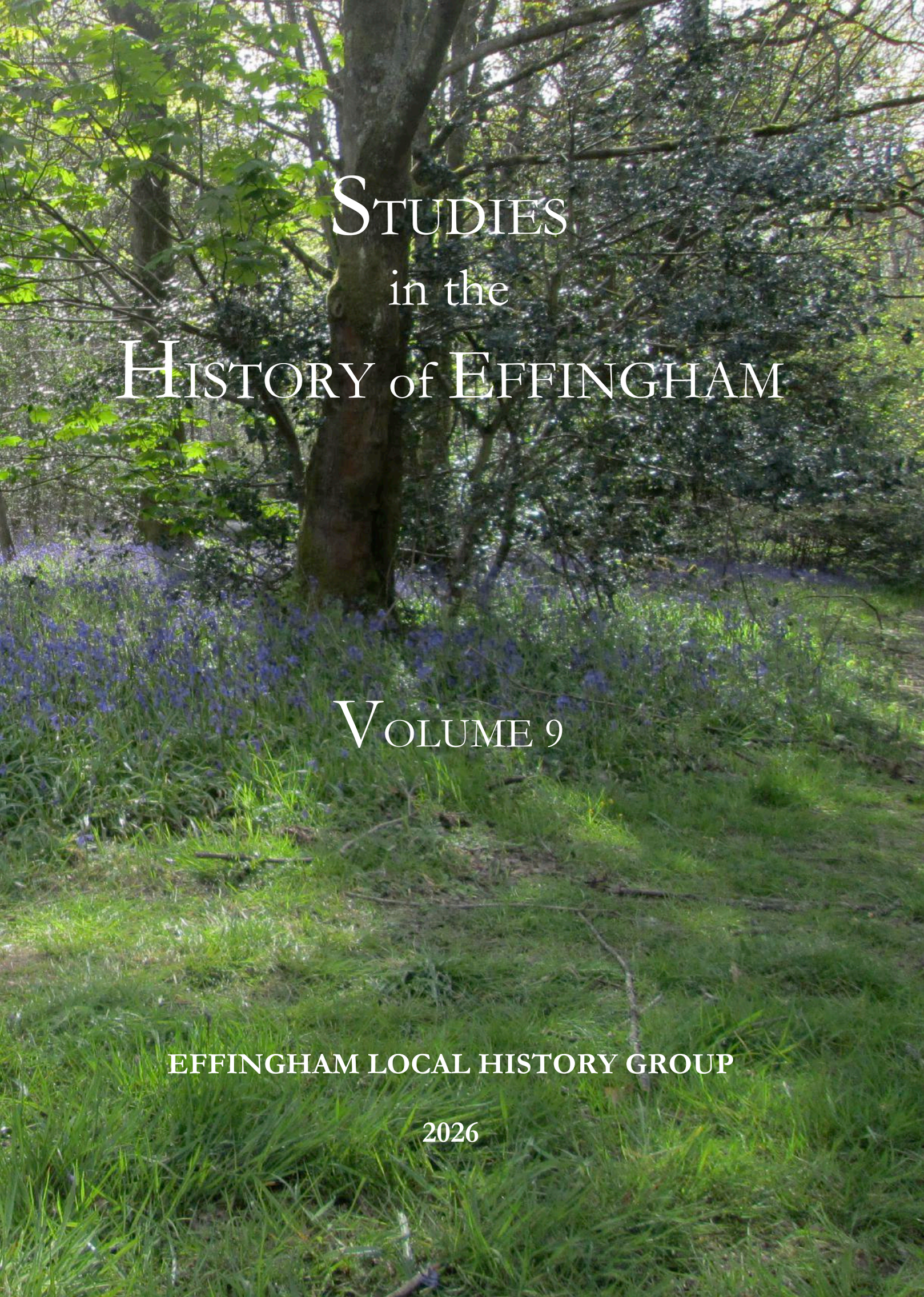


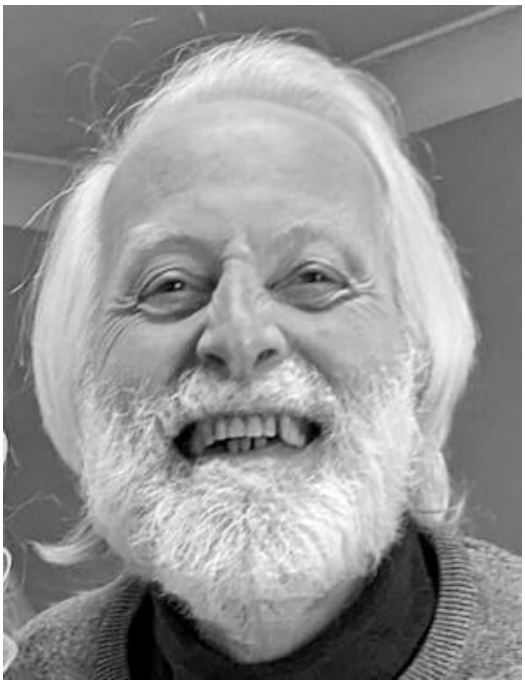
Studies in the History of Effingham

Volume 9

EFFINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

2026

STUDIES
in the
HISTORY of EFFINGHAM



Ralph Frank Wallace is the grandson of Ralph Edgar Street who was the head gardener for many years in Effingham at The Lodge. He was born at the gardener's cottage in the north-western grounds of The Lodge. He studied violin performing at The Royal Academy of Music during 1959-63 and made a career of playing and teaching. He enabled ELHG to make copies of a great number of his unique and absorbing Effingham-related photographs and documents which continue to enrich our day-to-day research.

Two major contributors to the photographic archives of Effingham Local History Group.

above – Ralph Frank Wallace

below – Kathleen Hilda Gwenda Parrish

Kathleen Hilda Gwenda Parrish was also born in Effingham, at 'The Nurseries' in Orestan Lane. She stayed in the village until marrying in her early twenties. During her teenage years she began taking photographs of local people, places and events as well as taking a keen interest in local history. She generously provided us with copies of all her images taken of Effingham – those in the 1960s being especially valuable to us, as few others from that decade have so far turned up – as well as much useful historical information.



STUDIES
in the
HISTORY of EFFINGHAM

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

VOLUME 9



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

The production of this ninth volume of *Studies in the History of Effingham* has continued the long process of converting into printed form the articles which, up to now, have existed only electronically on ELHG's website. Seven such articles feature in this volume, whilst three other articles present new material.

The volume begins with three oral histories, two of them recording the memories of individuals born over a century ago. Doreen Hemus was born in Effingham at Norwood Farm in 1921 and gave us many valuable insights into the people and places she remembered. She died just four years after we had interviewed her. Michael Waller was not only interviewed but produced for us, on disks, his own recorded memories, together with photographs. He provided an immense wealth of information about the Common and the activities of the Cricket Club, to which he and his brother Maurice had been deeply devoted. The third oral history comes from the late Ivor Gillespie who lived on the Common at Hooke Farm. His narrative contains much of interest about the history and ecology of the Common.

These articles are followed by one on Charles Edward Lambert who made his fortune from the manufacture and marketing of tobacco products. His family occupied Effingham House from the 1880s until 1917. ELHG is in the fortunate position, through the family albums donated to us, of possessing numerous fascinating photographs of Effingham in the 1890s and early 1900s, many of them showing the elegant and luxurious lifestyle that they enjoyed here.

The next article continues the series produced by Jeremy Palmer about the famous actors and artistes who lived in Effingham during the inter-war years, in this case the cellist and comedic entertainer Gwen Farrar. Besides telling the story of her career and partnership with pianist and singer Norah Blaney, the article contains interesting details of her interactions with other Effingham-based artistes.

There follows a new study which examines the adventurous and colourful life of Sydney Hastings Dowse, a daring and dashing RAF pilot in the Second World War. Having been shot down he became a prisoner of war and, with others, took part in amazing escapes from prison camps, culminating in a major one from Stalag Luft III about which the famous film 'The Great Escape' was released in 1963, shortly before Sydney and his second wife came to live in Effingham in Leewood Way. During his time here he became involved in the uproar generated in Effingham over plans by the former owner of his house to develop land between Leewood Way and Orestan Lane, an issue that continues to the present day.

Volume 8 introduced our studies of Commoners' Days, discussing the earliest ones in the period 1980-2002. The next to occur was in 2010, the first year of ELHG's existence, and is described in this present volume. The Group contributed to the displays at that event, of which we took many photographs and videos.

Our studies of the past celebratory events in Effingham are continued here with an account of the way in which Effingham and neighbouring parishes celebrated the Coronation of George VI in 1937. Effingham's activities on the Carn Pit Field (or 'Madge's Field') bore some similarity to those held there just two years previously for the Silver Jubilee of George V, described in Volume 8.

The next article documents the discovery by Sue Morris that Effingham once had its own small tithe barn, on a site in Browns Lane; we had previously had no inkling at all of the site's significance. The discovery was made from a close examination of a contract of sale drawn up in 1803, and parallels another finding by Sue that Effingham once (apparently) had its own windmill, this likewise divined from a single label on an old map; the windmill was discussed in our Volume 2.

We end with an article about a famous popular music group from the 1950s and 1960s, The Avons. This was inspired by the finding that a house in Strathcona Avenue had once borne the name 'Avonsville' together with a chance remark by a former resident that it was so-named because The Avons had lived there in the 1960s. A particularly great pleasure in the development of this article is that it has been co-authored by one of the original artistes in the group, Valerie Murtagh, who went on to have a notable career in composition and artist management.

So, another varied feast of material which, as with all the previous volumes, contains lots of photographs to enliven the text. We hope it will bring much pleasure to our readers.

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.

76. Oral History – Doreen Emily (née) Hemus
YVONNE SHAW and TERENCE DRISCOLL 1

77. Oral History – Michael Stanley Waller
YVONNE SHAW and OTHERS 9

78. Oral History – Ivor Mitchell Gillespie
YVONNE SHAW 39

79. Charles Edward Lambert – Tobacco Magnate of Effingham House
CHRISTOPHER JOHN HOGGER 43

80. Gwen Farrar and the Effingham Theatrical Colony
JEREMY PALMER 99

81. Sydney Hastings Dowse – RAF Pilot and Great Escape Survivor
DAVID ANTHONY COCKLE and CHRISTOPHER JOHN HOGGER 117

82. Effingham Common – Commoners' Day in 2010
CHRISTOPHER JOHN HOGGER 161

83. Effingham Celebrations – the Coronation of George VI in 1937
CHRISTOPHER JOHN HOGGER 201

84. The Effingham Tithe Barn
SUSAN MORRIS 219

85. The Avons – Popular Music Group of the 1950s and 1960s
VALERIE MURTAGH and CHRISTOPHER JOHN HOGGER 237

SUPPLEMENTS

65-1. Oral History – Laura Annie (née Cox) Essam – Supplement
(THE LATE) MONICA MERCY O'CONNOR and CHRISTOPHER JOHN HOGGER 289

Index 291

Oral History – Doreen Emily Hemus

Recorded by YVONNE SHAW and TERENCE DRISCOLL

The late Doreen Emily (née) Hemus was born on 11 November 1921 to parents Frederick William Hemus and Emily (née) Gammage who had married at St Barnabas, Clapham Common in that same year on 17 August. She did not marry and she died in 2014.

Introduction

Miss Doreen Emily Hemus was born on 11 November 1921 to parents Frederick William Hemus and Emily (née) Gammage. She did not marry.

She was interviewed and recorded on 2 August 2010 by Yvonne Shaw and Terence ('Terry') Driscoll. The recording was abridged in 2010 by Yvonne Shaw and fully transcribed by Christopher John Hogger in 2020. Words not transcribed here (owing to indistinctness in the recording) are marked ***

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

Doreen died aged 93 on 17 December 2014.

Transcript

Yvonne: Start with where you were born and we can take it from there, it'll be absolutely fine.

Doreen: My name is Miss Doreen Hemus. I was born across Effingham Common in a very nice farm called Norwood Farm. My Grandfather moved there in 1912 with his family. They worked very, very hard.

Terry: Were they farmers?

Doreen: Oh they were farmers, yes, my grandfather was a farmer, you see, and my father was the son, but he didn't really want to take on farming; it was too much hard work, getting up at 4 o'clock in the morning and milking the cows. Today they don't have to milk them by hand, you see, and now they've got lovely hot water and everything laid on; and the farmhouse was facing the farmyard, and the cowsheds were along the side. Grandfather was very fussy and he did keep them nice and clean or rather his employees did. He employed quite a lot of men from Effingham village, because Effingham village was a little – er, the school was called the Church of England School *** it's got that bit added on, you see, and I went to school and the headmaster was Stewart Adams and his wife was the Governess. I was in the Governess' class and they were there for 25 years [actually much longer].

Yvonne: How many children were in your class?

Doreen: They had no children …

Yvonne: No, in your class, how many children were in your class?

Doreen: Oh, I don't know that I could tell you that. I suppose easily [?] about 30, because they had several classes, and a great big fire grate with big lumps of coal like they used to, on the railway, have with those steam [engines] – puffing billies we'd call them, they were so big.

And it was a lovely farm. It had five bedrooms but of course like all farms [in] those days they had a well to get their water, you see, for drinking, pumping well, no sanitation at all but they had a double one; a little one for the children and a bigger one but of course they were what they called in those days … farm toilets were called earth toilets. They used to put special stuff in.

Terry: Presumably that was at the end of the garden or somewhere?

Doreen: That's right and, oh, it was really wonderful! Outside the back door was a great big tree and it was full of walnuts when the season was on and they really hit your head, you know – oh they were lovely. They had a nice lawn.

Terry: So how long did your father stay there?

Doreen: Grandfather went there in 1912 with his wife and his family, my father being one of the sons, you see? And he was there for 16 years, Grandfather was. He moved from there in 1928. He still loved farming so he went to Ockham, Guides Hill [Guileshill] Farm. It was more of a modern farm, it did have a proper toilet, you see. Well of course, as the years went on, so one … I suppose, was a little bit more modern and at Guileshill Farm there was a lovely little church in a field, and that's where I was christened.

Yvonne: Oh how nice. Can I just stop you there for a second to make sure we're getting this …

Doreen: *** Norwood Farm, there was a great big common, Effingham Common, facing Norwood Farm. There was a great big pond facing Grandad's farm and when it was bad weather and ice (silly thing to do really) but all my father's brothers and sisters including him and me, because I was the first grandchild, you see, silly that, we used to go skating on there, so you can see what severe weather we had then because we didn't fall

in, the ice was like that. And I can remember when I was about – what, six? – trying to skate on there not knowing what I was really doing, but it was fun for Grandad's brothers, er, sons and daughters, you see.

Terry: Was that the pond that's in the grounds?

Doreen: Yes, it might still be there …

Terry: It is.

Doreen: … but it is covered, I think, with a lot of bushes, hawthorn bushes now, but Grandma and Grandad in their bedroom when they looked out, they could see the main road because the trees hadn't grown on the Common then.

Terry: So was the pond between the house and the main road?

Doreen: Yes, right facing it, yes. The farm was quite a big farm really and as he walked out to walk along the little path to get onto the main road, the great big pond was facing his farm, you see, and well, all the boys and girls liked skating there, it was a silly thing to do, but I mean severe weather, I suppose they were safe. Not any fell through!

And then I'll tell you what Grandma used to do. She used to get up early in the morning and Grandfather would always make a big fire and make toast, you see, with a big toasting iron but Grandma would take one of the boys with her in the fields, early hours of the morning, and pick mushrooms and then come back and after the milking session had finished they went indoors to have bacon and fried mushrooms. She loved going out there every day but she always took someone with her, you see.

Then the railway, they could see the train leaving Effingham Junction and going round the line to Bookham and Leatherhead, Ashtead and right on to Victoria, but a steam train, of course the children used to like that, Puffing Billy and steam train, you seen then.

I remember when I was a girl of ten going to … on a Saturday, going on my own to Guildford – mother would want something, you see, and I would like to see the shops, in a puffing billy, a steam train then, they had them then. I can remember, it was only about … grown up fare was only about tenpence return, that's going back many, many years.

Yvonne: How old would you have been when you went to Guildford on the train?

Doreen: Oh, only about ten or eleven, that said, but it seemed safer [in] those days, much safer really.

Terry: But you moved to Guileshill Farm, didn't you? And when did you come back again?

Doreen: Oh, we – not *** mother and myself – Grandad moved, he was there 16 years at Norwood Farm, he loved it, but a wealthy Russian man [Anthony Nicholas Diamantidi], he bought the farm, so Grandad, had he known it was up for sale, he would have loved to have bought it, but he was just too late – this was in 1928 so he was … he liked this area and he moved with his family to Guileshill Farm. And it was *** there was the field and a little church, and it's still there. I don't know what they called it though, although it's very, very tiny but I was christened there.

Terry: But your father didn't move there, it was just your grandfather?

Doreen: Oh, just my grandfather.

Terry: So where did your father move to?

Doreen: My father in 1924, I think it was, he didn't exactly … he wanted to be on his own, he didn't really want to take orders from his father, if you know what I mean, so he went to Virginia Water, only for two years, Mother, my Father and I, and Father managed a farm for the meat king – Vestey – and I suppose Vestey's name from one generation still stands – he was the meat king of those days and he had a farm down at Virginia Water and Father managed that for him for two years, that was the meat king, you see. They liked it down Virginia Water, but somehow Father liked here, so he moved back here and of course, Norwood Farm, Grandad wasn't there then and we moved to New Marsh Farm which is just down the hill. But of course it's been pulled down now, but it was about five hundred years old. And we had a few rooms there. We were there for ten years and then we moved up here. And I've been here 73 years *** I wasn't quite 16.

But we loved the area. And something very interesting. Not any of Surrey Gardens' houses was built then. It was one complete field to … near the railway bridge and where the new bridge today is built. But I don't know whether they've given it a name or not, but it was a field from where the pub, the Lord Howard, to the bottom of that hill. That was one complete field and in the middle of it, my father remembers it, was a pond; no houses built in Surrey Gardens then, it was a field surrounded by … [Interrupted by "Oh, it's my window cleaner! I'll go round in a minute.] It was a field surrounded … in the middle was a pond, where Surrey Gardens is. Now then, I have heard many years ago when I was a young woman, and even today, somehow they didn't drain that land and you'll find even now, there's dampness. Do they call it, um … it's got a name, when the ground is damp …

Terry: Marshy, boggy, that sort of thing?

Doreen: No, the building, the houses, it's the foundation.

And it still … some of them are damp now, so therefore that field where the pond was, I don't know the builder but I do know, in my young days it was Holfords, they were big builders of Guildford, but I don't suppose they are there now.

Terry: I think they are.

Doreen: Holfords, yes.

Terry: Because I think my daughter …

Doreen: Yes …

Terry: … was taught ballet by a Holford who was a builder, er, the daughter of a builder, so I think they are still around.

Doreen: They were the first-class builders in those days, Holfords, and they built nearly all those houses in Surrey Gardens.

Terry: So … so, you'd moved here and your father was doing what at this stage, because …?

Doreen: Oh yes, my father, you see, he came back from being … [interruption by door-bell ringing]

Doreen: My father came back from Virginia Water, [he had] worked for the meat king down at Virgina Water, and er, Father didn't want to do farming any more, so he did a little bit of gardening for a time and then he thought "Right I'm going to see if I can be a painter", and he liked painting. He used to go round painting the houses, but of course they don't do much of it now, because you see, these double glazing windows are wonderful you don't have to paint them every so often. The sun used to blister the paint, I remember it – and I used to paint outside.

Terry: But when you said … when you came back here you were sixteen, or something like that.

Doreen: Oh, not from Norwood, er, not from Virginia Water. No, Father was down with the meat king, I suppose for about three years. It's very nice down there, I remember the school, and I could go there now, and I was only five, at the top of Virginia Water hill.

Terry: So you came back and you moved into this house then.

Doreen: No, no, we came back in 1927 or – yes, in about 1927-28, and of course Father liked farming. We went to New Marsh Farm …

Terry: That's right, you went to New Marsh, that's it.

Doreen: … which is just down the hill on the road towards Cobham and we were there ten years. We had a few rooms, a few rooms there, but that was the old New Marsh Farm which was five hundred years old. And there were cottages, you can see the cottages on the main Horsley road and it's got the date, well I suppose they were cottages for the farmers of New Marsh Farm, you see. And there is the date on the cottages, when they were built, which I think was about five hundred years old. But we lived in the old … Now, of course, they've pulled that old New Marsh Farm down and built a new one, but part of one field, the farmer now has let it out to a nursery. Have you seen the nursery – yes, it's a very small nursery. And …

Terry: When you came back from New Marsh did you come from New Marsh back to here?

Doreen: To here, yes.

Terry: So now you'd be about sixteen or seventeen, wouldn't you?

Doreen: I was nearly sixteen. We came – I can remember it – the fourth of October 1937 we moved here, and it wasn't called Old Lane Gardens then, what it was called [was] Surrey Gardens Old Lane. Surrey Gardens is over there, but we were Surrey Gardens and they put Old Lane, because Surrey Gardens, my father, when with his parents, moved down to Norwood Farm in 1912, Father was only fourteen then. And he can remember, my father, *** [that opposite?] here, right to the railway bridge, was a big field with a pond in the middle. So then, of course, as the years went on, so they built some nice bungalows and houses in Surrey Gardens. But when Father came there wasn't any of that, so we ***

These bungalows here, the four, three they pulled down in 1950 – was it 1950? – no 19, er … in about 1980 …

Terry: Yes, that's more like it.

Doreen: … that's right, 1980, they pulled the three down and of course I wouldn't move, I own this and I didn't have to move, you see, it's my property. But I only wished that, um, they had pulled them down completely, therefore I would not have a party line [sic – wall?], I've got a party wall there.

Terry: But just going back then to – you'd be about sixteen …

Doreen: When we came.

Terry: … when you came here, yes, so what did you do then when you were sixteen, fifteen …

Doreen: Oh yes, I'd left school when I was fourteen and my first job, that was a chemist's shop, right where, well where Budgens is, that used to be a chemist's shop, and it's called Ashfold. And Adams the headmaster at Effingham School, when the boys and girls were fourteen he always found them a job in a shop or whatever. The boys, I suppose, some of them went gardening. And he found me a job in the chemist's shop. But I didn't work in the chemists' shop. I looked after the little girl, and used to – well, I say little, she wasn't in her pram, you know – and I used to help the lady, she was very nice and she was trying train me to do housework! But I didn't mind. And to be quite honest, right from today, I love housework, loved it. But that was my first job, it was only a temporary job, you see and …

Yvonne: Can we just stop you? So when you were going to school in Effingham, how did you get there? Were you walking?

Doreen: Oh, yes, how did I get there? My mother used to have a bike and at the back of it, it was, er, like a seat, what do they call – carrier, yes that's right – and I had a cushion and the feathers came from Grandad's chickens and Mother made a cushion for me. And she used to cycle with me at the back to Effingham School for years. Well then, of course, there wasn't a lot of traffic [in] those days and the first bus was a green, old-fashioned bus. And then, of course, once they started running the bus, it only ran about once an hour, it was the most old-fashioned bus I've ever seen, then of course I packed up.

Yvonne: And did you have to go through gates on the road, were there gates on the road down to the … ?

Doreen: No, I know what you're trying to … I'm going to tell you something about Toll Gate, that's what you're on about, this is the Effingham road, I remember what you're talking about.

Oh, so when the buses started to run, of course Mother didn't want really – it was hard work for her, me at the back, and she cycled to Effingham village every day because there was no other transport. Well, when I was about, I suppose, ten or eleven Father bought me a second-hand bike. We bought it in Cobham in a garage for twenty-five shillings, a second-hand one, and I had that for years and I had to cycle. Oh the wind used to blow across that common, and it was so cold! But, er, that's the first time, I was only about, I suppose, ten when I started cycling, and then my mother gave me a lovely job! When I use to come home, just before it was dark, she'd say "Will you go on your bike to Cobham and do a bit of shopping?" And ever – I'm glad she did because right to this day, I absolutely love shopping. Some people say "Oh, I hate shopping, or …" I don't buy many clothes now, I can't go out, I'm housebound now. But I used to love to do that, do Mother's shopping, and I had an old-fashioned straw basket and I think they were only about five or six pennies (new ones) with a handle. I used to throw it over the handlebars full of shopping, and I loved that! Come home from school going shopping in Cobham. So, it was an easy life then, really was an easy life.

Terry: So how long did you stay with the people who were the chemist's?

Doreen: Oh, in the chemist's?

Terry: Two or three years?

Doreen: Oh no, a few years and then he moved, you see. They were very nice people, they were lovely I only went there to be trained, you see, and of course the money was terrible, only a few shillings. But then I did a little bit of domestic work, but not a lot, more or less a training. Then the war came, you see, in 1939 so of course with my age I had to join up. Well, I had such a homely home here, and I'm not really a good mixer, I didn't really want to go into the forces or anything so I had to join, so I joined the Land Army. And have you seen my badge?

Terry: Well, I'll show it to her [Yvonne] afterwards, yes.

Doreen: Yes, I've got a nice badge, but it took sixty years for the Government to give us, the Land Girls, a badge. It's been finished off beautiful. Sixty years after the war. And my sister saw the advert in *The Surrey Advertiser*, so she bought it for me, I didn't know anything about it. So one day when she came to lunch, my sister Eileen, she lives at *** you see – there's ten years difference there – she said "I've got a present for you, darling", and she doesn't really buy presents just like that *** she said, "You were a good Land Girl", although I never worked on the land, I was lucky there, I did a milk round.

Oh yes, I had a black horse that walked all the way round with me; I was frightened of it but it wouldn't trot, it was too old. And an open float. I used to get drownded. But I did a [milk] round, round here, so I knew all the customers and they liked me and I liked them. They used to give me lovely Christmas boxes, about 2/6d, some five shillings. One gentleman always gave me £1 – and that was a lot! And I was in uniform, and when the war ended I did [had done] the milk round for four and a half years.

Terry: So which was the dairy?

Doreen: The dairy was – not now – in the middle of Effingham village, where the little chapel is and opposite the little chapel, it was called Home Farm. And I was there for 13 years. I did the milk round for four and half years and I'd had enough of it. To be honest, I liked the customers, I liked the round, I liked Christmas time, they used to give me lovely presents. And one farmer across Effingham Common, he was a tree surgeon, I forget his name …

Terry: Sounds like Mr Estler.

Doreen: Estler, that's it, that's it. Well, he was very nice and his wife was like a lady and they had a little boy and girl, she dressed them beautiful. And every Christmas time, he wouldn't give me a tip or anything, but gave me a lovely joint of venison – is that deer? Yes. I brought it home and I said "Mother, here's a beautiful roast joint you can do. I've got a piece of venison". She said "Oh show me". But every year he gave me a lovely piece for Mother to cook, you see, and that was my Christmas present. Venison, from Estler.

Terry: So who owned the dairy?

Doreen: Who owned the dairy? Oh yes, do you know what? I only wished, I only threw it away about a few months ago … There's somebody in Effingham, I don't know if it'd be you …

Yvonne: I shouldn't think so.

Doreen: … oh, someone in Effingham wanted to write every little interesting piece of Effingham. And they did, er, with this monthly circular that went round to all the villagers, only last year, and what a pity I threw it away. A friend of mine, before I had my illness, I used to go every Wednesday morning with the blue bus of East Horsley called Horsley Community Bus, and they still do it, you see, they pick up the villagers, the elderly people

that have no cars, and take them to Sainsbury's in Cobham and we do our shopping. And they were the nicest shoppers out in the bus, we were so friendly, all of us, no cattiness or anything, they'd rather help people.

Yvonne: Mmm, that's really nice.

Terry: So …

Doreen: Very, very nice …

Terry: … going, going back to the dairy for a moment, who was owning the dairy in those days?

Doreen: Pardon?

Terry: Who owned the dairy in those days?

Doreen: Oh, yes, oh two nice brothers, their names were Curtises. C U R T I S. William Curtis he did all the farming and, um …

Yvonne: On Home Farm.

Doreen: … at Home Farm and they were all Jersey cows and they used to go out in the fields. It was a beautiful sight, with all the buttercups, it was a pretty sight. And then his brother Charles, Charlie – Charles, we called him – he did all the machinery, if it went wrong or whatever, of the bottling department, he organised to see all the bottling was done properly, and if there was any nuts and bolts he could do that. They also had a beautiful shop in Church Street, Bookham, next to the telephone exchange and he had it built and that was the Dairy Shop, nice groceries and sold milk. But they didn't have any cows and that, we had the cows in Effingham village, you see, and he had that lovely shop built and that was good trade for him.

Terry: Did the brother live down Effingham Common Road?

Doreen: Yes, and I can tell you where he – oh, they both did.

Terry: They both did?

Doreen: Yes. Now then, where you live – do you know Kingham's?

Terry: I'm next door [Birch House] to where Kingham's lived [Lynwood House].

Doreen: Yes, nearest to the hill, or nearest?

Terry: Nearest to the hill.

Doreen: Yes, well there's only one house … there was Kingham's and then only one house and then you went up the hill.

Terry: That's right.

Doreen: And there was a farm next to that.

Terry: That's the Lower Farm.

Doreen: That's right, yes, you'll remember that.

Terry: A huh.

Doreen: Now, coming the other side of your house, I think there's two houses in between, and Mr William Curtis he did all the farming side, and the cows, and how many cows he wanted, all the Jersey cows and the milking side of it – Mr William Curtis – and he lived where you are … if I could remember … a house in between, and then his was an older looking house.

Terry: It's still there.

Doreen: Yes it's still there. And then I'll tell you what he had, a big orchard with apples. When he moved and retired, that orchard was all, um … the trees were all dug up and a beautiful bungalow – and it's still there, I think it's, yes it's still there – Mr Curtis' niece had a house built. And you know the, er – did they call it Lynt, or is it still Lynt House or something, Mr William Curtis?

Terry: No, I can't think, was it Haver…, not it wasn't Haverthorn? Was it Haverthorn?

Doreen: No.

Terry: I know the house, anyway.

Doreen: Yes, and it's got a wooden verandah on top.

Terry: That's it.

[Transcriber's clarification: William Thomas Curtis' house was called Glen Lynn at the time he lived there, but was later renamed as Haverthorn.]

Doreen: That's right, well that's where Mr William Curtis … he was the farming side of it with all the cows and that.

[Terry] So where did his brother live?

Doreen: Now his brother lived in the next block of houses called Windy …

Terry: Windy Ridge?

Doreen: No, next block of houses was called Windy Ridge.

Terry: Yes.

Doreen: Now the actual owner – Mr William Curtis and Mr Charlie, they were brothers – they had a mother. Their father died, you see, and the mother she died – she lived to 94 – and she lived at Windy Ridge next to the house that got burnt down with the doodlebug, did I tell you about that? Haven't I told you about the doodlebug?

Yvonne and Terry: No, not yet.

Doreen: Oh. You know where Windy Ridge is, don't you?

Terry: Yes.

Doreen: Yes, Windy Ridge there, and the end house, Mrs *** [Clara Isabella Curtis] was the owner but she lost her husband, which was Mr William Curtis' and Mr Charlie's father. Because they originated from Ewell. They had farms – their father and grandfather and going back there – in Balham, oh yes, well in the 1800s, and they had farms in Ewell then, and then from there they moved to Effingham Village in 1933 and William Curtis, the house that you know, is still exactly the same. He had a cook, live-in cook, and then Charlie Curtis, which was his brother – and he did all the bottling part of the dairy or anything that went wrong, or set things up – he lived not at Windy Ridge, but there's another block of houses before you get to the school, and he lived in the first one.

Terry: So in those days what was at Indian Farm?

Doreen: Indian Farm?

Terry: Was that a farm as such?

Doreen: Indian Farm?

Terry: Yes.

Doreen: No, this is what puzzles me. You see, Willie Curtis lived, you know where he lived, near you, and then there was his big orchard and then there was what you call Indian Farm. That was never a farm, not in my day.

Terry: Was it not?

