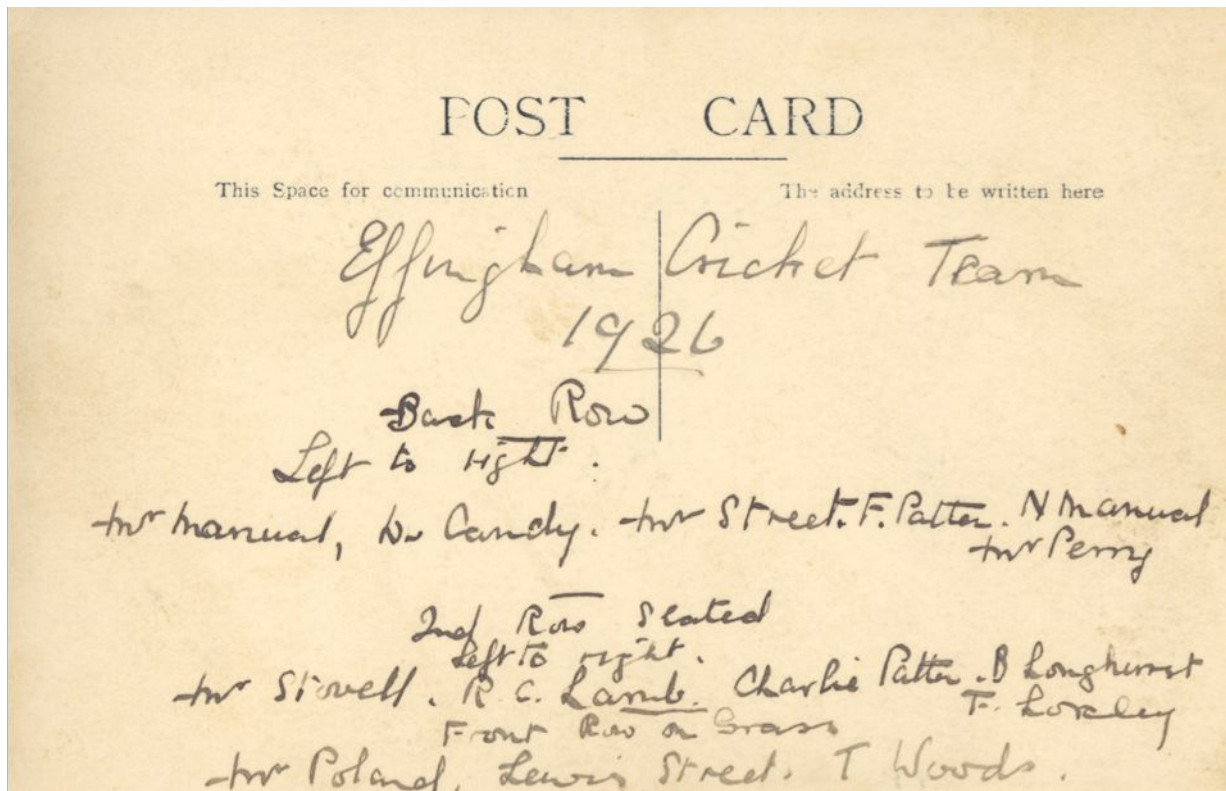


Figure 88b Identifications on the reverse; Mr Manuel, Dr Candy, Ralph Edgar Street, Frank John Patten, N Manuel, Mr Perry; Arthur Archibald Stovell, Reginald Cecil Lamb, (Frederick) Charles Patten, B Longhurst, Frank Ernest Loxley; Mr Poland, Lewis Ralph Street, Tom Woods.

1927

New footpath from Effingham to Fetcham

On 11 January 1927 a meeting of Surrey County Council was held in which the dominant business was a report presented by its Highways and Bridges Committee, discussing a number of projects.

Among these was a project to provide a gravel footpath of about 2.7 miles in length along the Guildford Road on its northern side, as seen in the article in Figure 89. Although the description there is not entirely clear it seems likely, from the given length, that the stretch of road concerned extended from the Effingham main crossroads to the bottom of Hawks Hill at its intersection with the Cobham Road approaching from Fetcham. The article gives the impression, from the incidents related, that at this time there was no footpath of any kind spanning this entire length.

Effingham WI acquires cow shed for a new hall

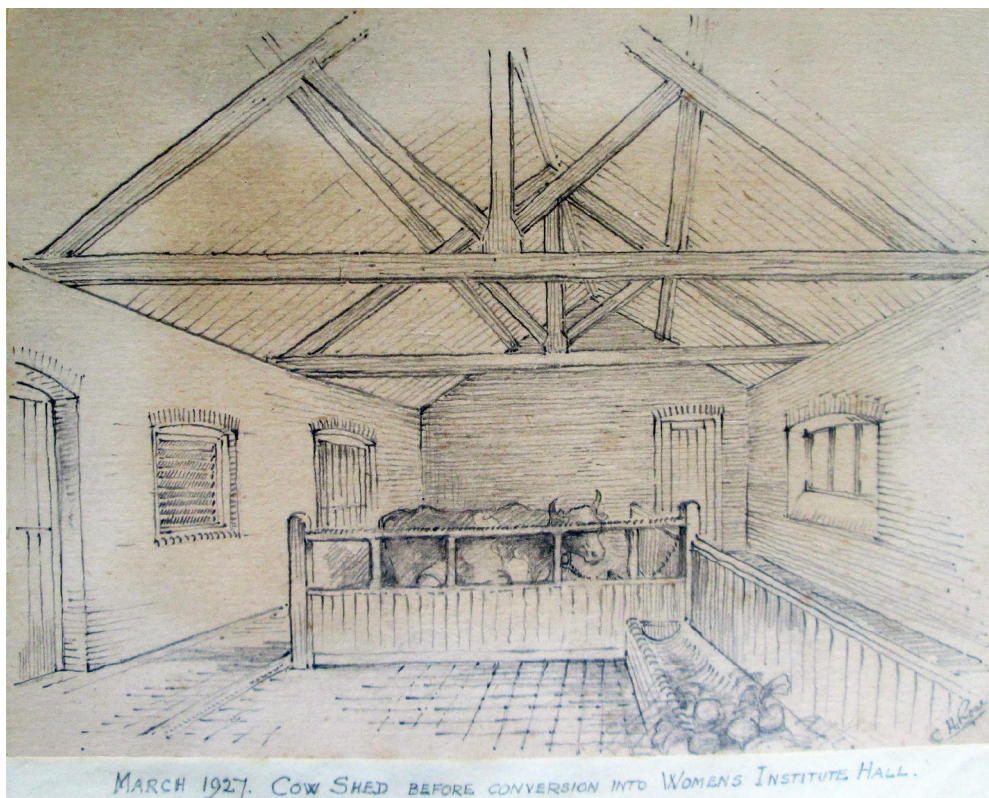
The Effingham Women's Institute had, since its inception in early 1919, held its meetings in the private homes of some of the members, involving much inconvenience in transporting items such as chairs and crockery by pony and trap. In November 1926 it negotiated for a 40-year lease on a cow shed near the Manor House yard, just east of the crossroads, and set about converting it into a meeting hall. Figure 90 shows a contemporary sketch of the interior by C H Rose.

A FETCHAM AND LEATHERHEAD PATH.

It was reported that the County Surveyor had submitted an estimate of the cost of providing a gravel footpath 4ft. in width and 4,783 yards in length, on the north side of the Leatherhead-Guildford main road between Effingham and Leatherhead, at a gross estimated cost of £2,004. As this length of road would in the near future have to be widened and land acquired for the purpose, the Committee were of opinion the proposed footpath would serve only as a temporary protection for pedestrians. A letter had also been received from the Great Bookham Ratepayers' Association urging the necessity for the provision of a footpath from Fetcham to Effingham, on the above main road. A further letter had been received from one of H.M. Coroners drawing attention to the death of a person caused by a motor-car on the road from Great Bookham to Leatherhead, and urging the provision of a footpath. The Committee recommended the Council to sanction the execution of the work, at a cost of £2,004, and that the amount be included in the classification estimates for next year.

The recommendation was adopted.

Figure 89 *Surrey Mirror and County Post*, 14 January 1927.



MARCH 1927. COW SHED BEFORE CONVERSION INTO WOMEN'S INSTITUTE HALL.

Figure 90 Effingham WI's cow shed prior to conversion to a meeting hall, March 1927.

Charabanc outing, perhaps to the south coast

Figure 91a shows a partial restoration of a much damaged original photograph. It features a charabanc outing made on Saturday 2 July 1927, the passengers being male only and mostly in their older years. It is not known whether all were from Effingham. They may have been visiting Southsea or that part of the coast. Although we are told that the trip took place in July it is striking that they are all dressed as though expecting a chilly day. This is not surprising as the summer of 1927 was one of the worst for many years. June had been very wet and cold, indeed the wettest June since 1912, a record that would not be surpassed until 1958. The mean Central England Temperature for June had been just 12.6°C and the second half of that month had been characterised by gales and heavy rain on most days. The first ten days of July had been cloudy and unsettled with severe thunderstorms. The attire of the passengers in the photograph is therefore understandable. The identities of only six of them are known to us, as indicated in Figure 91b.



Figure 91a Charabanc outing on 2 July 1927.



Figure 91b Detail from 91a with annotations to identify the following:

1. Dick Dodman, baptised in Hascombe in 1861; family surname originally Dedman/Deadman
2. Inkerman Tyrrell, baptised in Wisley in 1862
3. Henry ('Harry') Tyrrell, born in East Horsley in 1875
4. Edward Tyrrell, Henry's younger brother, born in Effingham in 1884
5. John Bonsey, baptised in Cranleigh in 1869, father-in-law of Edward Tyrrell above
6. Arthur Hamilton Robert Cecil Houlton, born in Fulham in 1900, son-in-law of John Bonsey above

An incorrigible fraudster, briefly in Effingham

EFFINGHAM.

IMPRISONMENT FOR FALSE PRETENCES.

MAN'S STORY OF THE DEATH OF HIS MOTHER.

Frederick James, late of Effingham, was charged on remand at the Dorking Police Court on Wednesday with obtaining a cheque for £4 by false pretences from Ernest Beasley, sub-postmaster at Rammore Common, and further with stealing by false pretences £4 from Thomas Cleave, The Railway Hotel, Dorking.

Ernest Beasley said on June 21st accused asked him for a loan of £4 to take him to Bath, as he had just heard that his mother had died there. Witness gave him a cheque for £4. Subsequently he had a warrant issued for his arrest.

P.C. Coote said when the charge was read, prisoner replied, "Yes, that is right. I am sorry. I intended to pay."

Thomas Cleave, Railway Hotel, Dorking, said prisoner, who was an occasional customer, came on June 21, and said he had heard that his mother was dead, and asked if witness could lend him enough to get to Bath. Witness lent him £4, believing his story. Prisoner, who seemed very distressed, promised to wire the £4 next day.

Marjorie Jones, 58, Wakefield-street, East Ham, said up till June 19th she was in service at Effingham Hill Farm. She had known prisoner since February, and he told her he had £1,700, was a single man, and was going to have a bungalow built at Guildford. Their engagement was announced, and they were to have been married in July. She left her situation in consequence.

Prisoner pleaded guilty, and said he had no intention of defrauding, and meant to pay it back.

Supt. Tamplin read out a list of several previous convictions for the same kind of offence, and said he believed prisoner's proper name to be William Edward Briggs. He was a married man with a wife still living. He held two warrants from Reigate for his arrest, one for stealing a suit of clothes, and the other for stealing £2. On each occasion prisoner had said that his mother had died at Bath.

Prisoner was sentenced to six months' hard labour in each case, to run consecutively.

Figure 92 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 9 July 1927.

The article in Figure 92 describes a charge of gain by false pretences heard at Dorking against a man referred to as 'Frederick James, late of Effingham'; he may have been the 'Frederick Robert James' who appears in the Electoral Register for Effingham in 1927 (and in no other year) residing at Dog Kennel Green. As the article states, his true name may have been William Edward Briggs. When first brought before the magistrates on 28 June it had been stated that he was otherwise known as William Henry Jeffrey [*Surrey Mirror and County Post*, 1 July 1927].

Two years previously he had been sentenced at Maidstone to two months' hard labour for a similar offence committed there on 22 September 1923 [*The Dover Express and East Kent News*, 5 October 1923]. His usual *modus operandi* was to pretend that one or both of his parents had died and that he urgently needed money to deal with these events. On this occasion he was named at the court only as William Edward Briggs. It was stated that he had previous convictions for false pretences going back to 1911. In early 1923 he had been sentenced at Winchester to six months' hard labour for a flurry of several offences, he being named then as 'William Henry Jeffrey, a labourer of Fareham' [*The Hampshire Independent*, 5 January 1923].

In November 1921 he had been sentenced as 'William Henry Jeffrey' at Chichester to six months' imprisonment for another series of frauds by false pretences, committed in a variety of places including Felpham and Bognor [*The Observer and West Sussex Recorder*, 23 November 1921]. It was noted at that hearing that he had been convicted of the same thing in Guildford in 1911 and been sentenced there to three months' imprisonment. At the time of the 1921 census he had been residing at 3, Manor Cottages in Felpham (just east of Bognor) in the household of John and Ella Powell, as the latter told the court. In this census he purported to be aged 38, single and born in London, although the court was told that he was married and had deserted his wife and children, 'leaving them chargeable to the Union', whilst persuading another young woman to marry him and putting up Banns accordingly – this aim having been thwarted.

In November 1911 he had been sentenced at Guildford to three months' hard labour for fraud, having obtained money using a false reference claiming that he needed it to feed his three children. Previously he had been convicted at Guildford after pretending to need money to deal with a 'dead wife' [*The Surrey Times*, 11 November 1911]. He was clearly incorrigible. His true identity and origins remain unknown to us, despite extensive research.

Death of Father Hemans, priest at Our Lady of Sorrows

EFFINGHAM.

DEATH OF FATHER HEMANS.

GRANDSON OF FAMOUS POETESS.

The death occurred on Tuesday, at the age of 64, of the Rev. Father Philip Wynne Hemans, Roman Catholic priest of the Church of Our Lady of Sorrows, Effingham. He had been in poor health for some years, but became seriously ill about two months ago. It was believed that he was getting better slowly, but he passed away suddenly at the Presbytery.

Father Hemans, who was a grandson of Mrs. Felicia Hemans, the well-known poetess, began his clerical career in the Church of England, and was received into the Roman Catholic Church in 1908, and ordained priest by Bishop Amigo at the Silesian Church, Battersea, in 1911. He was first at Deptford, and later at Lambeth, where he remained until his health broke down. He then left London, and after a long rest came to Effingham in 1919. For a time Father Hemans was at Farnham.

The funeral took place yesterday (Friday).

Figure 93 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*,
3 September 1927.

EFFINGHAM.

(See also Page 8).

THE LATE FATHER HEMANS.

FUNERAL YESTERDAY.

The funeral took place at Effingham Roman Catholic Church yesterday (Friday) morning. Father Pitts, of Leatherhead, was the celebrant of the Requiem Mass, the deacon being Father Mostyn (Haslemere) and the sub-deacon Canon Le Bosquet (Guildford).

The Mass was sung by a choir of priests, conducted by Father Hallett, rector of St. John's Seminary, Wonerish. The Right Rev. Dr. Brown, Bishop of Pella, assistant to the Bishop of Southwark, officiated at the graveside.

Amongst the clergy present were Canon Hyland (Godalming), Father Turner (Epsom), Father Pritchard (Walworth) and Father Harrod (Chertsey).

Figure 94 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*,
3 September 1927.

Father Hemans had been the incumbent priest at Effingham's Catholic church, Our Lady of Sorrows, since about 1919-20, first appearing in Effingham's Electoral Register in 1920. He had been born in Notting Hill on 31 December 1861 and baptised there at the Anglican parish church of St John on 29 August 1862, the register stating that his parents Henry William (described as an artist) and Matilda were living at Clarendon Road.

The 1881 Census finds him boarding at a small teaching establishment, run by a Miss Jane E Butler, in Brighton Road, Broadwater where he was described as a theological student aged 19. On 30 April 1884 he matriculated at St Edmund Hall, University of Oxford [*Oxford University Alumni*, 1715-1886, Vol II].

The 1891 Census finds him as a visitor in the household of a retired artist-sculptor Frederick Thrupp, perhaps an associate of his father, in Thurlow Road, Tormoham (a parish in Torquay) and described as a 'student of theology & tutor'. Later that year, on 15 December, the degree of BA was conferred upon him by the University of Durham at its Convocation held in the Castle Hall [*The North Star*, 16 December 1891].

A few years later he was in London, the Electoral Register of 1905 for Tower Hamlets listing him as residing in two furnished first-floor rooms at 385A Cable Street. A newspaper article of 1908 provides a little more detail of his life in this period:

'Writing of clerical gentlemen, I learn that recently another Poplar cleric entered upon a quite different kind of marriage. I refer to the Rev Philip Wynne Hemans, until recently one of the Rev H Mosley's assistant clergy.

Mr Wynne had been curate in charge of the church of St Nicholas, Blackwall, since 1905, and he resigned that position a short time ago for the express purpose of seceding from the English Church and entering the Church of Rome, into which he was initiated or "wedded" last week.

There will be little surprise when it is known that he was educated at Oxford, it being a proven fact that many of the clerics who have seceded from the English Church and gone over to Rome have received their education there. Mr Wynne graduated BA of Durham University in 1891, and was ordained a deacon in 1892, becoming a full deacon in the following year, so that the step he has chosen comes after more than 15 years' service in the Anglican Church.

After holding a curacy at Torquay, he came to St Bartholomew's Church, Bethnal Green, in 1898, moving from there to St Mary's, St George's-in-the-East, in 1903, and leaving there for Blackwall in 1905.'

[*The East End News and London Shipping Chronicle*, 19 June 1908]

In 1911 he and several other Catholic priests were boarding in the household of Father Felix Segesser at 131 High Street in Deptford. Segesser, born in Switzerland, had founded the Catholic Boys' Brigade in Deptford in 1896. Electoral Registers indicate that Hemans was still residing there up to 1914. In November 1915 he was appointed as the resident priest in charge of St Patrick's Church in Cornwall Road, North Lambeth, the parish of St Patrick having been founded in that month [*Catholic News*, 4 December 1915]. He held this post for two years but, owing to ill health, resigned from it [*The Leicester Catholic News*, 10 November 1917]. He then moved to Farnham in Surrey, serving as priest in charge of St Polycarp's Church in Bear Lane [*The Surrey Times*, 18 January 1918] where Electoral Registers for 1918-19 show him residing at The Presbytery.

Heman's next, and final, appointment was to Our Lady of Sorrows in Effingham. Electoral Registers show him occupying The Presbytery next to the church for the years 1920-27. On 12 April 1921 he officiated at the marriage of Lola Pauling to Capt Frederick Charles Booth VC [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 16 April 1921] and on 19 February 1927 he officiated at the marriage of her daughter Dolores Angela to Richard Herbert Coombs [*The Westminster Gazette*, 22 February 1927]. As reported in Figures 93 and 94, he died on 30 August 1927 and was buried at Our Lady of Sorrows on 2 September. The description of the funeral makes no mention of Effingham people attending, but Lola Pauling evidently did. While staying in London at 35, Moore Street, SW1 she wrote a letter on 1 September to her youngest daughter Jane Josephine (who was at that time staying in Rogate Lodge near Petersfield) saying:

'Poor old Father Hemans died yesterday [but actually the day before that] & is to be buried tomorrow. Isn't it sad? Of course I shall go to the funeral.'

Sale of the bakery and shop in The Street

The notice shown in Figure 95 announced the intention to sell by auction on 6 October 1927 the long-established bakery and shop in the southern part of The Street. The premises had functioned as a bakery since about 1846 and by 1927 was being run by (or on behalf of) baker and corn dealer Maurice Oliver Collins and his wife Charlotte May. They were living not there but in Ripley where they ran their principal bakery in the High Street. According to Electoral Registers, Effingham's bakery in The Street was occupied during 1926-29 by the family of baker George Rolfe and his second wife Bertha Alice (née Flood) who had married at St Mary's, Guildford on 25 November 1922.

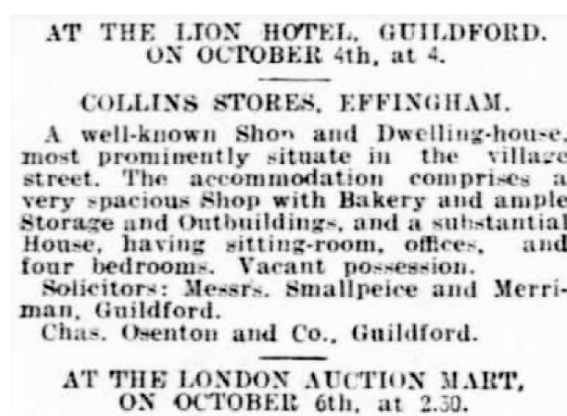


Figure 95 *Surrey Mirror and County Post*, 14 September 1927.



Figure 96 Detail from a postcard showing the bakery when under the management of Mr Collins.

It is not clear how the property was to be auctioned on 6 October 1927 with 'vacant possession' given that the Rolfes were listed as residing there both before and after that date. Perhaps the auction failed. It is also not clear whether the auction was aiming to sell the freehold. Lena (née Keeling) Bridger recalled that the property was bought by her husband Harry Nathan Bridger around 1929-30 although they did not occupy it until a few years later. During 1930-33 it was occupied by grocer Arthur Sydney Anderson and his wife Ivy Maude (née Weller) who had married in 1928.

Yet another accident at the crossroads

The accident reported in the article in Figure 97 occurred, like so many others, at the main crossroads but, unusually, was evidently a case of 'hit and run' – no details are given about the vehicle which knocked the man over. The incident appears superficially to raise no particular matters of interest until one looks into the identity of the victim.

His full name was Edward John Clifton Parker and he had been born on 5 February 1905 in Forest Hill. His father Theophilus Glover Martin Parker was a bank manager. Through his father's encouragement, Edward at first took up commerce for a living but also had a keen interest in music, especially composing, which he studied privately. At age just 16 he published his first composition, *Romance for Violin and Piano*. He used 'Clifton Parker' as his name for professional purposes in his musical works. In his early 20s he began offering tuition at his home, 5 Manor Court in Forest Hill, in piano performance, harmony, counterpoint and composition [*Sydenham, Forest Hill & Penge Gazette*, 26 June 1925]. At age 26 he was awarded the ARCM Diploma in piano teaching.

In 1932 he married Doris Nancy (née Clark) at Sanderstead in Surrey, although they had already produced a child, Nancy Heather Clifton Parker, eight years previously [GRO Ref: Lewisham 1d 1748, 1924 (Q2)]. In about September 1935 he joined the Folkestone Municipal Orchestra as organist and arranger, often performing his own works. His reputation grew in various directions, as a composer of both light and classical works, with BBC broadcasts of his works and contracts with the film industry. In 1943 he remarried to Amsterdam-born ballet dancer and choreographer (and later sculptor) Johanna Margaretha ('Joma') Sasburg. Through the 1940s and 1950s he became acclaimed for composing the musical scores of many major films. He died in 1969.

It is a sobering thought that, had the road accident in 1927 injured him more seriously all that music might never have been written and many films would have been much the poorer for it.

What had he been doing in Effingham in 1927? It is not impossible that he had simply visited the area for leisure purposes, perhaps having heard its reputation for offering superb walking countryside. Or, he may have been visiting Anthony Nicholas Diamantidi at Grove House to confer on some matter relating to common artistic interests. There seems to be no other report about this accident at the crossroads and so we shall probably never know the underlying context.

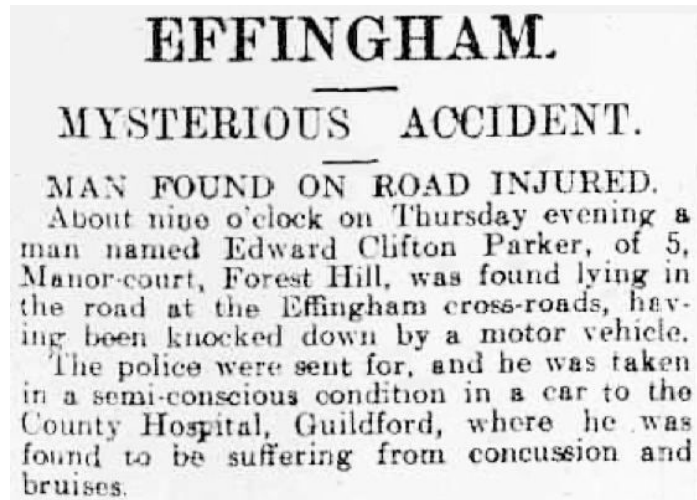


Figure 97 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 1 October 1927.

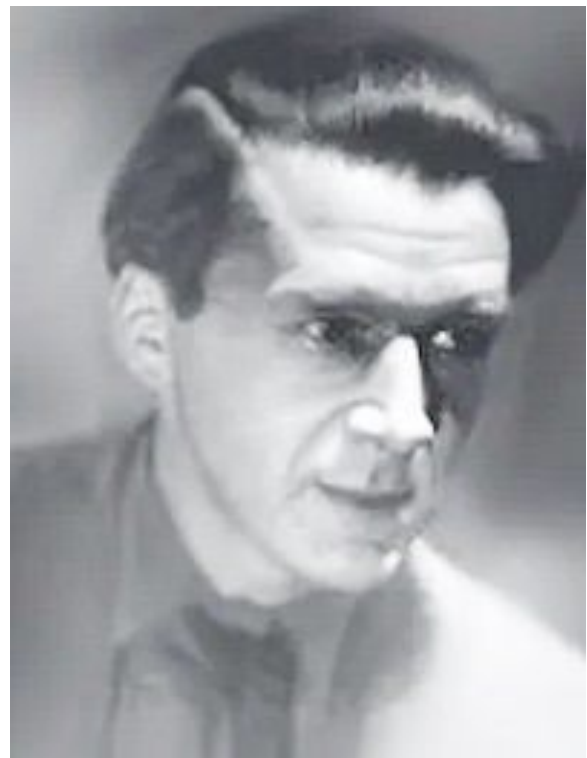


Figure 98 Clifton Parker.

1928

Effingham WI converts the cow shed into a new hall

As noted earlier, the Effingham Women's Institute had in March 1927 begun renovating an old cow shed to serve as a meeting hall, having secured a 40-year lease on the building. The hall was completed in the following November. Figure 99 shows a photograph of its interior taken at some unknown date in 1928.



Figure 99 Effingham Women's Institute's new hall, recently completed; photographed in 1928.

The WI had started negotiating for the lease in the autumn of 1926. During that year their committee had held their meetings mostly at Mrs Lilian Olivia Mooney's home, Rose Cottage in 'The Street', but occasionally at 'The Cottage' in 'The Street' or in a room at 'The Lodge'. During 1927 all their committee meetings had been held at Rose Cottage, whilst the general members' meetings were held in various houses in the village. During spring 1927 details of the lease, building plans and estimates were under discussion; by 23 May the lease had been signed, following a members' vote in favour. A small funding shortfall remained at the end of October and donations were invited from the villagers. The conversion was completed in November and on 13 December fifty new chairs were ordered and the hall prepared for a Christmas party on 21 December. On 9 January 1928 the committee held its meeting in the new hall and agreed that the formal opening ceremony would take place on 28 January, which it did.

Teddie Gerrard loses her dog

The actress Teddie Gerard lost her dog on Effingham Common in early 1928. Whether it was subsequently found we do not know.

LOST AND FOUND.

LOST, on Effingham Common, on January 15th, a Red Chow Dog. Whoever returns same to Miss Gerard, Orchard Cottage, Effingham, will be rewarded. db75

Figure 100 *Surrey Mirror and County Post*, 27 January 1928.

Proposed transfer of Effingham's school

Effingham's school had for a long period been a Church of England School and at this time its Board of Managers was headed by the Rev Frederic Ernest Bayly. The school was now lacking sufficient capacity to accommodate its pupils comfortably, besides lacking the funds that would be needed to enlarge the premises.

Figure 101 shows that the Elementary Education Committee of Surrey County Council had been aware of these difficulties and had asked the Managers if they were willing to transfer the school to the charge of the SCC, which they had agreed in principle to do.

PROPOSED TRANSFER OF EFFINGHAM C. OF E. SCHOOL.

The Elementary Education Committee reported that they had had under consideration the question of providing additional accommodation in the district of the Effingham C. of E. School. The Managers of the School were not in a position to enlarge the premises, and on the recommendation of a sub-committee which visited the district, they had been asked whether they were willing to transfer the school to the Committee in order that the Committee might carry out the necessary enlargement. The Managers had agreed in principle to this proposal. The details of the transfer were under consideration.

Figure 101 *Surrey Mirror and County Post*, 2 March 1928.

The Lodge purchased for the blind

In the spring of 1928 The Lodge with 14 acres of its land was sold by Mrs Lola Pauling to the Royal School for the Blind, based in Leatherhead. The aim was to provide the Blind School with additional accommodation in which to house up to 50 blind women unable to secure employment in the general workplace.

As noted earlier Lola's elder daughter Dolores Angela had married at Our Lady of Sorrows on 19 February 1927 to Richard Herbert Coombs. She went with him to live in Ceylon where he had interests in tea planting. Just two days later Lola's younger daughter Jane Josephine wrote in her diary 'This is the day (Monday February 21st 1927) on which we left dear Effingham never to return again there'. The latter did not turn out to be strictly the case as Lola's later correspondence makes clear that she did make occasional visits to Effingham after she had ceased living there.

The intention to sell The Lodge had been mooted in a letter that Lola wrote from Ceylon (where she was visiting her married daughter) on 14 February 1928 to Jane, then attending a finishing school named Clairbois in Clamart, located in the south-western suburbs of Paris. She wrote 'Effingham is nearly sold to the Leatherhead Blind School I believe. I suppose as a sort of overflow place. It is not a very good offer but it is better than leaving the house idle. I don't know much about it yet as [Beresford Rimington] Heaton [solicitor to the trustees of the Pauling estate] has only cabled.'

Although Lola had now sold the house and 14 acres of land, she still retained the 31 acres of park land south of The Lodge and would continue to do so through most of the 1930s. She also still had extensive land to the north of Lower Road, known as Effingham Lodge Farm. She spent the later part of 1927 and a long period thereafter travelling the world extensively, flitting across countries, continents and oceans with astonishing frequency, while maintaining at least one residence in London. She may have retained one or two of the servants from The Lodge, such as the valet Eduardo Delgado. Her head gardener Ralph Edgar Street, however, continued working at The Lodge, now as an employee of the Blind School.

HOME FOR UNEMPLOYABLE BLIND GIRLS.

The Lodge, a country house with 14 acres of parkland at Effingham, has been purchased by the Corporation of the Royal School for the Blind, Leatherhead, for conversion into a home for blind girls who are unable to earn their own livings. The Ministry of Health and the London County Council suggested to the Corporation of the Royal School that a scheme should be devised for the welfare of these "untrainables." The purchase of The Lodge is a step towards bringing such a scheme into operation. The house will be used as a home for about 50 blind women who cannot find employment elsewhere. They will do such work as they can manage in order that they may be occupied.