Doreen: No; no animals at all. Mr and Mrs Sales – S A L E S – this is during the war years – he was a gentleman that went to business and, erm, they had a little, well, like a little summer house, so to speak, but made of brick, and a lady, well, a man and a woman, she was the cook and he half the time was ill, he lived *** [inside?] the little summer house. And they had a garage and the garage was made into a flat, and the husband was a gardener/chauffeur and they moved to these cottages opposite – well, you know the Railway Cottages, what did they call that, erm – well it's a turning off of Old Lane, just over there.

[Transcriber's clarification: Doris and Alfred Sale (not "Sales") owned and lived at Indian Farm; the gardener/chauffeur and the cook may have been Ernest and Edith Arnold.]

Terry: So Indian Farm was never a farm.

Doreen: Never a farm, never, I do honestly know that. They had a great big tennis court where I suppose in the olden days they could have built cow sheds and that, but they never never [sic]. And they made the garage top into a beautiful flat and when they sold the place, the chauffeur/gardener and his wife – oh, she was spotless – they moved over to the flats over here.

Terry: So when do you think they sold it?

Doreen: What, Indian Farm?

Terry: Mmm.

Doreen: Yes, I can partly tell you that. One minute … 19 … about 1973, something like that?

Terry: Right, so erm, Basil Moss bought it then, did he?

Doreen: Basil Moss?

Terry: Moss. Of Moss Bros.

Doreen: I don't know who bought it.

Terry: That's who it would be.

Doreen: It was £90,000 – is that right?

Terry: Oh I don't know that. But we know that when we moved into the area the person that was in Indian Farm was Basil Moss who was one of the Moss Bros. brothers.

Doreen: Yes, well I knew the people before him, because I served them with milk, and I know their name, Sales, S A L E S. And then of course the gentleman you're talking about moved there then. But there was never, never any cows, nanny goats, no dogs – nothing and I know that because I used to walk across their lawn to deliver the milk to one of the, well er, the husband and wife [the chauffeur and cook], but he was always ill, in like a little cottage – they had a little cottage there and a garage, erm, a nice flat over the garage. And the main house was old, but modernised and I knew them as Sales, S A L E S. He was a lovely gentleman and he used to go to business in London. But there was never never any animals whatsoever. Probably, I suppose, might have been [animals] in the 1800s, something like that.

Terry: On the Common, just at the entrance to Norwood Farm …

Doreen: Yes.

Terry: … what's the name of the property on the corner there?

Doreen: Mallaby-Deeley – is that who you're talking about?

Terry: Where Ray Davies lived.

Yvonne: Slater's Oak.

Terry: Slater's Oak, what do you know about Slater's Oak?

Doreen: Mallaby-Deeley – I think they pronounce it that way – they had Slaters Oak and one side of the house was a field and I can see it now. They had donkeys for the children to play on. He did have a title, he was a Sir Mallaby-Deeley, Mallaby-Deeley.

Yvonne: How is that spelled, do you know?

Doreen: I don't know. And his mother – to a girl it just sticks! – his mother was an old fashioned lady and she always wore a black ribbon round her – do you remember those? – black ribbon round there [her throat] and I do believe she was Lady Mallaby-Deeley, as title, so he would be Sir, wouldn't he?

Terry: Yes, possibly …

Doreen: That's right. And they had a simple boy and I don't know whether it was on her side or his side. The mother lived there as well, she was a nice old lady with this black ribbon, and they used to walk this poor simple boy up to the station, it was so sad. I suppose he might have been about fourteen or fifteen. But they were titled. I think Lord and Lady Mallaby-Deeley or something. And they had one side of the house was a great big garden and they made into an orchard and it was the most beautiful sight in the Spring, full of daffodils, oh it was beautiful! Full of daffodils. They were kind to me because they had quite a long path to get down from the road to the big house so they always used to say to me, just open the gate by the side of the road and put our milk behind a tree. That was nice.

Terry: Did you ever come across Mr Calburn, who was the Lord of the Manor? Did you ever come across him?

Doreen: Ah yes. What did you call him?

Terry: Calburn?

Doreen: That's right. No, I didn't, but Mr Curtis – the two brothers – Mr William [Curtis] at the house, you know, more him than anyone else, he was great friends of the Lord of the Manor, really great friends, and of course the Common involved, didn't it, you see, and Mr William Curtis lived near you [Birch House] so he was more involved. Mr Charlie Curtis, which was his brother, before he came down here, Mr Charlie, he was a director for United Dairies of Streatham, they were dairy people, but you see before 1933 all the Curtis lived at Ewell and had farms there, but all the land is built up now, you wouldn't never know there were farms there, but in the 1800s, the two Curtises, their grandparents, you see, they had farms in Ewell West, then they decided they wanted to come in 1933, had the big dairy built and the offices, nice offices and we used to look out the window and see the cows in the fields and the buttercups – really nice!

Yvonne: So were you in the office, were you doing the books or something?

Doreen: Yes, after four and a half years when the war ended, I said to Mr Curtis "I've done the job properly" – but I didn't like it, because I didn't like the horse, I mean I wasn't used to horses, but they gave me an old one to walk round – so I said "Well now I want to leave", you see. So they didn't want me to leave so they said would I go in the office? And I went in there for thirteen years and I left [in] 1955.

Terry: When you were doing the rounds did you come up onto the Common, did you come up to – you were talking about Mr Estler, did you go and – did you deliver to Mr Estler?

Doreen: Oh yes, yes, he had a housekeeper and (oh, I suppose I ought not to say this) he had a most attractive wife, she was like an actress, and a little boy and girl *** about four or five and she was quite, er, made up nicely and dressed beautiful, Because he, well, he dressed according to the farm, you see, but something went wrong and she left him. And she left him for an officer in the Second World War and took her children with her. He [Estler] spoke beautiful, he was a tree surgeon and I do believe he was something or a relation who – there was a bit of German blood in there.

Terry: He had a brother.

Doreen: He had a brother, didn't he?

Terry: Yes he had a brother, definitely.

Doreen: That's right, and erm …

[Interrupted by telephone ringing]

Doreen: And then they had the Catholic Church and he [George Pauling] built that church. Did you know …

Terry: Who built it?

Doreen: Who built it? Right opposite the Catholic Church …

Terry: Yes …

Doreen: … right opposite is called The Lodge …

Terry: Effingham Lodge, yes …

Doreen: and the big house, and I'll tell you what was nice, but I was frightened of water. Us school children with our headmaster Stewart Adams – and his wife was the Governess, you see – every Monday he wanted us – he had permission to … that big house had a big swimming pool, I expect it still has – it was called The Lodge?

Terry: Yes, that's right, yes.

Doreen: … yes, a big swimming, er, well, I suppose …

Terry: A swimming pool, yes.

Doreen: … a pool, and once a week all the children of Effingham could go there, at a certain age, I suppose they might have had to be ten or eleven. But I was nervous of the water so they said well you stay in the school and do your lessons, and the children who want to go swimming and be taught swimming, and that was very nice for the children.

Terry: You say he built the church?

Doreen: Oh yes, erm, now what was his name? I believe it's in here …

Terry: Ok.

Doreen: … and that's a Catholic church, yes, and erm – I can't think of his name now [George Pauling] – and I'll tell you what, the gentleman that owned the big ch…, er, the big house and the swimming pool, he came from, I suppose lived over in a foreign land because there was an Indian railway and he built that – well not himself, he employed men – to build the Indian railway …

Yvonne: Oh right …

Doreen: and after that he come over to England to live in the …

Terry: In the Lodge.

Doreen: … in The Lodge.

Yvonne: Gosh.

Doreen: Whatever was his name, I might think of it. Yes, so he originated from a foreign land and when he came over, after building the Indian railway he had built – from a building firm, I suppose – that church which was the Roman Catholic church. And oh, mind you, a little village like that, it was a good little village, they had the Roman Catholic church and that man built – oh, if only I could remember the name – and then they had the big church, erm…

Terry: St Lawrence, the main one, yes …

Doreen: … oh, it's in here … and erm, and then they had a little chapel.

Yvonne: That's right …

Doreen: *** [And for?] a little village, had everything, we had a blacksmiths, because Curtises had to have their horses, their shoes done, you see, it was very convenient and next to that was two dirty little old rooms and he was, they called him a "snob's" [old term for shoe mender; this was Arthur Archibald Stovell] …

Yvonne: Shoe mender.

Doreen: … repairing shoes. And then *** nearly opposite the big church, there are some houses [Church Cottages] that are built that way, not facing the road, and the very end one – talk about being a bit primitive – his name was Payne, and he bought a great big shed, a new shed, and put it in his lawn, and that was the hairdressers' shop. And the lady that cut the hair, a young girl, well I suppose about a teenager, she was trained and she came down and she cut the ladies' and the gents' hair. Well, not the real ladies, the parents shall I say, and all the children, all the schoolchildren we used to go in our lunch hour, for sixpence, for our haircut and the big shed, oh he had it painted you see, and it was the very end of that little old path. And he kept it clean, and he did well, because there was no other hairdresser, I don't really think there was a hairdresser in Bookham, not those days – but there was in Effingham! Oh, he must have made a lot of money, and us children in our school lunch time we used to go and have our hair cut for sixpence. That was a bit primitive, but it was the only way to make ***. Then they had two pubs, I don't know why they wanted two. But that's the Douglas Haig – the name was altered, did you know?

Terry: Yes, it was …

Doreen: During the first world war it was, the pub was a German name …

Terry: Bulcher [Blücher].

Doreen: … that's right? It was King George V, wasn't it? I think … and a German name, you see, so they altered it to the Douglas Haig. But that's what it was called before *** Because my father then, at that time, he was a teenager, you see, Father was only twelve – er, fourteen – when he left Norwood Farm and er, he used to, well he used to go in and have half a pint to drink – they didn't drink much [in] those days. So they had two pubs, you see, they had one round the corner called the Plough, and that's in that, erm …

Yvonne: Orestan Lane.

Terry: Orestan Lane.

Doreen: Yes, what's it called?

Terry: Orestan Lane.

Doreen: Oh yes, that's right, Orestan Lane, yes. And my grandfather, he – there was a nice farmer down there, on the right, at the back of Plough

Doreen (off recording): and my Father used to go there in a nice friendly way to play cards, although not for money.

Oral History – Michael Stanley Waller

Recorded firstly by YVONNE SHAW and secondly by MICHAEL STANLEY WALLER
Transcribed in both cases by YVONNE SHAW
Further edited by CHRISTOPHER JOHN HOGGER and SUSAN MORRIS

Michael Stanley Waller was born in 1930 to parents Jesse Waller and Helen Maude (née) Price who had married at West Horsley Parish Church on 1 June 1922. From 1934 until at least the early 1960s he lived with his parents at 2 Station Cattages, Effingham Junction. He married Catherine P Fairbrother in 1968. In his last years he lived with her in Crossford, Dunfermline, Fife until his death in 2023 aged 92.

Introduction

Michael's first oral account to Effingham Local History Group (ELHG) of his life in Effingham was given in an interview recorded by Yvonne Shaw in The Sir Douglas Haig public house on 15 September 2010, and was transcribed approximately by Yvonne as *Life in Railway Cottages, Effingham Junction*; her transcript has recently been edited by Christopher John Hogger and Susan Morris to improve its accuracy. The interview was occasionally punctuated by questions posed by James Louie Nicholls, who was not an ELHG member but a regular patron of The Sir Douglas Haig.

In June 2011 Michael produced a DVD and sent this to ELHG a month later, in July. It contained a recording, made by Michael, which revised substantially what he had told in the first interview. This DVD, formally archived by ELHG under the reference *ELHG/waller/disk/1*, contains both video and audio components. The video shows a selection of his family photographs which he was displaying – one at a time, using a controller – on his television, while he was at the same time filming the television screen and reading from a script that he had written (thereby producing the audio component). In his reading he occasionally explains aspects of whichever image is displayed on the screen. In essence, the whole effect is that of a spoken commentary by Michael about his life in Effingham as well as about his family photographs as displayed on his TV.

Then in August 2011 Michael sent a second DVD, very similar to the first but with three minor corrections made to his spoken script. This DVD has been archived as *ELHG/waller/disk/2* and a transcript for it has been generated by applying his three corrections to an earlier transcript made by Yvonne of the first DVD.

The transcript of the first interview and the transcript of the second DVD are presented in sequence below. In the second of these, the images that Michael talks about are also shown.

In both transcripts Michael refers to the set of cottages in which he lived as, variously, "Railway Cottages" or "Station Cottages". The latter is the formal name. Station Cottages, of which there were originally five, were situated just to the south of the railway line between Effingham Junction and Guildford; Nos 1 and 2 (he lived at No 2) stood alongside Effingham Common Road, on its western side, just south of the bridge over the railway line. By contrast, the twenty semi-detached properties formally named Railway Cottages stood rather further away to the north of the railway, along the western side of Old Lane.

Transcript of the interview in The Sir Douglas Haig Hotel

My name is Michael Waller. I lived in 2 Station Cottages from 1934 until 1965. The first thing I remember about the war years was in September 1949 [as spoken – he meant 1939] on September 4th [sic – 3rd] I remember war was declared and my mother crying because the first world war hadn't been over for 20 years. My neighbours at Station Cottages were named Mr [James] and Mrs Ponsford. They had two daughters Vera and Enid. They took on two evacuees from London, Rita Simmon(d)s and Sheila Brown, who I became friendly with as a child; we used to play on the Common and get up to all sorts of things. The Common, by the side of the cottages, we used to play a lot, and we used to play cricket and rounders and we used to climb trees and generally enjoy our youth on the Common playing. At that time of course it was Double British [sic – British Double] Summer Time during the war and so we had light evenings. I had to go bed at 7 o'clock, and I could hear everybody else still playing on the Common which I was very annoyed about because I wanted to be there with them! Let's stop there for a moment.

Schooling: I went to Effingham (St Lawrence I think they call it now) School, Primary School when I was five and from what I can remember it was quite a happy period with my childhood then. Stewart Adams was the headmaster and his wife was the governess. I remember also that they had a stuffed lion on

a plinth in the corridor of the school. I don't know if it's still there! There were outside toilets in the playing fields and I had a real problem one day, I got stuck in the toilet outside. It was freezing cold and a teacher, Miss Parker, had to come out and fetch me in. The other teachers there were Miss Dixon and Mrs Hardement. Stewart Adams didn't do a lot of teaching from what I can remember. He did the odd lessons with physical examples like weighing bits and pieces – weights and measures – and he used to get volunteers from us kids to help him with his garden; so if we could get out of arithmetic lessons everybody put their hands up and special ones were chosen to go and weed his garden. I was also chosen by him to fetch his cucumbers from Mizens the market garden just down the road.

Still in the primary school, [at] The Lodge opposite the School we had allotments where we used to grow our own vegetables and we were taken for walks in the fields and we had sports day playing cricket etc up past Curtis' Farm, in a field at the back of Curtis' Farm. We used to go up there and play cricket with the school. What else can I say about the school ... There was also a big yew tree in the – er, in the school grounds – which I notice is not there now.

Nicholls: did you ever swim in The Lodge swimming pool?

Yes – yes, but that wasn't until later, not while I was at the primary school.

Yvonne: and then you moved on to secondary school.

Yes, I was going to say something else about the primary school, about the playing field that we had which opened in late Spring where on a fine sunny day we would sometimes gather in a group and have lessons sitting on the grass in the field which was all very pleasant.

And the classes were graded into As and Bs, and I went from 1A into 2A which I think was the top. I think that's from a junior class to an A class, A1, and then the top was A2; and then there was a B class, B1 and B2.

Nicholls: what was Stewart Adams like?

Stewart Adams was a very ... how can I put it ... he was a character, Stewart Adams was a character. He used to wear a trilby hat and he used to tell us all sorts of anecdotes, he was a bit of a comedian. He generally was quite a pleasant chap. I remember he had a Morris car which we all envied and sometimes when he gave lessons he spoke to us about the fact that he had visited nearly every county in England, I think he used to say. Generally I quite liked him and his wife too was very pleasant and I enjoyed the school there. My mother used to take me on the carrier of her bicycle and take me to school from Effingham Junction which I suppose was about a two mile bike ride in those days and also I used to walk back home from the school which was a pretty good walk on short legs and sometimes a car wouldn't pass me – there was no traffic at all. My cousin who worked for Bowman's [?] bakery had an Austin van, a white van, and as I was approaching the hill where the letter-box was along I'd suddenly see him appear with his van and he would give me a lift back to the Junction. Let's stop there a minute.

Still in the primary school, something else I remember, we had anthracite fires, with perspex ... [?], which sent out a lot of heat but we used to place the school milk around the fires to warm it up and we took it in turns to go to Curtis Dairy to fetch the milk in the crate and bring it back to the school. And I can also remember the cream freezing on a frosty day and the ice on the top of the milk which we quite liked. These are the childhood things I remember, you know?

Miss ... Mrs, Miss Hardement, I think she was a Miss [actually Mrs Annie Wyllie Millar (née Boyd) Hardement], rather a large lady, buxom woman, she taught music and we all sat crowded round the piano and we used to sing folk songs. And she encouraged us in that. And we used to take it in turns to take the red flag and stand out in the road to help the children cross the road, to encourage the traffic, you know to ... like the present lollipop lady.

From the primary school I then moved on to what was then called Effingham Central School. I must have been about ten I suppose, ten or eleven, and I was there until about the age of 13, probably about the age of 13 or a bit earlier, and my memories of Effingham Central School were quite happy memories. Hewitt, a Mr Hewitt, was the Headmaster. There was a playing field ... well, first of all, there were allotments on one side of the school nearest to the road, there was a driveway which led to The Lodge where we used to go swimming; we had permission use the swimming pool. It was a tree lined drive – chestnut trees, I remember conkers and things like that and to the left of that was a football ground where we played football, then just to the back of the football field was an asphalted playground and to the left of that was more grass, a sort of field where we used to play shinty and we had running on sports day – it was used for general sports.

The classes were divided up into Houses. We had Sheridan, Howard and the green ... red was Howard, yellow was Sheridan, green was … can't quite remember that one at the moment. But there were three Houses and when it came to sports and games we all sort of competed on a House basis, to give it a bit of

competitive edge. We always did PT, we had to strip down, and we had PT. There was domestic science, [that] was on the agenda, and so was woodworking. We had an assembly hall where we used to assemble in the morning. We always started with prayers and hymn singing with the teachers on the stage and a day's talk by the Headmaster, Mr Hewitt. And we had woodworking and also – what do you call it, that science which talks about land, plants and everything and nature's cycle of growing – that was arable farming which was also on the agenda. We had a football team ... I don't think we played cricket there. The caretaker lived in the gatehouse just by the entrance to the school, I forget his name, and we were taken to school and home by coach. The coach, I remember, was Bland's. It was a blue coach, rather a streamlined looking coach and it went via East Horsley and the other one was a Tillingbourne Valley Coach which took the pupils to West Horsley. What else can I say ... [At] Christmas time we used to put on a concert, the school put on a concert there, and a dinner was also laid on by volunteers. I can remember it was sausage and mash at the time, during the war – braised sausages, I quite liked them actually. We used to have good school meals, the school meals were good, my mother used to help in the kitchen. And yes I considered the school meals were very good.

Yvonne: so what years roughly would you have been there?

These years were the 1940s. Now during that period, during the war, early war years, I only had half a day's schooling because the afternoon was taken up by the Strand School which was an evacuated school from London, so we had the morning and they had the afternoon, so I probably missed out on quite a bit of schooling there. But I enjoyed it – the time off! I think the school holidays was about five weeks or something – it seemed a lifetime at that time so we were back on the Common playing and doing all the other things.

Lord [actually Sir Nicholas Edwin] Waterhouse lived in a house called Norwood Farm and as children we spent a lot of time there, because he had a separate bungalow from the main house which housed evacuees who I became friendly with, and in charge of them was a governess. She was quite ambitious, if you like. She had some connection with Lord [Sir] Waterhouse; I don't quite know what it was. I wasn't very keen on her. Anyway I used to go to this bungalow and play with the evacuees. The house itself had an orchard full of Cox's Orange Pippins and I remember we used to help ourselves to these apples and he had a barn, which we used to play in, this barn, and a swimming pool in the front garden, a beautiful garden, and his wife, Lady Waterhouse, laid on a Christmas party for us kids and evacuees which was all very enjoyable and I think she did quite a lot for different people and charities.

Yvonne Arnaud the actress lived in Effingham and I think Lord Waterhouse actually bought this house for her [actually it was land that he sold to her], in some way they were friends. Anyway her husband, McLane [sic – McLellan] I think his name was, had the pig farm down there and us children used to collect acorns for his pigs during the war.

Yvonne: for Yvonne Arnaud's husband?

For Yvonne Arnaud's husband, yes. So she was a well-known figure in the village.

There was also an actor who lived in Surrey Gardens. His name was Desmond Tester and he appeared in two films and they are still being shown on television. One was *The Drum* and the other was *The Four Feathers* and the credits still show his name on the lists of the actors that took part. [Those two films and one other were produced by Alexander Korda during 1937-39; it is not clear that Tester played any role in *The Four Feathers*.]

There was another chap I seem to remember who said he was an actor at one time and who used to tell me all about his famous connections – I think he was a bit eccentric – his name was [Edward] Dignon, like a French name, and his wife, and he used to walk with a bit of a stoop and he talked very quietly and I think he fantasised a lot. And he used to walk to the Catholic church in Effingham and back. He was a regular church-goer. He lived in Surrey Gardens in Effingham [sic – East Horsley].

And there was a lady there by the name of Winifred Oughton who taught acting and my sister was involved in amateur dramatics with her. She was a bit of a slave driver I believe, she used to upset my sister quite a bit but she was involved in amateur dramatics at Effingham.

Yvonne: so where did they put the plays on?

The Memorial Hall at Effingham [Junction] and I think up at East Horsley at the village hall and I see now the dramatic group at the time were the Nomads and I think they're still going from what I saw in a recent ... [?]. And that was a Mr and Mrs Edwin used to be involved in that as well, I remember them.

Now during the war also, the Canadians were over here. The WVS laid on a canteen in the Memorial Hall and they used to serve these meat pies which I found delicious; home made meat pies, lovely crispy pastry I remember, and all the social life of Effingham Junction sort of revolved round the Memorial Hall. I was in the Boy Scouts, we had the Girl Guides and of course all evacuees joined as well. We laid on a

concert party for the Canadian troops and there was a Ken Birch who played the piano, who was quite a good musician, and the accordion, I used to play the guitar a bit and sing. And the Scouts, I mean we used to put on a concert for the Canadians. And they also used to have film shows, cine film shows, and I remember one of the films was *The Strawberry Blonde* with James Cagney which I thoroughly enjoyed and they also used to have *Felix the Cat* cartoons!

Nicholls: did you know Yvonne Arnaud?

I didn't know her, no. She was above my station! I think she was quite a big woman and she was a brilliant concert pianist. Which I used to have a 12-inch 78 record of her. She was a brilliant concert pianist, quite clever. Then of course she had a private road which led down to her house and when we were younger, my brother and several others, Lloyd Petitt with his terrier dog and ferrets we used to go rabbit shooting. Well these were all things I did during that time. I had a twelve bore shot gun, my brother had a twelve bore and we used to shoot rabbits, and our friend Lloyd Petitt had ferrets and we used to chase the rabbits out, this all went on during the war years.

Yvonne: well you had to eat, didn't you?

Yes. Then, when the bombing came, some incendiaries were dropped and landed on the Common unexploded and us kids, well two of us, Jack Warland [the son of Charles George Warland, the Stationmaster at Effingham Junction during 1941-44] and myself, were collecting up these incendiary bombs. I suppose they were about a couple of feet long with fins at the end – yes, quite long – and unexploded and we used to collect them all up and pile them all up and we were hauled in front of the class at Effingham Central School in the assembly room and given a right ticking-off by Mr Hewitt and I believe the local police came along because we'd been warned about these bombs. So we had a right ticking-off about it. And I remember they eventually buried these bombs by the side of the road between Mallaby-Deeley's [the family at Slaters Oak] and Effingham Station on that straight bit of road there on the right hand side of the road. I think I could go straight to them, stop right now, and tell you where they were buried.

A landmine landed at Effingham, at Mr Garnett's farm which is at the back of the Common. [Claude Garnett was a dairy farmer living at Brickfield Cottage.] There's a cinder path that went down by our cottages, past the railway sheds and right at the end is a right turn, right bend, and Garnett's farm was on the left, there was a big gate there. And I used to deliver the church magazine down there and a landmine landed on his ...[?].

Nicholls: a quick question, did Sir Guy Mallaby-Deeley live in Slaters Oak?

Slaters Oak, that's right. As I remember, walking back from school in those days a couple of horses which had been knocked down or killed, it was right outside – oh no, that was Indian Farm, that was Indian Farm. And I also remember ...

Yvonne: sorry, what was Indian Farm, where Guy Mallaby-Deeley lived?

No, that was Slaters Oak, by Slaters Oak. I also remember a car accident by Slaters Oak. We heard this car whizzing along, we were on the cricket ground, and it turned over and made it into the ditch and the driver was trapped underneath and it took some time to release him.

Then on course, the cricket ground, leading up to the war, on the ground itself was a searchlight unit [more likely an anti-aircraft gun – the searchlights were on the eastern side of Effingham Common Road] so this all had to be brought back to its natural state and converted back into a cricket ground, and we had the help of our prisoners-of-war to do this, cutting down all the long grass and landscaping it and getting it back into some playable condition. Dr Sutton, who was the President of the club, got a friend of him [sic – his] who was a very good artist and came down and painted a picture of the workers cutting the grass with scythes and we still have the picture. I believe the original is either in the cricket club pavilion or my nephew or somebody may have it. I just don't know where it is at the moment. We'll stop there.

Yvonne: do you have a copy of it?

I've got a copy, yes.

I started work, I left Clark's College in Guildford. My sister worked in the typing pool at Horsley Towers for the Central Electricity Board and she gave me a little hand in getting a job there. And the offices were all wooden huts joined together by a central passageway and I was at the end hut under the south-east England region of the electricity distribution area; the other areas were Scotland, Wales, north-east England, south-east England, which covered the whole area, and it was all the transmission. All the top bosses were there. They lived in, in the main, they lived in huts, wooden huts, and the ladies who lived there lived in the main building, they had accommodation there. And when it came to meal times we used to have a – we'd buy tickets which were sixpence at the time and we used to walk over to the main building, had a dining hall there. We had waiter service, I remember one waiter called Fritz – where he was from ...

he certainly wasn't Welsh – and the dining room had a minstrels' gallery. And we had a snooker room, I used to stay behind after work and play snooker with an older man who was in the office, Scotty his name was, he was a commercial artist actually not an engineer at all, a commercial artist, very nice chap, we used to stay behind and play snooker. And we had a marvellous Christmas party there with a big Christmas tree in the main entrance hall. We had a lovely lounge there with a radiogram, where we used to play records and all the girls used to come in, we'd have a bit of dancing. They had a club with a bar. Whether it was licensed I can't remember, I didn't drink at the time. But I remember the first ice cream coming there after the war, when war finished. There was a local shop, sweet shop – I'm just trying to think of the name of them – and word went around our offices that ice cream would come in, first ice cream, so I hopped on my bike went down to the shop and brought back ice cream into the office. The first ice cream they'd had since before the war!

My actual desk was situated by a window, I was looking out on allotments, and come mushroom time, or something like that, I could just open the window nip out and get a few mushrooms, you know? At the Horsley Towers there was also a rifle range where they had .22 rifle shooting which we thoroughly enjoyed, they had a big lake where there were pike fish and we had a sports hall where we had table tennis and we had a tennis court. It was like a holiday camp, in fact! I believe it was previously owned by Sopwith the aircraft chap. Before that [actually after Sopwith], I think it was a girls' school, afterwards.

And there were cloisters where all the records, all the cable records, were kept for the London area, they were in big metal filing cabinets and when somebody rang up from Head Office in London who wanted a certain section of the cablework in London which had an identifying number, a route number, I had to nip over to the cloisters with a key, unlock everything and fetch this file out with this particular route of cables and get prints off – because we had a printing room – on a drum, where verdigris was taken off, and I used to send a copy up to the Head Office so they could detect where the fault was in the cable, which they had to pinpoint, which they used the cable records for. It was all very security at the time.

It was a flint stone gothic-type building with turrets, cloisters and I remember, as a youth there of 14, chasing all the girls round the corridors – we had a lot of fun there! We had fête days, we had a fête in the grounds. I'll stop there.

Effingham Cricket Club: yes, I was a member, for some time, I was the match secretary. And the President was a Bill [William George] Sheppard, who was a builder who lived in Surrey Gardens [at Far End]. He was the only member of the Club who had a car at the time, that was a Rover. The members I can remember of the Cricket Club were mainly consisted of railway people. A few names I'll mention: Harry Trish, Ben Barnes.

Right, I will start from here with the Cricket Club. As I've probably previously said, the ground was prepared and re-landscaped after the searchlight unit was positioned on it during the war, and there was no pavilion. And the first thing we had was a wooden shed-type building with a pull-down ... pull-down front flap where we had lemonade being sold and we had a copper tea urn where ... [from] which tea was obtained. The tea urn had to be filled up from a tap in Adrian Estler's land at the back where he kept a cow and I can remember occasions when there was a ... Nobby Penfold and Tommy Hall were carrying this copper urn to fill it up with water and were chased by Estler's cow which was all very funny at the time! So we had no pavilion, just this hut where teas and lemonade were served. We had a marquee where we had the actual teas, the trestle tables laid out. So that was that side of it.

Toilets were non-existent, had to be taken ... [behind the bushes?] and that was that. I think we did have a corrugated iron arrangement with some sort of bucket or pan, I don't know, I forget that. Estler went through a period where he had a bit of a dispute with our President Dr Sutton over something or other and he allowed his horse to trample all over the wicket and we arrived one day to find there were hoof prints all over the ground and there was a bit of a kerfuffle about that. Him and Dr Sutton didn't seem to get on well.

Adrian Estler was a character. He was very forthright in what he said, he didn't mince his words, he didn't take to fools kindly, he wore a straw panama hat and when he went to bat, he had this straw panama hat, open necked shirt, loose sleeves undone, no socks, no pads and scruffy work boots and he used to go in at number eleven. He did make a few runs at times and he also knew the rules of cricket. He was a very good umpire and we had a bit of a row with one of the teams because he no-balled a bowler from the square leg position. How he could see from that position I don't know! But that caused a bit of a kerfuffle with the opposing team. Estler also was very keen on making home-made damson wine and he used to invite some of us round to his kitchen, he had a big oak wooden table, got out a great big hunk of cheese, set the glasses down, got the bottles out which were incidentally still fermenting in some cases, he would pour out the wine and half the bottle would turn white so we could only drink the top half and then he used to carve up the cheese and that was that.

And he had of course this Roll Royce van, which was a ... looked a broken-down old thing, with a bolted door and we used to have to climb over this door to get in it. He had all his tree-cutting material and tools in the back because he was a tree surgeon and, yes, so he had this van. And when there was a local derby, East Horsley for instance, we went in style in his horse and trap, and we were covered in horse hairs by the time we got there. But no, Estler was well known in the village. He was married, at least I think he *was* married. I did meet his wife once because we used to go carol singing round his house ... [? – indistinct] when he was married. So I don't know what happened to his marriage. Yes, he was of German origin. [His grandfather Paul was German born.] His education, it was a public school education in Oundle – Oundle College, I think it was – and he was very keen on cricket as I say. He always used to call me "Waller". "How you doing there Waller – what are you doing today?" And if I was in the garden he always used to stop in his horse and cart and have a chat, you know, so he was a well known character.

Yvonne: [indisinct question, evidently about batting]

I used to open [the batting] sometimes then I used to go down the list a bit, I batted all positions. I used to play wicket keeper as well at times and I got a nasty bang on the leg doing it.

And I remember the time at the cricket ground when we had loads of spectators. All the cars used to line up down the drive and Harry Trish, our secretary, used to go round with a collection box and he used to get quite a bit of money, and I remember an American getting out of his car while we were playing, coming over while we were batting and saying "Hey you guys, can I take a photograph of you guys?" I also remember we had an all day match with a team from London called Ivydeane. We had twelve a side and they had a coloured player, a tall chap – and I remember this – and I didn't realise he was as old as he was; but he was getting on a bit, and he was in the out field one day and a high ball was hit and he went to catch it and it caught him straight in the mouth, he missed it, and they had to cart him off to hospital. It knocked his teeth out. I understood he was round about seventy at the time, so he wasn't a young chap. I remember that incident.