With a home for those who cannot earn their own livings, the work of the Corporation will cover every contingency for blind girls. Training is provided at the Leatherhead School; for girls successfully trained, there is work at Leatherhead, at the Corporation's London factory in Waterloo-road, or in their own homes; and now a home is being provided for the unemployable.

Figure 102 *Surrey Mirror and County Post*, 4 May 1928.



Figure 103 The Lodge, having been acquired by The Royal School for the Blind.

Playing tennis at the Golf Club

Tennis was extremely popular in this period and several of the more well-to-do families in Effingham had their own courts. Matches between notable national players were soon staged at the new Effingham Manor Golf Club, as seen in Figure 104. Tickets for the matches staged on 13 May were available from, *inter alia*, Mrs Mooney of Rose Cottage, a keen player in the club's Lawn Tennis Section.

EFFINGHAM MANOR GOLF CLUB.

LAWN TENNIS

EXHIBITION MATCHES

will be played upon the Hard Courts of
the Club on
Sunday, May 13th, at 2.30 p.m.

PLAYERS.

Ladies: Miss M. P. Davies, Hampshire County;
Miss H. Foster, North London; Miss E. A.
Goldsack, English International; Miss D. A.
Shaw, Yorkshire Champion.

Gentlemen: Mr. H. I. P. Aitken, South
African International; Mr. C. P. Dixon, Ex-
Doubles Champion, British Davis Cup
Player; Mr. N. H. Latchford, Surrey
County; Mr. D. H. Williams, Welsh Cham-
pion.

ADMISSION FREE BY TICKETS
obtainable of the Secretary, Club House,
Effingham; Mrs. Dermot J. Mooney, Effing-
ham; Miss Killick, Secretary Women's Insti-
tute, Effingham; or from any member of
the Club.

A Collection will be taken on behalf
of the Effingham Women's Institute.

Omnibus Services from Guildford and Lea-
therhead pass the Entrance Gates of the Club.
The Club Omnibus will meet trains leaving
Waterloo at 12.35 p.m., 1 p.m., 1.35 p.m. and
2 o'clock, and will convey Visitors to the
Station after the match. 10078

Figure 104 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*,
12 May 1928.

School transfer accepted

The proposal that Effingham's elementary Church of England School (known today as St Lawrence Primary School) be transferred to Surrey County Council was now accepted by the Council. The intention was to provide a viable basis for enlarging the school. The article in Figure 105 gives the impression that the enlargement would enable the accommodation of an additional 192 children but the correct interpretation must surely be that it would result in the *total* being up to 192.

The number of enrolled pupils in 1928 was about 80, gradually rising to 137 by the beginning of 1933, an expansion made possible by holding classes in the Village Hall with the permission of its then owner Anthony Nicholas Diamantidi. After the school's new extension had been opened in April 1933 the January pupil numbers were 180 in 1935, 193 in 1939, 154 in 1945, 185 in 1950 and 181 in 1955.

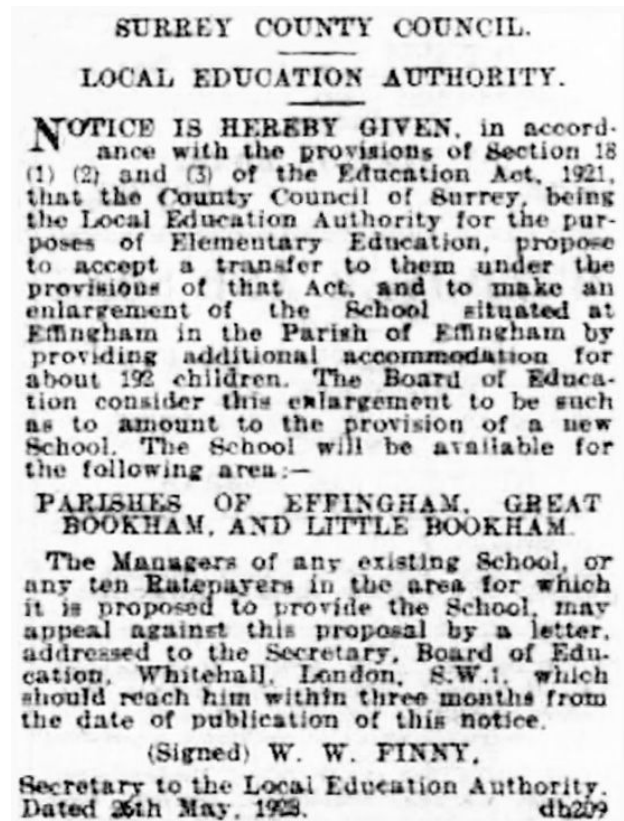


Figure 105 *Surrey Mirror and County Post*, 25 May 1928.

Thieves raid Effingham garage

Figure 106a shows a report of a spate of break-ins suffered by several garages along the Guildford Road, including one at Effingham.

An intriguing detail is that the site raided at Effingham was the 'Barn Engineering Works', a name not hitherto encountered during our researches. It has not been proved possible so far to determine where this business had been located. One possibility is that it had been in the complex of buildings just east of the former Prince Blücher Hotel. There were certainly petrol pumps there in the early 1960s (as seen in 106b) and, according to some newspaper reports, as far back as 1950.



Figure 106b An Effingham garage in 1962.

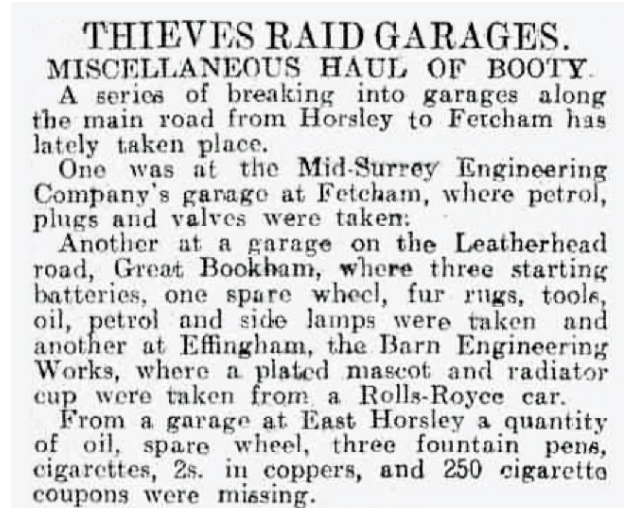


Figure 106a *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 23 June 1928.

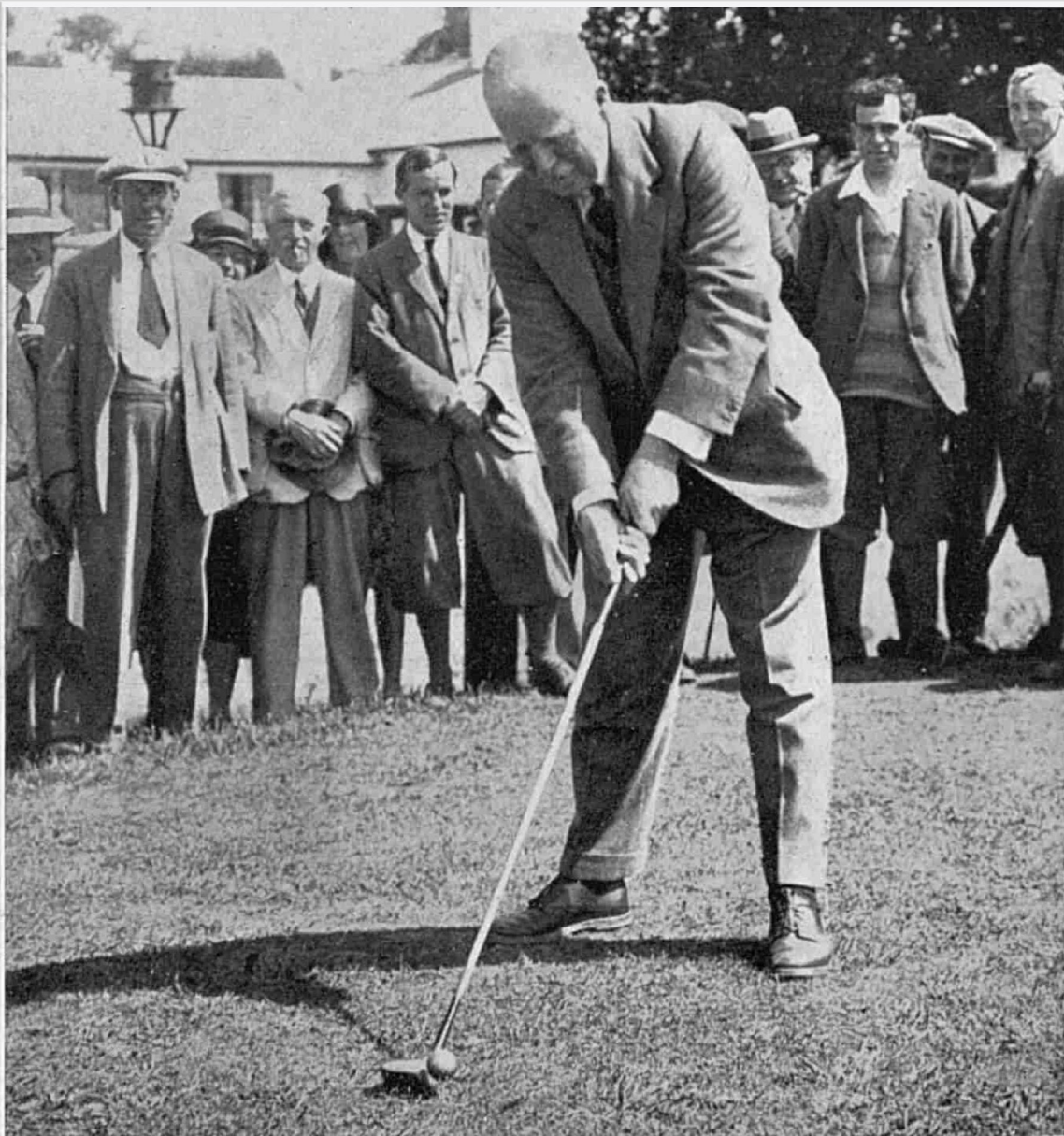
First ball driven on Effingham's golf course

The official opening of the course at Effingham Manor Golf Club was held on 14 July 1928 and was marked by the driving of the first ball there by Sir (George) Rowland Blades, 1st Baron Ebbisham of Cobham.

Being President of the Ashted Cricket Club, he was already well known locally, as well as nationally, for his support of sport in general. At the time of this event in Effingham he had just come to the end of a long spell as Member of Parliament for Epsom.

GOLF MATCH.—A match has been arranged between James Braid, of Walton Heath, and Henry Cotton, to take place at the new Effingham manor course, near Leatherhead, on July 14th. The match will celebrate the official opening of the course, and Sir Rowland Blades, Bart., who was recently created a baron, will drive the first ball.

Figure 107 *Surrey Mirror and County Post*, 6 July 1928.



DRIVING OFF A GILDED BALL: LORD EBBISHAM (FORMERLY SIR ROWLAND BLADES, EX LORD MAYOR OF LONDON) AT THE OPENING OF THE ARTISAN CLUBHOUSE AT EFFINGHAM MANOR, IN SURREY.

Figure 108 *The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*, 21 July 1928;
© Mary Evans Picture Library, reproduced here under Licence.

Suicide at Brickfield Cottage

Brickfield Cottage lies near the north-western edge of Effingham Common in the area where there used to be brick-making activity. At the time of the incident reported in Figure 109 the cottage was occupied by farmer Claude d'Esterfield Garnett and his formerly widowed wife Rose (née Weller, later Corbin) who had married at St Lawrence Church on 6 February 1928. (Note – ELHG's book *Effingham – A History in Photographs* is mistaken in stating (on p118) that she was nineteen years his junior; she was in fact two years older than him.) Upon marrying they moved into Brickfield Cottage where Claude worked in poultry farming, although by 1939 he was a dairy farmer.

As the newspaper article explains, later in 1928 they provided lodging to a commercial traveller, Horace Clark, who had been suffering from depression and had gone to Effingham for a break away from his work. Almost a month later he hanged himself in his bedroom there.

This incident must have left a shadow over the Garnetts' subsequent lives in the cottage where they both remained thereafter, Claude dying in 1966 and Rose in 1974.

Horace was buried at St Lawrence on 1 September, Rev Bayly officiating. He left estate valued at nearly £510. His widow Emma Jane continued living at 154, Maybury Road in Woking until at least 1939.

TRAGEDY OF OVERWORK AND WORRY.

Traveller's Suicide in his Bedroom

"Suicide while of unsound mind" was the verdict at an inquest at Leatherhead Institute on Saturday on Horace Clark, 61, a commercial traveller, who was found hanged in his bedroom at Brickfield Cottage, Effingham Common.

Mrs. Clark, the widow, said she and her husband had their home at Wimbledon until a few weeks ago, but now she lived at 154, Maybury-road, Woking. Her husband, she said, had suffered considerably from depression since last February. Everything possible had been done to help him to recover. He had been examined by a specialist and he had been in a nursing home. "I took a little business in Woking so that he should have something to interest him," said Mrs. Clark. "but, after a week, he had another fit of depression. Then the doctor recommended that he should go to stay on a farm for a while." For that purpose he went to Brickfield Cottage, Effingham. Mrs. Clark added that her husband had worked too hard and that he had worried over his business.

Claud Garnett, poultry farmer, of Brickfield Cottage, Effingham, said Mr. Clark came to stay with him and his wife on July 30th. He seemed to be quiet and unhappy most of the time. On Tuesday night, August 28th, he went to his bedroom at 10.30. The next morning, witness entered the bedroom because he did not receive an answer to his knock and found Mr. Clark hanging by a strap from the head of the bedstead.

Evidence was given by Dr. G. Spence Candy and P.C. Hooper.

Figure 109 *The Surrey Advertiser and Dramatic County Times* 5 September 1928.



Figure 110 Brickfield Cottage, probably 1960s/1970s.

Another suicide

A week before Christmas in 1928 another suicide was reported, as seen in Figure 111. A former butler named James Ackland had gone missing in the third week of November and been found dead in a bathing lake in London's Victoria Park, Bow nearly a month later. He had not been a resident of Effingham but his widow Hannah Elizabeth was living there at The Willows, employed as cook, by the time an inquest on him was held in December. His war-time experiences and wounds may have been a factor.

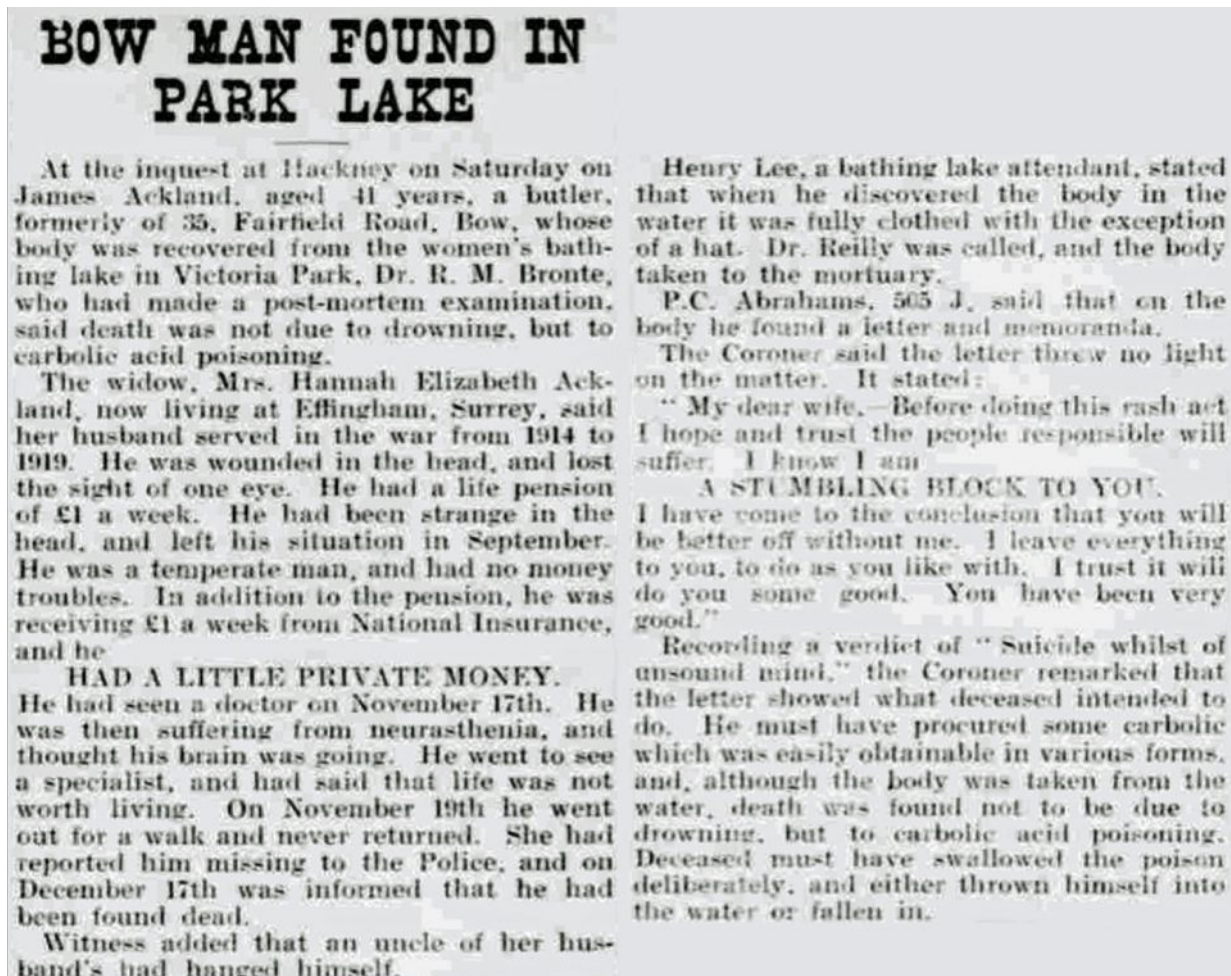


Figure 111 *The Eastern Post and City Chronicle*, 29 December 1928.

1929

Cyclist glad to be fined

The rather bemusing report in Figure 112 refers to a William White of Effingham. The only Effingham resident of that name listed in the 1929 Electoral Register was William Bernard White of 5, Olders Cottages in The Street. No other mention of an Adlers Cottage in Effingham has ever been seen by us and it may be that the report misrepresented 'Olders' as 'Adlers'.

From this and other reports it seems that in those times police officers must have spent much time on the streets keeping a close eye on cyclists and other road users to spot issues which today would be viewed as trivial infringements of the law.



Figure 112 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 19 January 1929.

Tennis *versus* Worship

The Sunday morning tennis matches at Effingham Manor Golf Club evidently stirred up some antagonism further afield on the grounds of their supposed interference with church worship. Presumably the players could not be trusted to decide for themselves how they spent their Sunday mornings. Here we see objections being expressed by Cobham's parochial church council whose members seemed to think some useful purpose would be served by their passing a 'resolution of strong disapproval', and trying to gain support for this at Oxshott. What Effingham's parochial church council thought about it, if anything, is not recorded.

ACCOUNTS AND APPOINTMENTS.

The annual meeting of the Oxshott parochial church council was held in St. Andrew's Hall on Monday evening, the vicar (Rev. N. G. Davies) being in the chair. Mr. G. R. Tuckwell, vicar's warden, could not attend through having influenza.

The Cobham parochial church council wrote that their attention had been drawn to tennis matches which had taken place at the Effingham Manor Golf Club on Sunday mornings. They stated their Council had passed a resolution of strong disapproval against exhibition tennis matches being arranged for 11 o'clock on Sundays, as they were likely to interfere with church worship. They asked the Oxshott parochial church council to pass a similar resolution.

Mr. Beatty said it was a matter which did not concern the parish of Oxshott, and he proposed the letter lie on the table.—Mr. Champness seconded, and this was agreed to.

Figure 113 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 9 February 1929.

St Teresa's Convent seeks pupils

St Teresa's Convent had been founded at Effingham Hill House in early October 1928 by a small group of nuns who had just arrived from Antwerp. They began straightaway to set up a new finishing school and to advertise for pupils, as seen in Figure 114. Initially they had just four pupils, rising to about 20 after a year.

The nuns had purchased the house and grounds from Robert Reitmeyer Calburn who, with his wife (as remembered by Rev Mother Teresa, one of the initial group), had received them at the house 'with great joy' and prepared 'a lovely meal' for them.

EDUCATIONAL.

NEW FINISHING SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

ST. TERESA'S, EFFINGHAM HILL, DORKING.

Under the direction of the Religions of Christian Instruction. English, French, Music, Cooking. Preparation for Public Exams. Golf, Hockey, Tennis. Private Lessons given.

In addition to the above, Classes for younger children will be opened after Christmas.—Apply, REV. MOTHER. 26166

Figure 114 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 9 March 1929.



View of the House from the Playing Fields. St. Teresa's Convent. Effingham Hill, Dorking, Surrey.

Figure 115 St Teresa's Convent, photographed probably not later than 1932.

Effingham School transferred and renamed

The school had borne the name 'Effingham Church of England School' since 1907, prior to which it had been the village's 'National School' since its opening in 1857. Now, in early 1929, it had been transferred to Surrey County Council and renamed as 'Effingham Council School'. It would continue as such until 1945 and then become 'Effingham County Primary School'.

We see from Figure 116 that the cost of the proposed project to extend the school had been estimated as over £5,000, at the expense of the County Council.

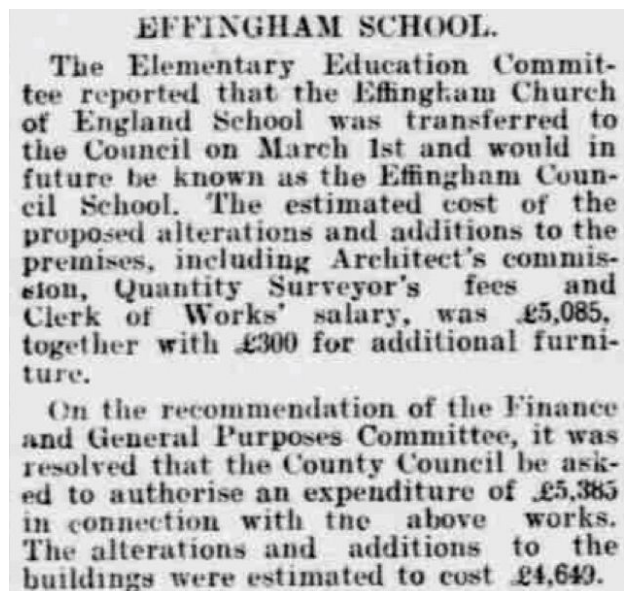


Figure 116 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 29 March 1929.

Death of former St Lawrence organist

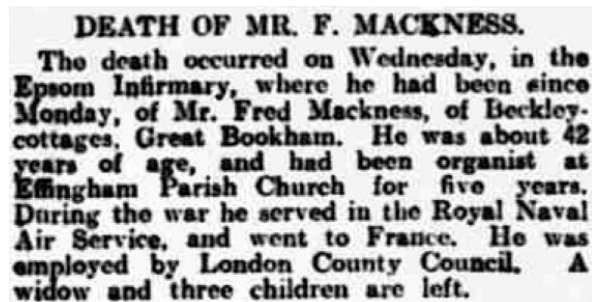


Figure 117 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 30 March 1929.

Frederick William Mackness was born in Kennington on 16 April 1883 and married in 1910 to Edith Sarah (née) Lack. He was employed at that time as a gas meter tester for London County Council. During the first world war he served in the Royal Naval Air Service.



Figure 118 Frederick William Mackness.

By 1921 Frederick and Edith with their first child were living in London, he being still employed by the LCC but now working as a clerk. The family first appeared in the Electoral Register for Bookham, at 4 Beckley Cottages, in 1924, the year in which their third child was born.

According to his death certificate he died at Epsom Hospital on Wednesday 27 March, whereas the article in Figure 117 gives the date as the day before. The cause was pulmonary tuberculosis.

Theft of 4,000 bricks

The article in Figure 119 tells of the theft of 4,000 bricks left over at a building site in Effingham. Although the Wells surname was common in Effingham it seems that the co-defendant Alexander Wells did not come from an Effingham family.

EFFINGHAM.
(See also Page 11).
**ALLEGED THEFT OF 4,000
BRICKS.**

At the Dorking Police Court on Wednesday, John W. Meakin, of Twickenham, was charged with stealing 4,000 bricks, value £12 12s., the property of the Bell Building Company, at Effingham. Alexander Wells, also of Twickenham, was similarly charged.

Aubrey Bell Hewett, director of the Bell Building Company, said they sent bricks for a building job at Effingham, and when it was finished there were 8,000 bricks left over. On going to Effingham he found some bricks were missing. Defendant was employed as sub-contractor, and was overdrawn on the contract.

Walter Finch, The Homestead, Great Bookham, said Meakin told him he had about 4,000 bricks over which he wished to dispose of, and he asked witness if he could do with them. The price he paid was 30s. per 1,000.

The case against Meakin was adjourned for a fortnight, and Wells was bound over for six months in the sum of £5.

Figure 119 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 20 April 1929.

Death of Ellis Reeves

The article in Figure 120 is mistaken in stating that Ellis Reeves 'had lived in Effingham all his life'. He had been born in Pulborough, Sussex around early 1853 and by 1861 was living in Great Bookham. During the next decade he moved with his parents John and Frances to Effingham. On 12 July 1879 he married at St Lawrence Church to a widow Lucy Priscilla (née Chennell) Preece but following her early death in 1886 he remarried at St Lawrence on 25 October 1890 to another widow Jane (née Kemp) Nunn. His occupation was labourer. Jane died in 1899 aged only about 46. Ellis apparently moved from Effingham to Great Bookham during the next decade as he is listed as a boarder at Halfway House in the 1911 Census. By the early 1920s, however, he was back in Effingham, boarding with Mrs Lamb at Olders Cottages and working as a carter on the Effingham Manor estate and farm for Charles Clement Calburn, then subsequently for the Golf Club.

EFFINGHAM. **THE LATE MR. E. REEVES.**

Mr. Ellis Reeves was laid to rest in the little churchyard of Effingham on Thursday last week. Mr. Reeves, who died at the age of 76, had lived in Effingham all his life, and was greatly respected. The chief mourners were Mr. and Mrs. W. Reeves (son and daughter-in-law), Mrs. Jackson (sister), Mrs. Barnett (cousin), Mrs. Watson (niece), Mrs. Lamb, Mr. R. Lamb, Mr. J. Lamb, Mr. Speed, Mr. and Mrs. Chapman, and others. Among the floral tributes were wreaths from his late employer, the Effingham Golf Club, Mrs. Longhurst and staff, and members of the Plough Inn Slate Club.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Reeves wish to thank all kind friends for the beautiful flowers and kind thoughts shown to them in their sad bereavement.

Figure 120 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 15 June 1929.

More furious cycling

The culprit on this occasion (Figure 121) was named as James Gladdis, but we have been unable to determine his origins or to confirm that he was living at the time in one of Effingham's Plough Cottages. Since he evidently emerged from Church Street we may suppose that 'the cross-roads' mentioned was the intersection of Lower Road and Orestan Lane with The Street and Effingham Common Road, unless it referred to the T-junction of Church Street with Lower Road.

New reservoir at Effingham

From Figure 122 we learn that a new reservoir with a small pumping plant was under construction; presumably this was the covered reservoir that is still in use almost a century later just beyond the fork of Beech Avenue and High Barn Road (highlighted below in green).



Insufficient pocket money

This lad from Ashted (Figure 123) may have thought he had offered the perfect excuse to the Dorking magistrates. Having an insufficient residue from his pocket money it was logical that he would need to steal a lady's handbag at Effingham Golf Club. As can be seen, the magistrates took a lenient course with him.

Figure 123 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 6 July 1929.

EFFINGHAM.

James Gladdis, of Plough Cottage, Effingham, was fined 5s. at Wednesday's Bench for riding a bicycle furiously. The police evidence was that he cycled rapidly out of Church-street, put on his brakes, and skidded 25ft. at the cross-roads.

Figure 121 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 22 June 1929.

A new covered reservoir was being constructed at Effingham for the better supplying of the Leatherhead area (taken over in 1927), and the 15in. and 10in. mains above mentioned had been laid in connection with this scheme. A small covered service reservoir was about to be constructed near Dunley Hill, and a small pumping plant was being constructed on the site of the new Effingham reservoir for the purpose of supplying therefrom the high-lying parts of Effingham and the adjacent districts which it had not hitherto been possible to supply from the old works of the late Leatherhead company.

Figure 122 *Surrey Times and County Post*, 28 June 1929.

BOY'S THEFT FROM MOTOR CAR.

PLEA THAT POCKET MONEY WAS NOT ENOUGH.

A 15-year-old Ashted boy, employed at a factory, was charged at Dorking on Wednesday with stealing a lady's handbag containing money, two gold keys, etc., from a car at Effingham.

Mrs. Nancy Wills, Oakfield House, Cobham, said on June 23rd, she left her handbag in her brother-in-law's car at Effingham Golf Club. When she returned to the car the bag was missing. She valued the bag and contents produced at £11.

P.C. Durrant said he went to defendant's home, where the boy produced a black purse containing 6s. He said, "I took it from a handbag which I got from a motor car. I threw the handbag away at Effingham." At Leatherhead Police Station a powder puff, bracelet, cigarettes, and two gold keys on chains were found in his possession.

Accused, who pleaded guilty, said on Sundays he acted as a caddy at Effingham. He took the bag just for the money.

It was stated that defendant's wages were 28s. per week.

The Chairman (Mr. W. A. Calvert): Why did you want more?

Accused: Because I did not have enough pocket money. I am only allowed 4s. 6d. per week, out of which I have to provide myself with clothes.

The Bench bound him over for three years and placed him under the care of the probation officer.

Purchase of land for the school

The Effingham school having been transferred to the control of the County Council, in order to enable the school's enlargement, the Council had now taken the appropriate step of purchasing some adjoining land, at a cost of £550. It would take at least three further years to build the extension.

Repurposing of The Lodge for the blind

The Royal School for the Blind had now completed its repurposing of The Lodge. An extract from a rather longer article is shown in Figure 125) and states that this project had cost the School nearly £11,000. The full article commented that '... the healthy surroundings and extensive grounds had resulted in the improved physical condition of the women. The quality of discipline and the general tone of the school had been well maintained. Good progress was to be reported in the training shops.'

Mr Diamantidi's footpath

Anthony Nicholas Diamantidi, a significant supporter of the arts as well as an entrepreneur in housing acquisition and redevelopment, had come to live in Effingham earlier in the decade, residing initially at The Villa, which he renamed as Grove House. As the article in Figure 126 attests, by 1929 he had acquired, and was living in, Norwood Farm. Until this article had been found we had been unaware that he also had holdings in Charlwood, about 12-13 miles south-east of Effingham. The subject of the article was an old overgrown footpath on his land and evidently he readily agreed to a request from Charlwood Parish Council that he restore the footpath to the use of the public.