And of course we always helped after the game to roll the wicket with a big concrete roller, it was heavy, and we had a big Dennis mower, which was a devil to start at times, which was kept in a tool shed at the ground and we used to stay behind after a game. We used to get the regular helpers, used to get the players, all not just interested in playing and going home afterwards. So we relied on the regulars to help keep the ground in trim. And there was always work to be done, during the week and half-times [sic – half-terms?], and practice days were Tuesdays, we had nets down there and we did have a practice wicket, a concrete-based practice wicket down there. And then of course our President later was Dr Sutton and he managed to raise all sorts of funds from various people. He'd get them to become vice-president and donate some money and we got enough money to build a cedar wood pavilion which we all helped to build and we had the concrete foundation and when we got to the last bit at the end it overlapped the foundation by a few inches so we had to adjust that! Anyway it was all built and we had a celebration and an opening night and from then on we had a bar whereas previously we had to go down to the Lord Howard for an after-game drink and a game of darts. We'll stop there for a moment.

Back to 1939, and then it was the start of the phoney war as they say, there was no action. And I can remember the station – Effingham station – having a gong which consisted of a train buffer and they used to bang this gong, this buffer, as a practice air raid siren; and how about that? And then the LDV was formed, Local Defence Volunteers, which consisted mainly of railwaymen; they wore arm bands and they used to parade and do a practice on Effingham Common to the left of our cottages and us kids used to take the mickey out of them. And later on of course they got uniforms and rifles but they were first-off Local Defence Volunteers, and they consisted mainly of railwaymen.

I remember the railwayman who worked in the booking office, he was a Jack Gange(y) [? – spelling uncertain] his name was, he was the first chap I remember as being working at the booking office, and Mr Ponsford who was our next door neighbour at No 2 Station Cottages [he means that in relation to No 2 Mr Ponsford was the next door neighbour, living at No 1], he was also a signalman; he worked in shifts with my father. He was a brilliant gardener. You could get to his house from the platform by walking up a path and a few steps under the booking office, the part where they used to have all the bicycles at the time and luggage and what-not, and I could walk up there if I came off a train and not show a ticket because I used to walk up into his garden! And Mr Ponsford, he was a very nice chap I remember, he had a dog called Trip [sic – Gyp]. So that was the part I remember at the station and the booking office.

Yvonne: can you describe the house to me?

The house had two upstairs bedrooms; no gas lights and we had to use candles for lighting. Downstairs there was a living room with a range, a cast iron range [on] which we had to use coal for fire and the oven, where we used to roast our roast dinner. We used to roast chestnuts, baked apples, by the range. And then we had, we'd go out of the living room to the front door, there was a passageway with a larder under the

stairs where we used to keep cheese and we also kept mice – we used to put traps! Then there was the front room which we used to use for special occasions. We had a grand piano, two easy chairs and an open fire. We used to have some beautiful log fires, we used to collect logs from the Common and the chimney used to get sooted up. We used to have to sweep the chimney every so often, and the soot came down whenever we were doing it. Then at some later stage the house had had a bedroom built on at the end, so we had a downstairs bedroom as well. And then we had a scullery with a sink and a concrete boiler and there was a high ceiling and ... [?indistinct] I think my father made a clothes line which was operated on a trellis system or a pulley, we pulled it up when he didn't want it, it was a high ceiling. And we had a geyser and I think we had a gas cooker and a meter where we had to put money in.

Our baths used to have to be taken in the kitchen in a galvanised bath. The water used to be boiled on the gas stove and there was a coal store just outside, just outside the back door, turn to the right was an outside toilet with an Elsan closet. I used to get trapped in there at times because if anybody came to the back door, tradesman or whoever it was, I was trapped in there in the toilet, I'd just have to wait until they'd finished! My father made a shed out of railway sleepers and we had chickens at the bottom of the garden, wire-fenced off. We grew potatoes, we had vegetables: leeks, Brussels sprouts, and some roses and a damson tree. Damsons were prolific! We had a damson tree outside the downstairs bedroom, we used to get a lot of damsons, and also damsons grew on the hedge at the bottom of the garden.

Now at the bottom of the garden, there was a house, two semi-detached, at the bottom; the first one [was where] the Blackwells lived. Mr [Alfred Abraham] Blackwell was a plate layer on the railway.

Nicholls: not Betty Blackwell?

Yes, Betty [Elizabeth Teresa] Blackwell lived there; she had a sister Daisy [Ada Margaret] Blackwell, another sister Josie [Patricia Josephine] Blackwell and Margaret [Anne] Blackwell – that's four sisters, isn't it, yes? [There was also a fifth, the eldest, Lillian Mary.] And next door to them was the Fullers – Wally [Walter Ernest] Fuller. He was a well-known character, liked his ale and he was always off down the pub leaving his wife and the kids at home. And Wally Fuller always did a bit of umpiring as well. He was well-known down The Lord Howard because he was always down there.

And then the next house down was the Station Master's house and at that time it was Mr Jack [actually Charles George] Warland, he was the station master, he had a son called Jack which [sic] I used to mess about with, we were in the Boy Scouts together. He had steps down from his house, you could walk straight on to the platform. Then beyond the Warlands' house, which was a detached one, on its own, they had the railway sheds. Now the railway sheds, just after the war, Mr Warland got several of us kids if we were interested to scrape all the blackout off the windows of the carriages. We had razor blades fitted into holders, because during the war the blinds used to be pulled down in the carriages but they weren't wide enough to cover the full window so they were blacked out all round the edges and afterwards it all had to be scraped off, so us kids were working in these railway carriages, scraping all this blackout paint off the windows and earning a few bob at the same time.

Yvonne: so how many of you were there living in your house?

In my house apart from my mother and father I had a sister Mary, who was the eldest, I had a brother [Maurice] who was five years younger and then myself who was another five years younger. The three Ms ... [indistinct]

Yvonne: shall we stop here?

Before we go any further, for some reason or other, my father, a signalman, was transferred to Hampton Court railway level crossing signal box and he had to cycle there from Effingham, which must have been 15 miles or something, it was quite a long way, he used to cycle, especially at night and the war was on and the guns were going off and there was flak and shrapnel flying about and my mother used to get a bit worried. Anyway that was the period when he worked at the level crossing in Hampton Court and then he came back to work at the station again. And there were times when his shift take-over [ie substitute] didn't turn up and he was called out at all odd times to fill in, which was damned annoying. I think he got a Christmas Day off once every three years or something because you used to have to work late turns, early turns and middle turns, and he very rarely got the full day off at Christmas and he finished up with a very low pension incidentally. So we'll leave it there.

During the war years at Station Cottages, I also remember the Walls ice cream man – it must have been after the war because ice cream wasn't available during the war, was it? let me think – it must have been before the war, it must have been before the war. The Walls ice cream man with his three wheel trike used to stop opposite our house, just to the right of the house on the other side of the road, on a Sunday and my mother used to make a jug of tea for him. He wanted some bluebells, I remember, and we went collecting bluebells for him and he gave us a penny. We're going on a bit, during the war years, a bomb landed where the station is and where the main line divides – one line goes to Waterloo, the other goes to London Bridge

– between them there was, well there still is, a sub-station and I think they tried to hit this sub-station when they bombed it. The bomb landed, I didn't hear it during that night but when I woke up there was a great lump of plaster came off the ceiling and landed on my bed. I didn't hear that, they missed the sub-station.

Then of course there were the doodlebugs. And I can remember, yes I can remember a jeep coming over the hill there, over the railway, this doodlebug coming over, all these Yanks [or Canadians?] piling out of the jeep, diving into the ditch using obscene language. And I could hear from the bedroom window. I heard this doodlebug come over and then its engine cut off; we all waited and I think it landed at Hatchford, or somewhere down that area.

Then there were times when people used to – Service people, especially Wrens or the odd soldier or whatever – used to catch the last train down from Waterloo and the train finished at Effingham, 'cos it didn't go any further and it used to go into the sidings, so they used to knock on our door, could they put up for the night? We used to put up one or two at night time, you know. I also remember somebody drunk getting off train, lying down in the middle of the road on the far side of the bridge. We saw it from the window of the house. I was up in the bedroom and we had to go out there and turf him off because if a car had come over, or something, it would have run him over. He was right in the middle of the road, drunk as a Lord.

Yvonne: were the Wrens on their way to Portsmouth, were they going to Guildford and Portsmouth?

They probably were, they probably were, yes, yes. Then we had opposite our house, something else I will mention, there was an Army camp, a hut which they had over there. The Army were there and we were invited to a Christmas celebration, I remember that, and we had the anthracite stove in the middle with the chimney going up through the roof, it was all very warm and friendly.

Yvonne: the British Army or Canadian?

Yes, the British Army this was, I think they were stationed up with the search light unit on the cricket ... [indistinct – pitch?] and one of them gave us a couple of sausage rolls ... [?]

Nicholls: do you remember the search light gun unit that was up here by Yew Tree Cottages? Do you have any memory of that?

No. I have no memory of that, no. I really remember more that end ... I do remember the Army camp up Beech Avenue, the Canadians on the left hand side, 'cos us kids used to go up there and mingle with them and we used to have dinner with them and they used to give us mince and tatties in their jerry cans and they used to use their pen knives. Also on Effingham station there were the odd times when the Nestlé's slot machines were filled up with chocolate and I remember us – they emptied one of them and gave all us kids the chocolate, you know? Yes, the Canadians were very generous, very generous.

Yvonne: when the ice cream man came, who was he selling his ice cream to, ... [people?] getting off the train?

No, no, the locals, there were people walking about, you may get people coming off the train, yes that's true, because at weekends we used to get hikers coming down from London, especially Bank Holidays ... [?] so that was ... When people sometimes used to walk down to the cricket ground as well, there were people walking about and if it was Sunday they may have been going to church or coming back again. He obviously found it worth while to park his bike there.

Nicholls: do you remember the priest Father Loader?

That name rings a bell, Catholic priest, yes I didn't know him really because ... [? (naming someone)] my friend, was a Catholic ...

Nicholls: that's right ... the Common ...

Yes, he was Catholic, and I did at one time go to the Catholic church and have a service there, with him I think it was ... I was ... thinking of becoming a Catholic, but I didn't, so I didn't pursue that any further ... although the name Loader rings a bell, yes.

Nicholls: Father Loader, yes.

Yes, of course with regard to church, I spent a lot of time in the Memorial Hall with the Boy Scouts and various other sporting activities like table tennis.

Yvonne: did you ever camp on the Common with the Boy Scouts?

No, I'll tell you what we did do, we built a log cabin round the back of the Memorial Hall.

Yvonne: oh, all right ...

I don't know where we got all the logs from, but we did that. We had that for a time and we used to have some of our meetings in the field at the back of the Memorial Hall. And I was also a member of the Covenanters which was a group on Sunday afternoons ... I'm trying to think of the name chap's name who ran it.

Nicholls: so what was this group?

The Covenanters, it was like a, how can I put it, there was – like a Sunday School class, if you like, we all got a badge, you know, and we were part of this group the Covenanters.

Nicholls: who was it run by?

I'm trying to think of the name. It was run by a chap who lived in Lovelace Close, I can't remember his name. Our Scoutmaster, who lived in ... [?] Road, was a Mr Ingram ... [?]. It was a Mr Ingram but he ... [?] Before him, I can't remember *his* name, it might come to me ...

Now, there was a house where Miss Poupart lived. As you come to the crossroads at Effingham Junction, do a left turn there and go down the road a bit and there's a house on the right hand side and Miss Poupart lived there, was a well-known character, she used to keep the key to the Hall and we used to go there to get the key from her, open up and play table tennis – put the gas fire on, had a gas fire on, gas was cheaper, have the gas fire on, warm it up and play table tennis, and the grand piano ... [?] She used to have whist drives in her house, where we used to go, and she [his mother?] she used to take me along when I was a kid. And she was associated, her family was associated with the name Poupart, which is Poupart's Junction near Clapham Junction on the railway. There's a sign on a signal box, Poupart's Junction, she had some connection with that ... [several indistinct phrases here] ... she was quite a nice person and she did a lot for the village ... [more indistinct phrases amidst excessive background noise]

[No] 2 Station Cottages, when we first moved there, there were 3 of us, my brother, my sister and myself; three in a bed. And on a summer's night, we used to lie in bed and listen to the nightingales singing in the woods opposite – a beautiful sound! And I can remember that, I haven't heard a nightingale since, I don't think.

Now, another thing is, on the – just on the down side of the railway bridge, on the up-line side towards Waterloo, was a shop on the left hand side called The Halt. It was owned by the Searle family and there was also a Post Office and sweet shop, where we used to get our Mars bars and chocolates and PC Wood who was a local Bobby used to cycle on his bike from Effingham village and that was his point duty position, by the telephone kiosk outside the shop at certain times of the day, and us kids always knew when he was going to be there, and so that's all I can say about that.

Transcript of the 2nd DVD

Railway Cottages, Effingham Junction, revised June 2011 from the original taped interview held at The Sir Douglas Haig Hotel on September 15th 2010. Themes: living at the Junction, village childhood, schooldays, war years, cricket club and Horsley Towers.

My name is Michael Waller. I was born 1930 in the village of West Horsley:



Figure 1 Michael as a young boy.

Our house named Cantara was semi-detached with all mod cons. Cantara, the house my father named after his First World War army base in the Middle East and where I was born in 1930, West Horsley:



Figure 2 Michael's birthplace Cantara in West Horsley.

To eke out the family budget, lodgers were taken in, including two policemen. I was the baby in a family of three, having a sister Mary and brother Maurice; each [sic] six and five years older respectively. For promotional reasons my father, a Southern Railways signalman at East Horsley station, ... :



Figure 3 Michael's father Jesse Waller.

... accepted a vacancy at Effingham Junction including railway accommodation; namely No 2 Station Cottages, an early 1900s semi-detached house with no mod cons and to where we moved in 1934.

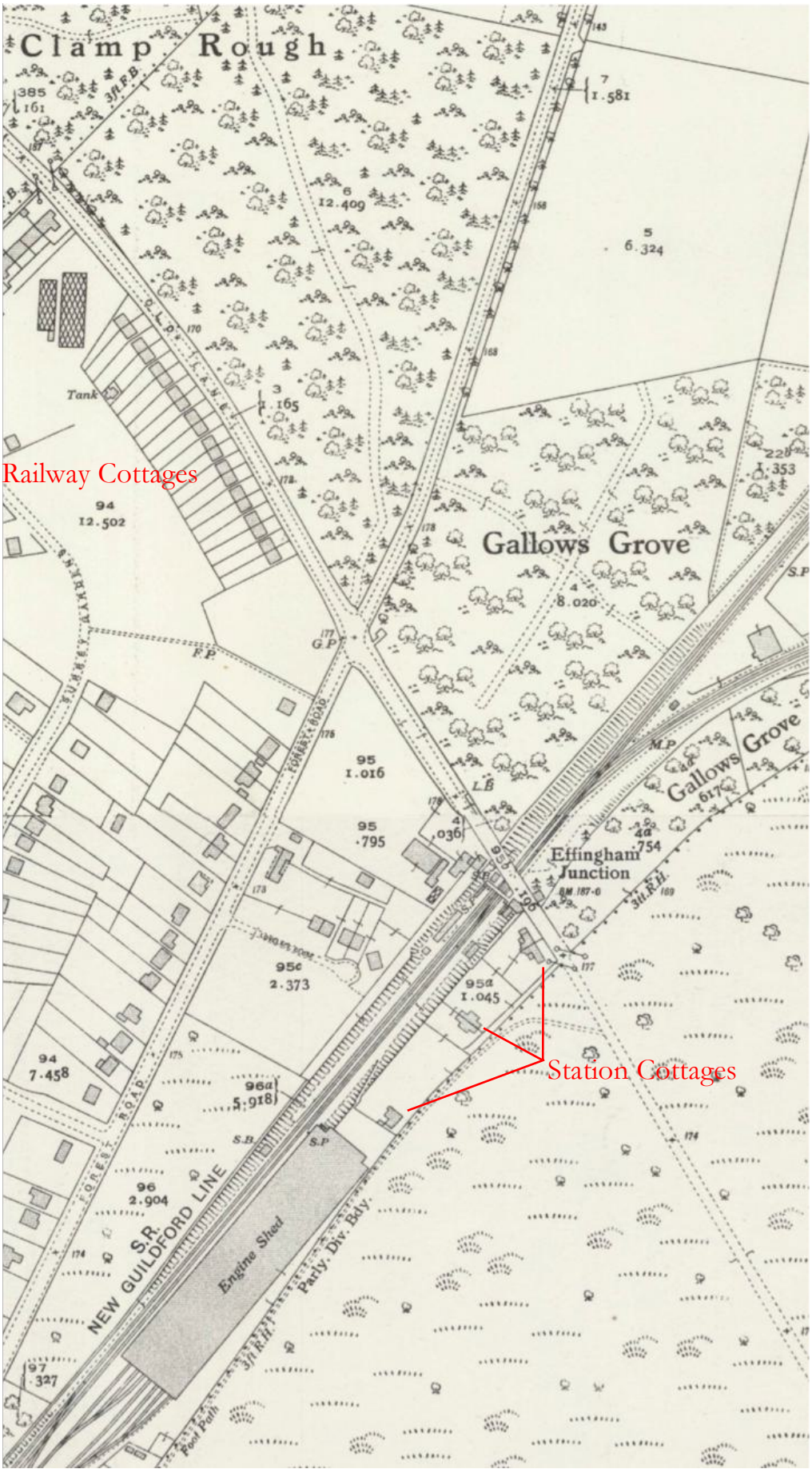


Figure 4 Effingham Junction on the 25" 1934 OS Map.

Looking back at the Common, which was gated in the 1920s, Railway [sic – Station] Cottages are seen on the right hand side, and this is a view from Effingham Junction Station towards the Common:



Figure 5 Looking south towards to the Common, with Nos 1 and 2 Station Cottages on the right.

The wagon was used to carry timber to a Cobham sawmill.

My first girl friend Margaret Blackwell:



Figure 6 Michael with first girl friend Margaret Blackwell.

She lived at No 3 Railway [sic –Station] Cottages and whose garden backed on to ours.

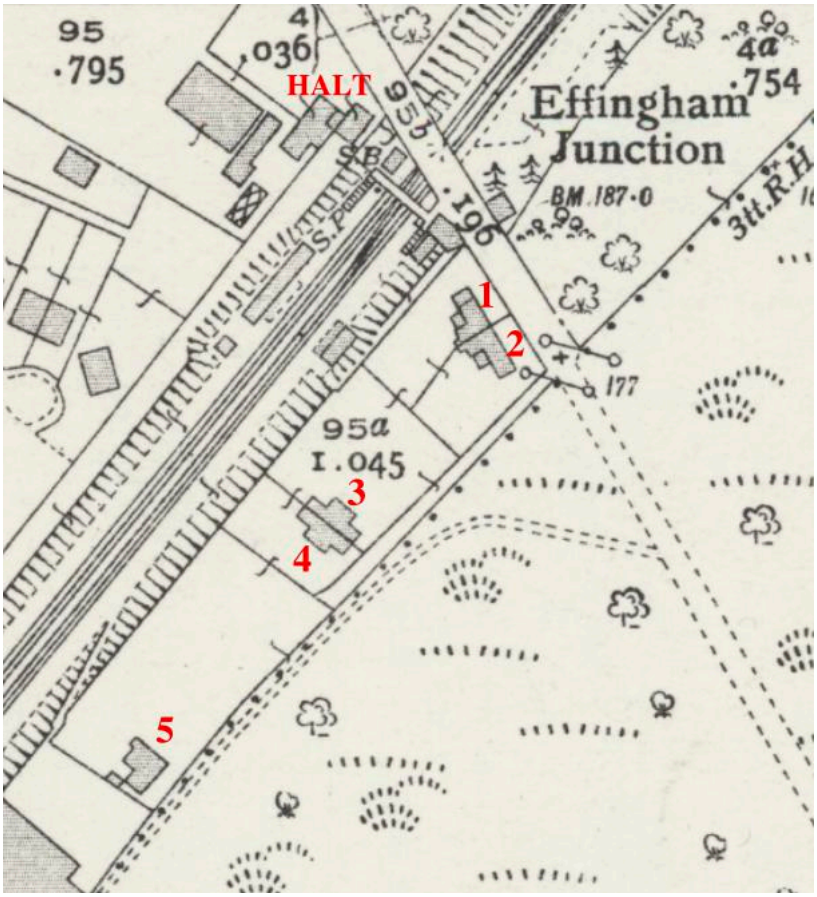


Figure 7 Detail from Figure 4 showing (i) the numbering 1-5 of Station Cottages and (ii) The Halt.

The accommodation at Station Cottages comprised three bedrooms, two upstairs and one downstairs which was a lean-to side addition, a scullery, two living rooms and an outside toilet.



Figure 8 The same view as in Figure 5 but at a later date; the DVD displays this image without comment.

The main four rooms were approximately the same size, 12 by 10 [feet]. The scullery had a higher sloping ceiling, a built-in corner concrete solid-fuel-burning copper, one porcelain sink with cold water tap, a wooden latched and bolted back door, one gas light and gas stove plus a slot meter. The concrete copper was later dismantled because it proved more efficient to boil water in saucepans on the gas stove. Baths were taken in a long galvanised bath in the scullery once a week. The luxury of an Ascot instant hot water gas geyser was a later acquisition at the sink for general washing and shaving purposes. My father contrived a pulley clothes hanger drier for the mangled washing. Carpets were hung on the outside clothes line and beaten for dust and dirt removal.

The living room contained a cast iron range with mantelpiece over, which comprised an oven and grate. There was a built-in shelving and cupboard unit at one side and room for a sideboard at the other. There were two easy and one occasional chair, a dining table and chairs and a central gas light. Incidentally, electricity didn't arrive until the mid-Fifties. The range emitted much heat once it got going, warming up the room, and the toasting fork was frequently used. The range was later replaced by an open tiled fireplace and a wooden partition formed the inside wall and concealed the stairs which gave way to a curtained-off stair access leading to a small top landing with facing cupboard and bedroom doors either side. A rear vertical sash window admitted light to the stairwell and afforded a south facing view to the garden.

The living room door led to a small vestibule with an outside front door plus a larder under the stairs complete with mice. Then passing through another door into the front or best room, [there] was a cast iron open fireplace, three easy chairs with well-worn springs, one occasional table, a central gas light and an upright piano. The chimney had to be swept prior to having some roaring log fires especially at Christmas. At other times in the winter, an oil stove heated up a rather chilly room. A gas fire was installed later which meant no more inviting log fires.

The downstairs bedroom had a high sloping roof with an inbuilt ventilator brick at its apex allowing external sounds to echo through, especially trains coming and going, plus early morning calls from one of our very vocal cockerels. The bedroom also had a small cast iron open grate fire with a birds-and-cherries motif surround.

The outside toilet adjacent to the back door could be an inconvenience by being trapped in there while visitors or stray tradesmen stood chatting and [the toilet's user] having to wait before emerging. Inside the toilet was a wooden bench seat with hinged front flap for bucket access. Strips of newspaper [and] magazines hung from a nail in the wall.

The household chores, being very arduous, were so much hard work I marvel how my mother was able to cope. But she kept the house, everything well organised and spotless and also with her excellent cooking she made it from a house into a comfortable home.

Pastimes, and we used to play bagatelle, darts, cards and in the street we played hopscotch and spun tops. In the summer we walked to Wisley and bathed in the lake and also fished in the river at Cobham and Ripley. I remember posters advertising an appeal to raise funds for the building of the new Guildford Cathedral. Knitting needles were used for rolling and folding newspapers for firelighters and rug making was also an occupation.

The front, side and rear garden tended by my father contained flowers, fruit and vegetables. Damsons from our tree made excellent home-made jam as did crab apples and blackberries from the Common. Chickens were kept, Rhode Island Reds, giving us eggs and I remember at one time, I purchased a dozen day-old chicks from Watanabé's chicken farm [Watanabé, Suma Poultry Farm] at Hatchford where we went potato picking in the autumn. These chicks, White Sussex, turned out to be all cockerels, so, no eggs but some delicious roast dinners!

My father constructed a sturdy wooden shed from railway sleepers to house our bikes and garden tools. In the bedrooms, candles and night lights were necessary for illumination and in the winter the rooms could be freezing with frost forming on the inside of the window glass. Hot water bottles and heated bricks inside a sock preheated the beds. When we first moved in, the three of us shared a double bed and I remember summer nights, laying awake listening to nightingales singing from the woods opposite through the open window.

Leatherhead and Guildford by train were our shopping and cinema towns. My mother shopped at the Co-op in Leatherhead. I often cycled to the Savoy cinema in Cobham and remember seeing *The Great Dictator* with Charlie Chaplin. Our annual holiday, one week, was taken in Exmouth, Devon and [I] remember getting excited as the time drew near. The journey by steam train took about a day, changing at Exeter onto the branch line, then *eureka* – my first glimpse of the sea! One year there, my father was stung by a jellyfish, causing him severe leg swelling and making it unable for him to travel which meant we had another whole week in Exmouth. What joy for us, but not for him. Enjoying myself at the seaside in Exmouth:



Figure 9 Michael on holiday at Exmouth, mid/late 1930s.

Back to the Junction. Weekends in the summer, "Stop me and buy one", Walls' ice cream man took up his stance opposite No 2 at the Common by the then local bus stop. He used to pay my mother 6d a time for jugs of tea.

Us children practically lived on the Common, playing in the bracken, climbing trees, primrosing and bluebelling in the woods, having picnics. Our favourite was hunting for empty 'R White' lemonade bottles, yielding a penny refund each for sweet money. I remember a duck/moorhen pond on the Common where eggs were nested and frogspawn [was] collected in jam jars.

On the other [opposite northern] side of the bridge to No 2, the Searle family ran a sweet shop and post office called The Halt [see Figure 7]. It had a tiled step-down approach, the shop being of a frame and panel construction with display windows either side of the glass entrance door. On entering the shop, the doorbell sounded summoning counter service from the rear, which entailed a walk through a linked passageway, making for a delay if nobody else was in the shop being served. The Halt had a hall at the back where Mrs Searle used to rent out the hall for old-time dances and various social functions.

I remember we were playing on the Common one day when we came across boxes of chocolates, Black Magic, Cadbury's, all sorts of confectionery, sweets, lemonade bottles etc. It turned out that The Halt had been burgled. The local Bobby PC Woods [sic – Wood] with his bike used to stand on point duty outside The Halt by the telephone kiosk, but he missed that one!

Some of our shop favourites there were Lyons' fruit pies in a square box, Mars Bars, Sherbet Dips and fizzy drinks Corona and Tizer, and lemonade powder which made excellent, still home-made lemonade. I remember my father giving us pennies to go up to the shop and buy a Mars Bar which was a real treat.

Turning left at the crossroads by The Lord Howard into Forest Road towards Horsley, first on the left was Stonely's garage where our wireless accumulators were taken to be charged. Next came Flack's paper stationery shop which was later Marshall's fishmongers. A well-known local lady Miss Poupart lived on the right hand side of a detached house. [She was] a tall quietly spoken person, rather old-fashioned who retained guardianship of the Memorial Hall door key, required by us when we went to play table tennis there. Her name is linked to Poupart's Junction which is on a name plate on a signal box just outside Clapham Junction. She hosted whist drives and various other social gatherings at her house. She also had two lodgers by the name of Musselwhite, very smart gentlemen in Hombergs, suits and spats. They were regularly seen out walking together.

Further along the road on the right hand side, there is the Roland Lubbock Memorial Hall, the hub of social activities at the Junction. This is a photograph of the Ladies' Bible Class, the Covenanters, outside the Memorial Hall:



Figure 10 Ladies' Bible Class, the Covenanters, outside the Memorial Hall, East Horsley.

In the front row, holding the shield, is Miss Jenkins the organist. At the back of her is Sister Clarke and to Sister Clarke's right is my sister.

Another photograph with Miss Jenkins and Sister Clarke in the front row. My sister is fourth from the right in the back row:



Figure 11 Another photograph of the Covenanters.

Proceeding along Forest Road, past the Memorial Hall, we come to the railway bridge and on the right hand side a turning off which was known as The Slip [The Drift], a short cut to East Horsley where I often cycled along to visit my aunt who lived in West Horsley.

Yvonne Arnaud, well-known actress and concert pianist, lived with her husband in a large detached house with green tiles, between Effingham and Bookham Commons. A private road to the property which included a pig farm led under the branch line railway bridge terminating in double gates. We used to collect acorns for the pigs. The Yvonne Arnaud theatre in Guildford:

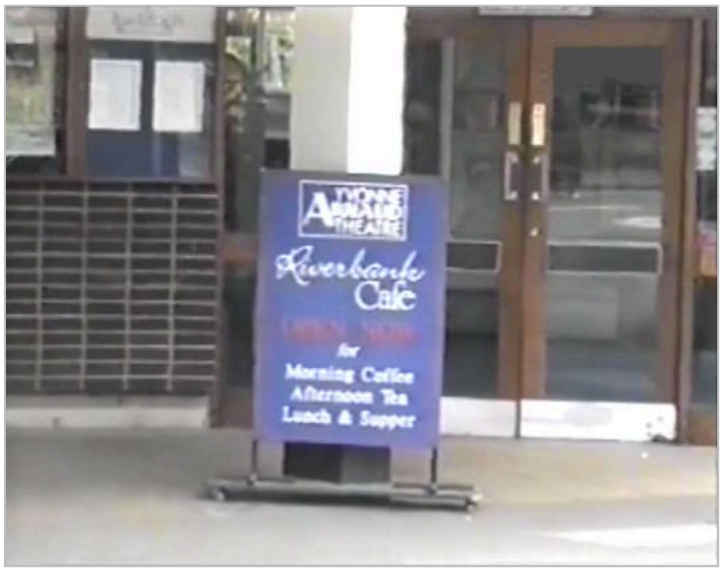


Figure 12 The Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford.



Figure 13 Yvonne Arnaud.

An actor by the name of Desmond Tester lived in Surrey Gardens and appeared in two films which are still repeated on television today, namely *The Four Feathers* and *The Drum*, which are still shown on TV repeats with his name in the credits.

Another character by the name of [Edward] Dignon used to fantasise about his imaginary acting days and the stars he said he knew [he was described as a stage and film artist in the 1939 National Register]. He walked with a stoop with his hands behind his back, religiously there and back on Sundays to attend mass at the Catholic Church in the village.

A professional acting teacher Miss Winifred Oughton lived in Hathaway Cottage, Surrey Gardens. She took an interest in local amateur dramatics and ran rehearsals for the local society which later became known as Foresters.

Another actor who used to catch the last train down from Waterloo and have a taxi waiting for him at the Junction – he was often a bit worse the wear from drink – his name was Andreas Melandrinos [sic – Andrea Malandrinos]. He used to have bit parts in films like waiters or innkeepers something like that. He was probably Greek [he was actually born in Liverpool; however, his father Basil was Greek].

A cinder path between No 2 and the Common provided a short cut to Horsley, emerging at the south side of the railway bridge in Forest Road. Names living along there at the time, were, Blackwell, Fuller, Warland (Stationmaster) next to the railway sheds, then Carr followed by a bungalow named Omewego where the Tyrrells lived [Harry Tyrrell's family actually lived next door to Omewego at a house named Thanks, whilst Omewego was occupied by another gardener Harry Turner]. Mr Tyrrell, a keen gardener, designed and landscaped a very attractive ornamental garden.

Before the path bends right, on the left hand side was Garnett's farm. Mr Garnett delivered his milk carrying two stainless steel hinged-lid milk canisters from which he ladled milk into customers' jugs. This was before Curtis and Co-op [sic – Curtis & Co?] started to deliver milk. In his peaked cap and leather gaiters, hob-nailed boots and smoking a pipe he struck a very familiar rustic figure. He owned a rather unfriendly dog chained to its kennel which was given a wide berth when visiting.

The railway houses [ie Railway Cottages] along the Ockham Road, numbered 1 to 20, with woodland opposite where we sometimes played; some names recalled living along there were Thornton, Mitchell, Goddard, Smith, Trish, Barnes, Petitt, Osbsorne, Weston, Jackson, Gould. A bungalow and field at the end was owned by Miller. His wife Mrs Miller ran a sweet shop at Old Lane; names recalled along there were Phillips, Hemus, Stocks, Gorman and Meach. We played in Barnsthorns [sic – Barnsthorn] woods at the back of Old Lane.

Our neighbours at No 1 were Mr and Mrs Jim Ponsford. Jim was also a signalman and they had two daughters Vera and Enid. I was often in their garden and used to carve my initials in his young pumpkins and marrows which expanded on growing. Jim took pride in his garden which was indeed a picture and he used to take his dog Gyp for regular walks on the Common. Pottering about in his shed with him, I sometimes received a friendly rebuke of "Get out of the tent!" when I got in his way.

On the Common local to Heathway lived a recluse by the name of Miss Bretherton who lived in an old overgrown cottage. She also owned a house opposite which was rather derelict and where she kept cats in cages. Rumour had it that she was a one-time actress, but apart from that nobody else seemed to know much about her.

There used to be various tradesmen and con-men knocking at our front door. As well as the rag-and-bone man, there was the onion man and I remember these onions strung from the handlebars of his bike.

Schooldays: at the age of five, I began school at the St Lawrence Primary school in the village. My mother transported me there and back, sitting on the carrier of her bicycle. Sometimes I used to walk home which was about one and a half to two miles without seeing a passing car. And on reaching Indian Farm, if I saw a white Austin van in the distance, I knew there was a possible chance of a lift for the rest of the way from Bowman's baker on his delivery rounds.



Figure 14 Michael in his schooldays.

Stewart Adams was the headmaster and his wife the governess, other teachers there being Miss Dixon, Miss Parker and Miss [sic – Mrs] Hardement. There were four classrooms, two in the original building and two in a newer section, one of which was upstairs. One day, I remember Miss Parker took me to lunch at the Crossroads Café and [I] remember having mince and potatoes which evidently didn't agree with my young constitution and later that afternoon during lessons I had to be excused and go to the outside toilet across the playground on a freezing cold day; I remember there was snow on the ground. I seemed to be out there for ages shivering and eventually had to be rescued by Miss Parker.

Miss [Mrs] Hardement, a very pleasant buxom teacher, in addition to teaching general subjects also played the piano and liked to have us gather round for a traditional sing-song. On a Friday she concluded the week and the class by reading us stories by Enid Blyton.

Anthracite stoves heated the classrooms in winter and emitted a warm red glow. Taking turns to fetch the school milk in crates from Curtis' Dairy, bottles were then placed around the stoves to warm the milk. Some of us preferred the ice which formed into the cream by the frost.

A visit to the local blacksmith, watching horses being shod and hearing the clang of hammer on anvil became a regular attraction. And the local tuck shop was Love's on the corner opposite the Church.

Scripture classes saw some canvas scrolls being rolled out depicting religious scenes, one of which I remember was The Last Supper. The local bus used to park and wait outside The Sir Douglas Haig before making its return journey to the Junction then on to Guildford.

Stewart Adams occasionally included practical demonstrations especially in arithmetic, using weights and measures and scales, weighing out cuts of meat, thereby making the subject more interesting, and in Geography he said he had visited every county in England. He often asked me to fetch his cucumbers from Mizen's Nursery down the road. In spring we were taken for nature walks and behind Curtis' farm was a field where we played cricket.

The school grounds also included a field which now has a school extension built on it. This was fenced off by iron railings and gated and closed in winter. Spring made it accessible to the smell of newly mown

grass beckoning the welcome onset of warmer days and where lessons were sometimes taken in a group sitting on the grass in the sunshine.

Stewart Adams was a very charismatic person of medium stature with slightly florid features. [He] often wore a brown plus-four suit, horn-rimmed spectacles, a trilby hat tilted at a jaunty angle and brogue shoes and smoked cigarettes. I noticed his fingers were quite nicotine stained. Sir Barnes Wallis of bouncing bomb fame also lived in Effingham and was an acquaintance of his. On Empire Day I remember we enjoyed a half day's holiday.

About the age of ten I was transferred to the more modern Central School. Initially, Stewart Adams temporarily took charge until Mr Hewitt was appointed headmaster. The school grounds there comprised two playing fields, asphalt playgrounds and allotments. An indoor swimming pool at The Lodge nearby was made available to the school. An austerity wartime Christmas party was organised at the school including a dinner of sausage and mash. Generally, school dinners were very good and my mother became one of the volunteer helpers in the kitchen. In the war years the school had to be shared with a London school known as the Strand which meant for some time we had lessons in the morning only.



Figure 15 Michael in his schooldays.

The war years. When Chamberlain announced "We are at war with Germany" on Sept 3rd 1939, my mother cried because the memory of the First World War, in which my father served, was still fresh in her memory. As a nine year old at the time, the seriousness of the War and what went on in it, we didn't really know much about because we were too busy growing up.

The Ponsfords next door took in two girl evacuees, Sheila Brown and Rita Simmon(d)s, neither of whom had ever been to the countryside before, so the first question they asked was "Are there any snakes here?" This photograph shows my sister at the back, Sheila Brown on the left, myself and Rita Simmon(d)s:

However, they soon integrated with us country bumpkins enjoying ourselves on the Common. Double British Summer Time in force at that time meant longer, lighter evenings for staying out and playing, but seven o'clock bedtime was strictly adhered to by my mother's call. I recall laying awake in bed in the downstairs bedroom and enviously hearing the others still playing on the Common and allowed out to continue.



Figure 16 Michael with his sister (at rear) and evacuees.

At the start of the phoney war, air raid practice warnings were sounded by banging a suspended railway buffer acting as a gong. Prior to the Home Guard, LDV armbands were worn – Local Defence Volunteers – and they mostly consisted of railwaymen. Parades were held on the Common: this was before being issued with rifles and uniforms and broomsticks or similar were used, causing us children much amusement.

Returning home on the train from Leatherhead one evening in the blackout, the train stopped before the station to allow the main Waterloo line train priority. Thinking it was at the station, I opened the carriage door, stepped out and finished up at the bottom of the railway bank, followed by a voice "What are you doing down there?" from Ben Barnes the guard. I clambered back up and he pulled me into the guard's van. "You won't be doing that again in hurry" he said and I thought "Don't bank on it!"

In the Forties, my father was temporarily transferred to Hampton Court level crossing signal box and this involved a long bicycle ride there and back; possibly a round trip of fifteen miles or so and, with air raids on the go at the time, my mother became quite concerned for his safety, especially at night. Eventually he returned to the Junction and living so close to the station could be a bit too convenient at times especially when last minute call-outs made it necessary for him to stand in for an absent shift who didn't turn up.

This is a photograph of Effingham Junction signal box:



Figure 17 Effingham Junction signal box; Jesse Waller is standing right-most above the steps.

You can just see the railway sheds on the left hand side. My father is standing at the back with his cap on, on the right-hand side.

On Sundays my mother plated up my father's roast dinner if he happened to be on duty and she tied it up with a tea cloth with a knot at the top which made it handy for me to take it over to him and deliver it to him at the signal box, walking along the platform which caused much banter from the porters.

My father served 48 years with the Southern Railway and retired with a nervous condition affecting his hands, caused by years of lever pulling.

Going back to the War, a bomb missed the local sub-station and landed nearby during the night and, not hearing a thing, I woke up next morning covered in plaster and dust from the ceiling. A field in Garnett's farm sustained a large bomb crater caused by a land mine. The doodlebugs were something else. Canadians in a Jeep came over the bridge one day just as one of these things cut out its engine and with much screeching of brakes and cursing they all dived into the ditch. This was followed by an explosion somewhere near Ockham. One also landed on a house [Little Thatch] in Windy Ridge [off Effingham Common Road] and rumours had it that the occupant was in the bottom of the garden and survived [a mother with her baby]; and another [rumour] was that one person was killed [this was Joseph George Mathison, who died inside the house].

During the Blitz, walking up to the railway bridge and looking towards London, the sky was a complete red glow with searchlights scanning the skies. One became familiar with the throbbing drone of enemy aircraft during an air raid, so it was quite comforting at times that sometimes the noise turned out to be a train. The anti-aircraft gun on the cricket ground caused quite a vibration and noise when in action. Quite often service personnel stranded off the last train from London knocked on our door requiring a night's lodging. Some we obliged, some were too inebriated. One who was blind drunk lay down in the middle of the road on the brow of the hill quite oblivious to any possible oncoming vehicle but he was visible from our bedroom window. We managed to go out there and pull him to one side and a taxi was arranged; he evidently lived in Bookham.

The British Army unit occupied a purpose-built hut on the Common opposite No 2. They all became very friendly and invited us to their Christmas party. The hut was gaily decorated, paper chains etc and heated by a cast iron solid fuel burning stove. Electricity was provided by a diesel generator. A good time was had by all.

Canadians were camped off Beech Avenue in the village and I remember having a dinner of mince and tatties from a jerry can with them. They also gave us their pen knives.

A 'Molotov bread basket' landed on the Common dispersing its contents of unexploded incendiary bombs. They were each about three and a half inches [in] diameter by about eighteen inches long with fins. Two of us went looking for these and piled them up and word of this reached the school about which we had already been warned. However, at the main assembly in front of the whole school we were well and truly chastised both by the headmaster and the local police.

The WVS ran a canteen for Canadians at the Memorial Hall and [I] can remember some delicious meat pies which we were able to acquire. The social life of the Junction revolved around the Memorial Hall: Girl Guides, Boy Scouts, church services and Sunday School and Women's Institute. A concert party was formed and shows were laid on for the Canadians. They also put on film shows which we were able to attend. This [Figure 18, overleaf] is a wartime photograph of the girl Covenanters at the Memorial Hall. The first four girls from the left in the front are evacuees. This one here [points (a)], June Crane, I remember having a youthful crush on. My sister is there [points (b)].

This [Figure 19, overleaf] is a photograph of the Ewell Women's Institute at the Memorial Hall. My mother is there [points (a)] and Miss Poupart is there [points (b)].

During the War my brother volunteered for the services, in fact the Navy, and he was signed up to the Fleet Air Arm onto the aircraft carrier *HMS Implacable*.

Lord [sic – Sir] and Lady Waterhouse lived at Orchard [sic – Norwood] Farm, a large Tudor style mansion in a landscaped garden with an outside swimming pool. The estate comprised farm land and orchards. One day there were horses in the field and my friend who was keen on horses, who even looked the part dressed in riding breeches, carrying a rope around and he harnessed one of these horses and he rode down across the field. He unwillingly coaxed me onto one, gave it a whack on the rump, I went charging across the field, the horse pulled up sharply and I went flying over its head. Not being one for [being] taken for a ride or falling for a fast one, I thought "never again". Lord [sic – Sir] Waterhouse, a chartered accountant, had a business in London which is now Price Waterhouse Coopers. He made a bungalow available for evacuee accommodation under the auspices of an appointed governess who insisted on being formally addressed. She called us all by our surnames and she liked to be called Madam(e) – rather officious. Anyway, we had some good times there playing in the fields, barns and haystacks. We collected loads of Cox's Orange apples [Pippins], stored them for Christmas, and Lady Waterhouse laid on a Christmas party for the evacuees and their friends, and I remember we all sat at a long table loaded with

goodies in the big house and a good time was had by all. The year was probably 1940. Hit tune of the day was "I've got spurs that jingle jangle jingle" and the current film screened was *The Petrified Forest*.



Figure 18 Girl Covenanters at the Memorial Hall; (a) evacuee June Crane, (b) Michael's sister Mary.



Figure 19 Ewell Women's Institute at the Memorial Hall;
(a) Michael's mother Helen, (b) (detail, at right) Miss Poupart.

When my brother was demobbed after the War, he purchased a double-barrelled twelve-bore shot gun and several of us used to go over the Common with a dog and some ferrets and shooting rabbits and pheasants and I remember we had to cross the railway line and step over two live rails to get to a field where some rabbits were.

Also after the War we were allowed to earn some extra pocket money in the railway sheds by scraping the black-out paint off of [sic] the carriage windows.

Music was important to me and still is, and during the War I was given several gramophones. And I remember two portables and a cabinet one and the first one was one with a horn, similar to the one that HMV advertised with, with the dog in front, Nipper. The spring had broken and I used to persevere, turning the turntable with my finger in order to get the right speed.

Another pastime was making crystal sets, and I remember lying in bed with headphones on twiddling the cat's whisker to get a loud spot on the crystal and picking up Lord Haw Haw – William Joyce, "Germany calling". And of course during the War it was part of the 'swing era' with the big bands: Glenn Miller, Duke Ellington, Count Basie and Benny Goodman; I was into all that stuff. For me it was a very interesting musical period.

Effingham Cricket Club:



Figure 20 Cricketers playing a match on Effingham Common in the 1950s.

I remember the club pre-War, walking to the ground on a sunny Sunday afternoon straight from Sunday School and seeing a marquee with teas laid out on trestle tables inside. Also for some reason, the pitch was transferred temporarily to a field further along the main road at the bottom of the hill on the right-hand side and [I] remember a double-winged aircraft made a forced landing there. An anti-aircraft Ack-Ack unit took over the ground during the War and afterwards working parties, including Italian prisoners-of-war labour, worked to reinstate the ground, cutting back undergrowth etc. This is a photograph of a painting done by an artist friend of our President Dr Sutton showing a working party clearing the undergrowth; in the background you can see two trees, that's where the Mallaby-Deeleys lived.



Figure 21 Clearing undergrowth on Effingham Common.

I was associated with the club both as a playing member and match Secretary for some twenty-five years. Our first President I remember was Bill [William George] Sheppard a builder who lived in Surrey Gardens and we all envied him at the time, because he was the only member who owned a car, a Rover. Committee meetings were sometimes held in The Plough inn at Effingham village run by Jimmy Hanley and

his wife, actor and film star and seen on the television series *Jim's Inn*. One of our meetings there was terminated after a visit from Diana Dors and her boyfriend Tommy Yeardye.

The ground originally had no pavilion, just a refreshment hut with a hinged pull-down counter and a shed to house the Dennis motor mower which at times was very reluctant to start. Water for tea was boiled in a copper – tea urn – on a paraffin stove. The urn had to be filled from an outside tap situated in Adrian Estler's field nearby, and where his rather hostile cow grazed. [Once] after cautiously filling the urn the two carriers Tommy Hall and Nobby Penfold returned somewhat quicker than they went, chased by the cow.

This is a 1950s photo of the club:



Figure 22 Effingham Cricket Club members in the early 1950s.

Back row left to right: Harry Trish (Secretary), John Irvine, Reg Carey, Fred Donnison, Adrian Estler, "A N Other", Peter Topper, Maurice Waller. Front row right to left: Nobby Penfold, Tommy Hall, myself, Peter Drew, Michael Topper.

A late 1950s photo [sic – but actually no earlier than 1962 when the pavilion seen here was built]:



Figure 23 Effingham Cricket Club members in the 1960s.

Back row left to right: Hamish Brown, Arthur Penfold, myself, Adrian Estler, Conall Hall, Ross Tester. Front row right to left: Alan Hull, Nobby Penfold, Tommy Hall, John Hawkey.

This photograph taken in about 1963 is when newer members started to come into the club and take over:



Figure 24 Effingham Cricket Club members in the early 1960s.

Back row left to right: Ross Tester, "A N Other", Frank Sparling, Peter Collett, Maurice Waller, Philip Dixon, myself, Ken Osborne. Front row right to left: Ken Moore, Chris Williams, Brian Saddleton, Alan Brown and Keith Jones.

Apart from mowing the wicket and the outfield, a roller had to be pulled and pushed which was a heavy cast iron roller filled with concrete – very hard going. Elsan closets were housed in two rusting corrugated iron sheds for the WCs; very uninviting and unhygienic. Behind the bushes became the more popular option.

Adrian Estler, a larger-than-life character and member, lived alone on land adjacent to the club. A tall imposing tree surgeon who didn't mince his words, he was of German origin and was public school educated at Oundle College. He was also part of the local hunt scene. He had his own personal cricketing dress code. Generally batting at number ten or eleven, and sometimes he scored the odd run. He wore a panama hat, open-necked shirt with long flapping unbuttoned sleeves, no socks or pads and his boots had seen better days. The bat resembled a matchstick in his hands, but he possessed a profound knowledge of the rules of cricket causing some disquiet at times about his umpiring decisions, but certainly no argument. Latterly, his brother Mervyn, a quieter more reserved gentleman, came to live with Adrian. Home-made damson wine was one of his specialities and when invited into his farmhouse kitchen for a tasting along with hunks of bread and cheese, the bottles when opened were still fermenting.

His Rolls Royce van, complete with starting handle, carried his tools of trade, and the bolted doors often jammed. At one local away match, we arrived in style in his horse and trap. He did at one time I remember have a very attractive wife who I met one Christmas while carol singing there. Adrian and Dr Sutton did not always see eye to eye on certain issues and to show his displeasure at something about which Dr Sutton instigated, he allowed his horse to trample over the wicket, causing damaging hoof prints.

There were some Sunday home games which attracted quite a few spectators with cars lined up along the approach road. The collection box became a useful fund raiser. One American tourist walked over to the wicket wanting to take photos while play was in progress.

Dr Sutton started a pavilion fund, getting donations from many sources, which eventually financed the acquisition of a cedar wood sectional pavilion, complete with changing room, kitchen, bar and toilets. This was erected by members and opened in the mid-Sixties [actually early-Sixties]. Our independence by acquiring a licence to sell alcohol deprived The Lord Howard of our once [ie former] after-match custom. This photograph of the cricket club pavilion was taken in September 2010:



Figure 25 Effingham Cricket Club's pavilion in 2010.

It's looking rather sorry for itself, needing a lot of maintenance. If Dr Sutton had been alive today, I don't think he would be very enamoured with the present situation.

My brother was actively very much involved with the club for fifty years, involving much hard work:



Figure 26 Michael's brother Maurice Waller.

He and Dr Sutton were in legal negotiations with the Lord of the Manor in securing the future tenure of the club. My brother latterly formed the club into a company. His wife, my sister-in-law, was also involved for fifty years making the teas and the catering arrangements:

Bowled over by Pam's half century



Tea break: Pam Waller, who has been making the tea at Effingham Cricket Club for 50 years, is retiring

Photo No: 20190/10 by Peter Gardner

AFTER a distinguished half-century and an estimated 25,000 cups of tea Pam Waller has made her final brew at Effingham Cricket Club.

Pam has been Saturday tea lady at the club for 50 years but now she has decided to retire from her duties.

The club, based in Effingham Common Lane, said a fond farewell and a large thank you to one of its longest serving and respected members on Saturday.

Pam has also ensured the pavilion has been kept in a tidy state throughout her time, a task not often appreciated by cricket teams.

The club said she will be well-known among the area's cricketing fraternity for her dignified and cheerful persona and the calming influence she had over even the most competitive of individuals.

Colts chairman Ray Pritchard said: "Pam has been an outstanding ambassador and the club will not be the same without her. I am sure that I echo the sentiments of everyone in the club in wishing Pam all the best for the future and thanking her for all that she has done."

Pam poured her first cups of tea in the forties when the clubhouse was a shed and the most popular beverage was cherryade. She has seen the shed turn into a pavilion built by her late husband Maurice, and she saw her sons Alan and Trevor play alongside their father throughout the sixties and seventies.

Figure 27 Maurice Waller's wife Pamela.

This is a plaque I did to commemorate my brother's fifty years association with Effingham Cricket Club:



Figure 28 Michael's plaque paying tribute to his brother Maurice.

It is hanging up behind the bar in the pavilion.

Horsley Towers:



Figure 29 Horsley Towers when in use as the Headquarters of the Central Electricity Board.

Horsley Towers was originally owned by Sopwith the aviator. It later became a girls' school and during the War years it was the headquarters of the Central Electricity Board. So it merits inclusion for its close links with the Effinghams [ie the village and the Junction] by employing staff from there including myself, brother and sister; and where time was enjoyed using its sporting and leisure facilities out of working hours and so a lot of time was spent there.

This is a replica cottage to the one I lived in at Effingham Junction which managed to get a reprieve:



Figure 30 Cottage near East Horsley station, resembling 2 Station Cottages in Effingham.

One half was demolished. It's situated at Station Approach, East Horsley.

This is a last and final photograph I took of Station Cottages in 1966:



Figure 31 Michaels's mother Helen and wife Kathy outside 2, Station Cottages in 1966.

I flew the nest in 1968 on getting married, having lived at No 2 for 34 happy years. I consider myself extremely privileged and fortunate to have lived and being raised in a God-fearing secure family environment at Effingham Junction. My father died in 1972, my mother carried on living there for a further twelve years or so prior to moving into sheltered accommodation in Bookham. My brother took me back there for a nostalgic visit prior to it being demolished and it was then empty and rather dilapidated. It proved to be a rather sad experience.

Following this is a video taken in 2003 of a car ride from Forest Road, East Horsley through to Effingham village. It is noted that The Lord Howard public house is no longer there and has been replaced by a block of flats.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figures 4, 7: adapted by Christopher John Hogger from the Ordnance Survey maps supplied online by the National Library of Scotland (https://maps.nls.uk/os/)

All other figures: donated by Michael Stanley Waller

Oral History – Ivor Mitchell Gillespie

Recorded and transcribed by YVONNE SHAW

Ivor Mitchell Gillespie was born in Ireland on 27 June 1922. He graduated from university and took up accountancy as his profession. In October 1953 he married in County Down, Northern Ireland and in about 1957 moved with his wife Pamela Evon Grace to Surrey, settling at first at the property Northcote in Hooke Road, East Horsley. Subsequently they and their three children moved to Hooke Farm on Effingham Common. Ivor divorced Pamela in 1971 and died on 2 August 2015.

Introduction

Ivor was interviewed and recorded by Yvonne Shaw at Hooke Farm on 5 July 2010. In the interview he reminisced freely and his recollections were distilled into an initial transcript by Yvonne. Some of this material made reference to people possibly still living and so in the interests of data protection the transcript has been slightly abridged by Christopher John Hogger to yield the version in this article.

Transcript

The Common was cleared during the war to grow food; before the war there was none of this openness at all, it was all scrubland with bushes and so on.

When I came [in about 1968] there were a lot of nightingales and there haven't been any in recent years, until last year – [when I was] coming home from town – there was a nightingale singing in the carpark at the station, and this year I have heard one once. They're around but the other thing of course that's gone – well a lot of things have gone – but I haven't heard any cuckoos this year. And also what has gone are the swallows. I had swallows nesting in my stables when I came, but they disappeared about ten years ago. I had martins and there aren't any martins this year for the first time, until yesterday it so happened I saw a pair of martins flying across the stable yard, but that is the first one this year. Swallows and martins are much less frequent as are peewits – lapwings. There were a lot of lapwings flying up and down on the Common and of course there used to be a lot of skylarks; there used to be a lot of skylark song. All of that is diminished. I don't hear any skylarks song now although they tell me there are still skylarks on the Common. Everything is diminishing, noticeably the sparrows. They used to rise in clouds when I first came here but now they've disappeared completely until this year when they are back in small quantities – half a dozen sparrows hopping round the yard; the most I've seen for a long time – I suppose these things come and go for a bit.

Leebrooke Farm was occupied by Mr Estler, Adrian Estler. He was a character. On one occasion he said to me (this must have been about 1970), he said "Well, my wife left me in 1935 and I haven't done any housework since". [The latter date cannot be correct as Estler's only marriage was to Joan Thora Andrea (née) Turner and he married her in 1936. According to former Effingham resident Doreen Emily Hemus Joan left Estler during WW2 and he had a housekeeper although it is not clear when or for how long.] He lived a very casual life indeed. He used to take a newspaper, and I understand he never threw it out and there was a roomful of daily newspapers going back 40 years when he died. But what he didn't do was look after the house, and dry rot got in there and pervaded the house; and effectively that's why it's got to come down, because it will take too much money to put it right. I think it was in '88 he died [it was actually in 1990].

Estler used to be a tree surgeon but he wasn't very good for business for himself, really. I got him in to look at a tree one day that needed some attention and he said "Oh I'd take the whole thing down", and walked away. He was a very amiable pleasant neighbour although he did feature in the newspapers some time in the 60s, might be 70s, when he had a row over Bill, his horse with another local resident who lived in Great Lee Wood somewhere. And I remember coming home on the train one night and opening the *Evening Standard* and reading headlines about this because it had ended up in court [in 1959]. The other fellow had taken a whip to Bill and to Estler, that sort of thing. Other locals will remember this, but I found Estler a very pleasant amiable eccentric. [During a subsequent discussion in January 2011, Ivor recalled that Adrian had lived with his brother Mervyn James Paul Estler (who predeceased him); the two brothers were not on speaking terms and used to watch the cricket matches on the Common while sitting on opposite sides of the pitch.]

The Common has always been very much as it is. There is [Peter] Skinner who lives in Highway Farm on the road to Cobham, on the left hand side just before you cross the motorway; there are some huge leaves of gunnera in the ditch there, he looks after them well. But he owns most of the land on the other [east] side of Effingham Common Road, and he's split it up into three or four lots of about 30 or 40 acres and he rents them to young ladies as stables. He used to rent the Common from the Lord of the Manor and most years he grew wheat on it but one year he grew oats and one year he grew linseed, because I remember the blue flowers. And in those days it was legal to burn the stubble and he used to burn the stubble, and once or twice I was a bit concerned he was burning the stubble too close – and on one occasion he did set fire to one of my ash trees. It's not legal to burn the stubble any more. Eventually he threw his hand in and it was rented to a chap called [Eric] Miliam who lived in East Horsley [but now Hatchford] just on the top of it but that ended when the Borough Council bought the common. He was a competent operator and he took some quite good loads [of wheat] off it, and he used to fertilise it and that sort of thing.

[Showing a map] That is a map of some antiquity; it's 1932. It only shows part of the Common. Round about 1950s probably, the Lord of the Manor applied to build and he put in outline planning permission to build and those (blue lines on the map) are the drawings. He did this in the full and certain knowledge that he would be turned down and he then got compensation. That was Calburn. I never went to see the plans, someone told me, but those were the roads so I think there would have been a very considerable number of houses there. But he didn't get planning permission, but he got compensation and on those grounds he couldn't apply again. It was a common ploy at the time.

I remember Hooke Common because originally that piece there was called Hooke Copse. Now when I was a child in Ireland, I used to sometimes hear the British news and there was a fellow called Ludwig Koch. He was a German and he was very much into birds and he recorded and broadcast the Surrey nightingale and he was recording it in Hooke Copse. It [the copse] is now gone because it was knocked down and this is the back of Heathview in East Horsley now. I was surprised when I discovered this because I read somewhere it was Hooke, but in the Ordnance Survey Map (and they're wrong) my house is spelt Hook without an 'e'; but my house is spelt with an 'e' because it was named after Hooke Copse and Hooke Common of course.

Next door of course that is the pond/lake, call it what you will, on the left hand corner of the road going down the hill towards Effingham village. That was tarted up by the council in 1977 in honour of the Queen's Silver Jubilee and I don't think anyone's lifted a finger to it since, but it did look smart then. And along here is the entrance to Tunnicliff's place; Leewood Farm. [John Levi] Tunnicliffe died. The house is a dreadful house, undistinguished 1930s. There is a very ancient moat there which was inhabited until 1232 or thereabouts and you can still walk through and there is a ditch still there. And I thought one day when somebody knocked and said could they do some metal detecting? And I thought "Well there's that moat there," so I said "Yes you can check on that field there." And I [went] back and I waited. And they turned up with their findings – a whole lot of horse shoes and a cannon shell which they said was from a Spitfire – but nothing from 1232. But that moat is one of the original antiquities of Effingham.

Tunnicliff died six or seven years ago [actually in 2005]. He was 93 or 94 when he died. You could always tell when Mr Tunnicliff was coming because the Effingham Common Road would be empty suddenly and then eventually he would come along going at ten miles an hour with 500 cars behind him! And he always did that, he drove in the middle of the road, very nearly in the middle of the road, very slowly and to hell with all the cars behind him. Nice old man.

I don't remember where the gates were on the road. The [Effingham Common] road was tarted up between 1956 and '68. I know that because I was in Horsley at the time and I remember people talking about it at the time, but I don't remember what it was like.

I've often heard of Lee Brook but I've never found the stream. The new house is being built next to the old Lee Brook [Leebrooke] House. I have it said that there was a stream called Lee Brook which flowed into the pond. Well I suddenly found that I owned all round the pond, but not the pond itself, so I claimed the pond and that pond was bigger at one stage. But before my time they built that road through one side of the pond and the pond was pretty nearly silted up. And about fifteen years ago, I suppose, I got a digger in and we cut out the pond and restored it to something of its natural state, but it's gradually silting up again. But there's no trace of Lee Brook that I know now. There are some ditches around but that was part of Mr Estler's land and I bought it and that was in fact his market garden.

I bought it from Joe Matthews [who died about 2 years ago – the police felt it prudent to close all the local pubs on the day of his funeral] who was a gypsy who lived in one of the houses up against the wheel sheds in West Horsley, and he used to quarter his horses on the Common – chain them there – and he had a deal with the Lord of the Manor and he must have paid rent for it. And he used to have two or three

horses there chained down, with a bucket of water which was soon gone, and all the locals were complaining about it. As Estler got on in life he sold Matthews the plot that was his market garden. I then sort of felled all the apple trees and I got a grant from some government department and I planted it with trees. The rule I remember was that they had to be English trees; but what's an English tree bearing in mind that 75% of what's planted in this country now comes from overseas. Well an English tree is something that was here before the Romans. It was a very restricted list you know! Oaks were all right, but chestnuts for instance weren't. Hornbeams were OK – anyway I planted it and they monitored it for a while and it took off, and anyway I've left it to grow wild now and it's just natural woodland now.

When I lived in Horsley I lived in Hooke Road and my gardens backed on to Heathview and the other side of Heathview backed onto the Common, so I got to know people in Heathview. I remember I was round there one day and I could see a building going up and that was around 1960. And it transpired that a chap had got planning permission to build a house on this (site), which was originally part of the land of Middle Farm and a house went up and it wasn't obnoxious from a distance but it was the house of the chap who lived here. The chap who lived here was a small time builder and he built the stables down there and if you go down and look at them, you'll find that they're built of all sorts of odds and sods because he used his leftovers. But when I arrived here the then wife didn't think much of the house and to cut a long story short we knocked it down and the rule was you had to put up a new house within 200 yards of the old one. So this is here and the old house was 200 yards away. I can't remember the name of the person I bought the house from but he had been here only a few years because there was a Mrs Ingram who lived in Orchard Cottage in 1910 and so on, she owned all that. She had bought from Middle Farm but I don't know what happened to it between 1910 and 1950. I could look up the title deeds. I'll look up the paperwork and see what I can do.

There's Lazy L which everybody knows because of the name. Sylvia has lived there since 1958 I think and she still happily rides her horse around the place which is good and she was there long before me. I actually totally surround it.

I've heard it said that the fair and the circus used to come, but I've never seen it. The nearest approach I've seen to that sort of carry on is that for some years (and there may have been a deal, I don't know) there used to be vehicles parked on the common just around Derby Day. Now whether they were there by agreement with the Lord of the Manor or not I don't know but there was never any fair.

I do remember several attempts to run days when the various people made an attempt to exercise their manorial rights. Somebody has a right to operate sheep and someone else has the right to operate goats and Lee Brooke has the right to pick up firewood. Slaters Oak have the right for goats. I have no rights for my part because it was a new house.

The Council owns Effingham Common now.

Charles Edward Lambert – Tobacco Magnate of Effingham House

CHRISTOPHER JOHN HOGGER

The Lambert family took up the tenancy of Effingham House in 1885 and held it until 1917. The head of the family, Charles Edward Lambert born in 1843, had six daughters and one son. A man of great wealth and influence, he played a prominent part in the life of Effingham, remaining there until his death in 1910. One of his daughters, Nina, lived in Effingham, at Yew Tree House, in the latter half of the 1930s.