EFFINGHAM SCHOOL.

It was reported that the Elementary Education Committee had decided to proceed with the acquisition of a plot of land adjoining the above school. The cost of the land, including legal costs and surveyor's fees, was £550.

Figure 124 *Surrey Mirror and County Post*, 19 July 1929.

ROYAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND.

They were now in the proud position of being one of the very few blind schools possessing a swimming bath. At Effingham they had a good indoor bath, and their blind went over on their half-holidays to enjoy what was said to be one of the finest physical exercises for them. The school's strongest assets were its workshops, and the results of many years' experience went to show that efforts in that direction were successful. There was a wrong impression prevailing in and around Leatherhead that the school was well off. That was not so. Every year the expenditure exceeded the income, and that could not be avoided if the work was to go on. The home at Effingham cost nearly £11,000 to establish, and its first year's working was bound to be heavy.

Figure 125 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 27 July 1929.

OVERGROWN FOOTPATH.

The sub-committee had also inspected the footpaths in Glovers Wood, Charlwood, and reported that on the evidence of Mr. Thomas Wickens, Clerk to the Charlwood Parish Council, who accompanied them, they had formed the opinion that an ancient footpath had many years ago been planted with acorn seeds, and that the resultant trees now prevented the public using the footpath. For the past twenty years, however, the public had had the uninterrupted use of another path communicating with the destination of the obstructed path. They recommended that the owner be called upon to restore the original footpath to the use of the public.

With reference to this matter, the Chairman reported that a very satisfactory reply had been received from the owner, Mr. Diamantidi, of Norwood Farm, Effingham.

Mr. Diamantidi had informed the Clerk (Mr. C. Morrison) that immediately upon being notified he had gone direct to Charlwood and given instructions for the footpath to be put in order without delay. It was decided that a letter of thanks should be sent to Mr. Diamantidi.

Figure 126 *Surrey Times and County Post*, 13 September 1929.

Death of Mr Pauling's former chauffeur

William John Wickens was born in 1875 at Hove, Sussex to parents William (Snr) and Sarah (née Williams).

William (Snr) worked variously as a butler, valet and finally publican; he died just three days after the 1891 Census (in which he was not enumerated) at the Prince of Wales public house in Woking and was buried at St John's church. His wife Sarah had died two years earlier. It may be that this Woking connection led to the suggestion in this article that their son William John had been born in Woking.

William John was already living away from his father in 1891, boarding in the Preston district of Brighton and working as an engine cleaner for the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway. In 1896 he married at Addlestone to Edith Winifred (née) Hazell and was then described as an engineer. The 1901 Census finds his family living in Twickenham where he was working on cars as a mechanical engineer. He evidently then changed direction and by around 1907 had become the publican at The Windsor Castle in Little Bookham Street, residing there in that position until his death. He may have served as Mr Pauling's chauffeur for some time within the period 1901-07.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM J. WICKENS.

LICENSEE OF THE WINDSOR CASTLE HOTEL.

The Bookham district has lost another popular resident through the death on Monday of Mr. William John Wickens, licensee of the Windsor Castle Hotel, Little Bookham. Mr. Wickens, who was aged 54, was taken to hospital a month ago, and he returned home a week before his death.

Born at Woking, he came to the Bookham district a good many years ago as chauffeur to Mr. George Pauling, at Effingham Lodge. He had been licensee of the Windsor Castle for 22 years, and as a keen horticulturist delighted in maintaining a gorgeous floral display in the window boxes in front of the house. He was interested in all branches of horticulture, but he found his chief gardening interest in the growing of sweet peas. During the war he served as chief petty officer in the Royal Naval Motor Boat Reserve, spending most of his service in the West Indies.

He leaves a widow, a son and a daughter, who are married and live in Leatherhead, and an adopted daughter. The funeral took place yesterday (Friday) at Little Bookham Parish Church.

Figure 127

The Surrey Advertiser and County Times,
21 December 1929.



Figure 128 William John Wickens during the first world war.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figures 1, 7-9, 12, 16, 17, 52-54: from Effie Jane Ross Album No 2, donated to ELHG by Effie Jean Francis

Figure 23: postcard scan from the internet

Figures 35, 111: courtesy of the British Library Board, rights unknown

Figures 36, 57, 88: from Phyllis M (née Lamb) Prout

Figure 38: from Ralph Frank Wallace

Figures 39, 79: from Maureen (née Tyrrell) Rennison

Figure 45: from *Dancing World*, March 1922; under licence from Mary Evans Picture Library

Figure 50: from *Ancestry*, family tree

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/family-tree/person/tree/23567552/person/1403261024/facts>

Figure 51: postcard photograph by Campbell Gray, public domain

Figures 59, 81: from *Wikimedia Commons*, public domain

Figure 61: from the *Evening News* (London), 17 October 1927 and *Daily Express*, 6 December 1927

Figure 63: from Violet Edith Jane (née Biles) Green

Figure 65: from <https://www.artprintsforpleasure.com>

Figure 68: from Charles Edward William Crouch

Figure 77: from Patricia A R (née Divall) Barrow

Figure 80: from *Geograph* TQ1154 ©Andrew Longton, reuse under Creative Commons Licence

Figure 84: from *Ancestry*, family tree

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/family-tree/person/tree/27067028/person/1983505763/facts>

Figures 90, 99: from the album presented to Mrs Helena Auerbach by the Surrey County Federation of Women's Institutes, Surrey History Centre, SHC Ref: 3410/4/1

Figure 91: from Elizabeth A (née Tyrrell) Wheeler

Figure 96: from the Mary Alfreda Rice-Oxley Postcard Collection: Album 3

Figure 98: from the internet, various secondary sources

Figure 103: from the Mary Alfreda Rice-Oxley Postcard Collection: Album 1

Figure 106b: from the Surrey History Centre, SHC Ref: CC1101/3/55/21

Figure 108: from *The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*, 21 July 1928; © Mary Evans Picture Library, reproduced here under Licence.

Figure 110: from Mary Alfreda Rice-Oxley

Figure 115: from the Mary Alfreda Rice-Oxley Postcard Collection: Album 2

Figure 118: from *Ancestry*, family tree

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/family-tree/person/tree/3569083/person/-1717605828/facts>

Figure 128: from *Ancestry*, family tree

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/family-tree/person/tree/15309155/person/245012808/facts>

All others: by permission of Reach plc / *Mirrorpix*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This article draws extensively upon the British Newspaper Archive; we are grateful to Reach plc for permitting the reproduction here of many extracts from their newspapers. As ever, we have also benefited greatly from the resources provided by *Ancestry*. We express our gratitude to Beverley Wood for her clarification of details relating to Figure 50 and the Shepherd family.

Effingham Celebrations – the Silver Jubilee of George V in 1935

CHRISTOPHER JOHN HOGGER

Effingham's celebration of the Silver Jubilee of King George V in 1935 was perhaps the the largest community event to have taken place in the village since the Peace Celebrations of 1919. It is fortunate that there survive many sources attesting to the impressive array of activities staged for the day, including the original Programme, photographs, school records, Parish Council records, newspaper reports and personal testimonies, all brought together in this article.

Introduction

On 6 May 1935 the nation and the Empire celebrated the 25th anniversary – the Silver Jubilee – of King George V's accession to the throne. It was a wonderfully sunny day and had been declared a public holiday. Celebrations were staged all over the country besides in London.



Figure 1 One of the many Silver Jubilee postcards produced for the event.

For George and his wife Queen Mary the principal event of the day was the Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral. They were brought there in the State Coach past cheering crowds of hundreds of thousands of people. Inside, before their arrival, the atmosphere was quiet and suffused by sunlight streaming in through the south windows, as seen in the postcard in Figure 2.



Figure 2 Sunlight streaming down onto the attendees at the Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral.

George was wearing the uniform of a Field Marshal, rich red in colour and brightly contrasting with his pure white shoulder bows signifying the Order of the Bath. Mary wore a blue Garter ribbon over a dress of light pink. They sat initially in rose-pink chairs. Along the entire Nave stood Yeomen of the Guard bearing

gleaming halberds. The King and Queen then rose and moved to the footstools in front of them where they knelt in prayer. The congregation also knelt while a voice from the choir spoke prayers for the couple, for peace and for all humanity. The congregation then rose for the singing of the *Te Deum*. The couple were then blessed, again kneeling, by the Archbishop of Canterbury Cosmo Gordon Lang. *The National Anthem* was sung and the King, Queen and dignitaries began processing down the nave. The Mayor of London bowed to the King and raised the Pearl Sword of the City of London. The procession then continued to the doors and out into the sunlight to waves of cheers from the thousands waiting outside the Cathedral.

The King and Queen were then driven back to Buckingham Palace amid glorious panoply. In Figure 3 they are seen passing along the Embankment which was festooned with decorations. It was just the first of many further carriage processions undertaken by the King in different parts of London as the month progressed.



Figure 3 The King and Queen passing along the Embankment after the service at St Paul's.

Back at the Palace, George and the Royal Family appeared on the balcony before the crowds, repeating this several times later that week.

On this Jubilee day George pressed a button at the Palace in the evening and so initiated the lighting of an immense beacon in Hyde Park; this was the signal for great numbers of similar beacons to be lit across the country, the Scouts playing the leading role in this feature of the nationwide celebrations, including those in Effingham.

Appendix I presents a very detailed account of the day's events written for the *Daily Herald* by Henry Canova Vollam Morton, FRSL. Morton 'was best known for his many books on London, Great Britain and the Holy Land. He first achieved fame in 1923 when, while working for the *Daily Express*, he covered the opening of the tomb of Tutankhamun by Howard Carter' [Wikipedia].

Appendix II provides a few short extracts about the Jubilee from other works.

The day's events in London are also presented to good effect in the *Pathé* film available on *YouTube* at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2cN8aR41S1o> which has the voice-over of the King's public address, although the sound quality leaves something to be desired.



Figure 4 A still, showing the State Coach, taken from the *Pathé* film referred to above.

Effingham's celebratory Programme

Preparations for the Jubilee began in earnest at an Ordinary Meeting of Effingham Parish Council on 22 February 1935 at which the following minuted decision was made:

'Silver Jubilee Celebration. This was considered a matter for public deliberation and [it] was decided that a Public Meeting be called by posting notices, & letters should be sent to the various local organizations acquainting them of the project & inviting their attendance. It was left to the Chairman, Messrs. Nottage, Butcher & the Clerk to arrange a date as early as possible.'

Accordingly a public meeting took place on 11 March at which the main aims and features were proposed and a Jubilee Celebration Committee elected to progress the matter.

At its next Ordinary Meeting on 1 April the Parish Council agreed to contribute a grant for the event, being 'the sum equivalent of a half-penny rate on the productive rateable value of the Parish'. It was further agreed that the Council should advance £10 immediately.

Two days later the Committee wrote the letter shown in Figure 5 to the parishioners setting out details of the celebration and inviting donations. Evidently the Committee consisted at least of Mr Joseph Stewart Adams, Mr Guy Meyrick Mallaby Mallaby-Deeley, Mr Ivor Alexander Whitworth McGowan and Mrs Maude (née Burgess) Whale.

Stewart Adams was the headmaster of Effingham Council School (today's St Lawrence Primary School), a position he had already held for 25 years. Guy Mallaby-Deeley lived at Slaters Oak and had played a significant part in the development of the new hall on Lower Road for the Effingham and the Bookhams branch of the British Legion, of which he was the President; in February 1937 he would become Sir Guy as a consequence of the death of his father Sir Harry Mallaby-Deeley, 1st Baronet of Mitcham Court. Capt McGowan was a barrister and had been awarded the Military Cross and Distinguished Service Order 'for conspicuous gallantry' during his service with the Royal Field Artillery in the first world war. He and his family had recently taken up residence at Beaconridge in Beech Avenue. Like Mallaby-Deeley, McGowan was much involved in Effingham's British Legion branch. Mrs Whale was the wife of a manufacturer's agent Edgar William Whale. They were living at Windy Ridge on Effingham Common, having resided there since about 1927-28.

SILVER JUBILEE
OF
HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE V.
6th MAY, 1935.

3rd April, 1935.

To the Parishioners of Effingham.

Dear Sir/Madam,

At a Public Meeting called by the Parish Council of Effingham on 11th March, 1935, the form of the local Celebrations to be held on the occasion of His Majesty's Silver Jubilee was considered.

The general feeling of the Meeting (which was representative of the various organisations in the Parish) was that the Celebrations should primarily take the form of providing some amusement for the children and some comforts for the aged, sick and needy. A proposal that in addition, as a permanent memorial of the occasion, some steps should be taken for the provision of Playing Fields also received enthusiastic support.

With these objects in view a Committee was elected which has since decided upon the following Programme of Events, provided that by Public Subscription and a Grant from the Parish Council sufficient funds are forthcoming:—

Tea, Sports and Souvenirs for the Children of the Parish.

Tea and Sports for Adult Parishioners.

Gifts to the Aged, Sick and Needy.

It was further agreed that in the event of the moneys received being more than sufficient to satisfy the above objects, the surplus should be applied towards the establishment of a fund for the provision, equipment and maintenance of Playing Fields, of which the young people of the community stand in great need.

The Committee also expressed the hope that householders would arrange for the decoration of their houses. The Scoutmaster is kindly arranging for a Bonfire.

We feel that we can appeal with confidence to the people of Effingham to co-operate by contributing generously and supporting us on the Day by their attendance so as to ensure the success of the Celebrations.

Donations should be forwarded to the Honorary Treasurer, Mrs. Whale, Windy Ridge, Effingham Common, and the Committee will be grateful for the early receipt of contributions which will greatly facilitate their work.

Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to Mrs. Whale, and crossed Effingham Jubilee Committee Account.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) J. STEWART-ADAMS,
Chairman.

G. M. M. MALLABY-DEELEY,
Chairman, Appeal Committee.

IVOR A. W. MCGOWAN,
Hon. Secretary.

Figure 5 The Jubilee Celebration Committee's letter to the parishioners.

From the Effingham Council School's log book we see (Figure 6) that the school was closed on both the Jubilee day and the following day. This entry was made by Stewart Adams who – as seen in Figure 5 – was also serving as Chairman of the Jubilee Celebration Committee.

May 3rd. on books 187. 91.8%.
6.5.35 School closes on the occasion of their Majesty's Silver Jubilee. A programme of the Celebrations etc attached.

Figure 6 The School log book records the school's closure.

Despite what he wrote in the log book, the latter does not contain the Programme, only various newspaper cuttings. However, the archives of Effingham Local History Group (ELHG) contain several original copies of the Programme, one of which bears Stewart Adams' handwriting (Figure 7) which reads:

'c [with] the Chairman's Compliments, & Good wishes. 6.V.35 J. Stewart Adams.'

We do not know to whom he sent it but it was among several items that had been found in the (new) Rectory at Effingham and donated to ELHG; perhaps he had sent it to Rev Floud, the vicar of St Lawrence Church. The full Programme is presented in Appendix III. In outline, the day's events were to be as follows:

morning

- thanksgiving service at St Lawrence Church
- children's Fancy Dress assembled at the school then judged at Yew Tree House

afternoon

- planting of a 'Jubilee Tree' (an English chestnut) in the School playing field
- procession via the St Lawrence Shrine to the Fête Ground
- parades, sports and teas

evening

- presentation of souvenirs
- stoolball match
- tug-o'-war
- bonfire, community sing-song and carnival dance

For readers unfamiliar with stoolball there is a short *Pathé* film about it at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ekpXrjLJeG4>

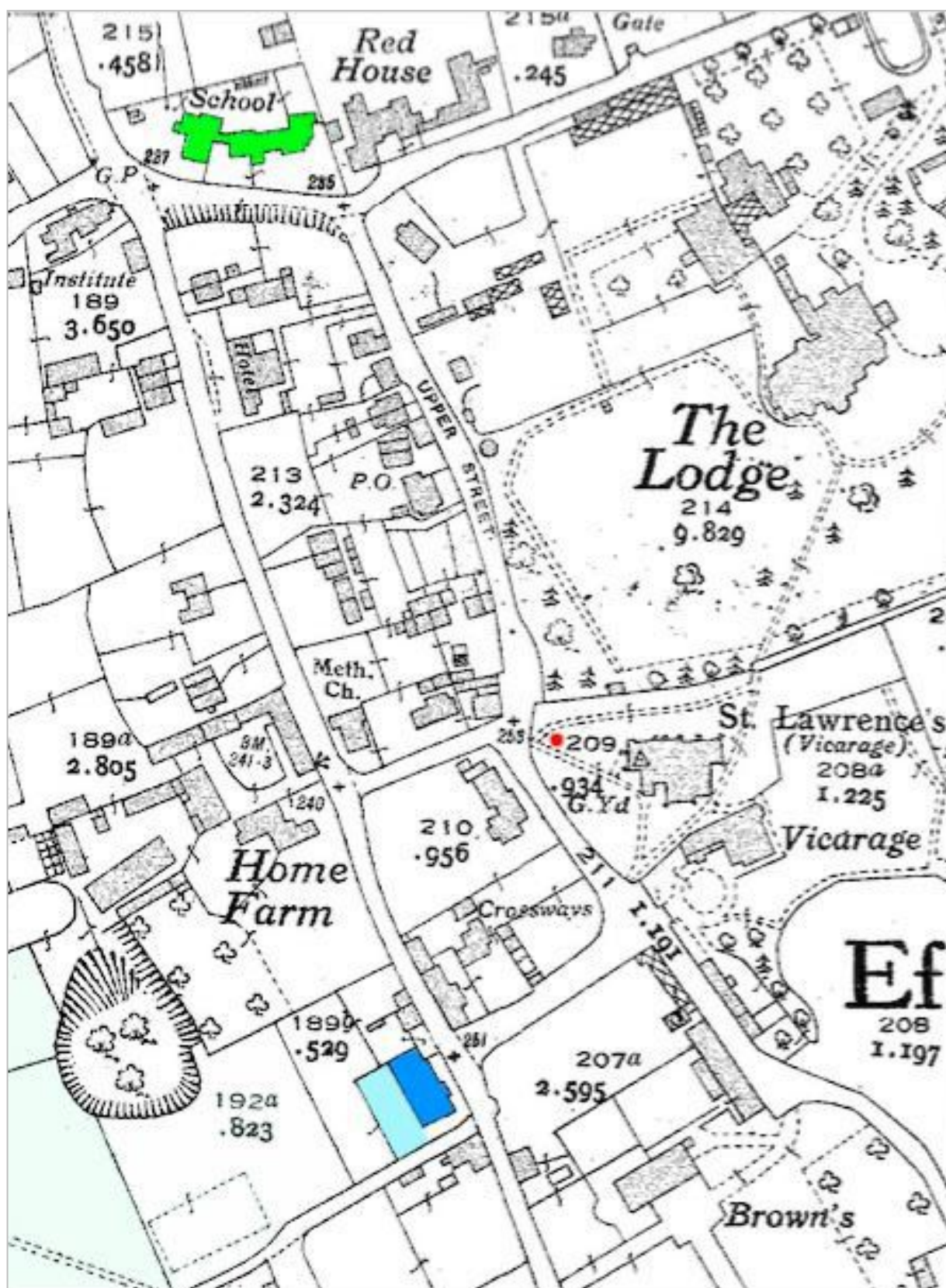


Figure 7 The Programme of Events (detail).



Figure 8 A still from the *Pathé* film about stoolball.

Figure 9 shows a section of the 1934 Ordnance Survey map highlighting some of the sites relevant to the event. Near the top is Effingham Council School (later St Lawrence Primary School) coloured green; its playing field, in which the Jubilee tree was planted, lay to the north of the building, being the plot numbered 215 on the map. The Shrine, commemorating Effingham servicemen who fell in the first world war, is marked here by a red dot near the northern entrance from Church Street ('Upper Street' on the map) into St Lawrence churchyard.



The house coloured deep blue near the bottom of the map is Yew Tree House, the home of Mrs Nina (née Lambert) MacNair. Her rear lawn, where she carried out the judging of the children's Fancy Dress competition, must have included at least the area coloured light blue and perhaps also extended over the plot numbered 189b. Beyond the latter was a larger area (plot 192a) containing a tennis court.

The 'Fête Ground' was a large field, a part of which is seen in the bottom-left corner coloured pale green. In the Programme the venue was referred to as Pit Carn Field, as it also was in newspaper articles describing the event. Two years later, however, when Effingham celebrated the Coronation of George VI in 1937, the Programme then used the name Carn Pit Field, as also did newspaper articles describing that event. However, some residents called it simply Madge's Field. A more detailed account of this field and its naming is given in another ELHG article *Madge's Field / Carn Pit Field* [*Studies in the History of Effingham*, Vol 4, Article 35, 2024].

Here is how the Jubilee celebration was remembered by Mrs Lena (née Keeling) Bridger who at that time, with her husband Harry Nathan, ran The Village Stores in the Street; this extract is taken from a tape-recorded interview of Lena's memories made in about 1970/71 by her daughter Mary Alfreda Rice-Oxley:

Lena: Then there were the Silver Jubilee celebrations for King George V, do you remember what a very hot day that was? Baking hot, everyone was so thirsty. We had a fancy dress parade around the village, with the village band led by Mr Stewart Adams as the drum major with a walking stick. Mr Street, Mr Pole, Mr Patten and Mr Stovell in the band paraded, finishing in Madge's field. Then they had a comic football match and sports *et cetera*. And everyone was so thirsty they drank gallons of lemonade.

Mary: I think it all ran out didn't it, the lemonade?

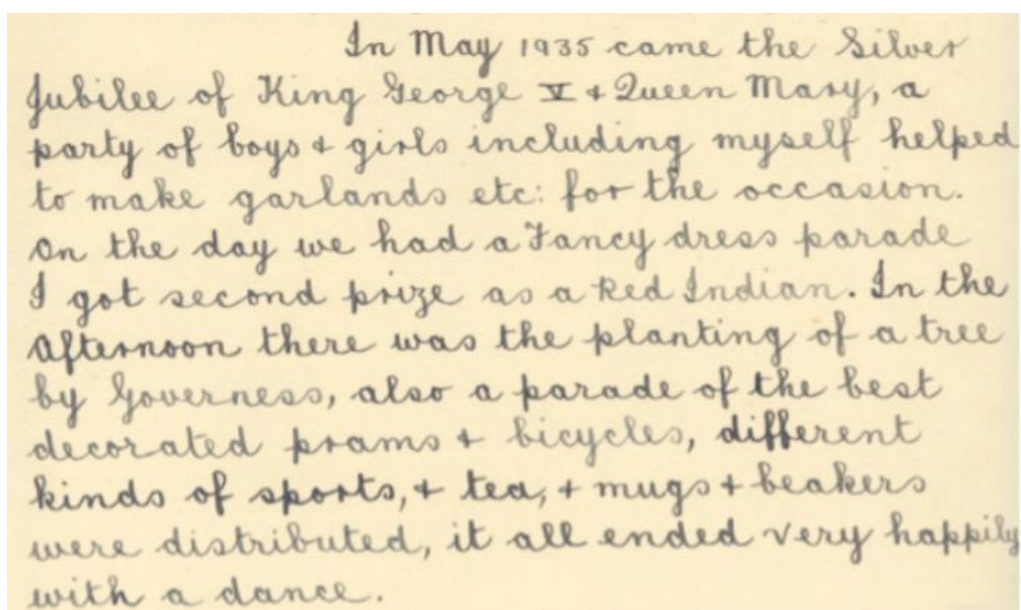
Lena: Yes, in the shop and there wasn't any. Then of course outside the school a tree was planted by Stewart Adams.

Mary: Everybody was given a mug.

Lena: Oh yes.

Lena's reference above to the 'village band' was evidently mistaken, as there is no mention of the band to be found in the Programme or in various newspaper articles about the day's activities. Nor is it consistent with the photographs we possess of the procession to the Fête Ground. The band did feature in the Coronation celebrations two years later and newspaper accounts of that occasion describe the band as having been 'resuscitated' for this purpose after a lapse of many years. Her reference to the comic football match was seemingly also mistaken. Again, there is no mention of this in the associated Programme or in the newspapers, but a comic football match did take place in the 1937 Coronation celebrations. So her recollections, recorded over thirty years later, of these two events had apparently become intermingled.

The following account was written by someone who took part in the Jubilee celebrations as a young child, Margaret Mary (née) Nicholls (later Pratley, finally Biles) who was born in 1924. It is contained in a handwritten ten-page essay entitled *My Career in the Effingham School* which she wrote on 1 April 1938, in the last year of her schooldays there:



In May 1935 came the Silver Jubilee of King George V + Queen Mary, a party of boys + girls including myself helped to make garlands etc. for the occasion. On the day we had a Fancy dress parade I got second prize as a Red Indian. In the afternoon there was the planting of a tree by governess, also a parade of the best decorated prams + bicycles, different kinds of sports, + tea, + mugs + beakers were distributed, it all ended very happily with a dance.

Figure 10 Extract from Margaret Mary Nicholls' account of her schooldays.

The Fancy Dress Competition

ELHG is fortunate to possess several photographs of the Fancy Dress competitors.



Figure 11 Mary Elizabeth Procter, born in 1928; taken perhaps in the gardens of The Lodge before or after the official activities; she lived with her parents Thomas Maurice and Marie Charlotte in a flat on the first floor of the old stable block in The Lodge grounds, having recently come to live in Effingham in about 1934-35.



Figure 12 This photograph was taken on Mrs MacNair's lawn at Yew Tree House. The girl in the foreground may have been Sheila Rosemary Turner born in 1931.



Figure 13 The same girl seen in Figure 12 is here accompanied by Violet Edith Jane Biles (later Green) who had been born in 1928; she was at this time living at 2, Victory Cottages.



Figure 14 In this line up Violet Biles can be seen at the centre whilst second from the right is Mary Procter. ELHG has been told that the girl standing second from left (ignoring the partially-seen girl at extreme left), wearing a head band and facing towards the centre, may have been Victoria Carr who was then living at Eskdale in Strathcona Avenue, although another candidate (on the grounds of her looks strongly resembling those in later life) is Margaret Mary Nicholls, whose writings above state that in the fancy dress parade she had been dressed as a Red Indian.

The planting of the Jubilee Tree

The tree-planting ceremony began with some brief speeches. Presumably composed before the event, they were subsequently written down by Stewart Adams on three pages of the school log book. Here is a transcript of them:

'Public Speeches in Effingham on Jubilee Day. 6.V.35
at Planting of the Jubilee Tree in the School Playing Field.'

by *Mrs Stewart Adams*

'I very much appreciate the great honour which has been conferred upon me, this day, by planting this tree in behalf of the Parish of Effingham to commemorate their Majesties' Silver Jubilee. For you, boys and girls, I hope this tree – which is a symbol of Strength and Beauty – may ever remind you, that you should always endeavour to cultivate Strength in your body and Beauty of Character.'

by *Doris Moore, Secy to Head Master*

'Governess, the children would be pleased to mark your Jubilee years of service willingly rendered and of duties, faithfully fulfilled. This bouquet, please accept as a small token.'

by *Chairman of Celebrations Committee* [Joseph Stewart Adams]

'Madame, in behalf of the Committee, I offer you our thanks for graciously consenting to carry out this duty in behalf of the Parish. You are pleased to say it is an honour conferred. We regard it as an obligation from us which is your due for service to this parish, and the children who know you so well and appreciate your work, confirm this. I feel sure that the wish of all present here today is that your efforts in behalf of the young may long continue. We congratulate you upon the past and thank you, yet expectant of further honoured service.'

Appendix IV shows scans of the original speeches from the log book. 'Governess' was the title by which Stewart Adams' wife Florence was usually known. She was the other principal teacher at the school.

The bouquet was given to her by a pupil Doris Edith Moore, born in 1921 and then living with her parents Bill and Rose Edith at 4, Victory Cottages. She is described above as ‘Secretary to Head Master’ so may have assisted with the school administration. In her short utterance Doris alludes to the teachers’ own ‘Jubilee years of service’, on account of their having taught at the school for 25 years since their first arrival in Effingham at the beginning of 1910.

There was evidently a professional photographer present as we have a number of photographs of identical size and quality showing the planting of the tree and the start of the procession, and one of these bears the studio logo ‘A. Warren, The Crescent, Leatherhead’.



Figure 15 Here Mrs Adams is pointing to the newly-planted Jubilee Tree. In the detail shown at right, the man at far left is Father Francis Edward Bird, priest at Our Lady of Sorrows, the Roman Catholic Church. The man at far right is Capt Ivor McGowan.





Figure 16 Mrs Adams receives her bouquet from Doris Edith Moore; below – Stewart Adams at far right.





Figure 17 Here the photographer has perhaps managed to squeeze everyone (except himself) into the picture.



Figure 18 This photograph highlights the key players in the ceremony; this group standing prominently in front of the tree probably includes many of the Jubilee Celebration Committee's members.



Figure 19 Annotation of the main group seen in Figure 18.

Many of the persons annotated in Figure 19 can be identified:

1. *unknown*
2. Ralph Edgar Street, head gardener at The Lodge and the Marshal of the Jubilee celebrations
3. Rev Harold Arthur Floud, Vicar of St Lawrence Church
4. *perhaps* Miss Betty Whale, one of the Stewards
5. *unknown*
6. Marion (née Canning) Floud, wife of Rev Harold Arthur Floud
7. Florence (née Weaver) Adams, the 'Governess' of the School
8. Father Francis Edward Bird, priest at Our Lady of Sorrows, the Roman Catholic Church
9. Nina (née Lambert) MacNair, Adjudicator of the Fancy Dress competition
10. *perhaps* Guy Meyrick Mallaby Mallaby-Deeley, Chairman of the Appeal Committee
11. *perhaps* Maude (née Burgess) Whale, Hon Treasurer of the Jubilee Celebration Committee
12. Ivor Alexander Whitworth McGowan, Hon Secretary of the Jubilee Celebration Committee
13. Walter Nicholls
14. James William Pollard
15. *perhaps* John Thomas Bunce, Chairman of Effingham Parish Council
16. Joseph Stewart Adams, Headmaster of the school and Chairman of the Jubilee Celebration Committee
17. *unknown*

Stewart Adams' notes in the School log book include these remarks about the actual planting of the tree:

'The circular hole for the Tree was dug by Alfred Lucas and John Evershed. The hole was filled in by Edward Pollard, Dennis Jackson, Ronald Tyrrell, Reginald Callen and Alfred Gleeson.'

Unfortunately the tree did not survive. On 6 November 1936 Stewart Adams recorded that on that day he had planted another horse chestnut tree, 'The Silver Jubilee tree having failed to establish itself'.

The procession to the Fête Ground

The procession followed immediately after the planting of the tree, assembling in Lower Road outside the school. The Marshal, Ralph Edgar Street, had the duty of guiding the parading villagers along the route and generally maintaining discipline.

In Figure 21 we see Mr Street, either before or after the activities, standing in the Rose Garden in the grounds of The Lodge, where he had already worked for over a quarter of a century.

He lived with his family in a house (now long vanished) within these grounds known as the Lodge Bungalow which was situated at the corner of Lower Road and Church Street. The photograph of it in Figure 20 was taken much later, in 1960. The Jubilee parade would pass within a few yards of it on the way to the Church.