The Lamberts – the founding of their family fortune

The family developed their fortune through successive generations of tobacco manufacturing. The first of them known, so far, to have pursued this occupation was a mill-wright Allen Lambert whose origins have not yet been determined with certainty; it is thought that he was born around the 1750s. By the 1780s he was involved in several mills, including one in Hertfordshire and another – used for paper-making – at Carshalton in Surrey. In 1791 he was operating a snuff mill, The Grove, at Carshalton and later had sundry workshops downstream in Hackbridge. By then he had married a woman named Elizabeth. Their son Charles (I) Lambert was born on 5 August 1787 and baptised on 2 September 1787 at Beddington, Surrey [IGI: Batch 7014816].

Charles (I) married Susan (née) Ashby on 30 January 1812 at St George the Martyr, Southwark [IGI: Batch M022442]. She had been born on 10 October 1785 to parents John and Sarah Ashby and baptised (as 'Suky Ashby') on 13 November 1785 at Coulsdon, Surrey [IGI: Batch P013461].

Allen died in 1827/28, since his Will was made in 1827 and was proved in 1828 [The National Archives: PROB 11/1736]. He left substantial properties and other estate to his wife Elizabeth and to his children.

Charles (I) and Susan settled in Beddington where they produced at least seven children – Charles (II), William, Robert, Allen John, Susanna Sarah, Elizabeth Mary and John. At least three of the sons became, like their father, tobacco manufacturers and the most significant of these would be Charles (II), baptised on 12 February 1814 at Beddington-with-Wallington [IGI: Batch C132711].

Charles (I) also ran snuff mills, but his were at Beddington, in Wandle Road opposite the junction with Bridges Lane. They presumably exploited the flow of the river Wandle to power the grinding of tobacco leaf into snuff and had previously been held on lease and operated for the same purpose by a Mr Williamson. Figure 1 shows the mills as seen from the north, the main building being in the background on the right-hand side. Another photograph of them, shown in Figure 2, dates to about 1890 and was apparently taken from a different viewpoint. The structure burned down and was rebuilt in brick in 1891-92. By then the Lamberts had left the mill, having moved to Hackbridge in about 1878-79.



Figure 1 The old Beddington snuff mill (at right).

A major piece of research into the Lambert family has been developed over many years by Sally Kirkwood, a descendant of Allen Lambert. This work has not yet been published but one component of it – *Allen and Charles Lambert, Millers* – about Allen and his son Charles (I) has been kindly supplied by her to Effingham Local History Group (ELHG); it is retained in the ELHG archives on the understanding that its content shall not be released by the Group without her permission. That content has not been used in this article.

In 1834 Charles (II) entered into a business partnership with Charles Butler, the son baptised on 15 February 1813 at St Sepulchre, London of parents Daniel Butler and Sarah (née Kelsey) [IGI: Batch C025651]. By this partnership they established the firm Lambert & Butler as cigar makers in Clerkenwell, trading from 38, St John Street, West Smithfield. In 1836 they also opened premises in Drury Lane. The business grew steadily over the ensuing decades and established Charles (II)'s reputation in this period as the finest judge of cigar tobacco in London. They offered one of their tobacconist properties for sale in 1838 [*Morning Advertiser*, 11 April 1838].



Figure 2 The old Beddington snuff mill.

The 1841 Census finds Charles (I) still at his mills in Beddington, whilst Charles (II) was living at his Clerkenwell premises:

1841 Census

Snuff Mills, Beddington, Surrey : PRO Ref: HO107 Piece 1079 Book 1 Folios 18-19 Pages 10-11

Charles (I) Lambert : 50 [rounded] : snuff m. [maker/manufacturer] : yes [born in Surrey]
Susan Lambert : 55 : — : yes
Robert Lambert : 20 : snuff m. : yes
Allen Lambert : 20 : tobacco m. : yes
Elizabeth King : 20 months : female servant : no

1841 Census

St John Street, St James Clerkenwell, Middlesex : PRO Ref: HO107 Piece 661 Book 3 Folio 31 Page 13

Charles (II) Lambert : 25 : tobacconist : no [not born in Middlesex]
Elizabeth Juniper : 45 : female servant : no
Andrew Pead : 15 : male servant : no

In March 1842 Lambert & Butler offered for letting-out another tobacconist shop west of Temple Bar, 'doing a good retail ready-money business', giving their address as 142, Drury Lane [*Morning Advertiser*, 14 March 1842].

Later in 1842 Charles (II) married to Ann (née) Brooker [GRO Ref: Croydon 4 47, 1842 (Q3)]. They married on or about (the register is unclear) 10 August at St John the Baptist in Croydon [IGI: Batch M098651].

Later that year Charles (II)'s sister Susanna Sarah married his business partner Charles Butler [GRO Ref: Croydon 4 57, 1842 (Q4)]. They married on 19 October at the parish church of Beddington-with-Wallington [IGI: Batch M132711], where she had been baptised.

Later still that year Charles (I) died [GRO Ref: Croydon 4 68, 1842 (Q4)]. His Will, which he had made on 25 November, was proved on 29 April 1843 [The National Archives: PROB 11/1978]. It left to Susan for the duration of her life all his interest in the leasehold snuff mills, house and premises occupied by him together with his stock in trade, cash, furniture etc. The Will stated his intention to give his son Robert, from 1 January 1843, one quarter of the trade and one quarter of his farm land, but if he died before that date (which he did) this intention was to be carried out by his executors. If Susan were to die before the termination

of the lease then everything he would have left to her would go instead to Robert subject to Robert agreeing to pay £100 pa divided equally to his siblings Charles (II), Allen John, Susanna Sarah and Elizabeth Mary. The son William was excluded from this provision because, according to the Will, he had already been lent 'more than his share' by Charles (I) who expected William to repay £300 to the executors, this to be invested in public funds for Susan's benefit while she lived, after which the principal was to be divided equally between the other children. After Susan's death his gold watch was to be given to Allen John. The executors were Susan, the sons Charles (II) and Robert together with Charles Butler.

Charles (II) and Ann settled at first in the Lambeth district where they registered their first three children: Charles Edward [GRO Ref: Lambeth 4 279, 1843 (Q2)], Allen Brooker [GRO Ref: Lambeth 4 295, 1844 (Q4)] and Louisa [GRO Ref: Lambeth 4 326, 1848 (Q1)]. They then produced two more children on the north (Middlesex) side of the Thames before returning to the south (Surrey) side to produce another four. In the later censuses the children's birthplaces are generally entered as 'Middlesex'.

Charles Edward, future occupier of Effingham House, was born on 8 May 1843. His birth certificate states that he was born at his parents' home 111, Upper Stamford Street and describes Charles (II) as a tobacco manufacturer. The street was later assimilated into Stamford Street and renumbered accordingly. As an adult Charles Edward would take over his father's business and develop it to produce an immense family fortune.

In 1848, still based at 142, Drury Lane, Lambert & Butler advertised a cigar and tobacconist's business to be disposed of, being a house with 10 rooms near St James and Hyde Park within a short distance of Buckingham Palace [*Morning Advertiser*, 30 May 1848].

The 1851 Census finds Charles (II) living with Ann in Russell Square, his mother Susan living with his married sister Susanna Sarah, and Charles Edward already in a residential school in St Pancras; Allen Brooker was with Ann's parents John and Elizabeth Brooker at 59, High Street in Croydon.



Figure 3 Russell Square; early 19thC engraving.

1851 Census

No 1a, Russell Square, St George Bloomsbury, Middlesex : PRO Ref: HO107 Piece 1507 (Folio unknown) Page 1

Charles (II) Lambert : head : mar : 38 : snuff & tobacco manufacturer : Croydon, Surrey
Ann Lambert : wife : mar : 32 : — : Croydon, Surrey
Louisa Lambert : dau : unm : 3 : — : Bloomsbury, Middlesex [in error – Lambeth, Surrey]
Jessie Lambert : dau : unm : 1 : — : Bloomsbury, Middlesex
and 2 servants

1851 Census

No. 142, Drury Lane, St Giles in the Fields, Middlesex : PRO Ref: HO107 Piece 1508 Folio 247 Page 64

Chas Butler : head : mar : 38 : tobacco manufacturer : St Sepulchre, London
Susanna [Sarah] Butler : wife : mar : 28 : — : Beddington, Surrey
and their children and servants, together with:
Susan Lambert : mother-in-law : widow : 65 : — : Coulsdon, Surrey

1851 Census

Haverstock Hill, St Pancras, Middlesex : PRO Ref: HO107 Piece 1498 Folio 444 Page 40

among numerous other scholars:
Charles [Edward] Lambert : visitor : unm : 8 : scholar : Middlesex [in error – Surrey]

The 1861 Census finds the family living at The Elms in Bolingbroke Grove, Battersea parish, on the eastern boundary of Wandsworth Common. This house was one of several very substantial properties which collectively gave the road its earlier name The Five Houses; The Elms and Bolingbroke House were perhaps the grandest of them.

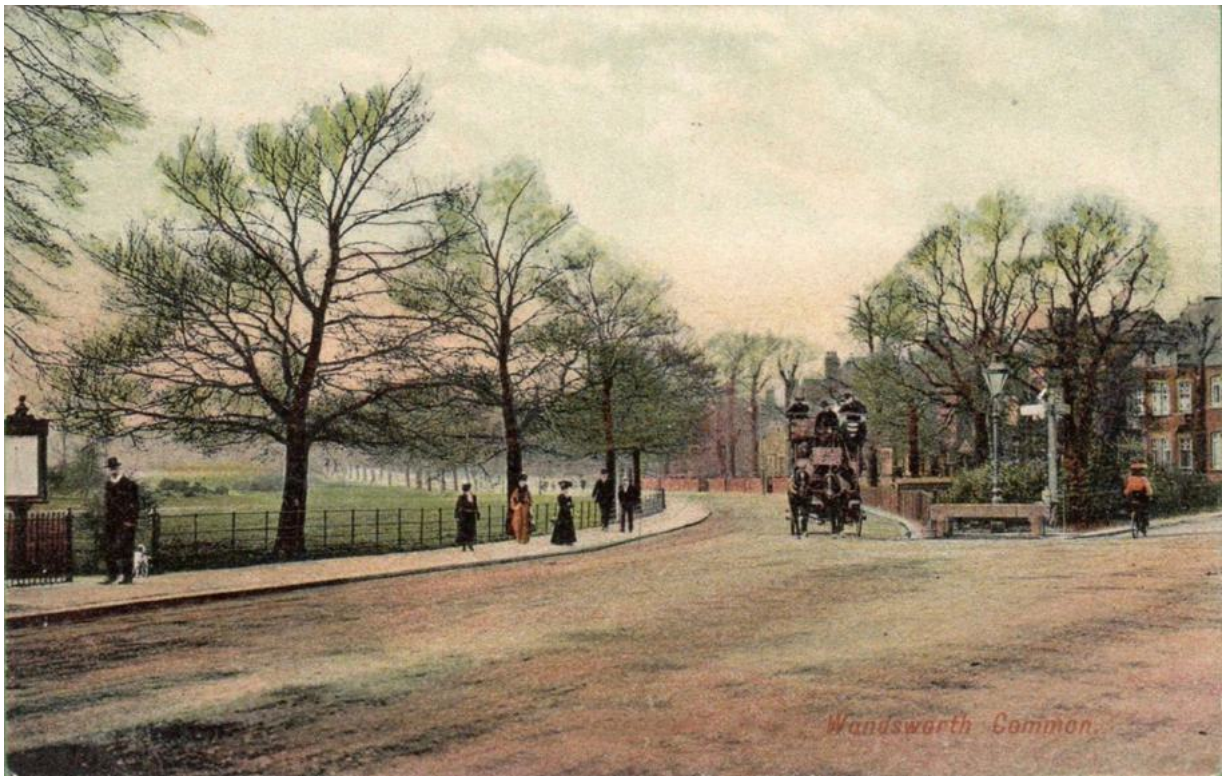


Figure 4 Looking north along Bolingbroke Grove; apparently a hand-coloured postcard photograph.

1861 Census

The Elms, Bolingbroke Grove, Battersea, Surrey : PRO Ref: RG9 Piece 371 Folio 56 Page 24

Charles [II] Lambert : head : mar : 48 : tobacco manufacturer : Wallington, Surrey
Anne Lambert : wife : mar : 42 : — : Croydon, Surrey
Charles E [Edward] Lambert : son : unm : 17 : — : London, Middlesex [in error – Surrey]
Allen B [Brooker] Lambert : son : unm : 16 : scholar : London, Middlesex [in error – Surrey]
Louisa Lambert : dau : unm : 13 : — : London, Middlesex [in error – Surrey]
Jessie A [Ann] Lambert : dau : unm : 11 : — : London, Middlesex
Ernest J [John] Lambert : son : unm : 6 : — : London, Middlesex
Gertrude E [Elizabeth] Lambert : dau : unm : 3 : — : Battersea, Surrey
and 5 servants

In 1869 Charles Edward married Emma Anne (née) Snow [GRO Ref: Wandsworth 1d 637, 1869 (Q1)]. She had been born in Madras, India to parents Edward Winterton Snow and his wife Charlotte Amelia, and baptised there at Tamil Nadu on 27 August 1840 [IGI: Batch C000677]. The latter source – drawn from the parish register transcripts from the Presidency of Madras held by the Office of the Registrar General of India – gives her date of birth as 19 August 1840.

During the 1860s Lambert & Butler had expanded rapidly, Charles Edward having gone into partnership with the son Charles junior of Charles Butler. By 1870 the total amount of capital invested in it had grown to £87,200, only a little less than that of its most serious rival WD & HO Wills.

The 1871 Census finds Charles Edward living with Emma and their first child Hilda Emma Charlotte at The Elms, and his grandmother Susan living in Croydon:

1871 Census

The Elms, Bolingbroke Grove, Battersea, Surrey : PRO Ref: RG10 Piece 703 Folio 65 Page 13

Charles [II] Lambert : head : mar : 58 : tobacco manufacturer : Beddington, Surrey
Ann [sic] Lambert : wife : mar : 51 : — : Croydon, Surrey
C E [Charles Edward] Lambert : son : mar : 28 : tobacco manufacturer : London, Middlesex [in error – Surrey]
Emma [Anne] Lambert : dau-in-law : mar : 32 : — : Madras, East Indies [India]
A B [Allen Brooker] Lambert : son : unm : 26 : common brewer : London, Middlesex [in error – Surrey]
E J [Ernest John] Lambert : son : unm : 16 : student : London, Middlesex
G E [Gertrude Elizabeth] Lambert : dau : unm : 13 : — : Battersea, Surrey
E P [Edith Portia M.] Lambert : dau : unm : 9 : — : Battersea, Surrey
E M [sic] [Ethel Constance] Lambert : dau : unm : 7 : — : Battersea, Surrey
G E [Grace Eveline] Lambert : dau : unm : 6 : — : Battersea, Surrey
Hilda [Emma Charlotte] Lambert : grand-dau : unm : 1 : — : Streatham, Surrey
and 8 servants

1871 Census

No 1, Montpelier Villa, Croydon, Surrey : PRO Ref: RG10 Piece 840 Folio 62 Page 19

Susan Lambert : head : widow : 85 : — : Coulsdon, Surrey
Amelia Wells : friend : unm : 36 : companion : Islington, Middlesex
and 1 servant

All seven children of Charles Edward and Emma were born during the 1870s, only one being a son:

Hilda Emma Charlotte	[GRO Ref: Wandsworth 1d 648, 1870 (Q1)]
Louisa	[GRO Ref: Wandsworth 1d 565, 1871 (Q3)]
Nina	[GRO Ref: Wandsworth 1d 606, 1873 (Q2)]
Jessie [Evelyn]	[GRO Ref: Wandsworth 1d 700, 1874 (Q4)]
Annie [Grace]	[GRO Ref: Wandsworth 1d 727, 1876 (Q1)]
[Adria Elsa] registered only as 'female'	[GRO Ref: Wandsworth 1d 681, 1877 (Q2)]
Charles Edward Winterton	[GRO Ref: Wandsworth 1d 734a, 1878 (Q4)]

The first five children were baptised at Holy Trinity Church in Upper Tooting whilst the last two were baptised at St Mary's Church in Balham. Jessie and Annie were not registered with second forenames – although those names were recorded in their baptism entries – whilst Adria was registered with no forenames at all. When Hilda was baptised on 27 April 1870 the family was living at Bedford Hill Road, and that remained the case when Nina was baptised on 30 June 1873. When the next three children were baptised the family gave their address simply as Upper Tooting, whilst with Charles Edward Winterton (familiarly known as Winterton) it was given as Balham.

In 1876 Charles Edward's grandmother Susan died aged '90' [GRO Ref: Croydon 2a 142, 1876 (Q2)]. The 1881 Census finds both Charles Edward and his father Charles (II) living in Streatham:

1881 Census

Tenterden House, Balham Road, Streatham, London : PRO Ref: RG11 Piece 665 Folio 107 Page 3

Charles E [Edward] Lambert : head : mar : 37 : tobacco merchant : London, Middlesex [in error – Surrey]
Emma A Lambert : wife : mar : 40 : — : Madras, India
Hilda E A [sic – C] Lambert : dau : unm : 11 : scholar : Balham, Surrey
Louisa Lambert : dau : unm : 9 : scholar : Balham, Surrey
Nina Lambert : dau : unm : 7 : scholar : Balham, Surrey
Jessie E [Evelyn] Lambert : dau : unm : 6 : scholar : Balham, Surrey
Anne G [Grace] Lambert : dau : unm : 5 : scholar : Tooting, Surrey

Elsa A [Adria] Lambert : dau : unm : 4 : scholar : Tooting, Surrey
Charles E [Edward Winterton] Lambert : son : unm : 2 : — : Tooting, Surrey
and 9 servants

1881 Census

Leigham Court Road, Streatham, London : PRO Ref: RG11 Piece 666 Folio 100 Page 24

Charles [II] Lambert : head : mar : 67 : tobacco manufacturer : Beddington, Surrey
Ann Lambert : wife : mar : 60 : — : Croydon, Surrey
Hilda E A [sic – C] Lambert : dau : unm : 11 : scholar : Balham, Surrey
Allen B Lambert : son : unm : 36 : sigar [sic – cigar] manufacturer : Stamford Street, Surrey
Ernest John Lambert : son : unm : 25 : sigar manufacturer : Russell Square, Middlesex
Edith Lambert : dau : unm : 19 : scholar : Wandsworth, Surrey
[her birthplace is wrongly assigned to the person beneath her in the schedule]
and 6 servants

Although not named in the above census record, the house occupied by Charles (II) was actually Oak Hill Place, a very substantial property having its own separate gate lodge and stables. This same address was cited by his daughter Ethel 'Constance' when she married Frank Field on 13 January 1885 at Streatham Parish Church [GRO Ref: Wandsworth 1d 720, 1885 (Q1)].

Charles (II) was mentioned in a report of the 1886 Norwood and Streatham Dog Show, being awarded 2nd prize in Class 38, Spaniels, whilst his daughter Edith Portia Mary won an award in Class 69, Pugs [*Norwood News and Crystal Palace Chronicle*, 30 October 1986].

Charles (II) died at Oak Hill Place in 1887 aged '73' [GRO Ref: Wandsworth 1d 493, 1887 (Q3)]. His Will was proved on 7 November 1887. The value of his personal estate appears to have been mis-reported initially as £55,832-4s-9d, being resworn (to amend a single but rather significant digit) in July 1888 as £75,832-4s-9d. His entry in the National Probate Calendar reads as follows:

> '5 November. The Will with a Codicil of Charles Lambert late of Oak Hill Streatham in the County of Surrey and of 141 and 142 Drury Lane in the County of Middlesex Tobacco Manufacturer who died 1 September 1887 at Oak Hill was proved at the Principal Registry by Charles Edward Lambert of 141 and 142 Drury Lane Tobacco Manufacturer Allen Brooker Lambert and Ernest John Lambert both of St John's Factory Battersea in the County of Surrey Cigar Manufacturers the Sons and Charles Richard Cutler of 99 Newgate Street in the City of London Solicitor the Executors.'

The 1891 Census finds the widow Ann of Charles (II) still living at Oak Hill Place:

1891 Census

Oakhill [sic] Place, Leigham Court Road, Streatham, London : PRO Ref: RG12 Piece 458 Folio 50 Page 12

Ann Lambert : head : widow : 72 : living on her own means : Croydon, Surrey
Allen B Lambert : son : unm : 47 : tobacco & cigar manufacturer : London S.E.
Edith Nell Lambert : dau : unm : 29 : — : Wandsworth Common, Surrey
Grace E Lambert : dau : unm : 26 : — : Wandsworth Common, Surrey
and 2 grand-daughters and 6 servants

Her son Charles Edward, however, had by now left Streatham and was occupying Effingham House, at that time referred to as The Manor House (today's Golf Club house).

Charles Edward in Effingham

In this period Effingham House with its estate was owned by the Parratt family, lords of the manor of Effingham, who let it out to a series of tenants. In 1881 the tenant was a chemical manufacturer Thomas Farmer Hall with his family and 10 servants, but he occupied the property for only a few years. According to a 1917 document in the Surrey History Centre [SHC Ref: CC99/43/1] giving sales particulars, on 24 June 1885 the Parratts granted Charles Edward an 80-year lease of the Effingham House estate, which covered about 20 acres including 9 acres described as a 'Pleasure Park'. The house had five panelled reception rooms and 24 bed and dressing rooms. Charles Edward first appears in Effingham's Electoral Register in 1887.

He quite quickly put down roots in Effingham, exhibiting the interest in – and generosity towards – the local community for which he would become well regarded as the years passed. An article in 1887 mentions the 'kind hospitality' he afforded at Effingham House one February morning to the Surrey Union Foxhounds, permitting them to hunt across the coverts in his grounds [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 19 February 1887].



Figure 5 Effingham House, south-facing front, seen here during Charles Edward's tenure; 1894.

A capable horseman, he and his party from Effingham were among the four hundred or so noted guests and members, many of them distinguished 'high society' notables, in attendance at a race meeting in August 1888 of the Ashtead Polo Club [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 11 August 1888].

It was also in 1888 that a large restoration project for St Lawrence Church was completed. It entailed major structural changes besides installation of new internal features; these included a 'handsome brass lectern' donated by Charles Edward [*The Surrey Mirror and General County Advertiser*, 22 December 1888]. He had become one of the churchwardens for St Lawrence and would hold that position for many years (the booklet *Effingham Surrey: The Church, The Parish, The Houses* produced in 1930 by Rev Henry Meredith Larner states that Charles Edward had held it for 'altogether 20 years'). In acknowledgement of his and Emma's interest and contributions, the church contains a window and mosaic memorials in tribute to them.

A sociable sporting occasion took place on 14 August 1890 when 11 of his servants played a cricket match against 11 servants of the prominent sugar magnate Julius Caesar Czarnikow of Effingham Hill House (today's St Teresa's school) [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times,* 16 August 1890] – effectively the two Effingham manors in competition. The two men probably had many things in common, not least a passion for the world's finest cigars of which they both consumed prodigious quantities. Tea and cakes were provided in the park by Emma for the wives and families and in the evening Charles Edward entertained all the players with a 'substantial dinner' at The Prince Blücher. A month later, on 17 September, he again exhibited his hospitality when he gave a 'good repast' for about 40 persons at The Prince Blücher following the 'annual wind-up match' of Effingham Cricket Club [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times,* 20 September 1890].

The 1891 Census finds Charles Edward's family at Effingham ('Manor') House:

1891 Census

Manor House, Effingham, Surrey : PRO Ref: RG12 Piece 576 Folio 89 Page 5

Charles E [Edward] Lambert : head : mar : 48 : tobacco merchant : Surrey
Emma Lambert : wife : mar : 50 : — : Madras [India]
Hilda E C Lambert : dau : unm : 21 : — : Surrey
Louisa Lambert : dau : unm : 19 : — : Surrey
Nina Lambert : dau : unm : 17 : — : Surrey
Jessie E Lambert : dau : unm : 16 : — : Surrey
Anne G Lambert : dau : unm : 15 : — : Surrey
Elsa A Lambert : dau : unm : 14 : — : Surrey
Charles E W Lambert : son : unm : 12 : — : Surrey

Maxwell Rose : nephew : unm : 20 : clerk : Surrey
and 11 servants

Whether just visiting Effingham House temporarily at the time of this Census or there for a longer duration, nephew Maxwell Rose would in 1902 marry Hilda Emma, the eldest of Charles Edward's daughters.

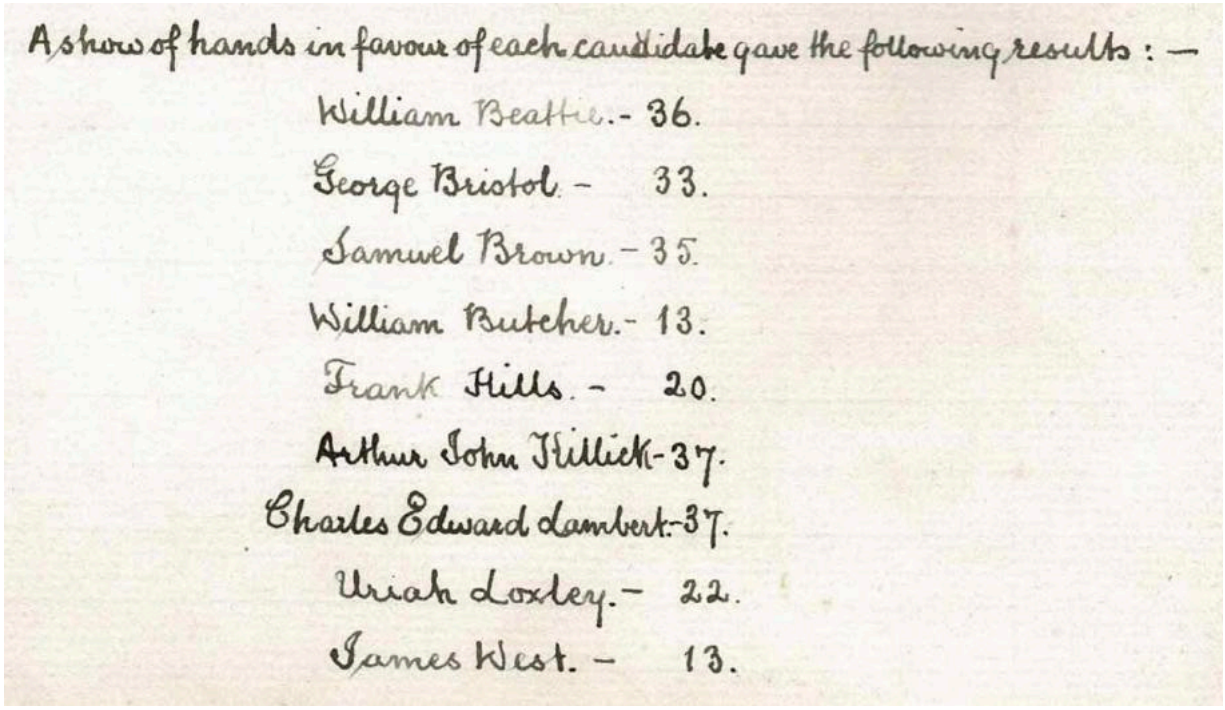
Charles Edward made time for involvement in practical matters besides social ones. Like others, he evidently had been inconvenienced in the course of driving to the railway station by the gate across the northern end of Effingham Common 'Lane' (Road as we now know it) and in 1892 wrote a letter to the Dorking Highway Board advocating that it be taken down [*The Surrey Mirror and General County Advertiser*, 30 July 1892]; the Board instructed its Clerk to communicate on the matter with Czarnikow, presumably as Lord of the Manor. Effingham residents objected, particularly those with animals on the Common, but the gate was not reinstated.



Figure 6 The formerly-gated entrance at the northern end of Effingham Common; seen here not later than 1906.

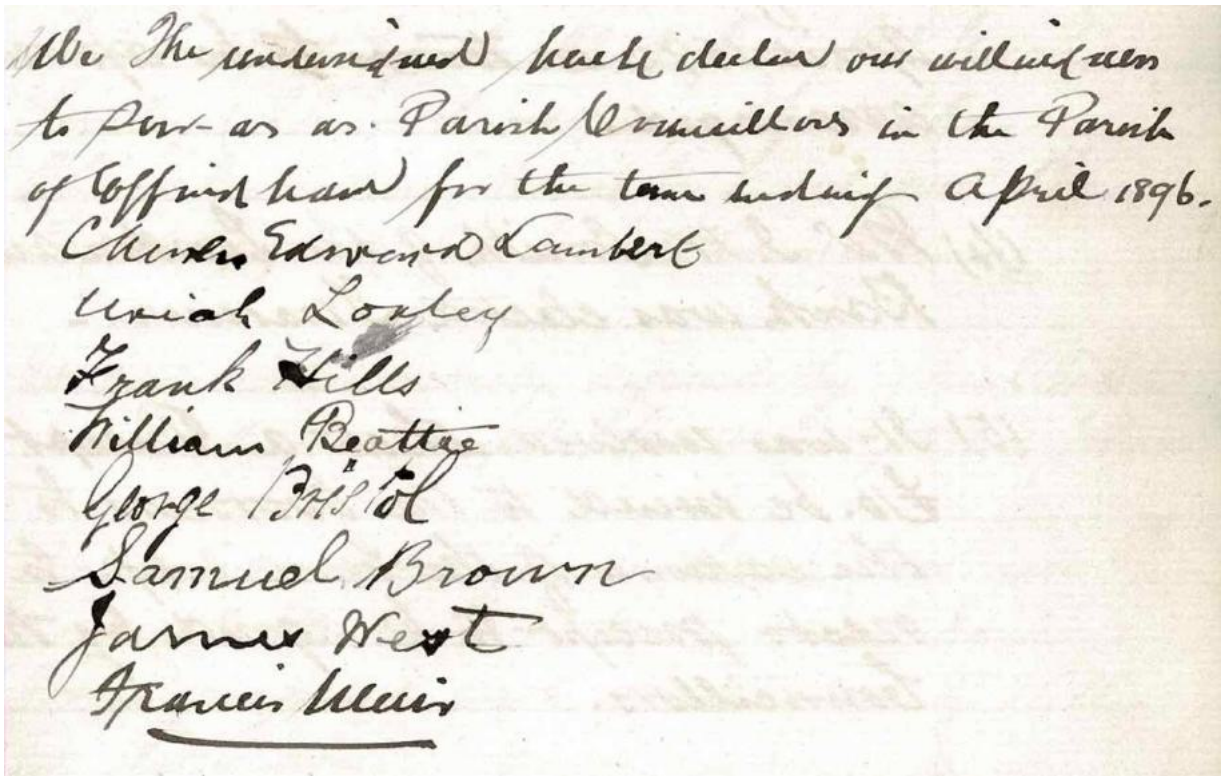
His association with the Surrey Union Foxhounds was again evident in 1893 when he was named as a steward for their forthcoming Ball to be held at The Public Hall in Dorking on 14 April 1893 [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times,* 1 April 1893]; tickets for the Ball could be obtained from Charles Edward in his other capacity as the hunt's Honorary Secretary. In late June he made one of his meadows available for a cricket match between Effingham and East Horsley and 'spared no effort in preparing the ground by watering and rolling' [*The Surrey Mirror and General County Advertiser*, 1 July 1893]; Effingham won by 5 wickets. He also had connections with the Hankey family of Fetcham Park and in August 1893 acted as the starter for the annual pony races of the Fetcham Park Polo Club [*The Surrey Mirror and General County Advertiser*, 5 August 1893].

An important new role for him came about in 1894. By an order of the Local Government Board the parish was required to elect a Parish Council. A Parish Meeting was duly held in the Effingham schoolroom on 4 December [*Dorking Advertiser*, 6 December 1894]. About 50 electors were present and Francis Muir of The Lodge was elected unanimously to chair the meeting. Its purpose was to elect Effingham's first parish councillors, for which nominations had already been proposed and seconded. A show of hands was counted for each of the nine nominees. The persons with the greatest number (37 each) were Charles Edward and Arthur John Killick, the latter then withdrawing in order to avoid a Poll; one other nominee also withdrew for the same reason. Thus Charles Edward and six others were elected. On 19 December at the first meeting of the new Parish Council (called by Muir) the councillors all signed the required declarations of their acceptance of office. Muir was unanimously elected as the new Council's Chairman (it being noted in the Minutes that he had not previously been an elected member) and Charles Edward was unanimously elected as the Vice-Chairman. Arthur John Killick was elected to become the Clerk.