Figure 20 Mr Street's Lodge Bungalow.



Figure 21 Mr Street in the Rose Garden.

We have just two photographs showing the beginning of the procession.



Figure 22a The procession is ready to start, with Mr Street as Marshal at the centre of the photograph; the time as shown by the School's clock is 2.25.



Figure 22b Detail from 22a showing the leading group.

From left to right in Figure 22b we have firstly, standing a little behind the rest, Stewart Adams. Next is Mr Street, prominent in his bowler hat, and to the right of him Nina MacNair and Arthur Wells, bearing the flowers to be placed on the Shrine.

We have been told (by his sister) that he was Arthur James, born on 23 December 1923 as the first child of Robert Wells and Lucy Violet Victoria (née Bullen) who had married at the start of that year. The School's register shows that Arthur had been admitted in October 1928. His uncle, also named Arthur, being the brother of Robert Wells, had been awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the first world war but had been killed in action in October 1917; his name was one of those commemorated on the Shrine, as it still is today.

To the right of Arthur is the young woman assigned No. 4 in the close-up of the tree-planting; she may have been Miss Betty Whale, standing next to the woman at far right whom we have conjectured to be her mother Mrs Maude (née Burgess) Whale, wife of Edgar William Whale. Betty was born in 1915. Besides being one of the Stewards she also had another special position on this particular day – it was her 20th birthday. The Press reported that:

‘During the afternoon a hearty ovation was given to Miss Betty Whale, an Effingham girl, who celebrated her birthday on Jubilee Day.’



Figure 23 Edgar William Whale with his daughters (rear, left to right) Betty, Iris and Patricia; the two children at the front may or may not have been his.



Figure 24 The procession sets off up Lower Road, about to turn into Church Street past Mr Street's bungalow *en route* to the Shrine in St Lawrence churchyard.

After their business at the Shrine, the procession probably paraded down Crossways, with Yew Tree House standing opposite, and then crossed The Street to enter Madge's Lane and proceed to the Fête Ground.



Figure 25 This is the girl seen earlier in the Fancy Dress competition. She was clearly a participant in the 'Decorated Perambulators with Babies' parade scheduled in the Programme to take place at the Fête Ground. The tennis court behind Yew Tree House is visible in the background.

At the Fête Ground Stewart Adams made another speech, this too recorded in his School log book:

'Ladies, Gentlemen and children of Effingham and your friends – I am privileged to extend to you in behalf of the Committee and in mine, a sincere welcome. We are this day guests of the Parish of Effingham and it is the Committee's wish that we all unite thoroughly to enjoy ourselves. If we do this, it would be just what Their Majesties most would desire – to be happy and to make others happy. This is not the moment for me to say any word of the wonderful work of the King and the members of the Royal Family over a long period. There is not a small child who does not know and I venture to say it would not be possible to find a gathering whose hearts are more loyal and affectionate to the Crown than ours. Suffice it to say, they set us a lead in shewing a truly Christian example of relieving the suffering, aiding the downcast and making life less drear for weary people. I am sure you would like to know, our Committee have arranged that some measure of comfort and good cheer has been provided for the sick, the aged, the infirm and for those of this parish, who by reason of any infirmity, are unable to share in our joy this day.

We are met with a feeling of deep gratitude to the Giver of all Good things, and with the fervent prayer in our hearts of Long Live the King. Then let us endeavour to follow that example of the Royal Household, so that wherever we go and whatever we do, the world may know there is someone to whom the burdened heart may pour forth its sorrow. Thus, we can have the conscious satisfaction of making this world a little better than we found it.'

Aftermath

Several newspapers reported Effingham's Jubilee celebrations and Stewart Adams stuck cuttings from them into the School log book; their precise publication dates are not all known.

The celebrations at Effingham began with a thanksgiving service at the Parish Church, conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. H. A. Floud). There was a large congregation at the service. Later in the morning a Children's Fancy Dress Procession took place when there were many entries and numerous original costumes. The children assembled at the school and walked to Yew Tree House where Mrs. Macnair, who many years ago resided in what is now known as the Golf House, judged the costumes on the lawn. As they marched through the village the children were followed by a large number of parents and friends.

A Jubilee Tree.

The main event of the day, however, was the planting of a Jubilee Tree. The tree, an English chestnut, had been presented by Mr. O. Slocock (Captain of Effingham Manor Golf Club) and the ceremony was performed by Mrs. J. Stewart Adams who has rendered 25 years' unbroken service to Effingham School.

Mr. A. Bunce (Chairman of the Effingham Parish Council) asked Mrs. Stewart Adams to plant the tree, and in reply Mrs. Stewart Adams said how much she appreciated the honour. In a few words to the children she said the tree was a symbol of strength and beauty and expressed the hope they would always try to cultivate strength in their bodies and beauty in their characters. A bouquet of flowers was presented to Mrs. Stewart Adams by Miss Doris Moore.

The procession then moved off to Pit Carn Field for the fete, stopping along the route to allow Master Arthur Wells to place a floral tribute on the village Shrine. A welcome to residents and visitors was given by Mr. J. Stewart Adams on behalf of the Celebrations Committee.

There were parades for decorated perambulators with babies, perambulators with dolls, and for decorated cycles. Kindergarten antics under the direction of Miss I. Dixon and Miss Whale were followed by a stoolball match between the schoolchildren and the old scholars. Junior sports were organised by Mrs. Dibden and Miss E. Killick, while Mrs. Stewart Adams and Miss Ivy Croxall were responsible for the events for the intermediates, and Father Bird and Miss Parker arranged the sports for the seniors. During the afternoon a hearty ovation was given to Miss Betty Whale, an Effingham girl, who celebrated her birthday on Jubilee Day.

Tea was provided for children and adults and this was followed by the presentation of Jubilee souvenirs. These took the form of beakers and mugs and were presented by Mrs. Floud, Mrs. Whale and Miss Woods.

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.

The Chairman of the Celebrations Committee was Mr. J. Stewart Adams, with Mr. Ivor McGowan as Hon. Secretary, Mrs. M. Whale as Hon. Treasurer, while for the day Miss Parker was responsible for the first aid arrangements, Mr. A. W. Carter acted as starter of the events and Messrs. H. Bridger, F. Loxley and Miss Whale acted as stewards.

Figure 26 From *The Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser*, date of issue not known.

JUBILEE TREE PLANTED

EFFINGHAM'S FORM OF COMMEMORATION

CHILDREN'S FANCY DRESS PROCESSION

The planting of a Jubilee tree was a feature of Effingham's Jubilee celebrations on Monday. The tree—an English chestnut—was presented by Mr. O. Slocock, captain of the Effingham Manor Golf Club, and planted in the school grounds by Mrs. J. Stewart Adams, who has been connected with Effingham school for 25 years.

Mr. G. Bunce, chairman of the Parish Council, formally introduced Mrs. Adams, who, in reply, described the tree as a symbol of strength and beauty. She hoped the children of the village would always try to cultivate strength in their bodies and beauty in their characters.

A bouquet was presented to Mrs. Adams by Miss Doris Moore, and Mr. J. Stewart Adams, as chairman of the Jubilee Celebration Committee, thanked her for performing the ceremony.

Earlier in the day a thanksgiving service was held at the Parish Church, the vicar (the Rev. H. A. Floud) officiating. A children's fancy dress procession followed and created much interest, the costumes being both numerous and original. The judging was carried out by Mrs. McNair.

After the tree planting ceremony, the procession moved off to the fete ground—the Pit Carn field—a halt being made to allow Master Arthur Wells to place a floral tribute on the shrine. At the fete ground Mr. Adams gave a patriotic address, and added that the committee had arranged that some means of comfort and good cheer was provided for the sick, aged and infirm of the parish.

JUBILEE BIRTHDAY

A warm ovation was given Miss Betty Whale, an Effingham girl, who celebrated her birthday on Jubilee Day. There followed parades of decorated perambulators with babies, perambulators with dolls, and decorated bicycles, the judging being carried out by Mrs. McGowan, the Misses Biggin, Mr. A. Hole and Mrs. Diamantidi. Kindergarten antics, arranged by Miss L. Dixon and Miss Whale, followed, and a stoolball match was played between past and present scholars of Effingham school.

A programme of sports events for juniors, intermediates and seniors was arranged by Mrs. Dibden, Miss E. Killick, Mrs. Stewart Adams, Miss Ivy Croxall, Father Bird and Miss Parker. Tea was provided for children and adults, after which Jubilee souvenirs in the form of beakers and mugs were presented to the children by Mrs. Floud, Mrs. Whale and Miss Woods. A second stoolball match followed between the schoolgirls and members of the Women's Institute, and subsequently there was a programme of gymkhana events, including a tug-o-war, single versus married.

The festivities concluded with a bonfire, at which there was community singing, and a carnival dance at the Women's Institute Hall. Mr. Ivor A. W. McGowan acted as hon. secretary of the organising committee and Mrs. Whale hon. treasurer.

Figure 27 From *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 11 May 1935.

A MEMORABLE DAY

Effingham's Jubilee Celebrations

The Jubilee Day celebrations at Effingham on Monday began with a thanksgiving service at the church, which was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. H. A. Floud). The service was well attended.

At 11 o'clock there was a children's fancy dress procession, for which there were numerous entries and many original costumes. The children assembled at the school and walked to Yew Tree House, where Mrs. McNair judged the costumes on the lawn. As they paraded through the village the children were followed by a large number of parents and friends.

TREE PLANTING CEREMONY

The main event of the day was, however, the planting of the Jubilee tree. This tree, an English chestnut, had been presented by Mr. O. Slocock, captain of the Effingham Manor Golf Club, and the ceremony was performed by Mrs. Stewart Adams, who has rendered 25 years' unbroken service to Effingham School.

The chairman of the Parish Council (Mr. G. Bunce) asked Mrs. Adams to plant the tree. Addressing the boys and girls, she said that the tree was a symbol of strength and beauty. She hoped they would always try to cultivate strength in their bodies and beauty in their characters.

A bouquet was presented to Mrs. Adams by Miss Doris Moore. Mr. Adams, chairman of the Jubilee Committee, thanked her for planting the tree, and expressed the hope that her efforts on behalf of the young would continue.

WREATH PLACED ON SHRINE

The procession then proceeded to the fete ground, stopping en route to allow Master Arthur Wells to place a floral tribute on the shrine. On behalf of the Celebrations Committee, Mr. Stewart Adams welcomed the residents and visitors to the ground. The committee, he said, had arranged that some means of comfort and good cheer was provided for the sick, aged and infirm of the parish.

Much interest was evinced in a decorated perambulator parade. Some of the perambulators contained babies and others dolls. Decorated bicycles also joined in the parade, which was judged by Mrs. McGowan, the Misses Biggin, Mr. A. Hole and Mrs. Diamantidi. Kindergarten antics followed, and a stoolball match between past and present scholars of Effingham School was played.

Sports preceded teas for children and adults. Beakers and mugs were presented to the children by Mrs. Floud, Mrs. Whale and Miss Wood.

Another stoolball match, between the schoolgirls and members of the Women's Institute, was followed by sports for demoiselles and youths. A tug-of-war between single and married men, married folk trotting in double harness and veterans' race were other events. A memorable day wound up with a bonfire, at which there was community singing, and a carnival dance at the Women's Institute Hall.

Mr. J. Stewart Adams was chairman of the Jubilee Committee, Mr. Ivor A. W. McGowan secretary, and Mrs. M. Whale treasurer.

Figure 28 From *The Surrey Times*, date of issue not known.

After the event Stewart Adams, in his capacity of Chairman of the Jubilee Celebration Committee, evidently sent out the letter of thanks shown in Figure 29 to persons who had played key roles in the event. In early June he also sent the more personal letter (signed also by Florence) shown in Figure 30 to Mr Street's daughter Rosa Helen.

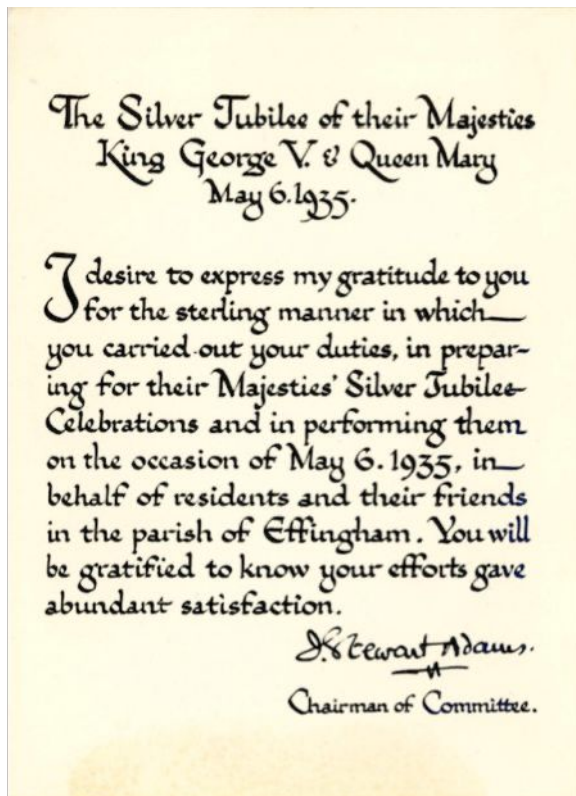


Figure 29 Letter to key participants.

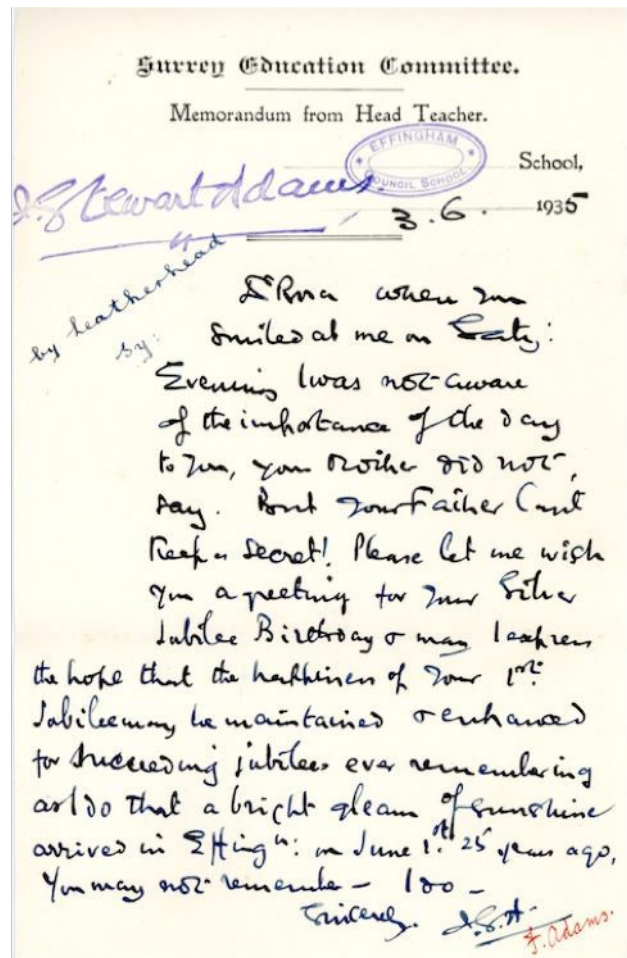


Figure 30 Letter to Rosa Helen Street.

The letter to Rosa Helen Street reads as follows:

'Dear Rosa, when you smiled at me on Saturday evening I was not aware of the importance of the day to you, your mother did not say. But your father can't keep a secret! Please let me wish you a greeting for your Silver Jubilee Birthday and may I express the hope that the happiness of your 1st Jubilee may be maintained and enhanced for succeeding jubilees ever remembering as I do that a bright gleam of sunshine arrived in Effingham on June 1st 25 years ago. You may not remember it – I do. Sincerely, J.S.A. / F. Adams.'

Rosa Helen had indeed been born on 1 June 1910, thus arriving in Effingham in the same year that Stewart Adams had.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figures 1, 2: postcard images from the internet

Figure 3: from the internet, source unrecorded

Figure 4: still taken from the *Pathé* film <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2aN8aR41S1o>

Figures 5, 6, 26-28: from the St Lawrence School log book for 1923-58

Figure 7: detail from the Programme of Events donated to ELHG by Barbara Henry

Figure 8: still taken from the *Pathé* film <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ekpXrjLJeG4>

Figure 9: adapted from the Ordnance Survey County Series 25" Map, National Library of Scotland

Figure 10: detail from her mother's original essay lent to ELHG by Linda Ann (née Pratley) Reid

Figure 11: from Mary Elizabeth (née Procter) Dyer

Figures 12-14, 25: from Violet Edith Jane (née Biles) Green

Figures 15, 16, 18, 24: from Margaret Mary (née Nicholls) Biles, formerly Pratley

Figures 17, 22: from Barbara Henry

Figure 19: annotated detail from Figure 18

Figures 20, 21, 30: from Ralph Frank Wallace, grandson of Ralph Edgar Street

Figure 23: from *Ancestry*, family tree

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/family-tree/person/tree/64236774/person/400142328504/facts>

Figure 29: from Mary Alfreda (née Bridger) Rice-Oxley

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to St Lawrence School for permitting access to the log book spanning 1923-58 and also to the various Effingham residents, past and present, who kindly lent or donated important resources for this article. We have also drawn upon the resources afforded by *Ancestry* and the British Newspaper Archive.

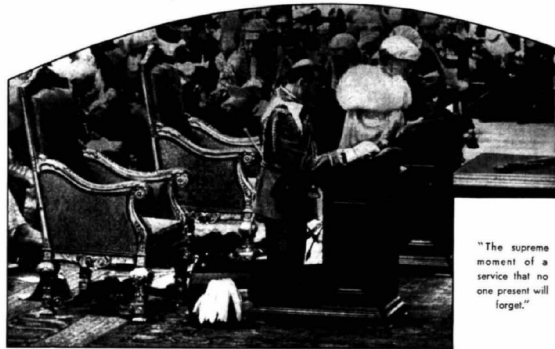
APPENDIX I

From the Daily Herald, 7 May 1935

The KING and QUEEN Kneel in Prayer

by
H. V.
MORTON

King George V and Queen Mary kneel together in St. Paul's Cathedral yesterday and give thanks to God for twenty-five years of their tremendous reign. It was the supreme moment of a service that no one present will forget.



"The supreme moment of a service that no one present will forget."

I SAW King George V and Queen Mary kneel together in St. Paul's Cathedral yesterday and give thanks to God for twenty-five years of their tremendous reign.

It was the supreme moment in a service that no one who was present will forget until his dying day. It was a moment when one became conscious of the past and the present and of the bonds that link them; and one's heart went out in hope towards the future.

The sun was shining outside. It was sending bright spears of light through the South windows of the great church. Outside also were hundreds of thousands of excited people. They were waiting and longing for the moment when the sun would glitter again on the breastplates of the returning escort, when the State carriage would come back with its prancing greys, giving them a brief glimpse of the man and the woman who have been closer to the hearts of the people of this country than any other monarchs in the history of our nation.

Inside St. Paul's it was very quiet. It was very solemn. The organ notes went softly through the great church, feeling their way into the stillness of the high arches. And in this stillness the King and Queen left their rose-pink chairs and dropped down on their knees on the footstools before them, their heads bent in prayer.

The dim light beneath the dome lay over the brilliant uniforms of statesmen, of soldiers, of sailors, and of representatives of foreign Powers. Native rulers knelt, with jewels glittering in turbans or with long plumes falling from their helmets.

The Yeomen of the Guard, grasping their halberds, stood the length of the nave; the gorgeous Gentlemen-at-Arms rose like scarlet statues above the kneeling congregation, snowfalls of cocks' feathers cascading from their gold helmets. But one noticed only the two figures bent in prayer.

Although the King was dressed in the scarlet of a field marshal, with the white bows of the collar of the Order of the Bath at his shoulders, although the Queen, superbly regal, wore across her pale pink dress the blue ribbon of the Garter, these two, as they knelt side by side, were at this solemn and appealing moment in their history never more expressive of the dignity and the simplicity which have been the keynote of their lives.

A voice from the choir echoed through the church, intoning the prayer for the King and Queen. Again the voice rose, this time uttering a prayer for peace and the fellowship of mankind.

It rarely happens that a man can say to himself: "This is an historic moment. This very moment will be talked of, and written about, in years to come; it will go down in history books and take its place among the landmarks of a nation's destiny."

Yet this moment yesterday in St. Paul's, when the King and Queen knelt together, with the memories of twenty-five eventful years in their hearts, was such a moment.



The congregation rose from its knees, the organ whispered again through the church, and the *Te Deum* was sung; then once more the King and Queen knelt, while the Archbishop of Canterbury pronounced the blessing.

Starting, it seemed, from somewhere in the air beneath the dome, came the opening bars of the Anthem, played very softly and gaining gradually in strength, and the sound of "God Save the King" must have been heard by some of the thousands who thronged the streets near St. Paul's.

As the Anthem died away, we heard the sound of cheering from the crowds on Ludgate-hill. A slow procession marched down the nave. I saw the clergy in vestments of crimson and white and gold. I saw the four Heralds in their ancient embroidered satin tabards—Richmond, Chester, Somerset and Lancaster—and I saw the Lord Mayor of London, in the scarlet and white-caped mantle of a peer, bow before the King as he took up, from the table in front of the royal chairs, the pearl sword which Queen Elizabeth gave to the City of London.



The Lord Mayor held the sword point up—as the Lord Mayor of London is entitled to do, even in the presence of the monarch—and, with this symbol moving above the heads of the congregation, the royal procession prepared to leave the church.

The King and the Queen—and never in the history of royal ceremonies have the Queen's dignity and her superb poise made so deep an impression—walked together towards the west door through one of the most brilliant gatherings of their reign.

They passed out into the sunlight, the miraculous sunlight of this backward spring, to the loud acclaim of a great multitude of their people. They left behind them the memory, not of court splendour, but of a man and a woman on their knees before God.



Looking back on the crowded tapestry of the St. Paul's service, one remembers, among many things, the magnificent background of the ceremony. The high arches and the classic pillars rose up stone grey and undecorated. All the colour was concentrated on the ground level. For hours before the royal procession arrived, the nave and the transepts filled slowly with a gathering drawn from the ends of the earth.

The seats on each side of the royal chairs of state were reserved, on the right for the corps diplomatique, and on the left for the Government and the Privy Council. Ambassadors and military attachés in the uniforms of foreign countries filed to their places with a chink of spurs.



The King's Indian orderlies stood with their backs to the choir, in a stiff row facing the royal chairs, tall, turbaned men, their hands, in white gauntlets, on their swords.

The Speaker, who had trundled through London in his ancient coach drawn by a pair of dray horses, came solemnly down the nave with the Mace carried before him.

He found a seat near Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Neville Chamberlain. It was obvious that he must have whiled away the time of waiting by telling them what it felt like to see London through the windows of a coach built for William of Orange.



A notable couple in the front row of the Government seats were Mr. Lloyd George, in blue and gold uniform, and Mr. George Lansbury, in plain evening dress. Mr. Lansbury carried the stick which helps him since his recent accident.

Not far away sat the Prime Minister in uniform, sword at hip, gazing at the rising climax of colour through horn-rimmed spectacles. Behind him sat the judges in their brindle, full-bottomed wigs and their scarlet and ermine. Mr. Lloyd George, his spectacles on the end of his nose, missed nothing and nobody, and frequently turned to talk rapidly with Mr. Lansbury and to adjacent members of the Cabinet.

What a lovely contrast to the statuesque Gentlemen-at-Arms were the Boy Scouts in their khaki shorts and their bare knees, earnestly and busily dodging here, there and everywhere distributing forms of service.

There was tragedy, too, in that astonishing assembly. Into the dimness of the south transept came about twenty men in hospital blue, twenty men broken in the War, twenty men who for over seventeen years have worn the heart-rending badge of the wounded, and may wear it until the end of their days.



The royal procession came up the nave to the sound of a triumphant voluntary on the organ. Gold Stick-in-Waiting, Lord Allenby, led the way to the chairs of state. No sooner had the King and Queen taken their places than the organ played the National Anthem and the whole congregation joined in singing the first verse.

So the splendid scene was set for the first Silver Jubilee service in our history. It was a scene that could not happen in any other country on earth. One looked at it and marvelled at the paradox that made it possible: the strange paradox that an epoch of change should only have deepened the significance of the Crown.



The first great moment came when, from the west door, sounded a fanfare of trumpets. We looked down the nave, where the slow approach of the royal procession was marked by the glint of a herald's tabard, the white flash of an usher's wand, and, between a line of bowing men and women, came the Lord Mayor of London holding the pearl sword.

The Queen's white fur and her turban of silver tissue shone out among the uniforms. She bowed slightly to left and right as she advanced side by side with the King.

The Prince of Wales, in Guard's uniform, the Duke of Gloucester in full dress uniform, followed. Then came the Duke and Duchess of Kent, the Duke in naval uniform, the Duchess in beige, with a large Ascot hat, the Duke of York in naval uniform, the Duchess of York in blue.



As the service continued, I felt that it had two aspects: one, the outward show of State ceremonial, the other, the inner significance of historic continuity. But more precious than either was the knowledge that the nation, with a full heart, abandoning for a day politics and the cries of party, had joined together in paying tribute to a man and woman who have stood at the head of the State for twenty-five years, and have never once in all that time failed to inspire the nation by the force of their example.

Something entirely new, and hitherto undreamt of, in the relationship between the British throne and the British people has come into being during the last quarter of a century. Everyone knows what that relationship is: it is the influence of a man and a woman lifted high above politics, yet symbolic, as no other persons can be, of this nation; a man and a woman who, by the gifts of sympathy and understanding and a knowledge of common things, have managed to step down from their thrones and know their people. This has never been accomplished before by any crowned heads.



The two small princesses, in hats and dresses of pink, rather wide-eyed and hushed by the overpowering scene in which they were taking part, came slowly down the nave with their father and mother. A chair had been provided for Princess Elizabeth, but a low stool had been set aside for Princess Margaret Rose.

These, the youngest members of the royal family, attracted almost as much attention as the King and Queen. Princess Margaret Rose sat at the end of the row, immediately behind the King. She was given a printed order of service which she solemnly opened and, apparently, read. Her sister, from the height of the next chair, gazed down at her frequently and once or twice whispered to her.

The remaining royal chairs were occupied by the Princess Royal, Lord Harewood, and their sons; Prince and Princess Arthur of Connaught; the Queen of Norway; Princess Victoria and other members of the Royal Family.



That is why, when I saw our King and our Queen at prayer yesterday in the cathedral of St. Paul's. I saw them also in the houses of humble people, in the dreary distressed areas, whose sufferings they know and deplore, and in the hospitals and the clinics throughout the land.

And there was no man in that great church yesterday, or among the thousands who filled the streets, who, knowing this, did not cry from his heart, "God Save the King."

APPENDIX II

Extracts from other works

From: *St Paul's Cathedral online:* <https://www.stpauls.co.uk/royal-jubilees>

'For Georges V's Silver Jubilee celebrations in May 1935, there was a busy programme of events, commencing with a service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's on 6 May.

The day was declared a public holiday and parties were held across London in the glorious sunshine, as well as up and down the country with fêtes, pageants and sports events. Later that day the King and Royal Family appeared on the balcony of Buckingham Palace to floods of cheers from the crowd below. Due to popular demand, the King even waved from the same balcony for a few consecutive days later in the week.

George V continued to mark the Jubilee throughout May by taking carriage rides through London as well as one through north London for Queen Mary's birthday, on which they were accompanied by their two granddaughters: Margaret and the future Queen Elizabeth.

During the celebrations the King received an extensive number of telegrams from across the globe with good wishes, both from heads of state and ordinary people. The public's reaction to George V's appearances over the celebratory period only confirmed the popularity of a Jubilee celebration as well as the esteem in which the King was held.'

From: *Jubilee-ation: A History of Royal Jubilees in Public Parks*

by David Lambert, publ online for ©English Heritage, 20 April 2012

'One commentator remarked that the London celebrations were markedly different in character from those of the 1887 and 1897 jubilees. In 1887, relaxed drinking hours had turned the West End into "a perfect Pandemonium". In 1935, by contrast, "Never had one seen so much general unloosening of conventions and class decorum, and never had one seen in a season of rejoicings so little drunkenness, rowdiness or bad temper. Perhaps the novel beauty of the floodlighting on the public buildings and on the trees in the park, and other wonderful signs of the new era made us more conscious that week that our manners should be attuned to it." A sign of the times, perhaps, was that the London Vegetarian Society wrote to the Bishop of Manchester to protest about "public ox-roasting for amusement". The mood is captured in press reports of the celebrations in Hyde Park:

"The King last night initiated a spectacular act of celebration of his Jubilee Day by pressing an electric button at Buckingham Palace and lighting the huge beacon in Hyde Park, which was the signal for a chain of fires to sweep round the British Isles. When the time for the lighting of the beacon approached the crowd became so dense that it was impossible for traffic outside the Hyde Park to move. Inside the park Jubilee revellers who could not get near the beacon danced to the strains of all sorts of instruments – mouth-organs, accordions, portable gramophones, and bugles. Others joined in community singing. Rockets were fired from buildings gaily lighted with red, white and blue lights. As the first flames leapt from the beacon at 9.55 cheer upon cheer sounded through the park. Crowds of people ran towards the beacon from all parts of the park, and many people climbed the railings in order to obtain a view of the spectacle."

From: *The Lady online:* <https://lady.co.uk/now-thats-celebration-or-200-years-royal-jubilees>

'Some 38 years later, King George V wrote rather poignantly, "I remember so well both Queen Victoria's Jubilees and can't yet realise that I am having one now." His Silver Jubilee occurred in very different times from those of his grandmother. Unlike the heady days of imperial glory in 1897, by 1935, Britain was a country still scarred by the Great War and suffering from a severe economic depression. There was some doubt, not least from the King himself, about whether anyone would want to celebrate. In the event, he was dumbfounded by the rousing reception he received on 6 May, when he left Buckingham Palace to drive to St Paul's Cathedral for the service of thanksgiving.

In the weeks afterwards, he and Queen Mary, occasionally accompanied by their granddaughters Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret Rose, visited many deprived areas of London. Here they were greeted by cheering crowds and patriotic banners, at least one of which read "The East End – Lousy but Loyal". The King was astonished, "I'd no idea they felt like that about me," he said, "I am beginning to think they must really like me for myself."

APPENDIX III

The Programme of Events for Effingham's Silver Jubilee Celebrations

*to the Chairman's Compliments,
Good wishes. 5. V. 35
J. Stewart Adams.*

EFFINGHAM VILLAGE

MAY 6th, 1935



Celebrations to commemorate Their Majesties' Silver Jubilee will take place in Pit Carn Field.

Judges—Mrs. Macnair, The Rev. H. A. Floud and Committee Members.

Marshal— R. Street.

First Aid Arrangements—Miss Parker.

Starter— A. W. Carter.

Stewards—Members of Committee and H. Bridger, Miss Whale, F. Loxley.

Chairman—J. Stewart Adams.

Hon. Sec.—Ivor A. W. McGowan.

Hon. Treasurer—Mrs. M. Whale.

PROGRAMME of EVENTS

Dyer the Printer, Leatherhead.—2840 Phone 100.

8 a.m. Holy Communion.

9 a.m. Morning Prayer.
(The Official Thanksgiving Service will be held at 11 a.m. on Sunday, May 12th.)

11 a.m. Children's Fancy Dress Procession.
Assembly at Effingham School at 10-30 a.m.
Adjudication by Mrs. Macnair on Yew Tree House Lawn.

2 p.m. Planting of Jubilee Tree,
(presented by O. Slocock, Esq., Captain of Effingham Manor Golf Club), by Mrs. Stewart Adams, who has rendered 25 years unbroken service to Effingham School.

Procession to Fete Ground.

Floral Tribute placed on Shrine.

Parades—

1. Decorated Perambulators with Babies.
2. Decorated Perambulators with Dolls.
3. Decorated Bicycles.

2-30 p.m. Kindergarten Antics.
Miss I. Dixon. Miss Whale.

3 p.m. Stoolball. Scholars v. Ex-Scholars.

JUNIOR SPORTS.

age 7—10.

Mrs. Dibden. Miss E. Killick.

3-45 p.m. INTERMEDIATES.

Age 10—12.

Mrs. Stewart Adams.

Miss Ivy Croxall.

4 p.m. SENIORS' CONTESTS.

Age 12—14.

Rev. Bird. Miss Parker.

4-30 p.m. Tea for Children.

5 p.m. Tea for Adults.

6 p.m. PRESENTATION of
JUBILEE SOUVENIRS

by Mrs. Floud, Mrs. Whale,
Miss Woods.

6-15 p.m. STOOLBALL MATCH.

School Girls v. Members of
Women's Institute.

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.

8 p.m.

Tug-o'-War.

Single v. Married.

Jim Forehead v. A. Poland.

Married Folk Trotting in Double
Harness.

H. Bridger.

VETERANS' RACE.

60 yrs. + Handicap.

H. Bridger.

9 p.m.

BONFIRE and Sing-Song
(Community.)

Carnival Dance at W.I. Hall 10 p.m.
to 1 a.m.

APPENDIX IV

Silver Jubilee Celebration speeches entered into the school log book

131

Public Speeches in Effingham on Jubilee Day, G.V.35

Mr. ① at Planting of the Jubilee Tree in the School

Stewart Adams Playing Field -

'I very much appreciate the great honour, which has been conferred upon me, this day, by planting this tree in behalf of the Parish of Effingham, to commemorate their Majesty's Silver Jubilee. For you, boys & girls, I hope this tree - which is a symbol of Strength & Beauty - may ever remind you, that you should always endeavour to cultivate strength in your body & Beauty of Character.'

by Doris ② 'Governor, the children would be pleased to mark your Jubilee years of service willingly rendered & of duties, faithfully fulfilled. This bouquet, please accept as a small token.'

by Chairman ③ 'Madame, in behalf of the Committee, I of Celebration offer you our thanks for graciously consenting to carry out this duty in behalf of the Parish. You are pleased to say it is an honour conferred, we regard it as an obligation from us which is your due for service to this parish, & the children who know you so well & appreciate your work, confirm this.'

132

I feel sure that the wish of all present here to day
 'is that your efforts in behalf of the young may
 'long continue. We congratulate you upon the
 'past & thank you, yet expectant of further
 'honoured service.'

④ 'honoured service.'

to
 chairmans
 the Village
 at the Fête

'Ladies, Gentlemen & children of Effingham
 & your friends - I am privileged to extend to you
 'in behalf of the Com^{ee} & in mine, a sincere welcome.
 'We are this day guests of the Parish of Effingham &
 'it is the Com^{ee}'s wish that we all unite thoroughly to
 'enjoy ourselves. If we do this, it would be just what
 'their Majesties most would desire - to be happy & to make
 'others happy. This is not the moment for me to say any
 'word of the wonderful work & the King & the members
 'of the Royal Family over a long period. There is not
 'a small child who does not know & I venture to say
 'it would not be possible to find a gathering whose
 'hearts are more loyal & affectionate to the Crown
 'than ours. Suffice it to say, they set us a lead
 'in shewing a truly Christian example of
 'relieving the suffering, aiding the down cast
 '& making life less dreary for weary people.
 'I am sure you would like to know, Our Comm^{ee}.'

133

'have arranged that some measure of Comfort & good cheer
'has been provided for the Sick, the Aged, the infirm &
'for those of this parish, who by reason of any infirmity,
'are unable to share in our joy this day.

'We are met with a feeling of deep gratitude
'to the Giver of all Good things, & with the fervent
'prayer in our hearts of Long live the King - Then
'let us endeavour to follow that example of the Royal
'Household, so that wherever we go & whatever
'we do, the world may know there is someone to
'whom the burdened heart may pour forth its sorrow.
'Thus, we can have the conscious satisfaction of
'making this world a little better than we found it."

The Circular hole for the Tree was dug by Alfred Lucas,
& John Evershed. The hole was filled in by
Edward Pollard, Dennis Jackson, Ronald Tynell,
Reginald Callen & Alfred Gleeson.

Robert Fish (Senior) – Farmer and Landowner

SUSAN MORRIS and CHRISTOPHER JOHN HOGGER

Robert Fish (Senior) was a substantially wealthy farmer and land owner in Effingham in the 19th century. Born in Cobham in about 1754 he married when aged nearly 30 and settled at first in Great Bookham, moving in his late 30s to Effingham where he then resided for over half a century until his death. During that period he acquired much property there and also in the Bookhams and in Send. In this article we set out all we know of his family and his property dealings.

Family background

In this article Robert's name is suffixed by 'Senior' to distinguish him from his son Robert (Junior).

Robert (Senior) Fish was baptised at St Andrew's, Cobham on 3 February 1754. The register entry names his parents as Joseph and Jane. Several family trees on *Ancestry* assert that these were the couple Joseph Fish and Jane Woodhatch ('Woodhach') who had married on 11 May 1747 at All Saints, Kingston-upon-Thames.

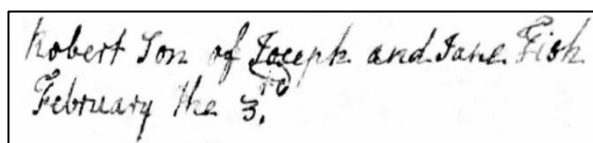


Figure 1 Robert (Senior)'s baptism, 3 February 1754.

A Joseph Fish had been baptised at St Michael's, Betchworth on 9 April 1721 whilst a Jane Woodhatch had been baptised at St Andrew, Cobham on 24 August 1723. These appear to be the best Surrey-born candidates for the 1747 marriage. This Joseph may have previously married at St Andrew, Cobham on 9 May 1742 to a woman named Sarah Coles. A 'Sarah wife of Joseph Fish' was buried at St Andrew, Cobham on 28 February 1745, their daughter Sarah having been buried there four days earlier.

So, the mother Jane of Robert (Senior) may have been his father's second wife. We cannot prove this conclusively at the present time, but if it were true then it would imply that Robert (Senior) had at least two half-siblings (by Sarah) baptised at St Andrew, Cobham:

Elizabeth	on 7 December 1742
Sarah	on 13 February 1744 (buried 24 February 1745)

and at least seven siblings (by Jane) also baptised there:

Ruth	on 24 October 1749 (buried 9 January 1769)
Joseph	on 24 February 1750/51
Jane	on 30 October 1752
<i>(Robert (Senior) was born between Jane and Sarah)</i>	
Sarah	on 22 June 1755
Ann	on 30 July 1758
Hannah	on 21 October 1761
Rebekah	on 11 February 1764 (buried 9 January 1765)

Robert (Senior)'s father Joseph made his Will in 1778, signing it on 5 December. He described himself as a farmer residing in Great Bookham. At the time the Will was drawn up, Robert was about 24, as yet unmarried. In the Will (see Appendix I) Joseph left his estate to Jane subject to her continuing to occupy his farm and carry on the business there, in which case he would 'recommend' Robert (Senior) to live there also and assist her on an annual wage of £10. If she were to choose not to continue farming then his estate was to pass instead to Robert (Senior) who would pay Jane £10 annually and also give £5 to each of Joseph's other surviving children; in the Will these children are listed (in order) as Joseph, Elizabeth, Jane, Sarah, Ann and Hannah, corresponding very neatly to the baptism and burial details noted above.

Joseph's ownership and occupation of property

There are two main sources which offer insights into the Fish family's diverse dealings in property: Land Tax records and the 1839 Tithe Apportionments. Only the first of these is directly useful in considering Joseph's property, since he certainly died long before 1839.

There is an almost complete fifty-year suite of surviving Land Tax returns for both Bookham and Effingham which begins in 1780 and ends in 1831. The tax had to be paid by the highest-level owner of each property in question – which might not have been the occupier of it – but fortunately all the occupiers and their rents had to be shown. For the Land Tax year called '1780', say, the assessors had normally completed their work and signed their submission by around June 1780; the tax would then have to be collected and paid by 25 March 1781.

We do not know when Joseph died nor when Jane died, nor whether she did choose to continue at the farm in Great Bookham. Land Tax records for different properties in Great Bookham in the sequence surviving from 1780 include 'Joseph' Fish by name up until a final isolated reference to him in 1789. This does not necessarily mean 1789 was the date of Joseph's death – although it does coincide with the year in which his son Robert (Senior) took on a large property in Effingham.

'Joseph' (specifically) is associated with two properties in the Great Bookham record. The first is perhaps the best candidate to be the farm mentioned in the Will. From 1780 (start of the surviving sequence) Joseph Fish together with James Wood occupied a property described as 'houses and land' owned by Thomas Harrison or Harrison. The annual rent began at £23 in 1780 but over the years drifted downwards to £18 15s. Its location was given as 'Bookham Common' and later, 'Lower Common'. In 1787 the occupier's name is given for the first time simply as 'Fish', not 'Joseph Fish'. In 1788, Fish's partner James Wood is mentioned no more: the property was now occupied jointly by Fish and the owner Thomas Harrison. The 1794 record is missing, but in 1795 the occupiers were Fish and Widow Harrison. In 1796, it looks as if this land was split and was being held by others, none of them Fish.

The second property associated with specifically 'Joseph' Fish is first mentioned in the 1787 Land Tax although the name is simply 'Fish'. This was 'Land', later described as 'Land Late Smiths'. It was owned by The Rt Honourable Lady Viscountess Downe (Dawnay family) whose residence was Bookham Grove. Evidently Fish and the Viscountess occupied it jointly from 1787 to 1796 for an annual rent of £5 10s. In all this sequence the name 'Joseph' is given only once, an isolated reference in 1789, and we may wonder how accurate that was.

Robert (Senior)'s ownership and occupation of property

As a preliminary to discussing this it will be useful to present some further details about Robert (Senior)'s family. In the 1780s he took a wife Elizabeth Kemp who has not been identified with certainty, but she may have been the daughter Elizabeth born to parents John and Elizabeth Kemp and baptised at St Nicholas, Guildford on 20 June 1762. She and Robert (Senior) married by Banns on 2 June 1783 at St George the Martyr, Southwark. One of the witnesses was a Joseph Fish who was probably Robert (Senior)'s brother or father. (In the Banns register the signature given for 'Robert Fish' on 29 May 1783 is virtually identical to the signature entered in the record of Robert (Senior)'s proven second marriage in 1827, so we can be reasonably confident that Robert (Senior) was indeed the groom in 1783.)

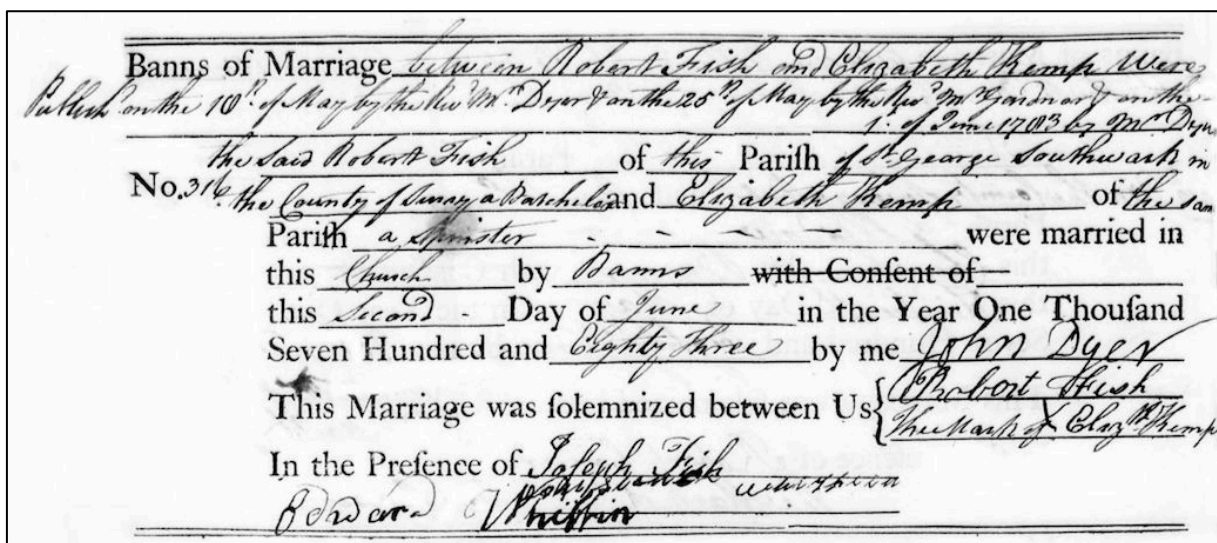


Figure 2 Robert (Senior)'s Banns entry, 29 May 1783.

Robert (Senior) and Elizabeth produced at least four children, the first three of whom were baptised at St Nicolas, Great Bookham.

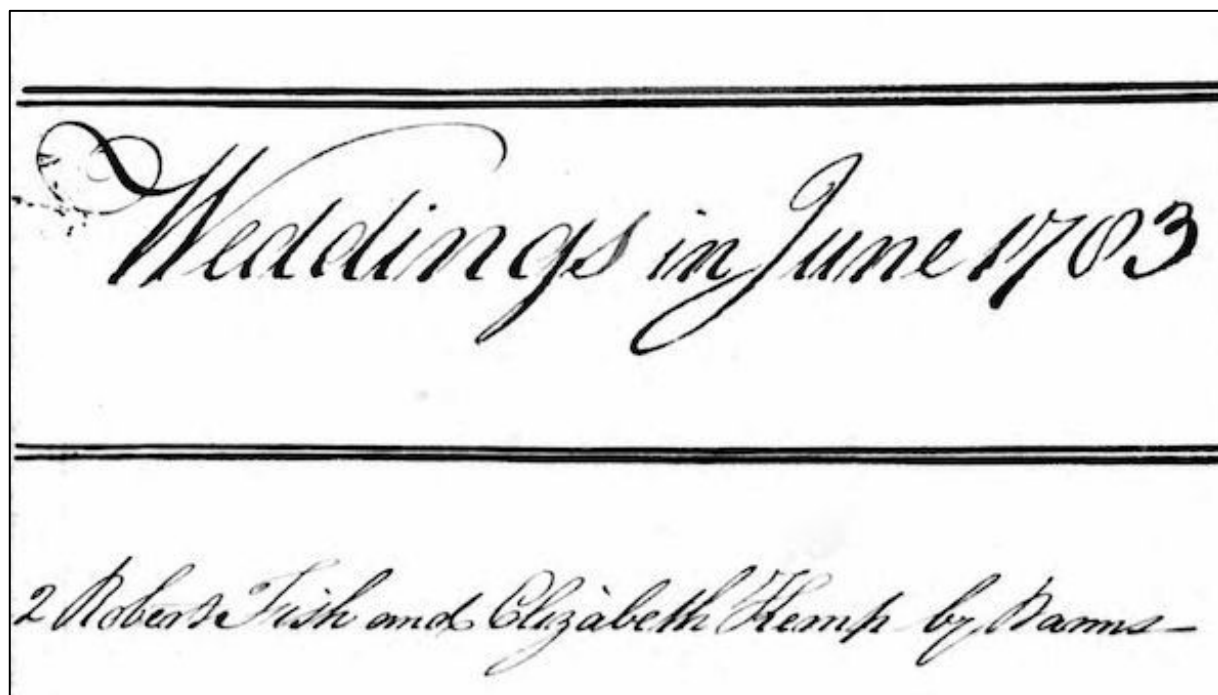


Figure 3 Robert (Senior)'s Marriage entry, 2 June 1783.

The children baptised at Great Bookham were:

William	on 31 August 1783 (perhaps buried at St Nicolas, Great Bookham on 23 April 1796)
Sarah	on 25 December 1785
Elizabeth	on 2 November 1788

A fourth child was baptised at St Lawrence, Effingham:

Ann	on 18 September 1791
-----	----------------------

When Elizabeth married Robert (Senior) on 2 June 1783 she would have done so in an advanced state of pregnancy, given William's date of baptism.

The transition from Great Bookham to Effingham in the above sequence of baptisms is consistent with the fact that Robert (Senior)'s first appearance in the Land Tax records for Effingham was in 1789. As noted earlier, these records end in 1831 but after an eight-year gap the Tithe Apportionment of June 1839 and its Key help fill out the picture further. The following account of Robert (Senior)'s property dealings draws mainly from these two sources whilst occasional other survivals are also drawn in such as Window Tax assessments. By necessity it is a detailed study, but the richness of that detail allows us to picture even if briefly so many of the Effingham lives in which Robert (Senior) was a part. The properties are presented in, as far as possible, the chronological order in which he can be detected as connected with them; the periods in which they were in his ownership overlap, ie are not purely sequential. Except where specifically listed as Little Bookham, Great Bookham or Ripley/Send the properties are all in Effingham.

This is not the place to go into a full-blown account of the changes to land ownership in Effingham caused by the tumultuous presence there of General Oliver De Lancey, but suffice it to say Robert (Senior) was present throughout that whole episode and it did impact him, although seemingly not negatively.

'The Lower Farm and Banckes'
From 1789

In the Land Tax returns Robert (Senior)'s name first occurs in 1789. That year he was occupying Lower Farm and Banks, both of which he did not personally own but were in the hands of Mr Foquet or Focquet. Foquet was a relative of the Urry family and Trustee of the Will of Thomas Urry of Newport in the Isle of Wight, the Lord of the manor of Effingham who had died unmarried in 1776 [*The Gentleman's Magazine*, 1776, Vol 4, p579]. In his Will, proved on 10 June 1777, Urry left his estates to his niece Elizabeth Browne. Elizabeth married Windsor Heneage in Marylebone on 23 September 1761, and they had two daughters Elizabeth and Mary, who became coheirs. Elizabeth married Basil Fitzherbert, Squire of Swynnerton, Staffs at Newport on 26 February 1786, and Mary married William Fitzherbert Brockholes of Cloughton Hall,

Lancs at St George Hanover Square on 20 June 1791. By this route William Brockholes (or actually his wife, Mary) became lord of the manor of Effingham. This pair never lived in the parish, indeed very far away. Mr Foquet's name was probably both better known and much simpler to enter! In 1802 the name Foquet vanishes to be replaced by Robert (Senior)'s true landlord 'Mr Brockols', ie Brockholes.

Both Lower Farm and Banks had previously been held by Mr Alexander Raby. At the first point we can see him (1780 Land Tax), Mr Raby had been holding 'Tanners Land', perhaps since widow Elizabeth Tanner died and was buried at St Lawrence on 4 April 1763. This was an area in the very north of Effingham parish, convenient for Raby who was resident at Cobham Downside. He seems to have been the Alexander Raby born in London in 1747 who married to Ann née Cox at Stafford on 17 September 1771. By 1772 they were in Cobham where they had a daughter baptised at St Andrew's, Cobham Downside followed by further children. He was on the Jury-qualified freeholders and copyholders list for Cobham (Downside) in 1775, 1782, 1797, 1803 and 1805. In the 1780 Land Tax for Little Bookham, he was holding a property from 'Refell' – no first name given – but he was not holding that in 1782. In the 1798 Land Tax, 'Alexander Raby Esquire' was holding land in Stoke D'Abernon.

In 1784, Raby had additionally taken on Banks and Lower Farm, both in the immediate vicinity of Tanners Land. The rent for these two was £100 in 1784, which reduced to £75 10s in 1786. He held these two for only five years or so up until the time he relinquished them to Robert (Senior), still keeping Tanners Land. The last Effingham Land Tax entry for Raby himself was in 1806, and after that his 'Tanners Land' holding was listed as 'late Rabys'. It doesn't necessarily mean that he had died. In 1805 his daughter had died in Wrexham. The parents seem to have moved to Llanelli where in 1824 Alexander's wife died. Alexander himself died in 1835 at Wells in Somerset.

The value of the combined rent for Lower Farm and Banks on which Robert (Senior) would be assessed for tax was £75 per year (where Raby had paid £75 10s). This was the 5th highest assessment in the 1789 Land Tax. From his first appearance in Effingham therefore, Robert (Senior) was in a much higher socio-economic group than most other residents. Above him in financial terms were only the two main manor farms, Mr Wavell at Upper Farm (£150 15s) and the Pifolds at Nyce Farm (Indian Farm) £146 10s, plus William Curry for both 'late Adeys farm' at £90 15s and other 'lands in the Hundred of Effingham and Cophorne' at £77 15s. This gives some context for his wealth and status.

Seven years later in 1795 Robert (Senior) relinquished Banks but kept Lower Farm. His rent assessment dropped to £66 15s. In the following year it dropped slightly again to £65. He was still holding Lower Farm at this rent in the Land Tax Assessment for 1809 but by 1810, it was being held by Mr Marshall.

We cannot be sure that Robert (Senior) was personally occupying Lower Farm during his tenure of it; he may have had a tenant at the farm. However, an indication that he was might be the 1804 Window Tax on 'inhabitants'. 'Robert Fish Farmer' was assessed for 8 windows (£1s 10s), and the same in 1805

He was listed among the jury-qualified freeholders and copyholders in Effingham from 1796 until at least 1823, described throughout as a yeoman. In order to hold this position he was required to possess property having an annual rental value of at least £10; from the figures quoted above we can see that his holdings amply satisfied this.

Great Bookham properties From 1793

As discussed earlier, the Land Tax entries for two Great Bookham properties mentioned Robert (Senior)'s father Joseph by name, but there are other properties which may have been occupied by either Robert (Senior) or his father. From 1793, 'Fish' and Viscountess Downe are shown jointly occupying a further property of hers, 'House and land late Miles', for an annual rent of £7. This is listed until 1796 but the 1797 record is missing. In 1798, it may be that the two properties (Late Smiths and Late Miles) have been combined into one for convenience and the rent set at £10. This however is the last year of the association of any 'Fish' with the Viscountess.

In 1793 'Robert' Fish is first specifically mentioned by name as an owner, of a house rented for £2 annually to Thomas Hill. This year is significant – it marks 'Fish' involvement with four properties in Great

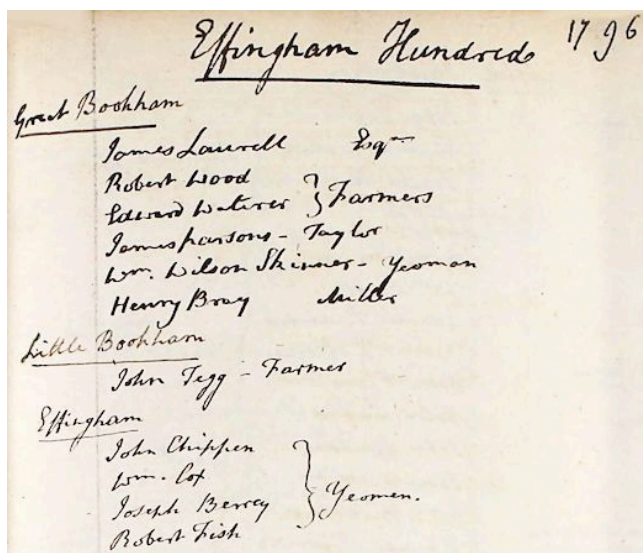


Figure 4 Robert (Senior) jury-qualified in 1796.

Bookham: one owned by Harrison, two by the Viscountess and one by Robert (Senior). From this high point, the involvement drops. The Harrison tenancy ends in 1795. The two Viscountess Downe tenancies end in 1798. That year, too, is significant. In it Robert (Senior) makes an adjustment. He ends ownership of the £2 house and instead is shown owning a more valuable house at £6 annual rent. In 1798 the occupier is Tegg, but from 1799 to the end of the sequence (1830) it is occupied by the Simmons (or Simmonds) family. In 1808 'Simmons' is named as Francis Simmons and in 1829 it is Widow Simmonds; the burial of a Francis Simmonds aged 83 took place on 23 June 1828 at Little Bookham Church. The rent remains unchanged for the thirty or so years. By the market value this was seemingly a good-sized property – certainly not the smallest form of cottage as occupied by agricultural labourers – and it formed a steady investment and income stream for Robert (Senior) who was by then living in Effingham.

After 1830 there is a gap in our knowledge of Robert (Senior)'s holdings in Great Bookham until 1839 when details of his holdings appear in the Tithe apportionment documentation for that parish. These may give us a view of what this substantial holding was. On 21 July 1831 Anne Simmonds was buried at Little Bookham Church aged 84 but seemingly there had been another generation of the family able to take over. In the Tithe apportionment details, Fish was recorded to be holding three adjacent properties, nos 128, 129 and 130, all occupied by 'John Simmonds and others'. These units lay on the east side of Little Bookham Street, the very western edge of Great Bookham parish, in an area which has subsequently been redeveloped. The descriptions are as follows:

- 128 Cottage and garden
- 129 Orchard (meadow)
- 130 House homestead etc.



Figure 5 Plots 128-130 in Great Bookham on the 1842 Tithe Map.

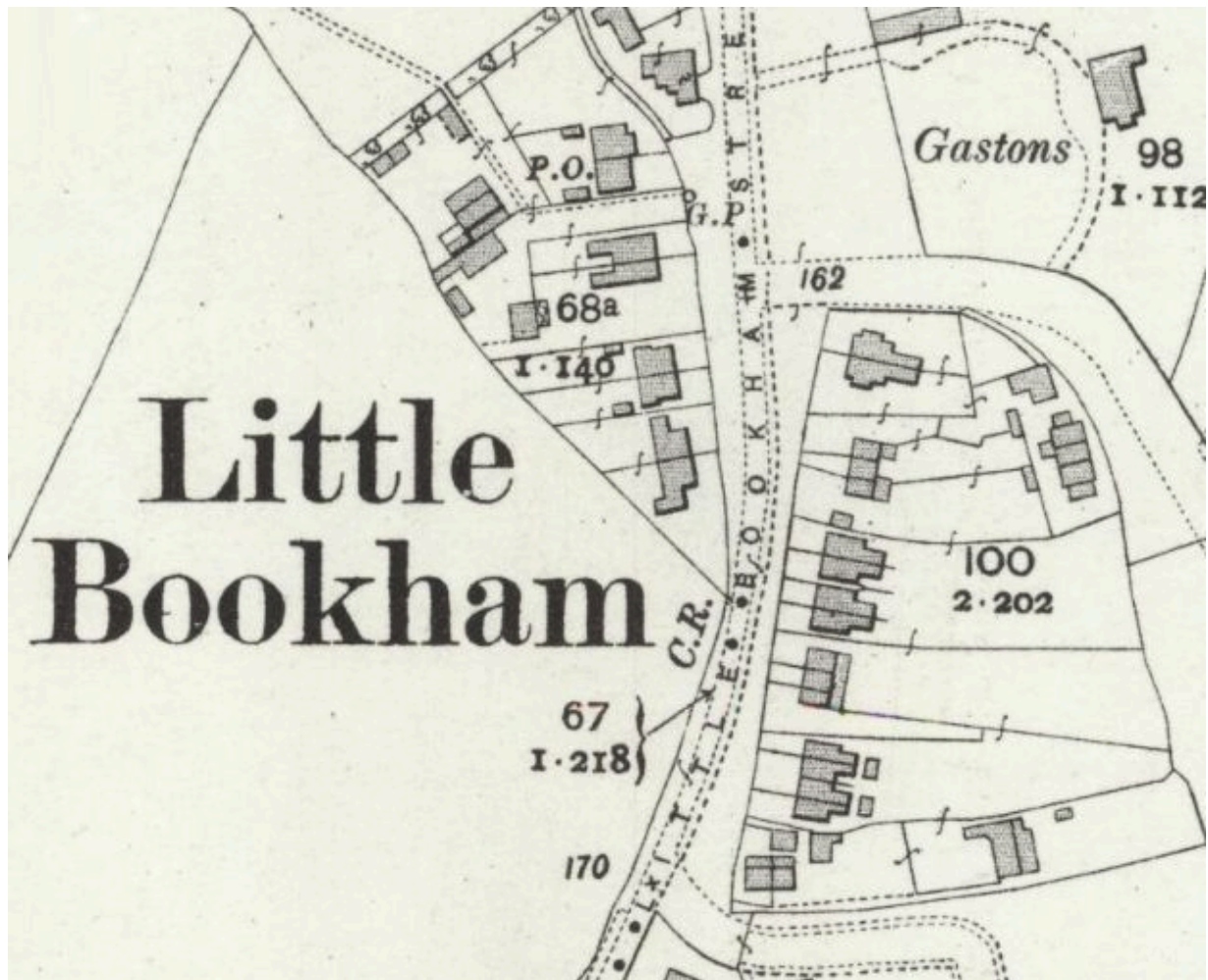


Figure 6 The same area on the 1914 OS Map.

A John Simmonds, child of a Francis and Ann Simmonds, was baptised at St Mary Abbots Church, Kensington, on 5 January 1800 (the same year that Simmonds are first found occupying Robert Fish's property after the departure of Tegg). A John Simmonds married Sarah Anne Hicks at St Nicolas Church, Bookham, on 8 February 1823. Curiously in view of the above, in 1828 a different marriage took place between a John Simmonds, bachelor, and Mary Ann Hicks (spinster or widow not specified), at Womersley. It seems possible that one of these may be the John Simmonds in the Tithe Award who had taken over occupation from 'Widow Simmonds', but it has not been possible to verify that conclusively. Details of 'his' whereabouts after 1839 have not been found.

In 1868 when Robert (Junior) was trying to divest himself of all his ties in order to emigrate [SHC Refs: K99/2/1785/1-70 and K99/2/1798/1-31] he had to sell six cottages that he owned in Bookham. Plausibly they were related to these units; it seems perhaps more likely that they were an inheritance from Robert (Senior) than that Robert (Junior), a medical student then doctor living in London, had bothered himself with the local property market, although we cannot know for sure. They were described as '6 ... cottages with garden land in Great Bookham occupied by Messrs Boswell, Batey, Coningsbee, David Longhurst, John Amey and Widow Chippen'.