A show of hands in favour of each candidate gave the following results :—

William Beattie.- 36.
George Bristol - 33.
Samuel Brown. - 35.
William Butcher.- 13.
Frank Hills. - 20.
Arthur John Hillick-37.
Charles Edward Lambert-37.
Uriah Loxley.- 22.
James West. - 13.

Figure 7 The counts of votes at the Parish Meeting of 4 December 1894, Charles Edward gaining 37.


We the undersigned hereby declare our willingness to serve as Parish Councillors in the Parish of Effingham for the term ending April 1896.

Charles Edward Lambert
Uriah Loxley
Frank Hills
William Beattie
George Bristol
Samuel Brown
James West
Francis Illeis

Figure 8 Charles Edward's signature, declaring willingness to serve as a Parish Councillor; 19 December 1894.

Like Mr Czarnikow, Charles Edward had a strong interest in horticulture. The two men and their gardeners were commended for their displays at the Flower Show for the Bookhams, Effingham and Fetcham held at Eastwick Park in August 1895 [*Dorking Advertiser*, 8 August 1895].



Figure 9 A fine portrait of Charles Edward; date unknown.



Figure 10 A fine portrait of Charles Edward's wife Emma Anne; date unknown.

Charles Edward also played a leading role in the local branch – known as the 'Bookham habitation' embracing the parishes of Great and Little Bookham, Effingham and Fetcham – of the Primrose League, an organisation set up in the 1880s to promote and spread the principles of Conservatism. By the late 1890s the League as a whole had about a million associates in Britain. In 1896 he served as the elected 'Ruling Councillor' for that year and in July he hosted at Effingham House its annual summer gathering, providing a marquee in which a tea was laid down for over 500 people. This was followed by a meeting which he chaired. The event was described extensively in the Press [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 25 July 1896], noting the presence of other local worthies including the Hankeys and, in particular, the staunch Conservative William Keswick JP of Eastwick Park who would in 1899 become MP for Epsom. The report can be read in Appendix I.

In 1897 Charles Edward contributed to Effingham's celebration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee by supervising a fireworks display on the evening of 22 June, this probably taking place on Brown's Field [EPC Minutes]. In that year he also became Chairman of EPC.

The first of his seven children to marry was his fifth daughter, Annie Grace, then aged 22 (all the other daughters did not marry until their early to mid 30s, and Winterton did not marry). She married in Effingham at St Lawrence Church on 28 April 1898 to Eton-educated stockbroker Harold

Denison Arbuthnot aged 29. The ceremony, officiated by Rev Ernest Frederic Bayly, was described as 'one of the prettiest weddings that have taken place there for years' [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 7 May 1898]. The latter article devoted about 24 column inches to describing the hundreds of expensive presents given to the bride and groom, seemingly enough to exhaust the stockrooms of Harrods or the annual output of a productive silver mine. The couple were to have two sons and one daughter.



Figure 11 Annie; September 1895.

In January 1900 Charles Edward and Emma were recorded as having made Effingham's largest contributions (£5 each) to a special appeal mounted by the Dorking Division of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Association [*The Dorking Advertiser and County Post*, 13 January 1900]. Later that year he and Emma were among a huge number of other distinguished guests attending 'an event of extreme rarity in Dorking', in the grounds of Deepdene, namely the annual sports of the Surrey and Sussex Troops of the Hampshire Carabineers, the Press observing that 'the enclosure was rendered a scene of picturesque animation by the pretty toilettes of the ladies' [*The Surrey Mirror*, 3 August 1900]. At the annual show in Great Bookham of the Cottage and Amateur Garden Society, held in early August 1900 at Eastwick Park, Charles Edward 'had a very pretty assortment of tuberoses and foliage plants' [*The Tuesday Mirror and Reigate Borough Advertise*r, 7 August 1900]; as usual, Messrs Czarnikow and Pauling were also commended for their entries.

In early 1901 an annual shooting match was staged for the gamekeepers 'in that portion of Surrey hunted by the Surrey Union Foxhounds, the West Surrey Staghounds and the Surbiton Beagles' [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 2 February 1901]. It took place in a field near the Plough Inn at Stoke D'Abernon. One of the prizewinners was Charles Edward's gamekeeper, named as 'D Tyrrell'; this was probably Daniel Tyrrell (senior), a woodman and timber cutter living on Effingham Common, or his son Daniel of the same occupation.

At the time of the 1901 Census the family was at 93, Eaton Square, an opulent residence in London's Belgravia. This had probably been their principal residence for a long time, while using Effingham House – and perhaps other properties around the country – as a country retreat. They were paralleled in this by the family of Mr Czarnikow who at that time was living at 103, Eaton Square while also holding Effingham Hill House (today's St Teresa's school). The two families must have known each other well.



Figure 12 Eaton Square; postcard of late 19thC or early 20thC.

1901 Census

No 93, Eaton Square, St. George Hanover Square, London : PRO Ref: RG13 Piece 84 Folio 92 Page 12

Charles E [Edward] Lambert : head : mar : 57 : merchant (tobacco) : N K [not known], London
Emma A Lambert : wife : mar : 60 : — : Madras [India], British Subject
Hilda E L [sic – C] Lambert : dau : unm : 31 : — : Tooting, Surrey
Louisa Lambert : dau : unm : 29 : — : Tooting, Surrey
Nina Lambert : dau : unm : 27 : — : Tooting, Surrey
Jessie E Lambert : dau : unm : 26 : — : Tooting, Surrey
Adria E [Elsa] Lambert : dau : unm : 24 : — : Tooting, Surrey
and 16 servants

The servants comprised a butler, two footmen, a hall boy, housekeeper, cook, nurse, two lady's maids and seven other assorted housemaids. By this time still only one of the six Lambert daughters, Annie, had married.

Meanwhile, Effingham House was in the care and occupancy of just two housemaids, who were then the sole occupants [PRO Ref: RG13 Piece 623 Folio 97 Page 4].

On 29 January 1902 an article about the Surrey Union Foxhounds was published in *The Tatler*, echoed on 1 February in *The Surrey Times*. Some column inches were expended in noting that foxes had become scarcer owing to the growth in shooting sports and in expressing the hope that fox hunting might return to its former glory days. An interesting remark in both these articles was that among the principal followers of the Surrey Union hunt were 'the Misses Lambert of Effingham'; whether this meant all or just some of Charles Edward's five still-unmarried daughters we do not know.

The next daughter to marry was the eldest, Hilda Emma Charlotte, again at St Lawrence, on 30 April 1902. The groom was her aforementioned slightly younger cousin Maxwell Rose whose occupation had been in oil refining in 1901 but later in the manufacture of paints and varnishes. Rev Bayly officiated. After the reception the couple left for honeymoon in Scotland [*The Dorking Advertiser and County Post*, 3 May 1902]. They subsequently settled in West Horsley at Cranmore House (today Cranmore School). They produced two daughters.



Figure 13 Hilda; September 1895.

In August 1902 it was reported that daughter Jessie Evelyn had been elected to the General Committee of the Dorking branch of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children [*Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser*, 2 August 1902].

The start of 1903 was marked by a glittering County Ball held in Dorking Public Hall's ballroom, illuminated by chandeliers having 140 lights and featuring the Blue Hungarian Band [*The Surrey Times*, 8 January 1903]; among those attending were 'Mrs C Lambert and party (Effingham)'.

By 1903 Charles Edward had purchased The Prince Blücher inn which stood immediately to the east of Effingham House, on the corner of the Guildford Road and Beech Avenue. This had had to give up its licence to operate as an inn to facilitate the building of The Blücher Hotel in The Street, but Charles Edward may have acquired it before that; a planning application dated May 1901 presents his proposed alterations to the stable facilities behind the inn [SHC Ref: 5118/5/2/1/820]. The narrowness of the roads in that location (and elsewhere) had raised concerns for public safety and at a meeting of Dorking Rural District Council (DRDC) on 5 February it was recommended that the Council should arrange with Charles Edward that the Blücher 'be pulled down'. However, Rev Bayly, a member of DRDC, stated that Mr Lambert had 'not the slightest idea' of doing that [*Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser*, 7 February 1903]. In early 1904 Charles Edward took steps to clear the Blücher of 'the whole of the furniture and effects' by an auction to take place there on 27 January [*The Surrey Mirror and County Post*, 15 January 1904 and *Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser*, 16 January 1904]. His intention was to use the premises to accommodate some of his staff.

At the 1903 Flower Show at Eastwick Park the contribution of Charles Edward (whose gardener was Mr George Bristol) was again commended, for 'exceptional merit' [*Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser*, 25 July 1903].

As far as can be discerned from surviving records, it appears that in 1897 Charles Edward acquired the tenancy of the premises in Effingham then called 'The Coffee and Reading Rooms' (today known as 'The Old Village Hall' and occupied by Colets Piling Ltd). This curious building, which in the 1870s had been constructed by Rev Henry Malthus on a different site as a temporary smallpox isolation hospital, was (like Effingham House) subsequently owned by the Parratt family and had been leased to industrialist Thomas Farmer Hall, Charles Edward's predecessor at Effingham House. We believe that in 1897 Charles Edward took over the lease – which then still had 21 unexpired years – from Hall. However this may be, by 1903 Charles Edward was certainly the Reading Rooms' tenant, holding sway over its use. In late 1903 the children of the local school, under the direction of the head teacher Mr Blaxland, staged an entertainment in the rear section ('Concert Hall') of the Reading Rooms 'kindly lent by Mr C E Lambert' [*Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser*, 5 December 1903].

The entertainment that had been staged by the schoolchildren in late 1903 was staged again at the Reading Rooms by popular request in early 1904 [*Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser*, 6 February 1904]; 'Mr C E Lambert, who was present throughout, rose to propose a hearty vote of thanks to Mr Blaxland, their schoolmaster, and in so doing spoke in very able and glowing terms of the appreciation of the work of

their schoolmaster, both in school and in general village affairs ... Mr Blaxland very suitably returned thanks, remarking how ably he had been supported, especially by their local donor, Mr C E Lambert, who was ever ready to support and help any reasonable object'.

In July Emma was a visitor at the sports of the 'C' Squadron of the Surrey (Princess of Wales) Yeomanry in the grounds of Mickleham Hall [*The Surrey Mirror and County Post*, 15 July 1904].

The Village Hall (Reading Rooms) was the venue in November for a Conservative public meeting presided over by Charles Edward with the chief speaker being William Keswick of Eastwick Park, now the MP for Epsom [*Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser*, 12 November 1904]. The same issue of the latter newspaper also reported that the Misses Lambert were again with the Surrey Union Foxhounds, this time at Norbury Park. (Charles Edward was not always so generous with the Village Hall: a few months later he would refuse to let it be used by another political speaker who happened to be a Liberal rather than a Conservative – see *Public Events in Effingham 1903-1910* [*Studies in the History of Effingham*, Article 62, Vol **7**, 2025.)

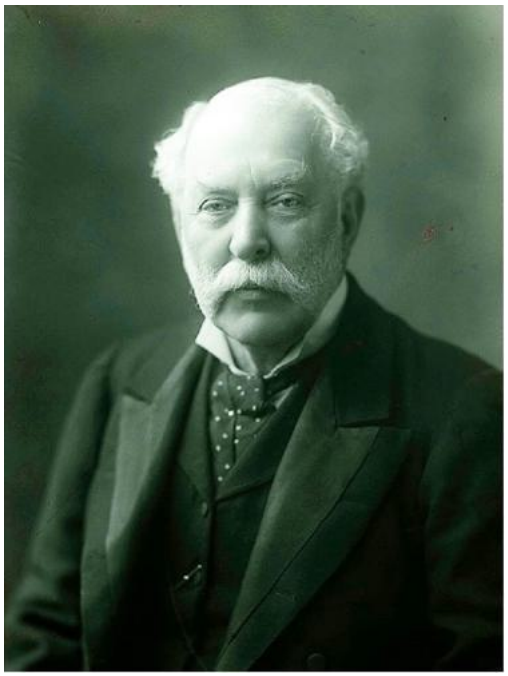


Figure 14 William Keswick, MP for Epsom during 1899-1912.

In late 1904 the engagement was announced between the third Lambert daughter Nina and a widower James Alexander Hill MacNair, a chartered accountant [*The Surrey Mirror and County Post*, 16 December 1904], aged 31 and 43 respectively.

They duly married, but not from Effingham; instead, they married from the Lambert's London home in Eaton Square, at St Peter's Church in that same square where the invited guests numbered about 400 [*The Surrey Times*, 4 March 1905]. The ceremony was performed by Rev Patrick J Shaw, Vicar of all Saints in York, but the address was given by Effingham's Rev Bayly. Again, the printed list of wedding gifts was enormous, covering about 30 column inches; they included at least 140 items made of silver, besides others of gold or encrusted with gems. This couple had no children.



Figure 15 Nina; September 1895.

Later that year Nina's elder sister Louisa ('LooLoo'), the second daughter aged 34, also married, to John Henry Pease, son of a colliery owner. When he married her at St Lawrence Church he described himself in the register as simply a Justice of the Peace but in both the 1901 and 1911 Censuses he was entered as managing director of a blast furnace. Newspaper reports of the wedding were short and did not list the gifts, instead describing the ceremony itself and the costumes worn [*Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser*, 28 October 1905]. They went to live in Darlington and did have children.

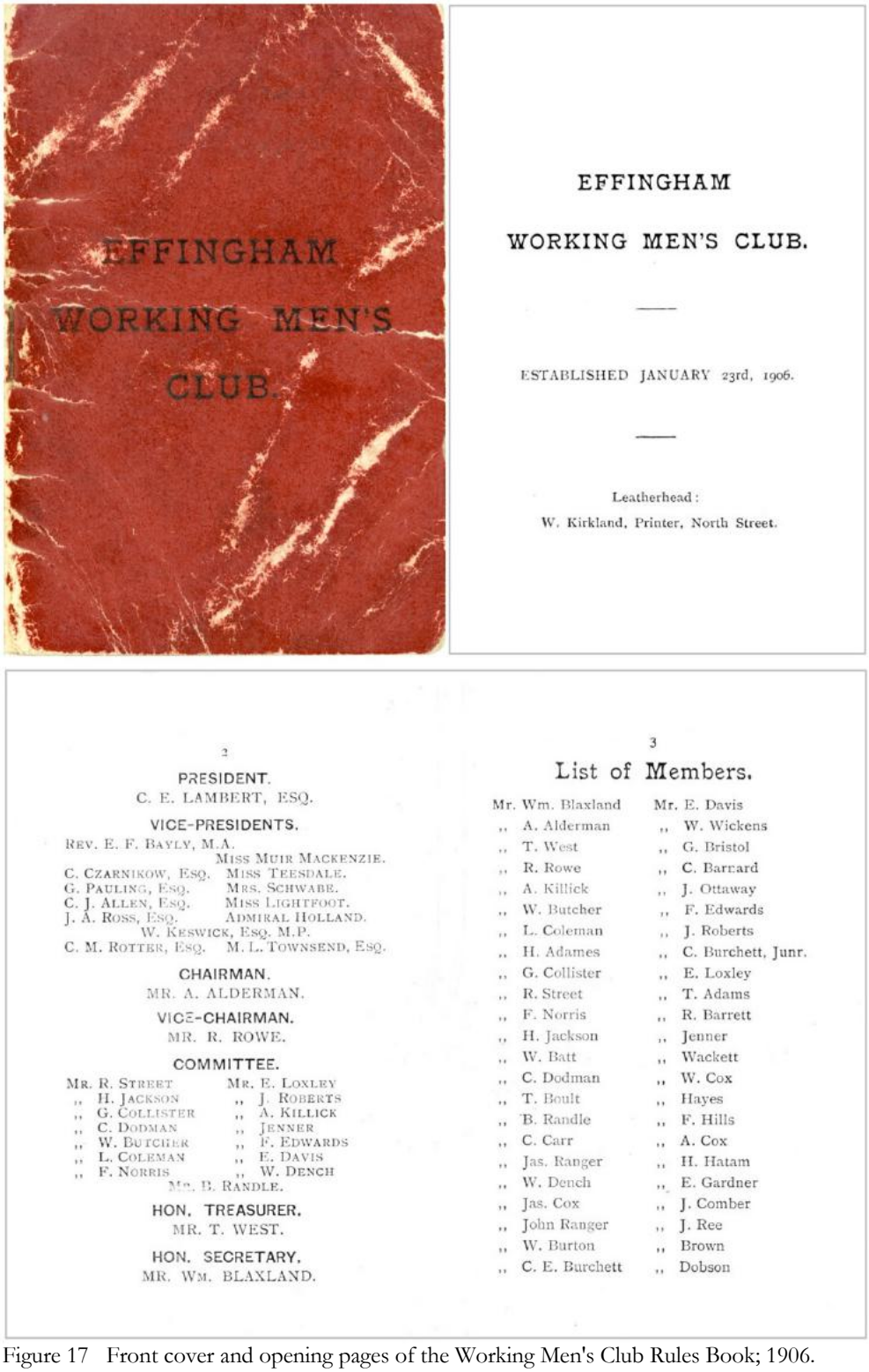


Figure 16 Louisa; September 1895.

Soon after this Charles Edward and party attended the Surrey Union Foxhounds Ball at the Public Hall in Dorking, 'the light scheme of decoration harmonising with the hunting costumes of the gentlemen and the rich dresses of the ladies' [*The Surrey Times*, 18 November 1905].

In early January 1906 a very lengthy account of an address in Bookham by William Keswick was published [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 6 January 1906]. The meeting was just one of many he was giving in his constituency in support of his candidacy in the imminent General Election; it was chaired by Arthur Bird of Bookham Grange, supported on the platform by Keswick, Charles Edward and a few others. Keswick retained his Epsom seat with a majority of 1,095 votes.

On 23 January a Working Men's Club was established in Effingham, members being given a red-covered Rules Book containing the names of those managing the club. ELHG is fortunate to have a scan of the book that had been owned by member Ralph Edgar Street and passed down to his grandson Ralph Frank Wallace. It shows that Charles Edward was the club's President, supported by 13 Vice-Presidents, these including Mr Czarnikow and William Keswick MP as well as four of Effingham's influential ladies and the Vicar Rev Bayly.


EFFINGHAM
WORKING MEN'S
CLUB.

EFFINGHAM

WORKING MEN'S CLUB.

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 23rd, 1906.

Leatherhead:
W. Kirkland, Printer, North Street.

2

PRESIDENT.
C. E. LAMBERT, ESQ.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.
REV. E. F. BAYLY, M.A.
MISS MUIR MACKENZIE.
C. CZARNIKOW, ESQ. MISS TEESDALE.
G. PAULING, ESQ. MRS. SCHWABE.
C. J. ALLEN, ESQ. MISS LIGHTFOOT.
J. A. ROSS, ESQ. ADMIRAL HOLLAND.
W. KESWICK, ESQ. M.P.
C. M. ROTTER, ESQ. M. L. TOWNSEND, ESQ.

CHAIRMAN.
MR. A. ALDERMAN.

VICE-CHAIRMAN.
MR. R. ROWE.

COMMITTEE.

MR. R. STREET	MR. E. LOXLEY
,, H. JACKSON	,, J. ROBERTS
,, G. COLLISTER	,, A. KILLICK
,, C. DODMAN	,, JENNER
,, W. BUTCHER	,, F. EDWARDS
,, L. COLEMAN	,, E. DAVIS
,, F. NORRIS	,, W. DENCH

MR. B. RANDLE.

HON. TREASURER.
MR. T. WEST.

HON. SECRETARY.
MR. WM. BLAXLAND.

3

List of Members.

Mr. Wm. Blaxland	Mr. E. Davis
,, A. Alderman	,, W. Wickens
,, T. West	,, G. Bristol
,, R. Rowe	,, C. Barrard
,, A. Killick	,, J. Ottaway
,, W. Butcher	,, F. Edwards
,, L. Coleman	,, J. Roberts
,, H. Adames	,, C. Burchett, Junr.
,, G. Collister	,, E. Loxley
,, R. Street	,, T. Adams
,, F. Norris	,, R. Barrett
,, H. Jackson	,, Jenner
,, W. Batt	,, Wackett
,, C. Dodman	,, W. Cox
,, T. Boult	,, Hayes
,, B. Randle	,, F. Hills
,, C. Carr	,, A. Cox
,, Jas. Ranger	,, H. Hatam
,, W. Dench	,, E. Gardner
,, Jas. Cox	,, J. Comber
,, John Ranger	,, J. Ree
,, W. Burton	,, Brown
,, C. E. Burchett	,, Dobson

Figure 17 Front cover and opening pages of the Working Men's Club Rules Book; 1906.

In February another gamekeepers' shooting match took place, at Fetcham's Cannon Grove. They were shooting sparrows. The 2nd and 3rd prizes were won by Charles Edward's gamekeepers, named as 'J Maund' (possibly George Maunders) and W (William) Vass [*Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser*, 3 February 1906].

Charles Edward was a knowledgeable horseman with a keen interest in keeping fine horses at his widely-acclaimed stables behind the former Prince Blücher, so it was natural that in 1906 he would attend the Leatherhead Horse Show held at Fetcham Grove (today the home of Leatherhead Football Club, near the Leisure Centre) on Whit Monday, when 'the judges had little difficulty in awarding first prize to Mr C E Lambert, Manor House, Effingham, for his cob, driven by Miss Elsa Lambert. The same owner carried off second prize with a smaller cob' [*Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser*, 9 June 1906].





Figures 18 (left) and 19 (right): views of Charles Edward's stables (with clock tower) for Effingham House; 1904.

In July Mr Keswick staged an extravagant Grand Ball at his residence Eastwick Park, taking in about 550 guests. His grounds were adorned with great numbers of 'fairy lights' and the highly illuminated house was richly decorated for the occasion with floral displays and drapes. As expected, a lengthy guest list was subsequently published (in alphabetical order of surnames) and included Charles Edward, Emma and their party [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 23 July 1906].

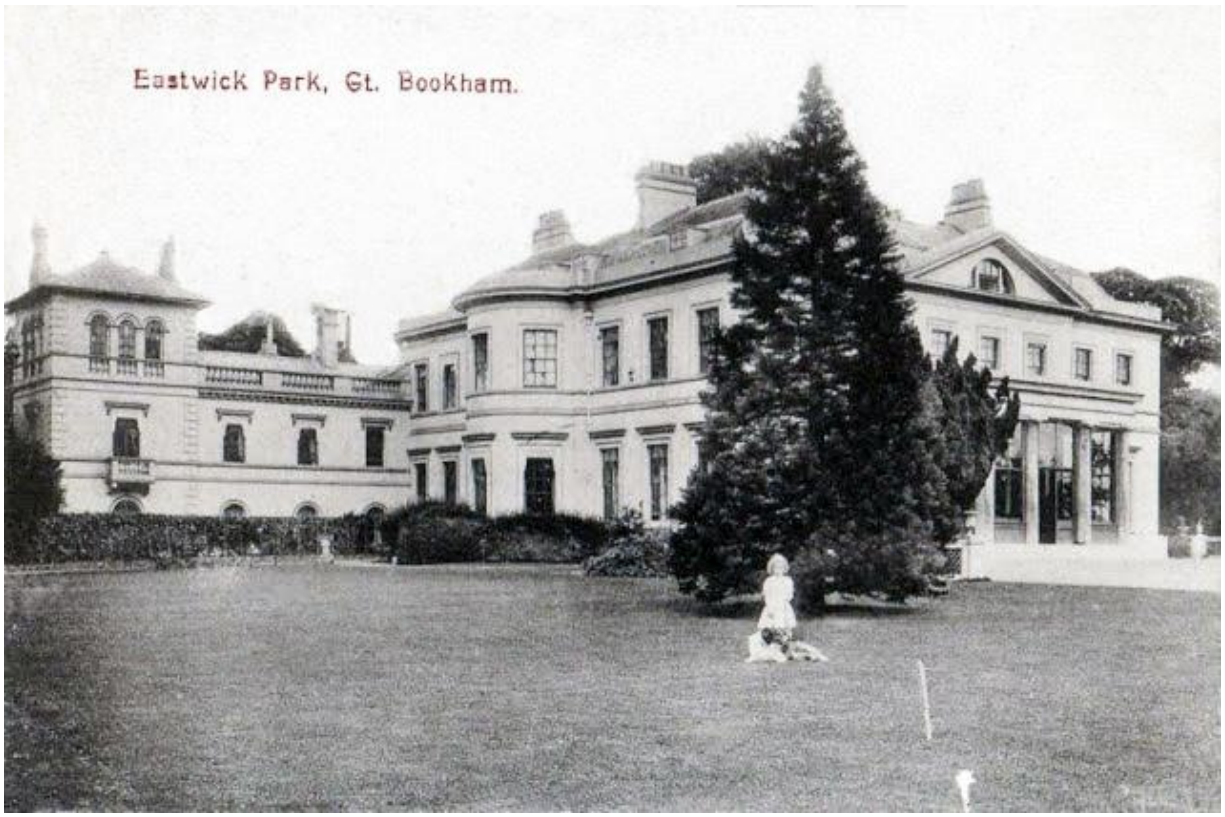


Figure 20 Eastwick Park viewed from the west; 1904.

On 6 February 1907 Effingham Working Men's Club held a social to celebrate its first anniversary. Appropriately, Charles Edward as President granted the use of his Village Hall for the purpose [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 9 February 1907].

At the Leatherhead Horse Show in May 1907, held at Fetcham Grove, he won prizes in the open classes sections for horses/cobs driven in harness [*Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser*, 25 May 1907].

In June the Working Men's Club's members were entertained at the Village Hall, once again 'lent' by Charles Edward, by a concert organised by Miss Helen Constance Lightfoot, tenant of The Red House in Lower Road and one of the club's Vice-Presidents. It was reported that 'The entertainment was considered to be one of the best of its kind held in Effingham, which is saying a great deal, since under the auspices of the Working Men's Club and its honorary secretary Mr William Blaxland, several very good and interesting entertainments have been given during the two years of the club's existence' [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 8 June 1907].

At the Bookham Flower Show in August (that is, the annual show of the Great Bookham, Little Bookham, Effingham and Fetcham Cottage and Amateur Garden Society) Charles Edward displayed a group composed of campanulas, coleus, pandanus and veitchii edged with ferns [*Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser*, 10 August 1907].

In October Charles Edward acquired two separate areas of land, totalling 388 acres, conveyed to him by Henry Court Willock-Pollen on 8 October 1907. It is not known why he had chosen to purchase this land except that there was a large sale at that time; other Effingham residents such as Mr Pauling of The Lodge acquired other bits. One of the two areas, of about 204 acres, straddled the parishes of Effingham and Little Bookham. This would remain undeveloped until the 1920s, when (after it had been sold on again) it would be used to construct Woodlands Road and the homes along it.

Charles Edward continued to be a keen supporter of Effingham Cricket Club. After their last game of the season (between married and single teams) the members held a supper at The Blücher Hotel (built in The Street two years earlier as the successor to The Prince Blücher); his health was toasted there in recognition of the fact that owing to him the club had been able to start the season free of debt [*Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser*, 12 October 1907].



Figure 21 Charles Edward's longstanding interest in Effingham's Cricket Club is evident here from the club's cap (bearing the initials ECC) on the snowman in front of his daughter Adria; 1894.

In June 1908 Charles Edward repeated his 1907 success at the Leatherhead Horse Show at Fetcham Grove, earning 3rd prize for horse/cob driven in harness [*The Surrey Mirror and County Post*, 9 June 1908].

At the annual exhibition of the Leatherhead Horticultural Society in July Emma served as the adjudicator for the industrial section [*Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser*, 25 July 1908].

A more unusual event was staged at Effingham House in late June 1909. This was a fête in aid of St Cyprian's Convalescent Home for Incurables. Emma personally received the guests and her daughter Nina managed one of the stalls. Her son (Charles Edward) Winterton was also present and ran the coconut shies [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 3 July 1908].



Figure 22 Winterton; 1896.

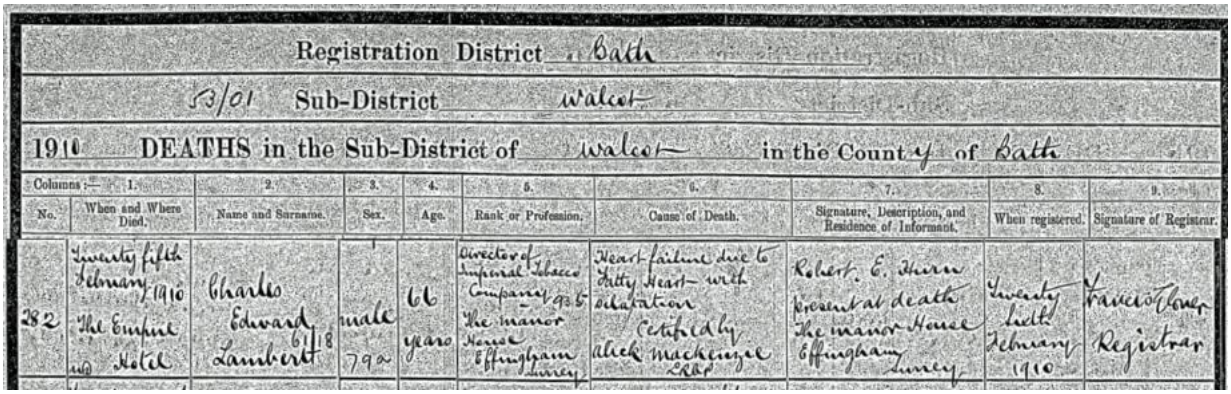
In February 1909 Charles Edward made the Village Hall available to the Working Men's Club where they held the third of a series of whist drives [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 6 February 1909].

In April Mr Czarnikow died and his funeral took place at St Lawrence Church, Rev Bayly officiating. Emma and her unmarried daughters attended but Charles Edward evidently could not – instead he was represented by Nina's husband James MacNair [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 24 April 1909]. Charles Edward may later have been present, however, at the Bookham Flower Show where he was noted as having entered beautiful groups of plants and flowers [*Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser*, 31 July 1909].

In early 1910 Charles Edward was one of those nominating William Keswick for the Epsom Parliamentary Division in the coming General Election [*Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser*, 22 January 1910].

A minor court case was heard in January when Charles Edward and his gamekeeper were sued by one of his former employees, who was claiming damages because his dog had been shot by the gamekeeper; it had been running loose on land (Ashplat Wood) where about 800 pheasants had been turned out. The defendants had in turn made a counter-claim. The court found for both sides, awarding the defendants £1 but the plaintiff £5 [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 29 January 1910].

Effingham was greatly shocked when Charles Edward died suddenly on the morning of Friday 25 February 1910 at the age of 66. This occurred in Bath where he been attending meetings of the Imperial Tobacco Company. He had been 'suddenly seized with illness at his hotel [the Empire Hotel] on the previous day [*Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser*, 5 March 1910]. His death certificate states the cause as 'Heart failure due to Fatty Heart with dilatation'. The informant, present at the death, was his butler Robert E Hurn.



Registration District Bath

53/01 Sub-District Walcot

1910 DEATHS in the Sub-District of Walcot in the County of Bath

Columns:— 1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
No.	When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When registered.	Signature of Registrar.
282	Twenty fifth February 1910 The Empire Hotel	Charles Edward Lambert 61/18	male 790	66 years	Director of Imperial Tobacco Company 93 5 The manor House Effingham Surrey	Heart failure due to Fatty Heart with dilatation Certified by Alick Mackenzie CBP	Robert. E. Hurn present at death The manor House Effingham Surrey	Twenty sixth February 1910	Francis Flower Registrar

Figure 23 Charles Edward's death certificate; 1910.

Great numbers attended the funeral at St Lawrence Church on 1 March, Rev Bayly officiating. Charles Edward's daughter Hilda appears not to have attended – perhaps she was abroad or otherwise indisposed. Jessie and Adria were still unmarried at this point.