The Church Street smithy
From 1796

Robert (Senior)'s entry into the Effingham property market as a landowner on his own account first took place in 1796. According to the Land Tax in that year he became the owner of a 'house and shop' which was occupied by sitting tenant Edward Farnham at a rent of £5. This was the forge in the village centre (Church Street), and Farnham was a blacksmith. Why Robert (Senior) thought this was a worthwhile investment is not clear, but one can suppose that a farmer would regularly need access to a smithy for repairing tools, making nails, shoeing horses and so on. Edward Farnham was well established there. He had been baptised at St Lawrence, Effingham on 20 October 1762. As a blacksmith he married Anne Stening or Stenning of Little Bookham in 1788 and they went on to have five daughters. Before Robert

(Senior) became involved, Farnham had been renting the forge from Mr Thomas Tickner since 1791, for £4 10s. A Thomas Tickner was buried at Great Bookham on 16 May 1795 which was presumably why the site was available to be purchased by Robert (Senior) in 1796.

In 1801 Edward Farnham left, in order to become a tenant of De Lancey at the Dog Kennel Green smithy. Following him at Church Street, Robert (Senior) had a sequence of tenants: Henry Hubbard (1801-05), Henry Haslet or Haslett (1806-13), William Hollis (1814-23) and finally the Stovell father and son from 1824 onwards.

The Hubbards had an established history of owning land in Effingham. The Window Tax assessments for Henry Hubbard, blacksmith, in 1804 and 1805 record 6 windows at his house. Henry may have been the Henry Hubbard who married Susannah Burch at Rottingdean in 1799. While at Church Street Henry and Susannah had three daughters baptised at St Lawrence, Ruth in 1801, Harriet in 1803 and Susannah in 1805. It is not known why Henry left, but it may have been to set up on his own in Abinger. In the 1806 Land Tax a Henry Hubbard features as owner of his own property valued at £2 per year. In the 1841 Census he was resident as a blacksmith in Abinger. By now he was living with the Harris family of his married daughter Harriet, his wife Susannah having died in 1832. He died at Abinger aged 72 in 1849 and was buried, appropriately enough, in Abinger Hammer. The cause of his death was certified as ‘dropsy two months’ and the informant was Harriet, present at the death.

Following Henry Hubbard, as of 1806 Robert (Senior)’s next tenants at the smithy were all part of the same extended family in a curious daisy-chain sequence of relationships. The first was Henry Haslett who was married to an Elizabeth. However Elizabeth aged 28 and baby Henry were both buried in 1807. Henry married again to Mary Ariss of Fetcham and more children were born, but then Henry himself was buried aged 38 in 1813. The following year Mary his widow married again to William Hollis who from 1814 was Robert (Senior)’s next tenant at the forge. William is noted as ‘blacksmith’ in the baptism record of their first child, Henry William who was baptised at St Lawrence in 1814. Another son, George, was born and died in 1819 – as then did Mary. In 1822 William married again to Sarah Strudwick, and they had a daughter Elizabeth who was baptised 1823. The Hollises left the forge around then and their whereabouts after that are not currently known.

In 1824 the forge was occupied by Thomas Stovell (I) (1782-1862), not knowingly connected to the Hollises. The Stovell family were to remain there for many decades. Thomas (I) himself moved away from Effingham at some point after 1829, but the forge was taken over by his eldest son Thomas Stovell (II) (1807-1887) who remained occupier there until his death. By then the forge had long since left Robert (Senior)’s portfolio. When the Land Tax sequence of records ends in 1831 Robert (Senior) was still owner, but by the time of the 1839 Tithe Apportionment he had relinquished it and the new owner was William Poulter.

Wilsons

From 1802

The next property we can identify in connection with Robert (Senior) is first associated with him in the Land Tax for 1802: he was renting a property called ‘Wilsons’ for £3, from the above-mentioned Mr Brockholes. In 1809 it was rendered as ‘Late Wilsons’. So who was ‘Mr Wilson’? John Wilson died in Effingham in 1779, and his widow Mary in 1781. Widow Wilson is shown in the Land Tax for 1780, seemingly owning the property in her own right, which was assessed for £4. In 1781 after Mary’s death George Monk was occupying ‘Late Wilsons’, and it retained this name for the next 50 or so years.

By 1783 however the property had been acquired by the Brockholes family and was being handled ‘in Trust’ by Mr Foquet, the occupier being Woodman Wavell. Wavell died in 1798 but the property continued to be held by his widow Jane. The last year in which she held it was 1801. As we have seen, in 1802 it was taken over by Robert (Senior) who kept it for some 8 years. In 1810 it was being held by Mr Marshall, who had also that year just taken over Lower Farm from Robert (Senior). When Marshall gave up Lower Farm to Mr Jonathan Watmough, the latter also took over Wilsons and Late Rabys (he also took over pretty much everything within the manor of Effingham across the whole parish). Possibly this indicates that ‘Wilsons’ was somewhere in the north of the parish convenient for Lower Farm but this can only be conjectural.

House in Little Bookham

1802-1831 at least

From 1802, the Little Bookham Land Tax records show Robert (Senior) owning and renting out a house there, rentable value £1 10s. He took it over after the death of Mr Rumsey, at which time it was being

occupied by John Patience. In 1805 the occupant became John Lucas and remained thus until the sequence of records ends.

A map dated 1803 labelled as the sale by De Lancey of property in Effingham to Thomas Fuller includes the name 'Mr Fish' just across Effingham's eastern parish boundary in Little Bookham, but what this signified is currently unknown.

*Lands in Little Bookham or Effingham
?unknown date of acquisition by Robert (Senior)*

Robert (Senior) was evidently connected to certain freehold lands in Little Bookham or Effingham within the 'Little Bookham Estate' offered for sale by auction in 1907 by Henry Court Willock-Pollen to Charles Edward Lambert of Effingham House. Numerous bundles of deeds, correspondence and other documents pertaining to this sale are held at the Surrey History Centre [SHC Ref: K56/2/8] and one of these bundles concerns the above-mentioned lands and, in particular, 'Lots 13 and 15'. These Lots are described in the brochure (having a map) produced for the auction – staged in London on 24 May 1907 – which is also held at the Surrey History Centre [SHC Ref: 209/16/2]. The bundle includes, without explanation, an original Will of Robert (Senior), but there appears to be no mention of him in the bundle's other documents. Possibly, the legal documentation prepared at the time of the sale had included an abstract of title that would have shown the lands in question, or some part of them, having once been in the possession of Robert (Senior) or his heirs, with his Will being adduced as supporting evidence. Incidentally, this Will, dated 24 April 1841, was not his final one – the date of that was 29 September 1843. The brochure shows Lot 13 as a large expanse of land (184 acres with a keeper's double cottage) including Thornet Wood and Oaken Wood in the northern part of Effingham parish. Lot 15 was another large piece of land (204 acres with no buildings) in the southern parts of both Effingham and Little Bookham parishes.

*Richard Lee's cottage
1804*

The 1804 Window Tax assessment covers residency for the period 5 April 1804 to 6 April 1805 and it was signed as complete on 2 June 1804. It includes the entry for 'Robert Fish, farmer', but below that another: 'Ditto [ie payable by 'Robert Fish'] for Rich^d Lee', a property with six windows.

No. 4, Annual Taxes.

An Affidavit made upon the several Inhabitants of
from the 5th April, 1804, to the 6th April, 1805.

the Parish of Effingham in the

Observations.	Description of Inhabitants.		Houses and Windows.		Duty.	Male Servants.							Duty.	Four Wheel Carriages.				Duty.
	Names.	Profession, Trade, &c. and, if Inmate, to whom.	Windows.	Duty.		Lit. No. 1.	Lit. No. 2.	Lit. No. 3.	Lit. No. 4.	Lit. No. 5.	Lit. No. 6.	Private Use.		Public Use.	Public Use.	Public Use.		

~~Rich Robert Farmer 8 10~~
~~Son of Rich Lee 6 6~~

Figure 7 Robert (Senior)'s charge for Window Tax for the year ending 6 April 1805.

The St Lawrence Parish Register reveals that baby Thomas son of Richard and Mary Lee must have been born around that very time: he was baptised on 24 June 1804. Another child of theirs, Mary, was baptised on 6 August 1809. They do not seem to have been part of the family of Lees which had been in Effingham since antiquity. Richard had been born in Woking in about 1774 and Mary née Harwood was originally born in East Horsley. They had married at Byfleet in 1799. Richard would have been about 30 at the time he was in Robert (Senior)'s cottage, but why or how long he had been there, and where the cottage was, both remain a mystery for now. The Lees do not feature in the 1805 Window tax, nor are they visible in the Land Tax. Evidently at some stage they moved on. By 1841 they were living at Cobham Downside. The 1851 Census records Richard and Mary Lee, now 77 and 70 respectively, still at Cobham Downside. Richard is recorded as a former labourer born in Woking, but a note also says 'Parish ?pay'. In 1861 they were still there aged 86 and 81. Richard was buried aged 91 at St Andrew's, Cobham on 7 March 1866, his address given as 'Old Well', Downside. Their child Thomas did survive, grow up and marry. In 1841 he and his wife were at Mickleham 'poor houses' with 3 children but by 1851 things were better. Thomas was still at Mickleham, now a gardener, with his wife and 5 children and 3 lodgers.

Great and Little Lee Woods
1806

In 1806 Robert (Senior) was shown renting 'Woods' from Mr Brockholes, for £28. These were 'the underwoods in Effingham called Great and Little Lee Woods'. In 1776 a 30-year lease of these had been agreed between Wavell Woodman and Sir Thomas Urry the then Lord of the Manor. Having run its course in 1806, the lease had been relinquished by Wavell's widow to the current lord of the manor, Mr Brockholes. Woods were a very valuable commodity and these were in the vicinity of Lower Farm not inconveniently sited, but Robert (Senior) held this property for only one year. In 1807 they were let to Alderman Harvey Coombe of Cobham. He kept them until 1811, gave them up but then rented them again in 1821-22.

Robert (Senior)'s house – The Street?
1810

The last year in which Lower Farm and Wilsons were let to Robert (Senior) was 1809. In the following year 1810 he is shown both owning and occupying a 'house and garden' of rentable value £3 per year. This one is significant, because in the whole list of properties associated with his name, it is the only *residence* where he is ever listed as both owner *and* occupier. It does seem possible that it is the (one) property listed against his name in a quit rental document for the years 1817-21 drawn up for the manor of Effingham [SHC Ref: G58/29/1]. In this, the property is described as 'Messuage and one Acre & an Half of Land'. A quit rental was an agreement by which a tenant of the manor paid a money payment in lieu of services owed to the lord of the manor; for the five years, Robert (Senior) was to pay 11s 3d.

The entry for this property in the Land Tax returns remains the same year after year. The relinquishing of Lower Farm and Wilsons and the move to a house in The Street might be construed to show Robert (Senior), now a widower aged about 56 without a male heir, retiring from active farming and cutting massively the rent he had been paying out in order to live in the future off his property rental incomes. At this point he was still responsible for his two as yet unmarried daughters, Sarah then aged about 25 and Elizabeth about 22. Sarah would marry in 1812 and Elizabeth in 1817 (and they would both predecease their father). Apart from the fact of her birth, nothing is known of his third daughter, Ann.

Robert (Senior) was seemingly still at that dwelling in 1831 – but which was it? In 1839, the Tithe Apportionment identifies him as now both owner and occupier of *three* properties on the west side of The Street, nos 362, 363 and 366 on the Tithe Map. It was quite possibly one of these that he acquired in 1810, but currently there seems to be no way of confirming this one way or the other. It also seems impossible at present to know when he acquired the other two plots. As well as these, he owned but was not occupying two cottages in the same run. These properties as identified by the Tithe Map are as follows:

- No 362, described as a 'House shed and garden'. This site is today occupied by Westmead and Owlscot; in other words it was divided after 1842.
- No 363 is also described as a 'House, shed and garden'.
- Between 363 and 366 were 364 and 365, two small cottages also both owned by Robert (Senior) but not occupied by him. Number 364 was occupied by William Crockford and 365 was owned by Edward Prier. It seems likely these two were demolished or at least reconfigured, but seemingly not until after 1854. The curtilage of 364 was expanded, and, combined with 363 it became today's Vine Cottage. 365 became associated with Rose Cottage as a coach house. In the 1841 Census one of these was still being occupied by William Crockford and his wife Mary. William was buried aged 55 at St Lawrence on 20 November 1859, although by then he was 'of Effingham Common' where he seems to have been in the 1851 Census. Edward Prier seems, unhelpfully for our purposes, to have been in Effingham only transiently. He is mentioned in the Tithe Apportionment, but not in the 1841 or any other Census for Effingham.
- 366 was the plot of what is today known as Rose Cottage (originally Rose Villa; today much altered since from its original appearance). Judging by the Tithe Map and the later OS 25" map of 1854, of all these plots, Rose Villa was the most generously sized and set in a pleasant plot with a good-sized west-facing garden. By the time of the 1851 Census, Robert (Senior)'s widow Elizabeth was no longer living in Effingham and this property may have been rented out but if so, who was occupying it cannot be convincingly established from the entries as currently understood – very few property names are given. In 1856 Robert Junior arranged for the sale of all the furniture on the premises of Rose Villa, seemingly with a view to renting it out.

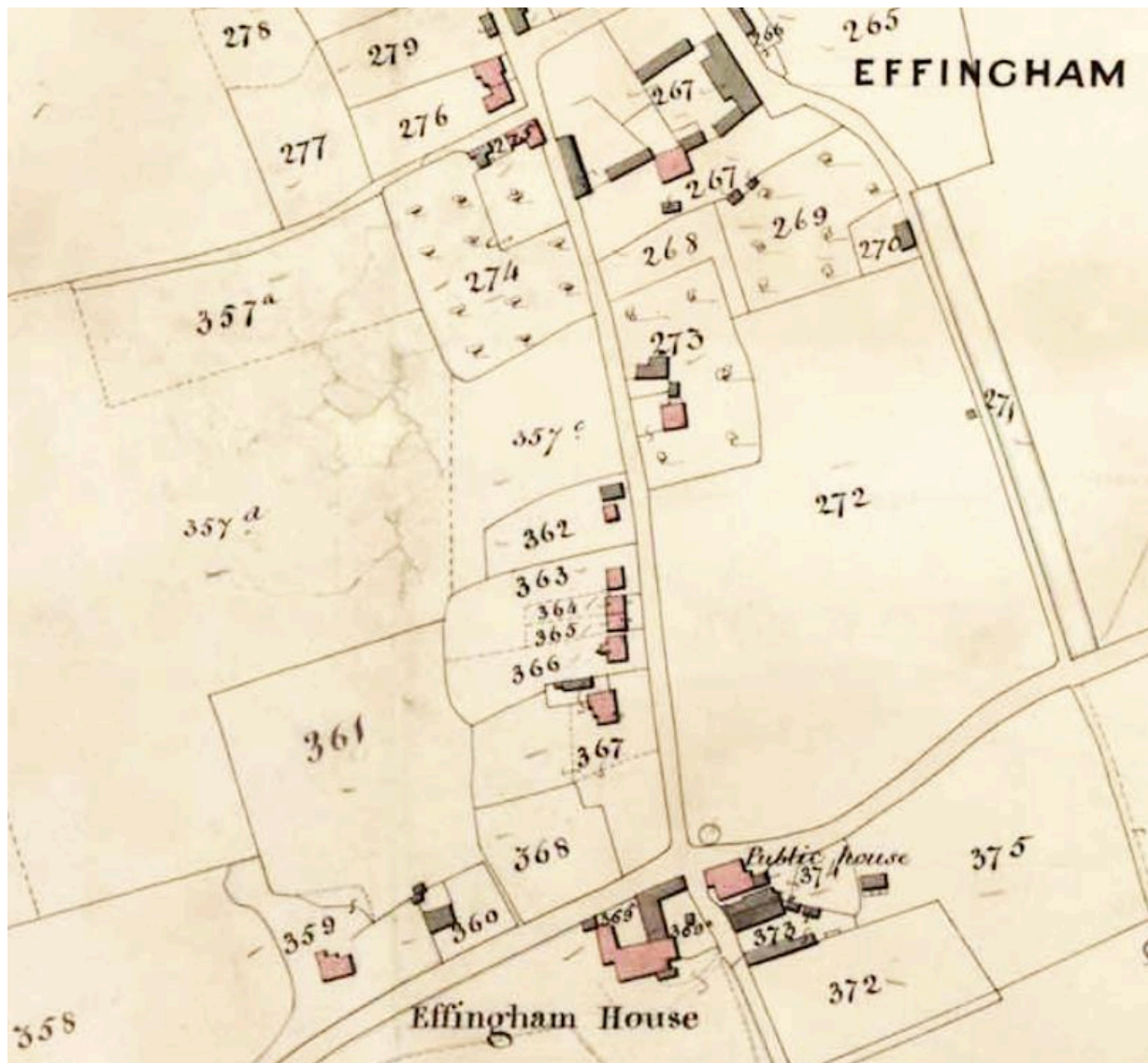


Figure 8 Robert (Senior)'s properties in plots 362-366 on the 1842 Tithe Map.

A candidate for the property first acquired in 1810 is a dwelling that had up till then been listed in the Land Tax returns as 'Miss Butcher's house'. One reason for thinking this is that it was of the right rent value, £3; another is that Miss Butcher had seemingly left the village since 1809. Arthur Butcher and his wife Sarah had been resident in the village in the early 1780s. Their daughters Edith died in 1778, Elizabeth in 1779, and a second Edith in August 1782 followed by Sarah the mother in November 1782. Arthur himself died in 1785, leaving surviving children Sarah, Ann and John (presumably born before arrival in Effingham; at least these three were not baptised here). It seems that Arthur's mother, their grandmother Mrs Ann Butcher, then came to Effingham to look after the orphans. Ann was the widow of Philip Butcher 'late of Dorking' according to her Will (signed 15 May 1789). By 1787 she was renting a house from Mrs Skeet. From 1802 after Mrs Skeet's death she was holding it from De Lancey. Mrs Butcher died aged 84 and was buried at Effingham on 7 February 1803, having left her property to her surviving grandchildren Sarah, Ann and John. 'Miss Butcher' then held the property from 1803 to 1809. What subsequently happened to these young Butcher people is not known.

Note – a Mr William Butcher is shown in the Effingham Land Tax records as the owner of a messuage and land, or house and land, from 1780 to 1816, in other words contemporary with the above. During that time Mr Butcher rented the property out to a series of individuals: to John Skeet senior; then from 1790 to Mrs Skeet; from 1792 to John Stevenson, a carpenter; from 1795 to Mr Leater (? – partially crossed out)], and from 1796 to Thomas Layton. Thomas Layton was a shopkeeper / grocer and a prominent person in the village (it was he who actually wrote up the Land Tax records for many years; his handwriting is distinctive). Perhaps therefore this property had some commercial function as a shop. Where Mr William Butcher lived, the dates of his life and whether or not he had any connection with Arthur Butcher's family are all unknown.

Church Street Cottages
From 1812

The Skeet(e)s had been a prominent family in Effingham for many years. When John Skeet or Skeete Junior ‘from Godalming’ (to distinguish him from John Skeet ‘from Dorking’) died in 1783 his widow Sarah was left both owning and occupying properties in her own name for nearly two decades. She died and was buried at Effingham on 17 January 1801. The Land Tax shows that five properties then changed ownership in 1802, the year after her death. All of them were scooped up at that point by De Lancey.

One of Mrs Skeet’s properties was described as ‘Tenements’, the assessed rent of which was £6. These seem to have been the two north-facing Church Cottages of today, plus the four (not five as now) south-facing ones. As stated the first purchaser was General De Lancey, but the property was to change hands again in the upheaval after his financial disgrace. In 1809 the group was being occupied by ‘Batty and others’ who had seemingly taken on the ownership. Thomas Batty or Battey was a cordwainer (cobbler) and also the church’s parish clerk.

In the 1812 assessment, the new proprietor is shown as Robert (Senior), Batty and others still being the occupants. The rent standing at £6 had not been changed, but in 1814 it dropped to £4 and it is possible the two north-facing ones were excluded for a while, before returning to the fold in 1819 (see below).

In 1839, the names of the occupants of the four south-facing cottages were:

- 255 (today’s No 5 Church Cottages) – Naldrett
- 256 (today’s No 1) – Whittington; the name Thomas Whittington had first appeared in 1823.
- 253a (today’s No 2) – William Davis
- 257 (today’s No 4) – Mary Cooke



Figure 9 Robert (Senior)'s properties in plots 250-257 on the 1842 Tithe Map.

It is interesting that Robert (Senior) had accepted Mary Cooke and possibly an illegitimate baby as a tenant. This is presumed to have been by at least 1835 when the baby was baptised here. Mary had returned to Effingham from Dorking after her earlier shocking experience of being sold into marriage in 1815. Her story, and how her occupation of this cottage came to be important for the first formation of a Methodist church in Effingham, can be read in the article *Effingham Methodist Church* by David Putland and Angela Putland [*Studies in the History of Effingham*, Volume 1, Article 6, Effingham Local History Group (ELHG), 2023].

In 1826 there was a return to the earlier group assessment where Batty and others jointly paid £6 but were not individually named. In 1831, the last year of the Land Tax sequence, the details were still the same except that the occupier was 'Late Batty and others'.

From 1819

In 1819, the names of five new cottagers join Robert (Senior)'s existing list of four: John Bilby, William Rackstraw, Robert Moore, David Tidy and William Greathurst. They were each paying £1 a year.

The name 'Bilby' suggests that Robert (Senior) had taken on the two north-facing cottages, since this is a name found there in 1839 (plot no 253). In 1839 the names of the occupiers of the two north-facing cottages were:

253 Thomas Bilby
254 John Dyer

1, 2, 3 The Steps

?From 1819

From 1821 in the Land Tax, one of Robert (Senior)'s cottages was being held by Charles Ottaway. In the 1839 Apportionment, the three cottages known today as 'The Steps' were in Robert (Senior)'s ownership including one inhabited by an Ottaway:

250 (today's No 1 The Steps) Charles Ottaway
251 (today's No 2) John Danty [Dainty]
252 (today's No 3) William Chandler

Land

From 1817

In 1817 Robert (Senior) is shown both owning and occupying for the first time a piece of land the rentable value of which was £1. It is really not clear where this parcel of land had emerged from. There appears to be no earlier record of it being owned by anyone else. One possibility, although lacking in conviction, is that Robert (Senior) had split it off from the house and garden he had been renting since 1810. The rent for that had been £3 up to 1813, but in that year it dropped to £2 10s.

In 1819 he rented the piece of land out to Francis Tyrrell, who kept it until 1824. Francis's story is an interesting one, related in *Bulletin 15: The Tyrrell of Tyrrells?* From 1795 to 1816 Francis rented a cottage from a Mr James Hubbard and subsequently a Mr Duglass. In 1817 he managed to purchase the property, and from that year until around 1841 he managed to hang onto it. All indications point to this being the house at Effingham Common still known as Tyrrells. However the family was unable to hang on to it: by the 1839 Tithe Award it was in other hands and worryingly, in August 1841 a Francis Tyrrell of his age was tried for larceny in the Surrey Crown Court, but found not guilty.

Whether the small piece of land Robert (Senior) had rented to Francis was already back in his own hands in 1825 is not quite clear from how the record was written, but in 1826 Robert (Senior) rented it to Sir Thomas Hussey Apreece. At that stage Apreece was just another Effingham resident occupying today's Grove House; he was not yet lord of the manor of Effingham. By 1827 Apreece had bought the plot from him.

Slaters Oak

From 1821

In 1821 Robert (Senior) is first shown renting to John Martin a 'house and land' for £3 10s.

Slaters Oak is an ancient property, known records of which date back to at least 1678 and it is thought to have been Elizabethan in origin. It was part of the manor of Effingham East Court. In 1777 it was rented to James Burgess (I), 'husbandman', in other words someone who bred animals rather than a farmer of arable land. He may also have made bricks. James would have been Robert (Senior)'s immediate neighbour when the latter took on Lower Farm and Banks in 1789, and they would have known each other

for many years. Robert (Senior) would have been aware of the unfolding tragedy over the inheritance of Slaters Oak.

James (I) had married his wife Elizabeth in 1761. In 1764 they had a son, James (II). James (II) married, also to an Elizabeth; they had a son John and a daughter Sarah. Unfortunately James (II) died in 1807, followed in January 1810 by his son, John. This meant that the male line of the Burgesses had failed. In October 1810 James (I) wrote his Will. His sole executrix was his eldest surviving daughter Ann (born 1767; in 1791 she had married a Chertsey carter, John Martin). His instruction to Ann was to sell the property for the benefit of all his surviving children: Ann herself, her sisters Mary and Sarah, and also Sarah his granddaughter.

James (I) died in 1819. In the 1820 Land Tax the property is still recorded as being his, presumably while the estate was sorted out. By 1821 it had been sold – and purchased by Robert (Senior). However it was ‘occupied’ by John Martin, presumably Ann’s husband. Ann herself would have been about 60 at that time. The implication is that Robert (Senior) made it possible for Ann Martin née Burgess to stay in her family home. The Effingham East Court manor roll recorded Robert (Senior)’s new position vis-à-vis the property in 1821, when Ann as executrix surrendered it to him – but as we have seen, at the same time he became her landlord.

It is not currently known what subsequently happened to the Burgess/Martin family. An Ann Martin aged 77 and living at Cobham Tilt – presumably the almshouses – was buried at St Andrews, Cobham, in 1839; this may have been her. An elderly John Martin had been buried at Worplesdon in 1833 and another at Mitcham, either of which might have been her husband, and if so, the reason for Ann as a widow to have to vacate the property. An unresolved part of this family history is the presence in Effingham of a John Martin, bachelor, who married spinster Rebecca Dowdy in Effingham in April 1833.

In 1834 it seems Robert (Senior) wished to divest himself of the property. Possibly this resulted from the death of John, and Ann Martin’s departure from the property. Conceivably there was no further need for Fish to take an interest in it. The fact of the transfer had to be recorded by the manorial court. We are told by Monica Mercy O’Connor [*The History of Effingham in Surrey*, 1973] that Robert (Senior) transferred it to Thomas Tilley ‘of Effingham Lower Common, horse-dealer’ for £395.

Robert (Senior)’s second marriage was to an Elizabeth Martin, but from what can be discerned at the moment there is no connection with these Effingham Martins.

Houses on The Street

?Date of acquisition by Robert (Senior)

As described above, the 1842 Tithe Map shows Robert (Senior) owning a run of houses going southwards down the west side of The Street. Frustratingly it seems that these must have joined his portfolio after 1831 and hence after the end of the Land Tax records available to us. The consequence is that unfortunately little can be deduced about them – except that effectively, he owned a very large section of The Street.

This however gives rise to an interesting question about the age of those particular houses, and whether he demolished older buildings to rebuild, or built some new houses for the first time. Experts who have dated the buildings on the basis of their appearance and construction have not produced any very definitive decisions:

- Vine Cottage has been dated as both mid 18th century and late 18th century.
- Percival Cottage (formerly Owlscot) and Rose Cottage have both been dated as early to mid-19th century.
- The Coachhouse has been dated as ‘c.1840’.

In the same vein, we might also wonder whether he had a hand in building or re-building elsewhere. For instance:

- Today’s Nos 3 and 4 Church Cottages have been dated to late 18th century.
- The Steps have been dated to mid-19th century.

If so, it would make the impact of his presence in Effingham even bigger than his just owning a variety of properties.

*Houses in Send and Ripley**?Date of acquisition by Robert (Senior)*

The Tithe Apportionment documents for Send and Ripley reveal that Robert (Senior) was also holding land in that parish. He is named as the owner of seven properties as listed here by the property number and grouped to aid meaning:

97	House and garden occupied by Mrs Salmon
1081	Garden occupied by George Woods
1083	House and garden occupied by George Woods
1082	'Knight'
1090	House and garden occupied by Knight
1089	Meadow
1094	Paddock occupied by Daws.

The last named, Robert Daws, was also a significant landholder in Send and Ripley. This name is listed in connection with 157 properties. Robert Daws was also the son-in-law of Robert (Senior), married to the latter's daughter Sarah in 1812. On the marriage certificate Daws was listed as a farmer and brick burner, and the Tithe Apportionment shows some of his Ripley properties grouped around 'Brick Kiln Cottage'. This was just located south of today's Portsmouth Road, very close to the Jovial Sailor public house – the major road between Portsmouth and London before the current section of the A3 was built to bypass central Ripley. More details of the family of Sarah and Robert are given in the section on Robert (Senior)'s death and his Will, below.



Figure 10 Robert (Senior)'s and Robert Daws' properties on the 1843 Tithe Map for Send and Ripley.

There remains a slight conundrum about the listing of 'Robert Daws' in the tithe documentation. The National Archives entry gives the date of the Tithe map as 1843, and the final apportionment was 'confirmed' on 8 June 1844. Robert Daws had however been buried on 4 November 1836, and Sarah was buried on 19 March 1841 – in other words, both were dead before the tithe award was completed. Further understanding of this may in due course come to light.

Another property in Send was purchased by Robert (Senior) in October 1840. Details of the transaction are contained in documents held at the Surrey History Centre [SHC Ref: 1826/1]. They consist chiefly of two indentures. One of these, dated 8 October 1840, is a deed of sale involving four parties: William Atkins, a gentleman of Send, and his wife Mercy; James Moore Wilkins, a bargemaster of

Guildford; George Coleman, a yeoman of Effingham; and Robert (Senior). By this deed Atkins sold a 'messuage, land and hereditaments' in Send to Robert (Senior) for £400, of which £200 was payable directly to Atkins and £200 payable directly to Wilkins. The latter payment was made in order to satisfy early termination conditions for a lease on the property that Atkins had granted to Wilkins 'on or about' 26 October 1839. The deed also required Mercy Atkins to relinquish her interest (through dower rights) in the property. Further, it established that after the sale Atkins and Coleman would have usage of some parts of the property. The other indenture, dated 7 October 1840, was an agreement that after the next day's sale, Robert (Senior) would lease some part of the property to Atkins for a term of one year. This indenture describes the location of that part by reference to the plot numbers and owner/occupiers of adjoining or nearby parcels of land as recorded by the Tithe Commissioners. These plot numbers (389, 391, 1026 and 1027) are disjoint from those recorded as belonging to Robert (Senior) in the Send and Ripley Tithe Apportionment. As noted earlier, this Apportionment had been formally confirmed on 8 June 1844, about 9 months *after* the death of Robert (Senior). That he (as opposed to his executors/trustees) is shown as still owning properties in 1844 suggests that notice of his death had not reached those engaged in finalising the Apportionment. However this may be, the fact that the property he had purchased on 8 October 1840 is not included with the others in the Apportionment perhaps indicates that he had already sold it before his death.

Robert (Senior)'s second marriage

In April 1796 seemingly Robert (Senior)'s only son William died aged nearly 13. Then in 1798 his wife Elizabeth died; she was buried at St Nicolas, Great Bookham on 19 June. He was left with motherless girls Sarah and Elizabeth aged 12 and 9 assuming Ann had not survived. He would remain a widower, without a direct male heir, for nearly thirty years although in 1813 and 1821 after her marriage his daughter Sarah gave birth to surviving sons and for some time these were effectively his 'heirs apparent'. However, on 11 July 1827 he remarried at Christ Church, Southwark to a young spinster Elizabeth Martin which must have impacted on Sarah's hopes for her sons, and we may wonder what prompted him to do so. The register describes him as 'of Effingham in this County Widower' and her as 'of this [ie Southwark] Parish Spinster'.