Probate was granted on 15 March, the executors being a solicitor friend Ernest Robert Still together with the husbands of the daughters Hilda and Annie, ie Maxwell Rose and Harold Denison Arbuthnot. Charles Edward's effects were valued at £659,193-16s-6d, approximately £100M in today's money. His Will left £3,000 and the continuing use of his premises to Emma, most of the remaining money being left in the hands of his trustees who would use half of it to provide an income for her.

Two obituaries are given in Appendix II. He was buried in the family's vault in the churchyard of St Lawrence, Effingham next to the east wall of the church, his grave marked by a tall and elaborately ornamented cross. An inscription on the front of its pedestal reads (today):

In Loving Memory
of
Charles Edward Lambert
Born 8th May 1843. Died 25th February 1910.

Also of
Emma Anne
– His Beloved Wife –
Born 19th June 1840. Died 2nd February 1917.

"Death is Swallowed up in Victory"



Figure 24 The pedestal of Charles Edward's gravestone as it stands today (2026).

However, the pedestal's front inscription was originally as shown in Figure 25 – this photograph appears to have been taken very soon after the interment in 1910; only Charles Edward's name is engraved there.



Figure 25 The original gravestone; probably 1910.

The Lambert family's remaining years in Effingham

Emma continued to grant the use of the Village Hall to the Working Men's Club. In October 1910 a concert was staged there in order to raise funds for their billiard table to be re-covered [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 31 October 1910].

The 1911 Census finds Emma living or staying with her now-married daughter Louisa in Bournemouth, although Louisa's husband John Henry Pease was not present. Meanwhile, Effingham House was occupied

by Adria, still unmarried, with 12 servants none of whom had been with the family in 1901 and none of whom was Effingham born:

1911 Census

No 25, Bath Road, Bournemouth, Dorset : PRO Ref: RG14 Piece 5844 Schedule 114

Louisa Pease : head : mar : 39 : private means : Bedford Hill, Surrey
Rachel Pease : dau : unm : 4 : — : Piercebridge, Co. Durham
John Charles Gurney Pease : son : unm : 1 : — : Piercebridge, Co. Durham
Emma Ann [sic] Lambert : mother : widow : 70 : private means : Madras, India Resident
and 4 servants

1911 Census

Manor House, Effingham , Surrey : PRO Ref: RG14 Piece 3193 Schedule 35

Adria Elsa Lambert : daughter [sic – head] : unm : 34 : independent means : Upper Tooting, Surrey
and 12 servants

In April the Surveyor for Dorking Rural District Council reported a request from Emma that part of the road outside Effingham House be tarred and that the Council would be pleased to do this at her expense, to which she had agreed [*Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser*, 22 April 1911].

In June it was Jessie's turn to marry. She was now aged 36 and her husband was Andrew Carmichael Arbuthnot, the brother of Annie's husband. They married at St Lawrence Church, officiated by Rev Bayly. The four bridesmaids included Jessie's sister Adria [*Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser*, 24 June 1911 – see Appendix III]. They were to have two daughters.



Figure 26 Jessie; September 1895.

The latter newspaper issue carried on the same page an article about a court case, at the Dorking Police Court, hearing a charge of reckless driving. A motorist from Chiddingfold had been accused of this after he had allegedly caused serious injuries with his car to a police constable, PC Austin Edgar Galloway, stationed at Effingham. The incident had occurred on the Guildford Road near the Effingham crossroads (a notorious accident spot). Evidence was given by several witnesses, including Emma's chauffeur and also Adria, both of whom confirmed that the constable had been issuing appropriate signals to cars at the crossroads. The constable himself was not available to give his side of the story and so the magistrates dismissed the case.

Emma continued the Lamberts' tradition of entering plants and flowers in the Bookham Flower Show [*Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser*, 5 August 1911].

In the following year it became Adria's turn to marry. Now aged 35, she was the youngest of the six daughters and the last one to marry. Her husband was a divorcee, (Philip) Aubrey Price. They married in London on 15 February 1912. There seem to be no newspaper articles describing the wedding in any detail. They appear to have had no children.

In 1913 Emma put another request to Dorking RDC that the stretch of road tarred the year before should be re-tarred, but it was decided to hold over this and other such requests to the following year [*Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser*, 12 July 1913].

In 1915 Emma made the Village Room available for a concert staged by Mrs Lilian Mooney and friends on behalf of Belgian refugees, the first world war being now underway [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 13 March 1915]. In the following year the war claimed the life of one of Emma's former footmen, Albert Henry Smith who was killed in action on 6 April in service to the East Surrey Regiment [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 20 May 1916]. Later in 1916 the Surrey Agricultural Association staged ploughing matches in Ewell at Fitznell's Farm, by kind permission of Mrs Clara Isabella (née Lemon) Curtis (who would move to Effingham in the 1930s). At this event in Ewell Mr James Cox was awarded a long service prize, having worked for the Lamberts in Effingham for 36 years and 3 months [*Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser*, 21 October 1916].

In mid-December there was significant snowfall in Britain. It heralded a severe winter. Mid-January became especially cold as more snow piled in on a north-easterly wind. The bitter conditions may have been a major contributory cause of the pneumonia to which Emma succumbed in January. This affliction would

have compounded her vulnerability to the heart valve disease from which she had suffered during the previous six months [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 10 February 1915]. She died in London at the Hyde Park Hotel, Albert Gate in Knightsbridge on Friday 2 February. Her death certificate [GRO Ref: St George Hanover Square 1a 700, 1917 (Q1)] gives the cause of death as '1. Arterio sclerosis 2. Pneumonia Syncope', without *post mortem*. The term 'Syncope' signifies that her death had followed a temporary (typically sudden) loss of consciousness. The informant, in attendance at the death, was her son-in-law Andrew Carmichael Arbuthnot, Jessie's husband, then residing (in much splendour) in the Albert Hall Mansions, Kensington Gore. Emma's place of residence was given as 'The Manor House, Effingham' rather than the home in Eaton Square (which may have been disposed of some years previously, perhaps following the death of Charles Edward).

Her funeral, officiated by Rev Bayly, took place on Tuesday 6 February at St Lawrence Church where she was buried with her husband. Her inscription on their gravestone gives her birthdate as 19 June 1840, in conflict with the 'August 19th' entered in the Registrar General's register in Madras. The above-cited newspaper report observed that Emma 'was beloved by everybody, her generosity and kindness having been dispensed to all alike'. By February much more snow had fallen and the month would turn out to be the coldest February since 1895. These adverse conditions reportedly made it difficult or impossible for many of those who would have wished to attend the funeral to do so; it must have been a difficult and forlorn affair.

Probate was granted on 8 March 1917 to Harold Denison Arbuthnot and James Alexander Hill MacNair, the husbands of Emma's daughters Annie and Nina. Her effects were valued at £55,456-19s. In her Will she left £200 to her butler Robert E Hurn and an annuity of £52 to her bailiff George Bristol [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 14 March 1917].

In June it was announced that the Effingham estate was to be put up for sale, at the direction of Charles Edward's trustees, at auction in the following September [*The Surrey Mirror and County Post*, 29 June 1917]. The latter 'preliminary announcement' listed some of the properties involved (variously leasehold and freehold): The Manor House; The Hollies; High Barn Farm, Big High Grove and Woodland; Thornet and Oaken Wood; 'Attractive Cottages'; and other land, altogether covering 500 acres. The auction was subsequently announced to take place at 20, Hanover Square in London (the premises of Messrs Knight, Frank and Rutley) on 26 September, the offering composed of 8 Lots [*The Surrey Mirror and County Post*, 25 September 1917]. In December it was reported by the auctioneers that they had disposed of these Lots [*The Surrey Mirror and County Post*, 11 December 1917].

The details of the properties are set out in the 1917 sale brochure cited earlier [SHC Ref: CC99/43/1] and Charles Edward's acquisitions of them – and of other properties – during his lifetime are thoroughly discussed in Sue Morris's ELHG article *The Creation of Effingham Manor Golf Club* [*Studies in the History of Effingham*, Article 9, Vol **1**, 2023].

It was not until two years later that the greater part of the 204-acre plot of land acquired by Charles Edward in 1907 would be sold. 178 acres of it were conveyed by Emma's executors for £3,000 to Hippolyte Louis Wiehe du Coudray Souchon – by then the owner of Eastwick Park – on 25 March 1919. The other 26 or so acres had perhaps already left the Lambert holdings.

On 21 January 1922 Hilda Emma Charlotte died aged just 51. She had outlived her mother by less then four years. She was buried in the family vault at St Lawrence and an inscription for her was added to the left-hand side of the gravestone pedestal. She had been much admired for her community work in West Horsley as was made clear in a published obituary [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 28 January 1922], presented in Appendix IV. (More than two decades later Hilda's brother Winterton, who had never married and had settled in Sussex at Bexhill-on-Sea, died on 9 January 1946; he too was interred in the vault and an inscription for him was added to the right-hand side of the pedestal.)

These events did not signify the end of the family's living connection with Effingham. Not long after the death of her husband James in 1931, Nina occupied Yew Tree House in The Street during about 1935-39 while also maintaining a sumptuous property in Kensington. In 1936 she became the Honorary Treasurer of the Effingham Playing Fields Committee from which eventually emerged some of the 'Playing Fields Trustees' (including Barnes Wallis) to whom 31 acres of land were sold by the executors of Mrs Dolores Pauling (formerly of The Lodge) shortly after the latter's death in 1938, this being the land now constituting the King George V Playing Fields. Nina also played significant roles in the village's celebrations of the Silver Jubilee of George V in 1935 and of the Coronation of George VI in 1937. She died in 1951.

There is much else to be related about the lives of Emma's children and ELHG intends to write future articles about them.

Business interests of Lambert & Butler and of Charles Edward during his lifetime

A great deal of detail could be given about Charles Edward's business life but it is to an extent tangential to Effingham's history, therefore only a brief synopsis is set out in this section.

Lambert & Butler's cigars, which they had been making from Havana tobaccos at Drury Lane since 1838, were displayed at the Great Exhibition of 1851, a major opportunity for bringing their product to the attention of both the international and the British public.

In 1853 the company sought to dispose of a cigar and tobacco business, a house with 13 rooms in north London [*The Morning Advertiser*, 1 March 1853].

In June 1871 Lambert & Butler offered another cigar and tobacconist's for disposal. This shop was 'doing a good genuine trade [having] double-plated front and handsome fixtures; price £195' [*The Daily Telegraph*, 27 June 1871]. Their address was here given as 141, Drury Lane which they had combined with No 142. By this time they had capital of about £90,000.

A notice published in 1872 listed Lambert & Butler of 141 and 142 Drury Lane as a member of the Committee of Management of the Trade Mark Protection Society [*The Morning Advertiser*, 11 May 1872].

During the second half of the 19th century there was major growth in the popularity and production of cigarettes, especially with the automation of their manufacture. This is reflected in a Lambert & Butler advertisement of 1881 drawing attention to the firm's notable brands and the prize medals they had won, making no mention of cigars [*The Daily Free Press*, 5 August 1881]. The particular perils of cigarettes to health were well-known towards the end of that century, even though the precise mechanisms of their harms were unknown, and they were often referred to in that period as 'coffin nails'.

A rather oddly-worded advertisement was placed by the company in September 1881, saying simply 'Boy wanted for cart and make himself useful' [*The Daily Chronicle* (London), 17 September 1881].

In the 1890s Lambert & Butler were ever expanding their presence in Drury Lane. In 1895 they had demolished their original business premises there and rebuilt them, engaging the company James Wright & Sons to build them a new warehouse. The result in 1895 was an impressive building of four storeys (above ground) having 'a splendid front [entrance] in red granite' [*The Aberdeen Journal*, 26 December 1895]; the building still stands today, renamed as Grosvenor House. It is shown in Figure 27.



Figure 27 Lambert & Butler Warehouse, 141-144 Drury Lane, 1897; Courtesy of Historic England, Ref: BL13980.



Figure 28 Old Lambert & Butler factory, Wild Street (behind Drury Lane); modern photograph.

Figure 28 shows an old factory of Lambert & Butler, although it was not their first in this part of London. Today the company's name can still be discerned on the facade above the ground floor, as seen in Figure 29.

Figure 30 shows, on its left-hand-side, a more recent factory, at the intersection of Great Queen Street, Drury Lane and Long Acre. This was constructed during Charles Edward's major expansionary period in the 1890s. It ceased operation around 1961.



Figure 29 Lambert & Butler's name on the facade.



Figure 30 Buildings in Drury Lane and Great Queen Street; 1976; The London Picture Archive, Record 129164.

In early 1899 Lambert & Butler were converted into a limited company but without issuing any of the new company's capital – amounting to £450,000 – to the public [*The Echo* (London), 13 March 1899]. By 1900 they were the third largest tobacco company in Britain (after Wills and Player) and were employing over a thousand people.

Many 19th and early 20th-century memorabilia relating to the company survive and have become collectors' pieces. Some examples are shown below, all culled from advertisements on the internet.



Figure 31 Four examples of early Lambert & Butler merchandise.

The year 1901 saw the culmination of a ferocious trade conflict – to become known as the Tobacco Wars – fought by the American tycoon James Buchanan ('Buck') Duke, founder of the American Tobacco Company (ATC), against the UK manufacturers, some of whom he had tried to buy up. In defence against his predations, thirteen British companies met on 19 September 1901 in Birmingham at the Queen's Hotel to plan the formation of the Imperial Tobacco Company (ITC), in which Wills, now by far the largest of them, would invest £7M, with the next largest, Lambert & Butler, putting in three quarters of a million. Charles Edward would undoubtedly have attended, and perhaps also Walter Butler, another son of Charles (Snr) Butler.

By December 1901 ITC had been assembled from 12 investing British companies and registered as a limited company with a capital of £15M and a share issue of 15M £1-shares, these divided equally between Preference, Preferred Ordinary and Deferred Ordinary; there were initially 19 Directors, one of them being Charles Edward [*The Yorkshire Post*, 14 December 1901].

The two giants ATC and ITC then competed frenetically, employing many marketing ruses involving free gifts, price manipulation and, especially, the extraordinarily lucrative promotion of collectable sets of cigarette cards.

By September 1902 ATC was wearying of the fight and a deal was struck between the parties as to their future spheres of influence and collaboration. Out of this agreement there emerged a new grouping, British-American Tobacco (BAT). ITC continued to operate as such and in 1903 its board set up an executive committee to manage the group; its six initial members included Charles Edward and Walter Butler.

Lambert & Butler continued to thrive. In 1907 they advertised for 'girls just leaving school, must be smart and clean, age 14, birth certificate required. Apply Cigarette Factory, Lambert & Butler, Gt Wild Street, Drury Lane, WC' [*The Daily Chronicle*, 6 August 1907].

In early 1908 ITC published its Directors' Annual Report which stated that the net trading profit in the year ending 31 October 1907 was a little over £2M; it also reported that 'The large extension of the factory and offices at the Lambert & Butler branch, Drury Lane, London, WC is rapidly approaching completion' [*The Western Daily Press, Bristol*, 8 February 1908].

In the following financial year ITC reported much the same profit and noted that Lambert & Butler's extension in Drury Lane had been completed [*The Morning Leader*, London, 8 February 1909].

The Drury Lane premises was closed down in 1961. By 2008 the company's king-size cigarette brand was the highest-selling in the UK.

The Lambert family photograph albums

Some insight into the family's early years in Effingham can be gained from two albums of photographs which had belonged to the daughter Nina. They were passed to her financial agent and advisor Cecil Bramall Jones, the uncle of the late Effingham resident Antony Donald Page, after her death. The larger and most important of the two – Album 1 with about 250 photographs spanning 1894-99 – was kindly donated by Antony to the ELHG archives in 2010. Many of the images shown in this article are derived from that album.



Figure 32 The cover of Album 1.

High-resolution scans have been made of the entire contents of Album 1 and deposited in the ELHG archives. This album makes clear that Scotland, and especially Glen Isla, was the family's favourite place for their trips away. Indeed most of the photographs pertain to such trips and only a minority show the family in Effingham. In many they are shown ensconced in rocky and heathery landscapes surrounded by servants and deer-hunting attendants with liberal provisions of luncheon hampers and wine bottles, or enjoying the grounds of the splendid country houses in which they were staying. Whether out on the Scottish moors or enjoying afternoon teas in the gardens of Effingham House, all family members were always sumptuously attired, the ladies displaying highly elaborate hats.



Figure 33 A typical page in Album 1.

Album 2, which initially remained in the possession of Antony, contains about 200 photographs. They are smaller and of poorer quality than those in the first album, and only a few are of Effingham interest. Inside the cover is written 'Duchess' (Nina's nickname) and 'Started January 1902'. High-resolution scans have been made of 14 images from Album 2 and deposited in the archives. After Antony's death in 2020 the Page family donated Album 2 to ELHG.

Appendix V presents a selection of photographs from both albums and from other sources.

The family evidently arranged evenings of entertainment with a Scottish flavour, and made their own handwritten programmes for them. The daughters were all musical and they appear as the artistes in some of the pieces, as so also does a 'Mr W Lambert', namely, their brother Charles Edward Winterton. Appendix VI shows three such programmes for entertainments staged in 1897, 1898 and 1899.

There also survives a family scrap album, once the possession of Adria, held at the Surrey History Centre [SHC Ref: 9621]. The Centre's Catalogue states its provenance as 'Presented by West Lothian Local History Library in June 2016. The scrap album was acquired by a local reader in a car boot sale.'

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1: *Information about the historic mill in Beddington*, from the archives of the London Borough of Sutton
Figure 2: from the internet, unattributed: a similar photograph is in the Francis Frith Collection
Figure 3: from the internet, unattributed
Figure 4: from *https://historyofwandsworthcommon.org/chronicles/02/02-2024.html*
Figures 5, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 21, 22, 26, 34-61, 64-66: from the Lambert Album No. 1, donated by the late Antony Donald Page
Figure 6: from the Postcard Collection of the late Don Clarke of West Horsley
Figures 7, 8: Minutes of Effingham's Annual Parish Meetings and Parish Council Meetings
Figures 9, 10, 25: from Dr Diane Evelyn (née Latham) Miller, grand-daughter of Jessie Evelyn Lambert
Figure 12: postcard advertised on eBay
Figure 14: from the Local Studies and Archives Centre, Borough of Sutton, *Past on Glass* project
Figure 17: from Ralph Frank Wallace
Figures 19, 62a-62f: from the Lambert Album No. 2, donated by the family of the late Antony Donald Page
Figure 20: from *https://landedfamilies.blogspot.com/2019/03/368-barclay-of-bury-hill-and-eastwick.html*
Figure 23: from the General Registrar Office
Figures 24, 32, 33: from Christopher John Hogger
Figure 27: by kind permission of *Historic England*
Figures 28, 29: from Sally Kirkwood
Figure 30: under non-profit license (Class 4.1) from The London Picture Archive
Figure 31: from various internet advertising sites
Figure 63: from Marina May, Effingham Golf Club
Appendices I-IV cuttings: from the British Newspaper Archive, by kind permission of Reach plc / *Mirrorpix*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

For ELHG's research into the Lambert family and other topics concerning Effingham, a huge debt is owed to the Page family for donating the Lambert family photograph albums. Thanks are due also to Sally Kirkwood, Marina May, Historic England and The London Picture Archive for providing and advising on some of the images used in this article. We have benefited also from the excellent resources of *Ancestry* and the British Newspaper Archive.

APPENDIX I

Primrose League Demonstration

The Surrey Advertiser and County Times, 25 July 1896

EFFINGHAM.

PRIMROSE LEAGUE DEMONSTRATION.

Several hundred members of the Primrose League attached to the Bookham habitation, which embraces the parishes of Great and Little Bookham, Effingham, and Fetcham, assembled, at the invitation of Mr C. E. Lambert, the ruling councillor for the year, in the picturesque grounds of The Manor House on Wednesday. The occasion was the annual summer gathering of the league, and, thanks to the munificence of Mr Lambert, who generously defrayed the whole of the expenses, coupled with the excellent arrangements made by the hon secretary, Mr W. C. Vellender, the proceedings were attended with the most gratifying success. Between 500 and 600 persons sat down to tea in a marquee, and during the progress of the meal a string band, composed of the Misses Lambert, Miss Bird, and Miss Hue Williams, of Leatherhead, rendered several selections of music in a most pleasing manner. The ruling councillor took the chair at the subsequent meeting, being supported on the platform by Mrs Lambert, Mrs Barnard Hankey, Miss Helme, Mr T. T. Bucknill, Q.C., M.P., the Rev E. Malleson, Mr A. W. Aston, Mr A. Bird, Mr W. Keswick, J.P., Mr Herbert Helme, and Mr J. Cropley. There were also present the Rev P. P. Edwards, the Rev Cecil Moon, Messrs Uriah Loxley, H. J. Adkins, Walker, W. Goff, Bonsor, Peters, Butcher, F. Hill, and W. C. Vellender (hon secretary).

The Ruling Councillor, after extending a hearty welcome to all present to his grounds, mentioned that that day they celebrated the tenth anniversary of the Bookham Habitation. In the first year there were 47 associates, and 20 knights and dames, whereas at the present time there was a balance in hand of £23 6s. 5d.; and the total number of members enrolled included 46 knights, 43 dames, and 861 associates.

Mr Aston moved a resolution to the effect "That this gathering of the Bookham Habitation of the Primrose League, in annual meeting, assembled at Manor House, Effingham, most emphatically approves and endorses the Unionist and patriotic policy as administered and carried out by the most noble the Marquis of Salisbury, and Her Majesty's present advisers both at home and abroad." They were at peace with all the great countries of the world (hear, hear). They had, it was true, two little wars, the one rather larger than the other, that was in Egypt, and they had the unfortunate loss of life and fighting in Africa with the Matabele, but with a vast nation like theirs these could hardly be termed wars. That gave confidence, and what did confidence mean? It meant good trade, and good trade meant the prosperity of all (applause). It also meant good wages, and he saw by the Board of Trade returns that it was many years since wages were as high as at the present time, whilst in his researches he failed to find when they were better.

Mr. Bucknill in rising to second the motion was greeted with hearty applause. Having expressed the pleasure it gave him to meet so many of his constituents and having criticised the tactics of the parliamentary minority, the hon. gentleman said that that day had been a somewhat unhappy day in the House of Commons, but there was nothing to be frightened at. Walking from the Law Courts that afternoon to catch the train he saw in huge letters on the placard of a Radical newspaper the words "The Government defeated." Boys were rushing along the streets selling papers at a tremendous rate. Well, what did they think it was? The Irish Land Bill had been occupying the attention of a committee of the House that afternoon the Bill was brought in by the Government, and was intended for the good of the Irish tenants and landlords. He was sorry to tell them again that certain Irish Conservative members had voted against the Government, and the Government had been beaten in a little amendment of no importance whatever by a majority of 13 in a very thinly attended house. The amendment was as to whether certain Irish tenants should be paid a certain compensation in money or in Government stock, and the Opposition had succeeded, assisted by some Government members, in carrying an amendment that the compensation be not paid in money, but in stock. When they read the newspapers on the following morning he thought they would find that an enormous mountain had been made out of an extremely insignificant molehill, but he hoped it would teach a lesson to those who led in the House of Commons, and to those who ought to follow (hear, hear). Why should they have confidence in the Government of the day? Because, if they had not as yet been very successful in the measures brought in, they had in no sense changed in the great principles he had mentioned. They would vote for all those principles which those present as Primrose Leaguers would vote for. They were intending to see that England possessed the greatest Navy

continued on next page ...

in the world (hear, hear), and, with regard to foreign politics, there must necessarily be foreign troubles, but their confidence in the Government he was sure would not be lessened because of the little accident that had occurred that afternoon. They would prefer to see Lord Salisbury leader of the House of Lords, and Mr Balfour leading the House of Commons with, might he say the greatest respect and admiration, a little less good temper than he was exercising at the present moment, and a little more determination to make his men go with him, keeping his privates in line, instead of allowing them to wobble for their own amusement (hear, hear). He hoped if anything should happen by which they were asked to cast their votes next week, next month, next year, or five years hence, that they would still think it better, both at home and abroad, that the English nation should be governed by a Conservative and Unionist Government (hear, hear).

The resolution was carried unanimously, amid cheers.

Mr A. Bird moved a vote of thanks to Mr Aston, who, he remarked, was well known to them, and to their excellent member, in whom they had every confidence (applause).

The motion was seconded in an able speech by Mr Keswick, who said that so long as they had Mr Bucknill as their representative they might feel certain that his vote and interest would be given in support of those principles which, as members of the Primrose League, they held dear (applause).

The vote was carried by acclamation, and briefly acknowledged by Mr Bucknill and Mr Aston.

Mr Helme then moved that a similar compliment be paid to the ruling councillor for his kindness in providing that day's entertainment, this being seconded by Mr Cropley.—The motion was carried with enthusiasm, Mr Lambert intimating that it had afforded him the greatest possible pleasure to do what little he had done (applause).

Mr Bucknill proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Vellender for the trouble he had taken in organising so successful a gathering, observing that their hon secretary was one of those men in his division whom he looked upon as a tower of strength to the Unionist cause (applause).—Further testimony of Mr Vellender's valuable service was borne by Mr Keswick, and Mr Vellender returned thanks, stating that as long as he had the honour to hold the office of hon secretary it would be his greatest pleasure, as well as his duty, to enrol as many members as he could in the Bookham habitation of the Primrose League (applause).

This terminated the business proceedings, and the marquee was subsequently prepared for dancing, which was kept up to music supplied by the Bookham Brass Band until late in the evening.

APPENDIX II

Obituary for Charles Edward Lambert
Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser, 5 March 1910

DEATH OF MR. C. E. LAMBERT

A GREAT LOSS TO EFFINGHAM.

The village of Effingham has suffered the loss of one of its most prominent and certainly one of its most highly respected residents by the death of Mr. Charles Edward Lambert, of Manor House. Not only by those amongst whom he lived, but also by a large host of friends far from the confines of the parish, will his death be greatly deplored, for he was a well-known figure in the tobacco trade world, being the senior partner of the firm of Messrs. Lambert and Butler, which a few years ago was incorporated with the Imperial Tobacco Company, though it has been carried on practically as a separate branch. Deceased, who was also a director and a member of the Executive Committee of the Company, was a trustee and vice-president of the Tobacco Trade Benevolent Association. In the village of Effingham, where he had resided for the past 26 years, Mr. Lambert took an active part in local affairs, and had held the position of Chairman of the Parish Council since its formation. He was also Rector's churchwarden, and President of the Working Men's Club, to whom he lent the hall which serves as a club-room. In other matters concerning the welfare of the village his keen interest and financial assistance were greatly valued.

The news of the death of Mr. Lambert came as a shock to the residents of the village by reason of its unexpectedness. Last week the deceased gentleman went to Bath to attend meetings of the Imperial Tobacco Company, and on Thursday was suddenly seized with illness at his hotel, death supervening on the following morning. Mr. Lambert, who was 67 years of age, leaves a widow and a family of one son and five daughters. In consequence of the sad event the Surrey Union Foxhounds did not hunt on Friday, nor on Tuesday, the day of the interment.

THE FUNERAL.

In the presence of a remarkably large gathering, and amid many evidences of deep regret, the funeral took place at Effingham on Tuesday afternoon. The coffin was removed to the church in the morning, and long before the service was timed to commence the building was crowded, many being unable to gain admission. The Rector, the Rev. E. F. Bayly, conducted, and the choir sang Psalm xxxix., and the hymn, "Now the labourer's task is o'er." Prior to the commencement of the service the organist, Miss Richards, played Mendelssohn's "O Rest in the Lord," and, as the coffin was borne from the church, Chopin's "Marche Funebre." The committal sentences were also read by the Rector, and the coffin, which bore the inscription, "Charles Edward Lambert, born 8 May, 1843, died 25 Feb., 1910," was lowered into a grave which had been beautifully lined with moss, white azaleas, and over 300 bunches of violets, by Mr. G. Bristol, steward of the estate.

The mourners and the large gathering of friends and local residents included the following:—Mrs. H. Arbuthnot, Mrs. J. McNair, Mrs. J. Pease, Miss Elsa Lambert and Miss Jessie Lambert (daughters), Mr. H. Arbuthnot, Mr. J. Pease and Mr. J. McNair (sons-in-law), Mr. Rose (nephew), Mr. Godfrey Lambert (cousin), Mr. W. Butler, Mr. H. Butler, Mr. F. Butler, Mr. C. R. Butler, Mr. A. Lambert, Mr. A. Faulkner (managing director of the Imperial Tobacco Company), Mr. F. Faulkner, Sir A. Talbot, Col. Godfrey, Col. George Trollope (Cobham), Mr. Klingenstein, Mr. A. R. Faulkner, Mr. Scubach, Mr. Kahn, Mr. A. I. Jones, Mr. Quartly, Mr. Schreiber, Mr. J. Legg, Mr. A. Snow, Mr. H. Field, Mr. H. Brooks, Mr. H. Helme, J.P., C.C., Mr. A. Bird, the Rev. G. S. Bird, Mr. J. Barnard Hankey, Sir Francis Graham Moon, Mr. [illegible] W. Burton, Mr. A. Tate (Leatherhead), Mr. Stanley Gordon Clark, Dr. W. J. Proctor, Mr. S. C. Bristowe, Mr. F. Hue Williams (representing the Surrey Union Hunt), Mrs. A. H. Tritton (Leatherhead), Mr. Gluckstein, Mr.

continued on next page ...

Aubrey Price (Mickleham), Mr. J. Hood, Mr. Churchman, Mrs. Schwaby, Mr. H. Slow, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Still, Mr. H. Gunn, Mr. H. Wells, Mr. W. N. Mitchell, Mr. Earle, Mr. Thorpe, Mr. Falke, Mr. C. S. Clarke (Bristol), Mr. A. H. Moore, Mr. A. G. Blaker, Mrs. Ventham, Mr. W. Maspero (Leatherhead), Mr. C. E. Burchett, Mr. Spearing (representing the Tobacco Trade Athletic Association), Mr. R. Marden, Mr. Callendre, Mr. Bonsey, Mr. A. E. Dilley, Mr. T. J. Seekins, Mr. T. Humphrey, Mr. R. Wood, Mr. W. G. Loxley, Mr. E. Loxley, Mr. H. Cordingley, Mr. E. Davies, Mr. P. Griffiths, Mr. Hansard, Mr. Brotherhood, Mr. Kemp Welch, Mr. G. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Cumming, Mr. Wilson, Mr. G. Bristol, Mr. A. Alderman (vice-chairman of the Parish Council), Mr. Dodman, the indoor and outdoor servants at Manor House, and a large number of the employees of the Imperial Tobacco Company and Messrs. Lambert and Butler.

BEAUTIFUL FLORAL TRIBUTES.