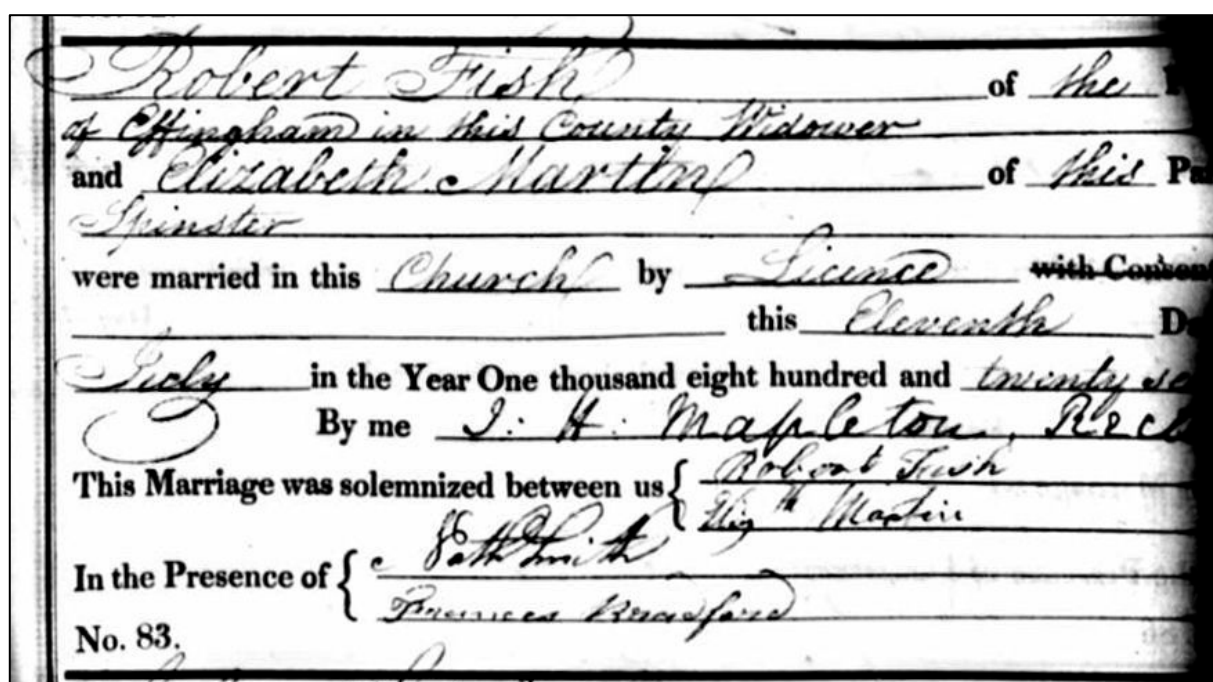


Figure 11 Robert (Senior)'s marriage to Elizabeth Martin in 1827.

Elizabeth Martin was a West Country woman, one of the many children born to Solomon Martin and his wife Elizabeth (née) Salter. These two had married at St Petroc, Bodmin in Cornwall on 3 April 1791, the register describing both as 'of this parish'; the witnesses were Ann Clemence and Mary Salter [<https://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database>].

Solomon and Elizabeth had several children baptised at St Petroc:

Jenepher	on 12 August 1792
Edward Salter *	on 18 August 1793 (died 10 January 1799)
John	on 11 March 1795
Elizabeth	on 12 March 1797 (who would marry Robert Fish (Senior) in 1827)
Edward *	on 17 July 1803 (died 27 January 1806)

and at least two others baptised in Devon:

Sally *	on 31 May 1801? at Totnes (died 12 May 1801?)
Mary Ann *	on 31 May 1801 at Totnes also (died 28 April 1816)
Richard Raymond *	on 17 March 1805 at St Andrew, Plymouth (died 2 April 1830)

Solomon died in 1830 and was buried at St Petroc. His gravestone, now moved to a position beside the churchyard wall, is still in fine condition and bears this inscription, which includes the names of the five deceased children marked * above:

Sacred to the memory of Solomon Martin late of this Borough who died on the 18th day of October 1830 in the 77th year of his age. Also of five of his children, viz Edward Salter Martin, who departed this life on the 10th day of January 1799, aged 5 years and 6 months. Sally Martin, who died on the 12th day of May 1801, aged 14 months. Edward Martin, who died on the 27th day of January 1806, aged 2 years and eight months. Mary Ann Martin, who exchanged this transitory life for immortality on the 28th day of April 1816, aged 16 years and 10 months and Richard Raymond Martin, who departed this life on the 2nd day of April 1830, aged 25 years.



Figure 12 Solomon Martin's gravestone in St Petroc churchyard.

There is a question mark over the daughter Sally whose baptism date is recorded in both *Ancestry* and *FamilySearch* as 31 May 1801, identical to that for her sister Mary Ann. But this date is later than her date of death as recorded (very clearly) on Solomon's gravestone. It may be that the latter was in error and that Sally died in 1802 rather than 1801.

We do not know why Solomon's daughter Elizabeth was in Southwark at the time she married Robert (Senior). Perhaps she had travelled from the West Country to the London area to take up an employed position. When they married she would have been aged about 30 and he about 73. He may have thought that were he to marry in full glare of Effingham's residents at St Lawrence church there would have been too much muttering about the huge age gap. Still, he had married his first wife in Southwark too.

Despite his age Robert (Senior) was clearly still in full manly working order since not long after marrying he and Elizabeth produced two children, baptised at St Lawrence as follows:

Mary Anne on 7 June 1829
Robert (Junior) on 22 May 1831

The 1841 Census finds Robert (Senior) and Elizabeth living in Effingham together with their daughter Mary Anne. Their son Robert (Junior) was meanwhile in Leatherhead residing with two other boys of school age at Willow Cottage, Kingston Road in the household of a young married schoolmaster Emanuel Marter; perhaps his parents had decided that this was the best place in the local area to have him educated. The census schedule does not identify where Robert (Senior) was living nor even assist attempts to infer it, but it may have been in The Street where he shown as residing in the Tithe Apportionment schedule for Effingham drawn up two years earlier. The occupation field of his census entry reads simply 'Ind' (having independent means of living).

Robert (Senior)'s death

He signed his Will (see Appendix II) on 29 September 1843 and died a little over seven months later, aged 90, on 30 April 1844. His death certificate [GRO Ref: Dorking 4 82, 1844 (Q2)] gives his occupation as 'Gentleman' and the cause of death as 'Decay of Nature'; the informant was his wife Elizabeth, present at the death.

He was buried at St Lawrence on 8 May 1844, as noted in the Obituary section of the June 1844 volume of *The Gentleman's Magazine*:

His large flat gravestone, larger than most of the others, survives in the churchyard to this day:

April 30. At Effingham, aged 90, Robert Fish, esq. He was borne to his last resting place by his tenantry.

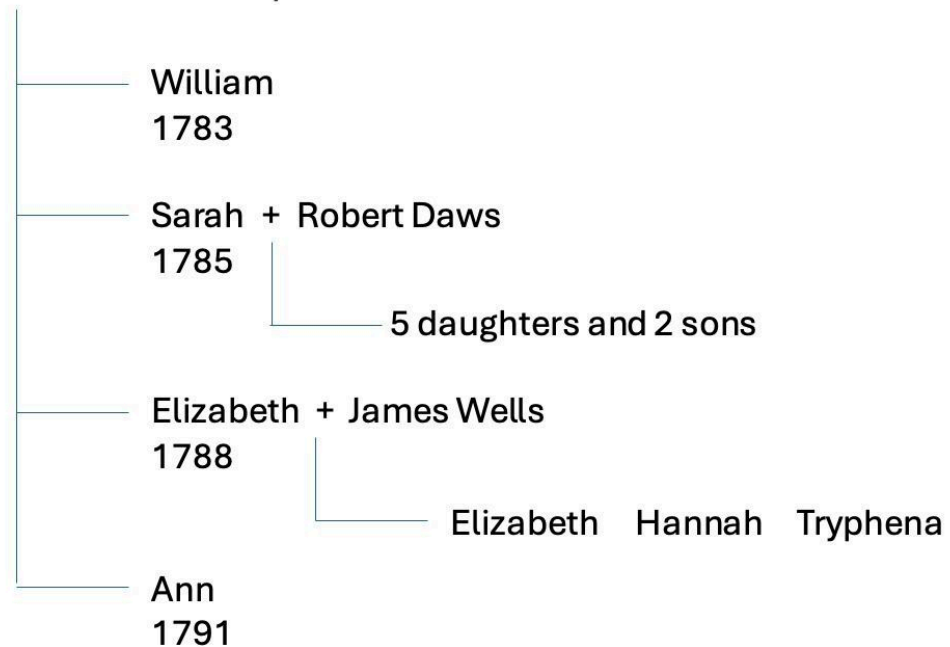
Figure 13 Robert (Senior)'s obituary.



Figure 14 Robert (Senior)'s grave at St Lawrence.

The Will of 1843 was not substantially different for that made earlier in April 1841. The latter (to which George Coleman was a witness) had had a Codicil added in 30 June 1841 altering the bequest to his wife and also appointing his friend William Tucker as joint Executor with Elizabeth. The final Will, having no Codicil, assimilated these earlier changes as well as slightly adjusting arrangements for his grandchildren. Its provisions were straightforward, albeit raising a few questions, but to understand them properly requires some account of his progeny, in particular of his known daughters from his first marriage, Sarah, Elizabeth and Ann. Figure 15 presents a simplified family tree intended to clarify the discussion that follows.

Robert (Senior) + Elizabeth Kemp



Robert (Senior) + Elizabeth Martin



Figure 15 Robert (Senior)'s children and grandchildren by his two marriages.

Of Ann we can discover nothing other than her baptism; she is not mentioned in the Will.

Sarah married in Effingham at St Lawrence on 24 July 1812 to Robert Daws, a resident of Ripley-and-Send parish. He was a farmer and brick burner, the latter detail consistent with his abode being given as Brick Kiln Cottage in Ripley-and-Send when some of his children were baptised. The witnesses were Robert and Elizabeth Fish, possibly Sarah's father and her still-unmarried sister.

Sarah and Robert Daws produced at least seven children, their births at Brick Kiln House, Ripley all certified as non-conformist [*Ancestry*: Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Registers, 1567-1936]:

Robert (Junior)	on 13 July 1813
Mary	on 31 December 1814
Sarah	on 10 October 1816
Elizabeth	on 23 September 1819
William	on 15 June 1821

Jane	on 30 March 1823
Ann	on 18 July 1827 (born 3 September 1826)

By the time Robert (Senior)'s Will was drawn up in 1843 his above seven grandchildren had become orphans: their father Robert Daws had died aged '51' at Send and been buried there on 4 November 1836, and their mother Sarah had died aged '55' at Send and been buried there on 19 March 1841. Robert Daws' Will had been made on 15 October 1836, only about three weeks before his burial. Although a long drawn-out document, its essence was to leave everything to Sarah unless she predeceased him in which case various provisions would come into effect for their children. In the event Sarah outlived him by less than five years. Her death certificate [GRO Ref: Guildford Union 4 136, 1841 (Q1)] states that she died aged '55' on 20 March 1841 from 'diseased liver'; the informant was Jane Hamilton, present at the death.

Robert (Senior)'s Will begins by bequeathing £1,500 to be shared equally by his above five grand-daughters (in other words £300 apiece) and £500 of 3% consolidated bank annuities to his above grandson Robert (Junior) Daws. The 1841 census lists Robert (Junior) Daws as aged '25', a farmer, at the 'kilns'. Nothing was left to the other grandson, William, who was still alive and in 1851 was living in Greenwich, married, and a member of the Metropolitan Police. This bequest of £1,500 was to be 'charged to' (ie paid from) a debt of £1,600 owed to Robert (Senior) and that had evidently been secured by his deceased daughter Sarah for the benefit of her unmarried daughters.

The Will continues by leaving £600 of 3% consolidated bank annuities to his Executors on trust to be shared equally between two further grand-daughters born to his daughter Elizabeth (deceased). As noted earlier, this daughter Elizabeth by his first wife had been baptised at Great Bookham on 2 November 1788. She married at Wotton to James Wells, a yeoman of Potnalls (an ancient manor in Virginia Water), on 21 October 1817. They produced at least three children, all baptized at the West Street Independent Chapel in Dorking:

Elizabeth	on 25 June 1820
Hannah	on 12 May 1824
Tryphena	on 12 April 1825 (buried at Wotton on 26 July 1825)

The first two of these – Elizabeth and Hannah – were the two further grand-daughters to whom the £600 annuities had been left in trust. Their mother Elizabeth had already died by the time Robert (Senior) made his Will. Her death certificate [GRO Ref: Dorking 4 63, 1838 (Q2)] states that she died aged '49' in Dorking on 11 May 1838, the cause being 'inflammation' [sic]; the informant was her husband James Wells. The 1841 Census finds the two girls Elizabeth and Hannah living with James in South Street, Dorking and occupied as dressmakers. Robert (Senior) further left to them the £100 remaining from the above-mentioned debt of £1,600 owed to him.

Other than these various provisions for, altogether, eight grand-children, the Will left all his remaining estate to his wife Elizabeth; this would have included many properties. It left nothing to his son William baptised in 1783 but William may have died in 1796. It also left nothing to his two youngest children Mary Anne and Robert (Junior) aged about 14 and 12 respectively at the time of the Will; he may have felt that their financial welfare would be assured by the significant assets he had left to his wife (their mother). Alternatively, a marriage settlement drawn up before he and Elizabeth married may have covered the position of future children.

Elizabeth (née Martin)'s second marriage

After Robert (Senior)'s death in 1844 his widow Elizabeth evidently remained in Effingham until at least the spring of 1847, as on 6 April that year she remarried at St Lawrence church to a widowed farmer John Johnson. Their marriage certificate [GRO Ref: Dorking 4 103, 1847 (Q2)] gives their abode as Effingham and names John's father as George Johnson, also a farmer.

The background of John Johnson remained a puzzle for ELHG for many years, particularly because he did not appear with Elizabeth in her subsequent census returns, which describe her as married rather than widowed, suggesting that they may have separated; and because he did not appear in those returns there appeared to be no way of ascertaining his birth details.

However, it now seems that the puzzle may have a plausible solution, derived from recent consideration of one of the witnesses to Elizabeth's and John's marriage. There were three witnesses: the Fish family's 'good friend' William Tucker, John Martin and – in particular – William Topham Martin.

William Topham Martin had been baptised at Nunburnholme, Yorkshire on 30 July 1818 to parents Henry Martin (a farmer) and Elizabeth (née Brigham) who had married by banns at Nunburnholme

(her parish) on 17 November 1817; their entry in the marriage register describes Henry as a farmer's son of Middleton on the Wolds (about ten miles from Nunburnholme) and her as a farmer's daughter, recording also that they had married with the consent of their parents. The 1841 Census finds William Topham at rounded age '20' living at Middleton as head of household together with his mother Elizabeth at rounded age '45' – presumed widowed – and seven of his siblings; he was occupied as a farmer. On 17 May 1842 he married at Kingston upon Hull, about 14 miles south-west of Middleton, to Anne (née) Johnson [GRO Ref: Kingston on Hull 22 235, 1842 (Q2)]. She had been baptised at St Mary and St Nicholas in Beverley, about half-way between Middleton and Kingston upon Hull, on 4 February 1814, being one of the children of George Johnson and Ruth (née Slater) who had married in that same church on 8 October 1804. The significance of all this is that Anne had an older brother John baptised there on 4 February 1809 and it seems reasonable to infer that it was he who married Robert Fish's widow Elizabeth in 1847. If so, when William Topham witnessed that latter marriage he did so as the groom's brother-in-law.

As noted above, John Johnson had been a widower when he married Elizabeth. He had first married Elizabeth (née) Stephenson on 12 June 1833 at Lund near Beverley; she had been baptised at Lund on 2 April 1809. The 1841 Census evidently finds John at rounded age '30' as a farmer in the household of his parents, together with several of his siblings, at Kilnwick, about 2 miles from Lund; he may have been just visiting his parents for the census night as was a common practice. Meanwhile his wife may have been the Elizabeth Johnson with rounded age '25' living in Lund with a child Joseph Johnson aged '2'. Five years later she died. Her death certificate [GRO Ref: Beverley 23 2 1846 (Q3)] describes her as 'wife of John Johnson farmer' and states that she died at St Mary, Beverley on 11 July 1846 aged '37' (but probably rather older), giving the cause as consumption. The informant was not her husband John but instead a farmer of Lund named Thomas Moate, 'in attendance, Beverley'. John's apparent absence at this time might suggest that he had separated from her. She was buried at All Saints, Lund and her name inscribed on the headstone of her sister Mary which survives in excellent condition to this day. We do not know what became of the child Joseph.

Elizabeth (née Martin)'s last years

By the time of the 1851 Census Robert (Senior)'s remarried widow Elizabeth (née Martin) Johnson was no longer in Effingham. Instead she was living at 10, Grove Terrace, Marylebone with her son Robert (Junior) Fish, now a medical student. Her census entry describes her as an annuitant and lodging-house keeper, aged 52 and married with birthplace Bodmin, Cornwall.

In March 1856 a large amount of furniture and other items at Rose Cottage (at that time called Rose Villa) in The Street, Effingham, was put up for auction on the premises at the instruction of Robert (Junior), with a view to it then being 'let with immediate possession' [*The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette etc.*, 18 March 1856]. The house was one of several in that part of The Street that Elizabeth had inherited from Robert (Senior). She may have been retaining it as a country residence while living primarily in London and perhaps now no longer felt the need to use it.

The 1861 Census again finds her in London with Robert (Junior) – now a qualified surgeon – at 'Effingham House' in Marquess (or 'Marquis') Road, Islington. She was here described as a visitor and fundholder, aged 64 and married with birthplace Bodmin, Cornwall.

It is not known what had become of her husband John Johnson. There is no clear candidate for him in any of the censuses after 1841, nor any clear candidate for his eventual death.

During 1868 Robert (Junior), on her behalf, sold off all her property, not without considerable difficulty and compromise. In November of that year he, his wife and children together with Elizabeth departed from England, setting sail for New Zealand where they arrived in February 1869. They soon settled in the town of Geraldine, Elizabeth retaining her Johnson surname. She seems not to have survived long after this major change in her circumstances, as she evidently died in Geraldine in the last quarter of 1871 aged about 74.

There remain several matters concerning Elizabeth's family that remain unresolved and are discussed in Appendix III.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figures 1-4, 11, 16: from *Ancestry*

Figures 5, 7-10: courtesy of the Surrey History Centre

Figure 6: National Library of Scotland, Ordnance Survey Maps

Figure 12: from findagrave.com

Figure 13: from babel.hathitrust.org

Figures 14, 15: supplied by Christopher John Hogger

Figure 17: from www.gov.uk/search-will-probate

APPENDIX I

Will of Joseph Fish made on 5 December 1778

In the name of God Amen I Joseph Fish of the Parish of
Great Bookham in the County of Surrey ^{Town} do make this my last Will and Testament in manner and
form following that is to say I give and Bequeath unto my Loving Wife Jane All my
Goods Chattels and personal Estate of what Nature or kind soever the same now is or shall be at
at the time of my Decease To hold unto my said Wife Jane for and during the term
of her Natural Life in manner and form following That is to say it is my Will
and desire that my said Wife shall continue and Occupy the Farm I now live in for and
During the Term of her Natural Life and I recommend my son Robert to live with and
Assist his Mother at the Yearly Wages of Ten Pounds a year but in Case my said Wife
shall rather chuse to Acquit and leave the Farming Business then and in that case and from
that time I give and Bequeath unto my Son Robert Fish All my Goods Chattels
Stock on the Farm and all my personal Estate unto my said Son Robert forever but subject
to the following payments out of my personal Estate unto my said Wife Jane the sum of Ten
Pounds yearly and every year for and during the Term of her Natural Life by two Equal half
yearly payments And from and after her decease I Will and direct my said Son Robert
to pay out of the said Stock and personal Estate unto my Son Joseph Fish my Daughters
Elizabeth, Jane, Sarah, Ann, and Hannah, the sum of Five Pounds a piece of lawful money
to each Child within Twelve Months after my said Wifes decease and I do hereby constitute
and appoint my said wife Jane wholly sole Executrix of this my last Will and Testament and I do hereby
revokes make void and declare as former and other Wills by me at any time heretofore made
and do declare this to be my last Will In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand
& Seal this ^{5th} Day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and
Seventy Eight

Joseph Fish

Sign'd Seal publish'd and declared
by the said Joseph Fish as and for his
last Will and Testament in presence of
us who have hereunto subscribed our
names as witnesses as witnesses
our hands

Henry Cawton Junr
Henry Cawton Senr

Figure 16 Will of Joseph Fish, 1778.

*Will of Joseph Fish made on 5 December 1778 – Transcript***In the name of God Amen**

I Joseph Fish of the Parish of Great Bookham in the County of Surrey Farmer do make this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following

that is to say I give and Bequeath unto my Loving Wife Jane All my Goods, Chattels and personal Estate of what Nature or kind soever the same now is or shall be at the time of my Decease

To hold unto my said wife Jane for and during the Term of her Natural Life in manner and form following

that is to say it is my Will and desire that my said Wife shall continue and occupy the Farm I now live in for and During the Term of her Natural Life and I recommend my son Robert to live with and Assist his Mother at the Yearly Wages of Ten pounds a Year

but in Case my said Wife shall rather chuse [sic] to Acquit and leave the Farming Business then and in that case and from that time I give and Bequeath unto my son Robert Fish All my Goods, Chattels Stock on the Farm and all my personal Estate unto my son Robert for ever but subject to the following payments out of my personal Estate

unto my said Wife Jane the sum of Ten Pounds yearly and every year for and during the Term of her Natural Life by two equal half yearly payments

And from and after her decease I will and direct my said son Robert to pay out of the said Stock and personal Estate unto my son Joseph Fish my Daughters Elizabeth, Jane, Sarah, Ann and Hannah the sum of Five pounds apiece of lawful money to Each Child within Twelve Months next and after my said Wife's decease

and I do hereby Constitute and appoint my said Wife Jane whole & sole Executrix of this my last Will and Testament and I do hereby revoke make void and disanul all former and other Wills by me at any time heretofore made

and do declare this to be my last Will and Testament

In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand & Seal this Fifth Day of December in the year of our Lord one Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Eight

Joseph Fish

Signed Sealed Publishd and declared
by the said Joseph Fish as and for his
last Will and Testament in presence of
us who have hereunto subscribed our
names hereto as Witnesses as Witness our Hand

Henry Crawter Junr
Henry Crawter Elder

APPENDIX II

Will of Robert (Senior) Fish made on 29 September 1843

217
 378

This is the last Will and Testament

of me *Robert Fish* of *Effingham* in the County of *Surrey* Gentleman a
 first a brief all my debts funeral expenses and testamentary charges to be
 paid as soon as conveniently can be after my decease I give and bequeath
 unto my five granddaughters namely Sarah Elizabeth Anne and Ann (the
 daughters of my late daughter Sarah Dawns widow deceased) the
 principal sum of one thousand five hundred pounds sterling part of a
 sum of one thousand six hundred pounds due to me or due to me by
 the bond of my said late daughter to hold the said principal sum of
 one thousand five hundred pounds to my said five granddaughters in a
 equal shares as tenants in common and to their respective executors ad-
 ministrators and assigns but so not bequeath to them the remaining
 principal nor the interest which may be due on the said bond at the ex-
 piration of my decease also I give and bequeath unto my grandson Robert
 Dawns son of my said late daughter Sarah Dawns the sum of five hun-
 dred pounds per cent consolidated about annuities to
 be paid or transferred to him by my executor and executor hereinafter
 named within twelve calendar months next after my decease for his
 own absolute use and use nevertheless I hereby charge the said sum of five
 hundred pounds with the payment of any sum or sums of money
 which may be due and owing to me from the said Robert Dawns at the
 time of my decease and I direct my executor and executor hereinafter
 named to retain and apply the same accordingly and I bequeath unto a
 my dear wife Elizabeth first and my good friend William Turner of *Stee-*
wee in the County of *Essex* Gentleman the sum of six hundred
 pounds per cent consolidated about annuities upon the said
 following trust to wit upon trust that the my said wife and the said
 William Turner and the survivor of them or the executor administrators
 or assigns of such survivor do and shall stand possessed of and interest
 in the said trust money and the stock funds and securities in or upon
 which the same shall be invested and the dividends interest and annual
 produce thereof upon the trusts following (that is to say) to one or to
 women or equal shall part thereof due first for my granddaughters
 Elizabeth Wells daughter of my late daughter Elizabeth Wells deceased
 her executor administrators and assigns absolutely and as to the other
 money or equal shall part of the said trust money stock funds and se-
 curities and the dividends interest and annual produce thereof due first
 for my granddaughters Ann and another daughter of my said
 late daughter Elizabeth Wells deceased her executor administrators and
 assigns absolutely and I bequeath to the said Elizabeth Wells and to
 her assigns the principal sum of one hundred pounds the residue of
 the said sum of one thousand six hundred pounds secured as aforesaid
 and by the bond of my said late daughter Sarah Dawns deceased to
 hold to the said Elizabeth Wells and William Turner absolutely as tenants
 in common and not as joint tenants provided always and I direct that it
 shall be lawful for my said wife and the said William Turner their ex-
 ecutors administrators or assigns out of the said trust money and pro-
 duce to reimburse themselves respectively all such expenses as they or
 either of them shall be put unto in the execution of the trusts of this my
 will and that each of them shall not be answerable or accountable for any ex-
 penses or losses which may happen to my said trust money and pro-
 duce and I give devise and bequeath unto my said wife Elizabeth all
 and every my real and personal estate hereditaments and real estate
 whatsoever and wheresoever (including copyholds) and also all the
 Rest Residue and Remainder of my goods chattels rights debts money
 securities for money personal estate and effects whatsoever and wheresoever
 to hold the same according to the value and true intent of my
 will unto my said wife Elizabeth her executor administrators and
 assigns for her and their own absolute use and appoint my said wife
 and the said William Turner her executor and executor of this my will
 jointly and severally the said Robert first the testator slave to this my last
 will and testament to sign and seal this twenty ninth day of September
 one thousand eight hundred and forty three - *Robt Fish* - signed
 attested and acknowledged by the said Robert first the testator as and
 for his last will and testament in the presence of us present at the
 same time and who in his presence at his request and in the presence
 of each other have signed subscribed our names as witnesses attesting
 the same - *By Marshall Goddard Esq* - *Marle Smallpiece Esq*
James Job

Dropped at London 17th May 1844 before the respectable James
 Porter Esq Esq of Law and Esq Esq by the Oaths of Elizabeth
 first widow the testator and William Turner the executor to William Edmond
 Esq granted having been first sworn duly to administer.

Robert
Fish
 10

Figure 17 Final Will of Robert (Senior) Fish, 1843.

*Will of Robert (Senior) Fish made on 29 September 1843 – Transcript***This is the last Will and Testament**

of me Robert Fish of Effingham in the County of Surrey Gentleman

First I direct all my debts funeral expenses and testamentary charges to be paid as soon as conveniently can be after my decease

I give and bequeath unto my five granddaughters Mary Sarah Elizabeth Jane and Ann (the daughters of my late daughter Sarah Daws widow now deceased) the principal sum of one thousand five hundred pounds sterling part of a sum of one thousand six hundred pounds due to me on and secured by the Bond of my said late daughter to hold the said principal sum of one thousand five hundred pounds to my said five granddaughters in equal shares as tenants in common and to their respective executors administrators and assigns but I do not bequeath to them the remaining principal sum nor the interest which may be due on the said Bond at the time of my decease

also I give and bequeath unto my grandson Robert Daws son of my said late daughter Sarah Daws the sum of five hundred pounds three pounds per cent [sic – three per cent] consolidated Bank annuities to be paid or transferred to him by my executrix and executor hereinafter named within twelve calendar months next after my decease for his own absolute use

But nevertheless I hereby charge the said legacy of five hundred pounds stock with the payment of any sum or sums of money which may be due and owing to me from the said Robert Daws at the time of my decease and I direct my executrix and executor hereinafter named to retain and apply the same accordingly

And I bequeath unto my dear wife Elizabeth Fish and my good friend William Tucker of Loxwood in the Parish of Wisborough Green in the County of Sussex Gentleman their executors administrators and assigns the sum of six hundred pounds three per cent consolidated Bank annuities upon the trusts following that is to say upon trust that she my said wife and the said William Tucker and the survivor of them or the executors administrators or assigns of such survivor do and shall stand possessed of and interested in the said trust money and the stocks funds and securities in or upon which the same shall be invested and the dividends interest and annual produce thereof upon the trusts following (that is to say) as to one moiety or equal half part of the said trust money stocks funds and securities and the dividends interest and annual produce thereof In trust for my granddaughter Elizabeth Wells (daughter of my late daughter Elizabeth Wells deceased) her executors administrators and assigns absolutely

And as to the other moiety or equal half part of the said trust money stocks funds and securities and the dividends interest and annual produce thereof In trust for my granddaughter Hannah Wells (another daughter of my said late daughter Elizabeth Wells deceased) her executors administrators and assigns absolutely

and I bequeath to the said Elizabeth Wells and Hannah Wells the principal sum of one hundred pounds the residue of the said sum of one thousand six hundred pounds secured as aforesaid by the Bond [noted] of my said late daughter Sarah Daws deceased to hold to the said Elizabeth Wells and Hannah Wells absolutely as tenants in common and not as joint tenants provided always and I direct that it shall be lawful for my said wife and the said William Tucker their executors administrators or assigns out of the said trust moneys and premises to reimburse themselves respectively all such expenses as they or either of them shall be put unto in execution of the trusts of this my will and that they shall not be answerable or accountable for any involuntary losses which may happen to my said trust moneys and premises

and I devise and bequeath unto my said wife Elizabeth All and every my messuages lands tenements hereditaments and real estate whatsoever and wheresoever (including copyholds)

And also all the Rest Residue and Remainder of my goods chattels rights credits moneys securities for money personal estate and effects whatsoever and wheresoever to hold the same according to the nature and tenure therefore respectively unto my said wife Elizabeth her heirs executors administrators and assigns for her and their own absolute use

And I appoint my said wife and the said William Tucker Executrix and Executor of this my will as witness whereof I the said Robert Fish the testator have to this my last will and testament set my hand this twenty ninth day of September one thousand eight hundred and forty three

Robt Fish ... Signed ...

declared and acknowledged by the said Robert Fish the testator as and for his last will and testament in the presence of us present at the same time and who in his presence at his request and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses attesting the same

Hy Marshall Godalming Surrey Solr. [Solicitor]
Mark Smallpeice [sic] Dorking Surrey Solr.

Proved at London 17th May 1844 before the worshipful James Parker Deane Doctor of Laws and Surrogate by the Oaths of Elizabeth Fish widow the relict and William Tucker the Executors to whom Admon [Administration] was granted having been first sworn duly to administer.

APPENDIX III

Unresolved matters

Elizabeth Martin and William Topham Martin

We showed earlier that the witnessing by William of Elizabeth's marriage in 1847 to John Johnson could be explained by William apparently being John's brother-in-law. However, was William also related to Elizabeth, given their common surname Martin?

William's father Henry had been baptised at Middleton on the Wolds on 16 September 1781 to parents William (Senior) and Ann (née Walkington) who had married there on 24 September 1775. We might surmise that William (Senior) had been born around the 1750s but we cannot confidently identify a baptism for him in Yorkshire in that period.

Elizabeth's father Solomon had, according to his gravestone, been born in about 1753. The only candidate we can find for his baptism in Cornwall in that period is a 'Sollaman Marten' baptised at St Stithians (and, from other evidence, born about 7 miles from there at Wendron) on 13 June 1754 to parents Tobias and Jane; the origins of Tobias are unknown to us.

So William Topham had at least two earlier generations of Martins behind him in Yorkshire whilst Elizabeth had at least one, and probably two, earlier generations of Martins behind her in Cornwall. There does not seem to be much prospect of relating them in a close manner and it may be that their sharing of the Martin surname was entirely coincidental.

Elizabeth Martin and John Johnson

Despite repeated efforts over the years we have been unable to discover what became of the marriage of these two after 1847. Had they separated or had his absences from her in the 1851 and 1861 Censuses been merely temporary?

The 1851 Census finds a John Johnson aged '39' with birthplace Beverley visiting a widowed farmer Hester Pearl (farming 160 acres with 4 employed labourers) at Helwell Farm (now a Grade II listed farmhouse) in Kenton, Devon and described as a 'Gentleman' and unmarried. The 1861 Census finds a John Johnson aged '46' with birthplace Beverley lodging with the family of an agricultural labourer Charles Tarrant in Micheldever, Hampshire and described as a farm bailiff and widowed; Micheldever is just 7 miles from Overton where William Topham Martin was farming in the 1850s until his emigration in 1857 to Canada (where he died almost immediately after disembarking). Whether either of these two Johnsons was Elizabeth's separated husband we cannot say. The 1871 Census seems to offer no John Johnson born at Beverley in the right period.

When Elizabeth with Robert (Junior) and his wife and children arrived in New Zealand, there was no Mr Johnson accompanying them, according to the list of arrivals. If he were still living, she had apparently left him behind.

Another John Johnson from Yorkshire in Effingham

During our research into Elizabeth's husband a significant curiosity emerged. The 1851 Census finds a John Johnson, a farmer born in Yorkshire in about 1810, residing at Effingham Hill Farm. The schedule describes him as aged '41' with birthplace Ryehill in Yorkshire, married and with six children and four servants. He was farming 150 acres and employing two 'indoors labourers'. His youngest two children Sarah and John were baptised at St Lawrence on 31 March 1848 and 29 March 1850, respectively, the register naming their mother as Hannah. Also at St Lawrence on 29 March 1850 a child Eliza Johnson was baptised having parents Henry – a farmer living on Effingham Common – and Ann.

This John Johnson of Effingham Hill seems to have been baptised on 28 March 1810 at Skeckling with Burstwick, about one mile from Ryehill, his father named in the register as Timothy Johnson. Timothy, baptised on 22 July 1781 at Pontefract to parents Thomas and Mary, had married on 10 June 1802 at Cherry Burton, Yorkshire to Mary Coxworth.

John had married in Yorkshire in 1841 to Hannah (née) Goundrill [GRO Ref: Patrington 23 129, 1841 (Q4)]. At the time of the 1841 Census both had been living in Ryehill. Their marriage seems not to have lasted, as by the time of the 1861 Census Hannah – described as a housekeeper – and her six children by John were living in Ryehill with her unmarried brother George Goundrill, a farmer of 208 acres; the schedule describes her as married, not widowed. The 1871 Census finds Hannah – now described as widowed – living as a housekeeper to her unmarried son Timothy, a farmer of 7 acres, in Thorngumbald, of which parish Ryehill forms a part. She died aged '74' in 1887 [GRO Ref: Patrington 9d 205, 1887 (Q3)]. What had become of her husband John we do not know.

Was it merely another coincidence that when widow Elizabeth (née Martin) Fish married in 1847 in Effingham to a widowed Yorkshire-born farmer John Johnson there was already a married Yorkshire-born farmer John Johnson living in Effingham? The two men were born at about the same time and only 14 miles apart.

As for Henry and Ann Johnson of Effingham Common, nothing more is currently known of them. Was it yet a further coincidence that they had a child baptised at St Lawrence on the same day as was a child of John and Hannah?

The three matters discussed in this Appendix must remain unresolved for the time being.

Effingham and The Bookhams Branch of The British Legion – Supplement

CHRISTOPHER JOHN HOGGER

This supplementary article identifies a person in a photograph in the primary article who had not been previously identified.

Introduction

The primary article [*Studies in the History of Effingham*, Vol 4, Article 36] included (as Figure 30) the following photograph, probably taken in the 1960s or 1970s, which was among a collection of photographs that had originated from Eileen Ethel (née Horton) Ranger and been conveyed to ELHG by Kathleen Hilda Gwenda (née) Parrish. It shows the entrance to the headquarters in Lower Road, Effingham of the local branch of The British Legion, with (Walter) George Ranger – Eileen's husband – on the left of the group and Colin L Gibb on the right.

A former resident of Effingham has since informed us that the person at the centre was James George Poulter.



James had been born in Leatherhead on 14 December 1912 and registered in the following quarter [GRO Ref: Epsom 2a 71, 1913 (Q1)]. In 1928, in his mid-teens, he joined the Royal Navy with 'Boy 2' rating, being trained on HMS Impregnable and HMS Ganges before signing up on 14 December 1930 for 12 years of service.

He married in 1937 to Gwenyth Mary (née) Covey [GRO Ref: Surrey SW 2a 1064, 1937 (Q2)]. In the later 1940s they reputedly ran the Welcome Café in the group of shops on the Guildford Road (on the site where Lindens Close now stands) known locally as 'Covey Island'. By the 1960s they were living at Fairview in Mount Pleasant.

James died on 6 September 1998.

Woodlands Road – History and Memories – Supplement

DEREK W RUFFLES

This supplementary article corrects two words in the primary article.

Introduction

The primary article [*Studies in the History of Effingham*, Vol 5, Article 38] discussed the building of new houses in Woodlands Road in the early 1980s so as to close the long-standing gap that had been reserved originally to allow the construction of a feeder road ‘Route 37’ (which would have passed through that gap) to serve the M25 motorway. The abandonment of the feeder road scheme meant that the gap could now accommodate new houses, which would entail the renumbering of many of the road's existing houses.

This renumbering was discussed in the primary article beneath Figure 14. The text there had a sentence beginning ‘The pre-existing plot numbers ...’ in which the words ‘eastern’ and ‘western’ were the wrong way round. The correct sentence is:

‘The pre-existing plot numbers 80, 82, etc on the western side would now each be increased by 12, so becoming 92, 94 etc, whilst the plot numbers 69, 71 etc on the eastern side would now each be increased by 10, so becoming 79, 81 etc.’

INDEX

For each term, the index gives the page number(s) of only the first occurrence(s) of that term within the article(s).

- Ackland, James** 201
Adams, Joseph Stewart 13, 21, 142, 212
Alms Houses, The 10
Alun-Jones, (Sir) John Derek 120
Alund, Tora 51
Anderson, Arthur Sydney 194
Andrews, Arthur William 159
Apreece, (Sir) Thomas Hussey 144, 254
Ariss, Mary 249
Arnaud, (Col) Charles Leon 53
Arnaud, Jeanne Germaine 53
Arnaud, Yvonne 28, 37, 53
Ascroft, Eileen Mary 41, 112
Atkins, William 256
Avenue Cottage 163

Banks 245
Banks Common 117
Banks Cottage 9
Banks Way Farm 46, 67
Barn Engineering Works 198
Barnard, Phoebe 17
Barnett, Noel 160
Barnett, William Whitehorn Brooke 51
Battle of Britain 23
Batty, Thomas 253
Bayly, (Rev) Ernest Frederic 5, 14
Bayly, Frederic Joliffe 10
Beckley Cottages (Bookham) 204
Beconridge 212
Bednall, (Major-General Sir) Cecil Norbury 47
Beech Avenue 19, 163, 212
Beech Cottage 8
Beesley, Dora ('Dorothea') Emily 184
Beesley, George Henry 184
Bensted, Emma 160
Bilby, John 254
Biles, George 182
Biles, John 174
Biles, Violet Edith Jane 219
Birch, Granny 2
Bird, (Fr) Francis Edward 221
Bishop, Winifred 183
Blades, (Sir) George Rowland 199
Blaney, Norah 20
Bolton, Jesse 9
Bonsey, John 190
Bonsor, Francis Albert 11
Bookham Common 244
Bookham Flower Show 154
Bookham Grove 244

Bookham Station 14
Booth, (Capt) Frederick VC 152
Botterell, (Capt) John Dumville 154
Botterell, John James Dumville 154
Botting, John 142
Boustead, (Col Sir) Hugh 18
Bowker, Esther Florence 85
Bowles, William Thomas 186
Boxall, Ann 185
Branker, (Sir) William Sefton 103
Bretherton, Charles Edward 184
Brick Kiln Cottage (Send) 256
Brickfield Cottage 200
Bridger, Harry Nathan 17, 194, 216
Bridger, Mary Alfreda 1, 17, 216
Briggs, William Edward 191
Brigham, Elizabeth 261
British Empire Exhibition, 1924 175
British Legion, The (Royal) 142, 212, 271
Brockholes, William Fitzherbert 245
Brookhill Common 115
Brown, Gerda Lois 21, 69
Brown, Samuel 2
Brown's Lane 17
Browne, Elizabeth 245
Browns 8, 21, 154
Brush, Ellen Maria 171
Bullen, Lucy Violet Victoria 226
Bunce, John Thomas 224
Burch, Susannah 249
Burgess, James (I) 254
Burgess, James (II) 255
Burgess, Maude 212
Burton, Ronald George 46
Butcher, Arthur 252
Butcher, Philip 252
Butcher, William 18, 212
Bygrave, Harriet 8

Calburn, Charles Clement 204
Calburn, Robert Reitmeyer 115
Canadian soldiers in Effingham 23
Candy, (Dr) George Spence 188
Canning, Marion 224
Carn Pit Field 150, 216
Carpenter, John 10
Carr, Victoria 220
Catholic Boys' Brigade 193
Chandler, William 254
Chapel Hill 15
Chapman, John Lewin 8

- Chapman, John Rave 8
 Chenell, Lucy Priscilla 204
 Church Cottages 18, 171
 Church Croft 152
 Church House (Bookham) 21
 Church Street 9, 171, 215, 248
 Church Street Cottages 253
 Clark, Horace 200
 Clarke, Agnes Mary 148
 Cleary, Edwin 156
 Cobb, Amy Lydia 144
 Cobb, John Rhodes 144
 Cobham Road (Fetcham) 189
 Colborne, Ellen 41
 Coleman, George 257
 Coles, Sarah 243
 Colets Piling Ltd 10
 Collins, Maurice Oliver 193
 Common Cottage 9
 Commoners' Days 115
 Concert Hall (Effingham) 15
 Cooke, Mary 253
 Coombe, Alderman Harvey 251
 Coombs, Gerald 162
 Coombs, Richard Herbert 193
 Cooper, Welcome Joseph 185
 Cornwell, Keith Charles 129
 Coronation Celebrations, 1937 21, 216
 Cottage, The 10, 22, 156
 Cottington, Sarah Jane Elizabeth 173
 Covey Island 271
 Covey, Gwentyth Mary 271
 Cox, Ann 246
 Cox, George 151
 Cox, James 7
 Cox, James Alfred 8
 Cox, Laura Annie 1
 Cox, Louis Henry 8
 Cox, Luther 176
 Crockford, William 251
 Crocknorth Cottage 174
 Crocknorth Farm 175
 Crosslands 11
 Crossways 3
 Crowley, Maria 9
 Cubitt and West, Messrs 19
 Curry, William 246
- D**
 Dainty, John 254
 Davies, (Sir) Raymond ('Ray') Douglas 119
 Davis, William 253
 Daws, Ann 260
 Daws, Elizabeth 260
 Daws, Jane 260
 Daws, Mary 260
 Daws, Robert (Junior) 260
 Daws, Robert (Senior) 256
 Daws, Sarah 260
 Daws, William 260
- De Costa, Elizabeth 184
 De Lancey, (General) Oliver 245
 De Quincey, (Capt) Robert Gerald 110
 Dearling, William James 176
 Delgado, Eduardo 160
 Delgado, Eduardo Charles 160
 Delgado, Emilia Maria 160
 Dench, George 20
 Diamantidi, Anthony Nicholas 20, 40, 68
 Dirtham Lane 19, 166
 Dodman, Dick 190
 Dodman, Wilfred 144
 Dodman, William Charles 143
 Dog Kennel Green 174, 249
 Dormers 152
 Dowdy, Rebecca 255
 Downe, (Rt Hon Lady Viscountess) 244
 Drinkwater, (Rev) Arthur Leonard 21
- E**
 Earl of Lovelace 175
 East Court Common 128
 East Horsley 9
 Edwards, Anna Maria 27
 Edwards, Edward Tickner 27
 Effingham Boys' Club 167
 Effingham Common 4, 37, 65, 112, 115, 212
 Effingham Common Road 19, 116
 Effingham Cricket Club 40, 144
 Effingham Drum and Fife Band 14, 155, 216
 Effingham Estates Ltd 176
 Effingham Football Club 142
 Effingham Girls Club 162
 Effingham Golf Club 48, 144
 Effingham Hill 38
 Effingham Hill Farm 191
 Effingham Hill House 202
 Effingham House 7, 85, 250
 Effingham House (Islington) 262
 Effingham House Stables 19
 Effingham Junction 27, 95, 165
 Effingham Junction Station 14
 Effingham Junction Women's Institute 27, 71
 Effingham Lodge 174
 Effingham Lodge Farm 196
 Effingham Methodist Church 163
 Effingham North Common 115
 Effingham Parish Council 10, 115, 184, 212
 Effingham Women's Institute 22, 142, 189
 Effingham Working Men's Club 14, 143
 English, Robert George 163
 Eskdale (Strathcona Avenue) 220
 Essam, Charles James 7
 Estler, Adrian George 10, 117
 Eyre, (Capt) John Villiers 170
- F**
 Fairview (Mount Pleasant) 271
 Faris, Elizabeth Susan 5
 Faris, Margaret Young 10
 Farley, (Rev) William 184

- Farnham, Edward 248
 Farrar, Gwendoline ('Gwen') 20, 41, 68
 Farrar, Thomas Cyril Lister 21
 Feldemore (Holmbury St Mary) 38
 Fetcham Mill Pond 174
 Fish, Ann 245
 Fish, Elizabeth 245
 Fish, Joseph 243
 Fish, Mary Anne 260
 Fish, Robert (Junior) 260
 Fish, Robert (Senior) 243
 Fish, Sarah 245
 Fish, William 245
 Fitzherbert, Basil 245
 Flood, Bertha Alice 193
 Floud, (Rev) Harold Arthur 21, 224
 Flower Cottage 41, 112
 Flying bomb 23
 Forge House 13
 Fuller, Thomas 250
- G**
 Ganthony, Robert 171
 Garnett, Claude d'Esterfield 200
 Gate, The (Effingham Common Road) 182
 Gerard, Teddie 41, 164
 Gibb, Colin L 19, 271
 Gibb, Wilhelmina (or Williamina) 9
 Gladdis, James 205
 Goldsmith, Frederick William 148
 Gorringe, Eliza 7
 Goulter, (Inspector) Henry 172
 Goulter, Sidney Bernard 172
 Great Bookham Memorial Hall 153
 Great Lee Woods 251
 Greathurst, William 254
 Grobel, Peter Dennis Alan Christian 129
 Grout, Elizabeth 173
 Grout, James 174
 Grout, Robert 173
 Grout, Thomas 173
 Grove House 20, 254
 Grove Paddock 68
 Grove, The (Great Bookham) 154
 Guibara, Dolores ('Lola') López 143
 Guildford Borough Council 119
 Guildford Road 22, 144, 271
 Guildford Rural District Council 117
- H**
 Hall, Monica Christine 13
 Hall, Thomas Farmer 2
 Halliwell, Kate Edith 153
 Halt, The 165
 Harrison, Thomas 244
 Harrold, Jessica Elizabeth 118
 Harvest Festival 163
 Harwood, Mary 250
 Haslett, Henry 249
 Hatchford End 1
 Hathaway (Surrey Gardens) 28
- Hautboy, The 19
 Hawks Hill 189
 Heaton, Beresford Rimington 196
 Hemans, (Rev) Philip Wynne 192
 Hemans, Henry William 192
 Hemus, Doris Emily 38
 Hendry, Brian 119
 Heneage, Elizabeth 245
 Heneage, Mary 245
 Heneage, Windsor 245
 Hicks, Sarah Anne 248
 High Barn 142
 High Barn Farm 8
 High Barn Road 2, 15, 22
 Hill, Thomas 246
 Hodge, Edith M 50
 Hollis, William 249
 Holloway, Stanley Augustus 57
 Home Farm 9, 143, 144
 Home Guard 21, 110, 116
 Hooker, Sarah 9, 144
 Horsley Towers 157
 Horton, Eileen Ethel 271
 Houlton, Arthur Hamilton Robert Cecil 190
 How, Louise 42
 Howard of Effingham School 17
 Hubbard, Henry 249
 Hubbard, James 254
 Huckamoor 116
 Huckell, Beatrice 43
 Hughes-Hallet, David 22
 Hutchinson, Conchita 155
 Hutchinson, Nina Rosalind 155
- I**
 Indian Farm 246
- J**
 Jacob, Naomi Eleanor Clare Ellington 31, 71
 James, Frederick Robert 191
 Jebbit, John Hubert 41
 Johnson, Anne 262
 Johnson, George 262
 Johnson, John 261
 Johnson, Joseph 262
 Jones, Marjorie 191
 Jovial Sailor, The (Send) 256
 Jubilee Celebration Committee 213
- K**
 Kay, Maria Robinson 8
 Keeling, John Sheppard 17
 Keeling, Lena 17, 194, 216
 Kemp, Elizabeth 244
 Kemp, Jane 204
 Kemp, John 244
 Keppel, George Thomas,
 6th Earl of Albermarle 184
 King George V Playing Fields 17, 37, 148
 King, Lavinia 162
- L**
 Lack, Edith Sarah 203

- Lamb, Reginald Cecil 188
 Lambert, Charles Edward 2, 85, 250
 Lambert, Myra Phyllis 170
 Lambert, Nina 216
 Laurels, The 4
 Layton, Thomas 252
 Lee, Mary 250
 Lee, Richard 250
 Lee, Thomas 250
 Leebrooke 10, 116
 Leewood Cottages 184
 Lewin, Audrey Hale 38, 65
 Lewin, Eileen Margaret 47
 Lewin, Thomas Herbert 38
 Lewis, Bertram 41
 Lewis, Percy Wyndham 42
 Lindens close 271
 Little Lee Woods 251
 Lodge, The 17, 143, 217
 Longhurst, David 248
 Lower Farm 245
 Lower Farm Road 38, 118
 Lower Road 19, 153
 Lower Road Cottage 19
 Loxley, Ernest Albert 144
 Loxley, Frank Ernest 144
 Loxley, Harold 160
 Loxley, Uriah 3, 144
 Lucas, John 250
 Lukin, Lilian Olivia 187
 Lupino-Hook, George Barry 112
 Lupino, (Lt) Peter 112
 Lupino, Peter Don Studholme Borrett 112
 Lupton, Carolina Maria 112
 Lushington, (Rt Hon Dr) Stephen George 8
 Lushington, Hester 8
- M**ackness, Frederick William 203
 Madge, Emily 21, 143
 Madge, Frank 170
 Madge, Myra Diana 170
 Madge, Sidney 19, 165
 Madge's Field 20, 150, 216
 Madge's Lane 227
 Makenzie, Arthur 179
 Malandrinos, Andrea Basil 28, 62
 Mallaby-Deeley, (Sir) Harry 212
 Mallaby-Deeley, (Sir) Guy Meyrick Mallaby 212
 Mangeot, André Louis 43, 66
 Manor House Lane 22
 Manor House Yard 189
 Manor of Effingham 115
 Manor of Effingham East Court 115, 254
 Manor of Effingham La Legh 115
 Manor of Effingham La Place 115
 Manuel, Norman Kendal 188
 Manuel, Walter Albert 188
 Marchant, Martha Ellen 18
 Marshman, Emma 8
- Martin, Elizabeth 257
 Martin, Grace Amy 152
 Martin, Henry 261
 Martin, John 254
 Martin, Solomon 257
 Martin, William Topham 261
 Maskell, Mary 10
 Mathew, Edith Annie 144
 Matthews, George 180
 Maxse, (Admiral) Frederick Augustus 38
 McGowan, Ivor Alexander Whitworth 212
 McLellan, Charles Morton Stewart 59
 McLellan, Hugh 41, 59
 Meacock, Phyllis Mary 155
 Menchenton, Jane Elizabeth 174
 Mid-Surrey Garden Centre 17
 Middle Farm 9
 Milestone, The 17
 Mills, Ethel Almena 144
 Mizen's nursery 20
 Monk, George 249
 Mooney, Lilian Olivia (née Lukin) 21
 Mooney, Monica 69
 Moore, Doris Edith 220
 Moore, Robert 254
 Mount Pleasant 271
- N**ational School (Effingham) 9
 Neil and Spencer Ltd 24
 Nicholls, Margaret Mary 216
 Nicholls, Walter 224
 Norwood Farm 37, 65
 Norwood Road 15
 Nottage, Charles 212
 Nyce (Indian) Farm 246
- O**'Connor, Monica Mercy 1, 20, 176
 Oaken Wood 250
 Old Forge 248
 Old Post Cottage 18
 Old Rectory, The (Little Bookham) 175
 Old Road (East Horsley) 180
 Old Village Hall, The 10
 Old Westmoor Cottage 8, 18, 171
 Olders Cottages 201
 Oliver, Constance Gertrude 172
 Orchard Cottage 41, 164
 Orchard Walls 23
 Orestan Lane 10, 18
 Orestan Lodge 18
 Ottaway, Charles 254
 Ottaway, John 171
 Ottaway, William 171
 Oughton, Annie Winifred 27, 62, 95
 Oughton, David 27
 Our Lady of Sorrows 14, 19, 74, 221
 Owen, Adam 119
 Owlscot 251

- Paddock, The 20, 68
 Page, Antony Donald 118
 Park, The Lodge 17
 Parker, Christina Hartley 19
 Parker, Edward John Clifton 194
 Parker, Nancy Heather Clifton 194
 Parker, Theophilus Glover Martin 194
 Parkhurst (Abinger) 38
 Parrish, Kathleen Hilda Gwenda 271
 Parton, Richard 120
 Patience, John 250
 Patten, Frank John 160
 Patten, Frederick Charles 162
 Pauling, Dolores Angela 143
 Pauling, George Craig Saunders 143
 Pauling, George Henry 143
 Pauling, Jane Josephine 143
 Peace Day Celebrations, 1919 142
 Percival Cottage 255
 Perreau, (Col) Montagu Charles 156
 Pipe, Alice Emma 186
 Pit, The 166
 Plough Cottages 205
 Plough Inn, The 1, 15, 18
 Pollard, James William 224
 Poulter, James George 271
 Poulter, William 249
 Poultry Society 165
 Pound Days 152
 Prier, Edward 251
 Prince Blücher, The 7
 Procter, Mary Elizabeth 217
 Procter, Thomas Maurice 217
 Proper, Frances 97

Raby, Alexander 246
 Rackstraw, William 254
 Railway Cottages 180
 Rains, William Claude 89
 Ramtops 8
 Ranger, Albert 185
 Ranger, Elizabeth 9
 Ranger, Ernest Albert 165
 Ranger, Florence Ann 185
 Ranger, Frederick 185
 Ranger, Gladys Evelyn 182
 Ranger, Walter George 182, 271
 Ranmore 24
 Ranmore Common 191
 Rectory Lane 154
 Reeves, Ellis 204
 Reeves, John 204
 Richards, Edgar William John 144
 Richards, Edith Agnes 5
 Richards, William 5, 14, 144
 Ritson, Emily 184
 Robinson, (Sir) Frederick Percival 152
 Rolfe, George 193
 Rose Cottage 187, 251
 Rose Villa 251
 Ross, Effie Jane 14, 22, 142
 Ross, James Aitchison 144
 Rowan Tree Cottages 19
 Rowland Lubbock Memorial Hall 30, 71
 Royal School for the Blind 196
 Rudkins, James 159
 Ruffinshaw 9
 Russell, Robert 8
 Russell, Rowena Elizabeth 8

Salter, Elizabeth 257
 Sawyer, Katherine Margaret 162
 Scarff, Eva 181
 Schofield, (Capt) Harry Methuen 101
 Scott, Jessie 159
 Searle, Frederick George 172
 Segesser, (Fr) Felix 193
 Shepherd, Edward Franklin 166
 Shepherd, Frederick Arthur 166
 Shepherd, Frederick George 166
 Shepherd, Grace Louise 166
 Shrine (St Lawrence Churchyard) 142, 214
 Sibley's Newsagent 14
 Silver Jubilee Celebrations, 1935 21, 208
 Simmonds, Francis 247
 Simmonds, John 247
 Sindale, Emma Sparrow 8
 Sir Douglas Haig Hotel, The 9, 14, 23, 143
 Skeet, John 252
 Slater, Ruth 262
 Slaters Oak 9, 116, 212, 254
 Smith, (Dr) William Leslie Winslow 5
 Sopwith, Thomas Octave Murdoch 157
 South Lodge 22
 St Lawrence Church 10, 13, 17, 40, 163, 214, 258
 St Lawrence School 9, 13, 22, 142, 212
 St Teresa's School 202
 Station Cottages 186
 Stedman, (Dr) Frederic Savignac 11
 Stedman, (Dr) Arthur 6
 Stedman, Robert 11
 Stenning, Anne 248
 Stephenson, Elizabeth 262
 Steps, The 254
 Stevenson, John 252
 Stovell, Arthur Archibald 18, 155
 Stovell, Thomas (I) 249
 Stovell, Thomas (II) 249
 Stovell, Winifred Annie 13
 Strand School 21
 Strathcona Avenue 15
 Street, Lewis Ralph 188
 Street, Ralph Edgar 144, 224
 Street, Rosa Helen 166, 230
 Street, The 9, 156, 251
 Surrey County Council 189

Talbot, (Sir) Adelbert Cecil 142

- Tanner's Land 246
 Taylor, Violet Eliza 174
 Teesdale, Ellen Augusta 156
 Teesdale, John Marmaduke 156
 Teesdale, Julia 156
 Tegg, John 9
 The Hollies 22
 Thompson, John 123
 Thomson, (Col) Benjamin Thomas Lindsay 85
 Thomson, Beatrix Lindsay 28, 85
 Thomson, Gordon Lindsay 90
 Thomson, Margaret Lindsay 86
 Thorncroft 152
 Thorndike Theatre (Leatherhead) 33
 Thorndike, Agnes Sybil 27
 Thornet Wood 250
 Tickner, Thomas 249
 Tidy, David 254
 Tilley, Thomas 255
 Tollgate Cottage
 (Effingham Common Road) 19, 182
 Tollgate Cottage (Guildford Road) 19
 Tritton, Arthur Henry 175
 Tucker, William 261
 Turner, Nellie Susannah 163
 Turner, Sheila Rosemary 218
 Tyrrell and Ranger, Messrs 182
 Tyrrell, Edward 9
 Tyrrell, Francis 254
 Tyrrell, George Herbert 183
 Tyrrell, Harriet 183
 Tyrrell, Henry ('Harry') 4, 22
 Tyrrell, Henry Edward ('Ted') 146
 Tyrrell, Inkerman 190
 Tyrrells (house on Effingham Common) 254

 Upper Farm 246
 Urry, (Sir) Thomas 245

 Vicarage, The Old 14
 Victory Cottages 20, 177, 219
 Villa, The 144
 Village Hall, Old 178
 Village Stores, The 17, 193
 Vine Cottage 251

Waller, Michael Stanley 30, 40
 Warham, Annie 171
 Warren Farm 152
 Warrener, Emily Annie 166
 Water Lane 20
 Waterfield, (Dr) Noel 21
 Waterhouse, (Sir) Nicholas Edwin 37, 65
 Waterhouse, Edwin 38
 Watmough, Jonathan 249
 Watson, Islay ('Joy') Reneira 121
 Wavell, Woodman 249
 Weaver, Florence 148, 220
 Welcome Café 271

 Weller, Ivy Maude 194
 Weller, Rose 200
 Wells, Alexander 204
 Wells, Arthur James 226
 Wells, Elizabeth 260
 Wells, Hannah 260
 Wells, James 260
 Wells, Robert 226
 Wells, Tryphena 260
 Wesley, (Rev) Louis Herbert Wellesley Wesley 2
 West Horsley 3
 West Lane farm 18
 West, Thomas ('Tommy')
 William Plowright 14, 20
 Westmead 251
 Westmore Cottage 8
 Whale, Betty 224
 Whale, Edgar William 212
 White House, The 19
 White, William Bernard 201
 Whittington, Charles 171
 Whittington, Dick 171
 Whittington, Thomas 253
 Wickens, William John 207
 Wilkins, James Moore 256
 Williams, Sarah 207
 Willock-Pollen, Henry Court 152, 250
 Willock-Pollen, Violet Mary Boileau 152
 Willow Cottage (Leatherhead) 259
 Willow Pool 19
 Willows, The 116
 Wilson, John 249
 Windsor Castle, The (Little Bookham) 207
 Windy Ridge 23, 212
 Women's Social Guild 150
 Women's Voluntary Service 22
 Wood, James 244
 Woodhatch, Jane 243
 Woodlands Road 162, 273
 Woods, Henry 15, 17
 Woods, Tom 188
 Wrench, Elizabeth 180
 Wrens Hill (Lower Farm Road) 118

Yates, Ralph 13
 Yew Tree Cottages 13
 Yew Tree House 20, 214
 Yew Tree Walk 20
 Young, Mary Jane 21
 Yurievskaya, (Princess)
 Catherine Alexandrovna 163
 Yvonne Arnaud Theatre 53

CONTENTS

Oral History – Laura Annie (née Cox) Essam	1
Oral History – Winifred Annie (née Stovell) Hall	13
Oral History – Lena (née Keeling) Bridger	17
Winifred Oughton – Renowned Actress and First President of Effingham Junction Women's Institute	27
Nicholas and Audrey Waterhouse – Generous Contributors to the Arts	37
Yvonne Arnaud – Effingham's Star of Stage and Screen, Pianist and Comedienne	53
Beatrix Thomson – Prolific Stage Actor and Aviator	85
Effingham Common – Early Commoners' Days	115
Public Events in Effingham 1920-29	141
Effingham Celebrations – the Silver Jubilee of George V in 1935	209
Robert Fish (Senior) – Farmer and Landowner	243

SUPPLEMENTS

Effingham and the Bookhams Branch of The British Legion – Supplement	271
Woodlands Road – History and Memories – Supplement	273
Index	275