The floral tributes were of a remarkably large and handsome description, and were deposited in the chancel and the window recesses, as well as in the churchyard. Inscribed "to my beloved husband," was a large cross composed of beautiful white carnations and violets, which rested on the coffin; while a lovely wreath of big dimensions, and consisting of white heather and white violets, bore the inscription, "From his loving daughters and sons." Wreaths and other floral tributes were also sent by the following: Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Lambert and family; Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey Lambert; Mr. F. Butler and the Misses Butler; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Butler; "Charlie and Harry"; Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Butler; Lord Winterstoke; "Ettie and her children"; "Marjorie"; "Clive, Adria, David, Rachel, Gurney and Baby"; Mr. Allan B. Lambert; "Harry and Florence Butler"; "Nursie"; "Vera and Stanley Brotherhood"; Mrs. Brotherhood; "Allan Ramsay" (Constantinople); "George A. Wills"; "Norah"; "Grace Rose"; "Durrant and Lilli"; "Tottie Lightfoot"; Dr. and Mrs. W. J. Procter; Mr. and Mrs. Ireland Blyth; "A. Staples"; "E. Gerber"; Mrs. Canning; the Misses Canning and Mr. S. Canning; "Gordon and Ada Campbell"; Mr. and Mrs. Willoughby; "W. and E. Reeves and family"; the Directors of W. Klingenstein and Co., Ltd.; Mr. W. Rennie; "Emilie and Dorothy Willoughby"; Mr. S. Joseph; "Andrew and Marjie"; "F. L. Callendre"; Admiral, Mrs. and Miss Swinton Holland; Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. R. S. Oxley; "Hugh Rose"; Mr. J. Koppenhagen; Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Still; "Bertie and Leontine Snow"; Mr. and Mrs. Hetherington White; Mr., Mrs. and Miss Stewart Oxley; "Muriel and Gertrude Kemp Welch and Winifred Kaiser"; the tradesmen of Leatherhead; "The People of Effingham Common and Railway Staff"; Mr. and Mrs. H. Helme; Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Tritton; Mrs. Cecil Hill; "The People of Effingham Common"; gamekeepers at Clandon; Mrs. Donald Poole; Mr. and Mrs. W. Plender; the Effingham Parish Council; "H. F. Mortimore"; "A. J. Wilson"; "H. J. Walsh"; Mr. and Mrs. Leopold Salomons; Mr. and Mrs. Eustace Cripps; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cripps; the Effingham Village Cricket Club; "W. D. and H. O. Wills"; Mr. G. Bird; Mr. Isodore Gluckstein and Mr. Montague Gluckstein; Rev. E. F. Bayly; Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Thornton and Mr. P. S. Thornton; Mr. and the Misses Ross; Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Gordon Clark; Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Aston; "W. A. Schrieber"; "E. J. Jowling"; "A. J. F. Osborne"; Mrs. E. Harvey; the whole staff of indoor and outdoor servants; "F. A. Quartly"; Mrs. C. Worrall; Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Bristowe and Miss S. Bristowe; factory employees at Drury Lane; officials of the Head Office Staff; Miss Stancomb Wills; Mr. and Mrs. R. Peake; Mr. and Mrs. J. Barnard Hankey and Miss Barnard Hankey; "The Town and Country Representatives"; Mr. and Mrs. Pauling, Effingham and Bookham Tradesmen; Mr. and Mrs. A. Tate and Miss Tate; the Tobacco Trade Benevolent Association; the clerical staff at 141, Drury Lane; the firm of Fribourg and Treyer; Mrs. Czarnikow; Mr. and Mrs. H. Czarnikow; Mrs. Gurney Pease; Mrs. and the Misses Willock Pollen; Mr. A. Alderman, etc.

Obituary for Charles Edward Lambert
The Surrey Times, 5 March 1910

THE SURREY TIMES, MARCH 5, 1910

EFFINGHAM.

DEATH OF MR. C. E. LAMBERT.

FUNERAL AT EFFINGHAM.

A Big Gathering.

We regret to record the death of Mr. Chas. Edward Lambert, of the Manor House, Effingham. The deceased gentleman went to Bath on Thursday week to attend the meetings of the Imperial Tobacco Company, and was suddenly taken ill, dying at his hotel on the following morning. The sad event cast quite a gloom over the village, for, during his 28 years' residence at the Manor House, Mr. Lambert had endeared himself to all. He was a generous benefactor, a good master and a kind friend. Mr. Lambert, who was in his 67th year, was senior partner to the firm of Lambert and Butler, and a director and member of the Executive Committee of the Imperial Tobacco Company. He took a great interest in the village of Effingham, having been chairman of the Parish Council since its inception, Rector's churchwarden and trustee of the Effingham Working Men's Club, to which he lent a hall for meetings and amusements. He was a keen sportsman, a well-known exhibitor of hackney horses and an ardent horticulturist. His philanthropic work was not confined to the village in which he lived, for he acted as president and trustee of the Tobacco Trade Benevolent Association, to which he was a liberal contributor. Deceased was a supporter and follower of the Surrey Union Hunt, and was a strong Conservative. He leaves a widow, one son and five daughters, with whom much sympathy is felt.

The Funeral.

There was a remarkable gathering at the funeral, which took place at St. Lawrence's Church, Effingham, on Tuesday afternoon. The little church was filled to over-flowing, and many were unable to gain admission. In addition to a representative gathering of local residents, over 100 officials and employes of the Imperial Tobacco Company and of Messrs. Lambert and Company attended from Bristol and London. The body, enclosed in an oak coffin, arrived at Effingham on Monday, and rested in the church during the night. The coffin was covered with a huge cross of violets and white carnations, the widow's tribute to her husband, and a wreath of white heather and white violets 'from all his loving daughters and son.'

The first part of the service was conducted in the church by the Rector (the Rev. E. F. Hayly). Before the service the organist (Miss Richards) played Mendelssohn's 'O rest in the Lord,' and, at the close, Chopin's 'Marche funebre.' Psalm xxxix. was chanted, and the hymn 'Now the labourer's task is o'er' was sung. At the graveside the choir sang the Nunc Dimittis. The coffin was placed in a grave lined with violets, white azaleas and moss, the work of Mr. G. Bristol (estate steward). The inscription was as follows:—

'Charles Edward Lambert,
'Born 8th May, 1843.
'Died 25th February, 1910.'

The mourners were Mr. and Mrs. H. Arbuthnot, Mr. and Mrs. J. McNair and Mr. and Mrs. J. Pease (sons-in-law and daughters), Miss Elsa Lambert and Miss Jessie Lambert (daughters), Mr. Godfrey Lambert (cousin), Mr. Maxwell Rose (nephew), Miss Rose, Mr. A. Lambert, Mr. W. Butler, Mr. H. Butler, Mr. F. Butler, Mr. C. R. Butler, and the employes at Effingham, London and Bristol.

continued on next page ...

Among those also present were Sir Francis Graham Moon, Bart., Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Still, Mr. A. Tate, Mrs. J. Barnard Hankey, Mr. S. C. Bristowe, Mrs. Tritton, the Rev. G. S. Bird, Mr. A. Bird, Mr. H. Helme, Mr. H. Brooks, Mr. C. S. Gordon Clark, Mr. J. W. Burton, Miss Lightfoot, Sir A. Talbot, Col. Godfrey, Dr. W. J. Procter, Col. G. Trollope, Mr. F. Hue Williams (representing the Surrey Union Foxhounds), Mr. Brotherhood, Mr. Kemp-Welch, Mr. and Mrs. Cumming, Mr. A. Faulkner (managing director of the Imperial Tobacco Company), Messrs. F. Faulkner, Aubrey Price, Wilson (deceased's secretary), Churchman, A. Gluckstein, H. Slow, Messrs. H. Gunn, H. Wells, W. N. Mitchell, Earle, Thorpe, Falke and Clarke (Bristol), Messrs. A. Alderman, C. E. Burchett, Klingenstein, Scubach, Kahn, A. I. Jones, Quartly, Schreiber, J. Legg, Snow, H. Field, A. H. Moore, Sperrin (representing the Tobacco Trade Athletic Association), R. Marden, Callendre, A. E. Dilley, E. J. Seekins, P. Griffiths, Hansard, T. Humphrey, A. G. Blaker, W. Butcher, R. Wood, W. G. Loxley, E. Loxley, H. Cordingley, Brotherhood, G. Campbell, J. Hood, Bonsey, A. Price, Churchman, W. Maspero and E. Davies.

Floral Tributes.

The floral tributes were of a very handsome description and numbered about 100. Among those sending wreaths, etc., were Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Lambert and family, 'Andrew and Margie,' Hugh Rose, Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey Lambert, Mr. F. Butler and Miss Butler, 'Durant and Lili,' Grace Rose, 'Charlie and Harry,' 'Lord Winterstoke and Miss Stancomb Wills, 'Ettie and her children,' 'Marjorie,' Clive, Adria, David, Rachel, Gurney and Baby, Mr. Allan B. Lambert, Harry and Florence Butler, Mrs. Brotherhood, Vera and Stanley Brotherhood, clerical staff at 141, Drury Lane, Messrs. Fribourg and Treyer, Nurse, Mrs. Czarnikow, Mr. and Mrs. H. Czarnikow, Mrs. Gurney Pease, Mr. and Mrs. Willock Pollen, Mr. A. Alderman, Mr. and Mrs. J. Barnard Hankey and Miss Hankey, town and country representatives of the Imperial Tobacco Company, Allan Ramsey (Constantinople), Mr. and Mrs. Pauling, Effingham and Bookham tradesmen, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Tate, Tobacco Trade Benevolent Association, indoor and outdoor servants, F. A. Quartley, Mrs. C. Worrall, Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Bristowe and Miss Bristowe, factory employes at Drury Lane, officials at the head office staff, Mr. G. A. Wills, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Butler, Effingham Working Men's Club, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Peake, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Thornton and Mr. P. S. Thornton, Mr. and Miss Ross.

Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Gordon Clark, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Aston, W. A. Schreiber, E. C. Jowling and A. J. F. Osborne, Mrs. Edward Harvey, Mr. and Mrs. W. Butler, Effingham Village Cricket Club, W. D. and H. O. Wills, Mr. G. Bird, Mr. Isidore Gluckstein and Mr. M. Gluckstein, Norah, the Rev. E. F. Bayly, A. J. Wilson, H. J. Walsh, Mr. and Mrs. L. Solomons, Mr. and Mrs. F. Cripps, Mr. and Mrs. E. Cripps, Mrs. Donald Poole, Mr. and Mrs. W. Plender, Effingham Parish Council, H. F. Mortimore, Tottie Lightfoot, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Still, Bertie and Leontine Snow, Mr. and Mrs. Etherington White, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Stewart Oxley, Muriel and Gertrude Kemp-Welch and Winifred Keyser, tradesmen of Leatherhead, people of Effingham Common and railway staff, Mr. and Mrs. H. Helme, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Tritton, Mrs. Cecil Hill, gamekeepers at Clandon, Emilee and Dorothy Willoughby, Mr. S. Joseph, F. L. Callendre, Ad. Mrs. and Miss Swinton Holland, Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. R. S. Oxley, Mr. J. Koppenhagen, Tobacco Trade Athletic Association, Dr. and Mrs. W. J. Procter, Mr. and Mrs. Ireland Blyth, A. Staples, and E. Gerber, Mrs. and Miss Canning and Mr. S. Canning, Gordon and Ada Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Willoughby, W. and E. Keeves and family, directors of W. Klingenstein and Co., Mr. W. Rennie.

APPENDIX III
Jessie Evelyn's Wedding
Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser, 24 June 1911

EFFINGHAM.

A PRETTY WEDDING.

MISS J. E. LAMBERT AND MR. A. C. ARBUTHNOT.

A very pretty wedding took place at St. Lawrence's, Effingham, on Monday, when Miss Jessie Evelyn Lambert, daughter of the late Mr. C. E. Lambert and Mrs. Lambert, of the Manor House, Effingham, was married to Mr. Andrew Carmichael Arbuthnot, son of Mr. W. Reierson Arbuthnot, of Plow Hatch, East Grinstead. There was a large congregation, and the service was choral. The officiating clergyman was the Vicar (the Rev. E. F. Bayly). Miss Richards was at the organ, and played appropriate music as the briday party entered and left the church.

The bride, who was given away by Mr. Andrew Waugh Snow, her uncle, wore a lovely gown of satin charmeuse, draped with old Milanese seventeenth century lace, and Court train of drop d'argent, with a beautiful design, lined with white satin and trimmed with thick silver cord, making a large Louis XVI. bow on one corner of the train. The bridesmaids were Miss Elsa Lambert (sister of the bride), Miss Dorothy Arbuthnot (sister of the bridegroom), and Miss Adria Rose, and Miss Rachel Pease (nieces of the bride); and the little pages were Master David Arbuthnot (nephew of the bridegroom), the Masters Matheson (nephews of the bride). The elder bridesmaids wore grey satin gowns with tunics of chiffon trimmed with oxydised embroidery; the bodices were arranged with fichus of chiffon, edged with fine tucks and narrow silver laces, the short waists being defined with folds of satin, with a large white water lily in the folds. Their hats were of pink straw trimmed with pink roses, and lined with black velvet, and they carried bouquets of pink roses, which, with their paste neck slides, were the gifts of the bridegroom. The younger bridesmaids wore short-waisted long grey satin dresses, with lace caps, with a pink rose on one side, and carried baskets of pink roses and fans, presents from the bridegroom. The pages were attired in grey cloth suits, their mother-of-pearl and silver links being the bridegroom's gift. Mr. Coller acted as best man.

A largely attended reception was held at the Manor House. The bride travelled in a costume of nattier blue charmeuse, trimmed with an embroidery of green and blue silk, with threads of silver, and an under-dress of blue ninon with cream lace under the ninon on the bodice.

BRIDE'S PRESENTS.

Bridegroom to bride, diamond ear-rings, diamond and emerald ring; Mrs. Lambert (bride's mother), diamond necklace and old lace; Mr. and Mrs. Rose, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Pease Mr. and Mrs. Macnair (sisters and brothers-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Arbuthnot (brother of bridegroom), Mr. Winterton Lambert (brother of bride), piano; Mrs. Macnair, Sheffield pin-cushion; Mr. Macnair, opera glasses in case; Miss Elsa Lambert, tea service; Mr. and Mrs. Arbuthnot (bridegroom's father and mother), diamond pendant; Clive Arbuthnot (nephew), leather purse-bag; David Arbuthnot (do.), silver match-box slide cover; Adria and Grace Rose (nieces), early morning tea-set; Rachel and Gurne Pease (nieces), small oak chest of drawers; Miss Marjorie Macnair, worked table-centre; Mr. (uncle) and Mrs. A. W. Snow, old inlaid satinwood knife-box.

Mr. and Mrs. Aston, silver candlesticks.

Mr. and Mrs. Buckingham, inlaid tea tray; Mr. and Mrs. George Bird, silver box; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Butler, Sheffield-plated candelabra; Mr. and Mrs. Blyth, two Dresden china magpies; Messrs. Bentham and Sons, carved old oak bread trencher; Mrs. Butler, cut-glass rose-bowl; Rev. E. F. Bayly, white linen table-cloth; Miss Brown, handkerchief sachel; Mr. and Mrs. Brooks, sunshade; Mr. Edward Bradley, silver and glass match-stand; Miss Butler and Miss M. Butler, silver vase; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Butler, bonboniere; Mr. and Mrs. Holt Beever, silver tea-knives; Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Brotherhood, entree dishes; Mrs. Burl, picture; Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Butler, photograph frame, brass and enamel; Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Braithwaite, one carafe and two goblets; Mr. Arthur Bird, pair of silver mustard pots, lined blue glass.

Mr. Callender, fan; Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Campbell, china bowl; Mrs. and the Misses Cumming, gold and white glass goblet and vases; Mr. and Mrs. Eustace Cripps, copper breakfast warmer; Mr. Wilfred Carey, silver sugar-castor; Mr. and Mrs. Temple Cooke, cut-glass rose bowl; Mr. and Mrs. Chetwood Aiken, silver spoon warmer.

Mr. and Mrs. John Duncan, silver and glass jam-pot; Col. Daniell, Sheffield-plate tea-caddy.

Mr. Erskine, inlaid tea tray; Effingham Cricket Club, case of carving knives.

Mrs. F. Field, cut-glass scent bottle; Miss Joyce Field, picture; Mr. Humphrey and Mr. Barnard Field, silver writing set.

Miss Goodhart, silver ring box; Mrs. Garnham, picture postcard stand; Mr. Herbert Gill, tea-basket; Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Alan Gough, silver ink-bottle.

Mrs. Heine, lamp-shade; Mrs. Harvey, silver mustard-pot, lined blue glass; Mr. and

continued on next page ...

Mrs. Hue-Williams, glass embroidered tray; Mr. and Mrs. Hansard, Dresden china tea-pot and jug; Mr. and Mrs. Helme, visitors' book; Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Hancock, Sheffield-plate coffee-pot; Miss Heine, worked nightdress sachet; Mr. and Mrs. Barnard Hankey, set of tea-dishes on mahogany tray and table; Col. and Mrs. Hill, silver sugar-castor; Miss Hodgson, hand-made wool-mat.

Mr. and Mrs. Kemp-Welch, ebony cabinet, inlaind ivory; Miss Kemp-Welch, small table; Mr. and Mrs. Keyser, book, "Peter Pan;" Miss G. Kemp-Welch, Venetian glass bowl.

Miss Lightfoot, silver muffin-dish, stand, and plates; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lightfoot, tortoise-shell and silver paper-weight; Major and Mrs. Lovett, tray, inlaid brass-work; Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey Lambert, gold and white glass vase.

Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell, silver dish and glass bowl; Miss C. Morgan, lace handkerchief; Miss V. Morgan, book of Shakespeare's plays; Mrs. Fred. Marshall, table-cloth; Mr. and Mrs. Mizen, tea-cosy; Hilda and Willie Mizen, table-centre; Miss Moger, silver tray; Mr. and Mrs. Dermot Mooney, glass; Mrs. Mortimore, gold and white finger-bowls; Mr. and Mrs. Dendy Marshall, early morning tea-set.

Mrs. Overton and Mrs. Ide, work-basket on stand; Col. and Mrs. Oxley, pair glass goblet vases; Rev. J. and Mrs. Osborne, water-colour picture.

Mrs. Gurney Pease, cut-glass salad bowl; Mr. Aubrey Price, umbrella.

Mr. and Mrs. Routledge, Shakespeare's Poems; Miss Betty Rogerson, silver muffin-dish; Mr. and Mrs. Rogerson, sunshade handle; Mr. and the Misses Ross, pair silver candlesticks; Miss Rose, china mug; residents of Effingham village, crocodile leather card-case, with silver initials; residents of Effingham Common, brocade foot-stool, with fluted mahogany legs, and pair of brass candlesticks; Lady Rose, small Chippendale table, with brass rail; Miss Ross and Col. Davis, silver toast-rack.

Miss Scott, pewter and glass vase; Mr. and Mrs. Still, old Dutch marqueterie bureau; Messrs. Steinman, pin-cushion; Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Snow, coffee and milk jugs on silver stand; Miss Staples, silver frame; Mrs. W. Snow, tea-knives; the Misses Still, silver sugar basin; Mr. Grahame Sandeman, old silver snuff-box; indoor and outdoor servants, the Manor House, silver dish.

Miss Temple, silver candlesticks; Miss Teesdale, cut-glass rose bowl; Mr. and Mrs. Tritton, silver box; Sir Adelbert Talbot, three china vases; Mr. and Mrs. Tate, Sheffield-plated cake-dish; Miss Tate, small table; the tradespeople (Mr. Cordingly, Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Comisbee, Mr. A. E. Dilley, Mr. Hamshar, Mr. Jefferies, Mr. Madge, Mr. Richards), travelling clock; Tipler, thermos flask in case.

Mrs. Waite, tortoise-shell and silver box; Miss Cicely Willoughby, china tea-caddy; Mr. Victor Willoughby, silver and glass trinket-box; Mr. and Mrs. Noel Willoughby, theatre bag; Miss Willoughby and Miss D. Willoughby, china ink-stand.

The bridegroom also received a number of presents, but we are unable, from considerations of space, to publish the list.

APPENDIX IV

Obituary for Hilda Emma Charlotte (née Lambert) Rose
The Surrey Advertiser and County Times, 28 January 1922

DEATH OF MRS. MAXWELL ROSE.

FUNERAL AT EFFINGHAM.

Deep regret has been caused not only in West Horsley but in the surrounding district by the death of Mrs. Hilda Emma Charlotte Rose, wife of Mr. Maxwell Rose, of Cranmore, West Horsley, which took place on Saturday at the age of 51. Mrs. Rose had been in indifferent health for some months, her illness necessitating treatment at a nursing home.

The deceased lady was the eldest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Lambert, who lived at the Manor House, Effingham, for 25 years. She was of a most benevolent disposition, and her works of philanthropy and charity endeared her to a large circle of friends. She was the principal subscriber to the fund for the West Horsley Village Hall, and she has done valuable work as a member of the committee of the Women's Institute, the Parochial Church Council, and the after-care committee for school children. She also actively interested herself in the raising of funds for the Surrey County Hospital and other charitable institutions.

Mr. Maxwell Rose is the head of the well-known firm of Sir W. A. Rose and Co., Fenchurch-street, E.C. There are two daughters of the marriage.

The remains were interred in the family vault in the Effingham Parish Churchyard on Wednesday afternoon, the interment being preceded by a short service in the church conducted by the Vicar (Rev. E. F. Bayly), assisted by the Rector of Little Bookham (Rev. C. J. Vernon), who also performed the last rites.

As the cortege entered the church the organist (Miss May) played "O Rest in the Lord," and the West Horsley Girl Guides (under their captain, Miss Gumpert) formed a guard of honour, each Guide holding a sprig of "rosemary for remembrance." "Come unto Me," was played at the close of the service. Despite a heavy downpour of rain many attended to pay their tribute of respect.

The family mourners present included Mr. Maxwell Rose (widower), Mrs. McNair, Mrs. Pike Pease, Mrs. Price, Mrs. Harold Arbuthnot, and Mrs. A. Arbuthnot (sisters), Mrs. Blyth and Miss Rose (sisters-in-law), Messrs Harold and Andrew Arbuthnot, and Mr. Godfrey Lambert. Others present included Mrs. Willock Pollen, Mrs. Gordon Clark, Mrs. and Miss Marson, Mrs. and Miss Butler, Misses Emily and Maud Cumming, Mrs. Vernon, Mrs. Mitchell, Miss Ina, Miss Roscoe, Miss Palmer, Miss Windred, Misses Willoughby, Mrs. and Miss Unmack, Mrs. Marks, Mrs. Pryor, Mrs. Humpage, Mrs. Turrel, Miss Wastall, Mrs. Ashby, Mrs. Hemsard, Miss Cotterdale, Mrs. Field, Mdlle. de Langhe, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Brett, Mr. and Mrs. Hood, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. W. Bromilow, Mr. and Mrs. Ide, Mr. and Mrs. Payne, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Vass, Mr. and Mrs. Humphrey, General Tond, General Oxley, Major Bryle, Messrs. McFarlane, Langley, L. Donnisthorpe, Duncan, Craig, Butcher, Reffel, Chas. Courtenay, E. C. Brown, T. W. Moore, Niell, Dutton, A. E. Bradley, Chas. Kenyon, Kitchbourne, and others.

There were numerous floral tokens, amongst them being the following: From Daddy, Adrian and Grace (cross of violets and snowdrops, full length of coffin); sisters and brother; Rachael and Gurney; Edie, Esther, and Gracie; Joan; Mildred and Constance Butler; Elisee and Thelma; Adrian and Norah; Harriet Snow; J. Evans and Dorothy; the Rev. and Mrs. Ed. C. Unmack, and all at West Horsley Rectory; the Rev. E. F. Bayly; Mr. and Mrs. Alfred W. Aston (Epsom); Dora Roscoe (West Horsley); Mr. and Mrs. Oxley (Balcombe); Mr. and Mrs. O. Cumming, Miss Cumming and Miss E. Cumming; Marjorie Graham Campbell; Mr. and Mrs. D. W. McFarlane; Mrs. Willoughby and family; Mr. and Mrs. W. Bromilow; Miss Gumpert; the office staff of Sir W. A. Rose and Co.; Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Still; Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Brown; Major and Mrs. Weston; President and members of the West Horsley Women's Institute; Misses Ross; Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Craig; members of the Guildford Golf Club; Lieut.-Colonel Humphrey Snow; members of the West Horsley Football Club; Thos. W. Moon; the Rev. C. J. and Mrs. Vernon; H. J. Wrinch, H. F. Green, A. Smiles, W. W. Smiles, H. J. Chapman, L. G. Alcock, and R. V. Alcock; 1st Horsley Company Girl Guides; Ernest B. Eyre; staffs at Cranmore and Lollesworth.

The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. T. Simmonds, of West Horsley.

APPENDIX V

Selected photographs from the Lambert family albums and other sources



Figure 34 Jessie Evelyn and Annie Grace outside Effingham House; Album 1, 1894.



Figure 35 Jessie Evelyn in the grounds of Effingham House; Album 1, 1894.



Figure 36 Charles Edward Winteron Lambert at Glen Isla; Album 1, 1894.



Figure 37 The Lambert sisters and friends at Wisley; Album 1, 1894.



Figure 38 Charles Edward and Emma (at right) with friends; Album 1, 1894.



Figure 39 Lamberts with picnic in Scotland; Album 1, August 1894.



Figure 40 Elegant carriage in front of Effingham House; Album 1, 1894.

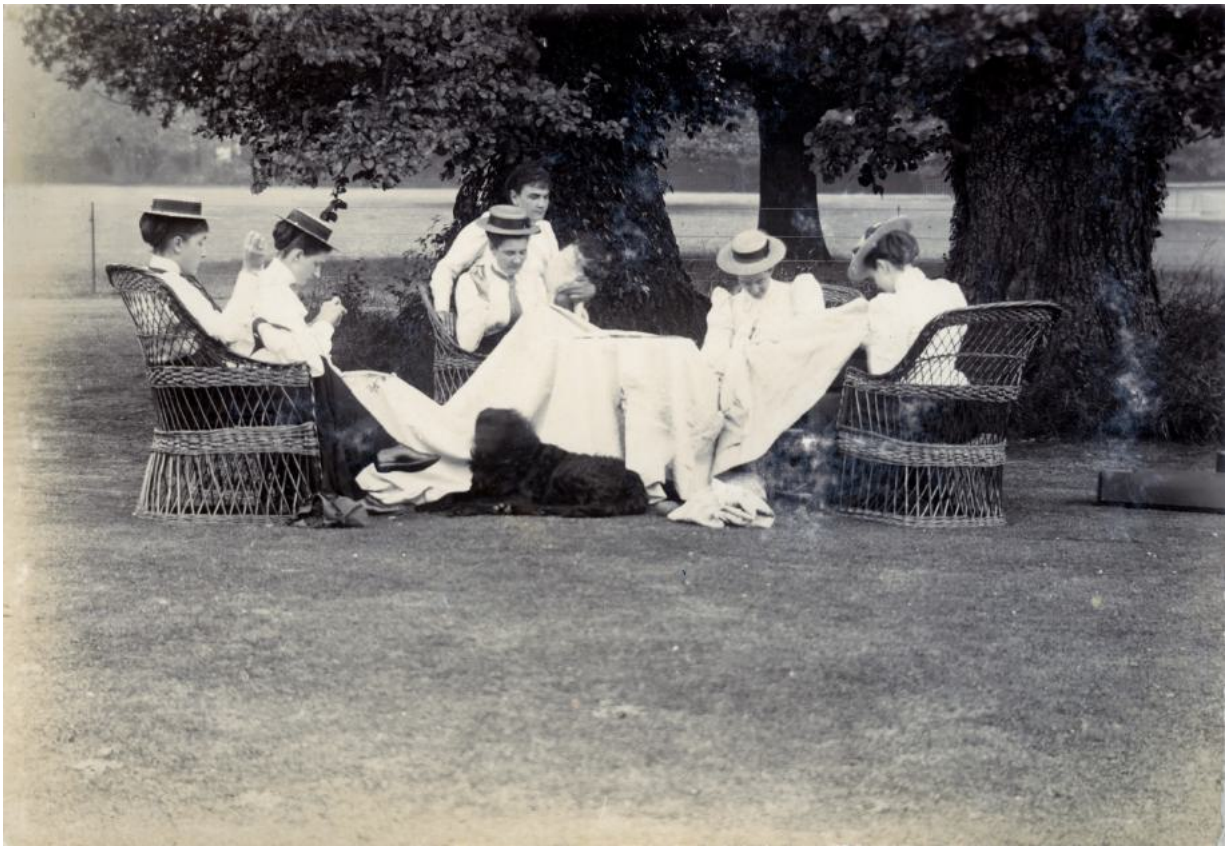


Figure 41 All six Lambert sisters busy sewing at Effingham House; Album 1, 1894.

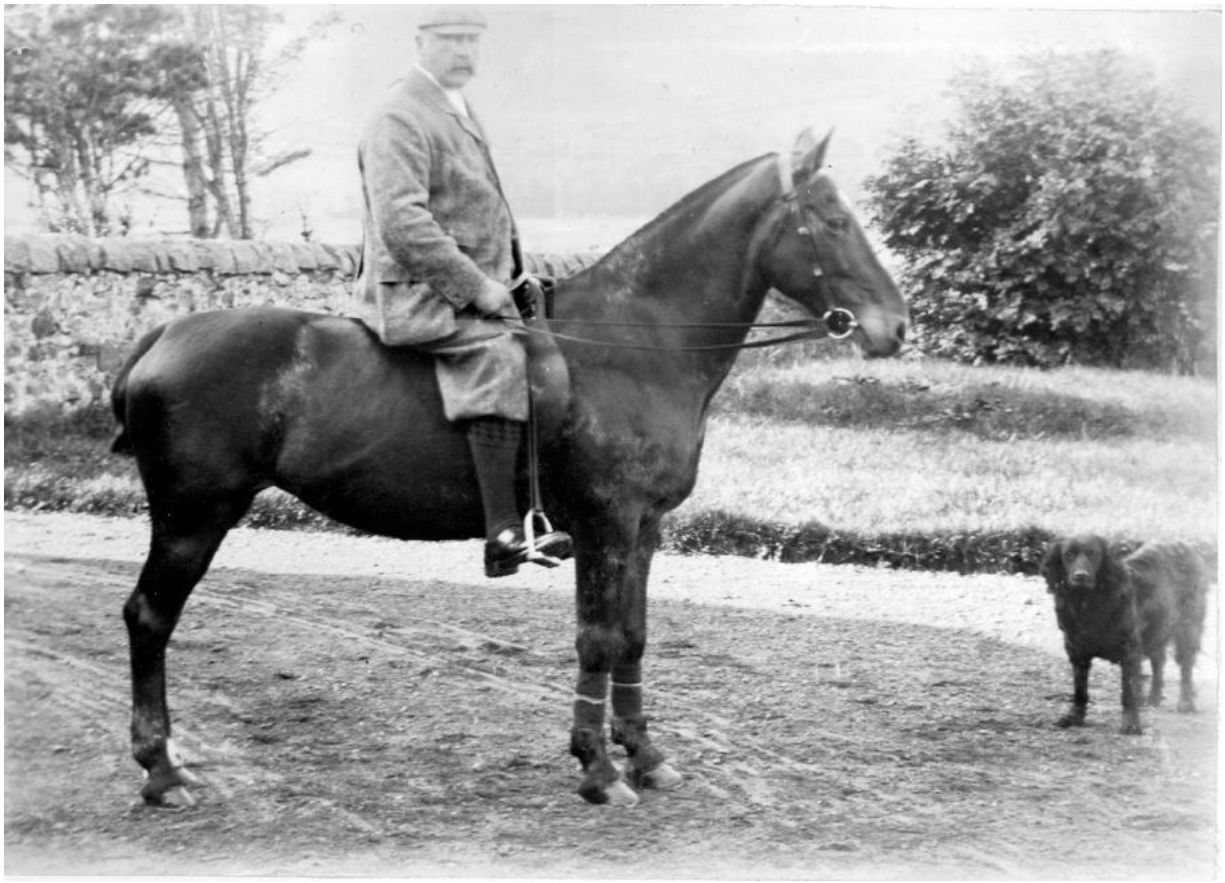


Figure 42 Charles Edward riding in Glen Isla; Album 1, 1894.



Figure 43 The six sisters – Hilda, Jessie and Adria at rear, Louisa, Annie and Nina at front; Album 1, 1894.



Figure 44 Nina in Crossways near the Vicarage, Effingham; Album 1, 1895.



Figure 45 Hilda, probably at Effingham House; Album 1, 1895.



Figure 46 Louisa, probably at Effingham House; Album 1, 1895.



Figure 47 Afternoon tea in the grounds of Effingham House; Album 1, 1895.



Figure 48 Afternoon tea in the grounds of Effingham House; Album 1, 1895.



Figure 49 'Hay Party' in Effingham, Nina behind the horse and Adria at far right; Album 1, 1895.



Figure 50 Jessie (left-most at front) with friends; Album 1, July 1895.



Figure 51 Another Lambert picnic, at Holy Well, Scotland; Album 1, 1895.



Figure 52 Top-down, left-to-right – Hilda, Louisa, Jessie, Annie, Nina, Adria; Album 1, September 1895.



Figure 53 Lamberts and friends in the grounds; Album 1, July 1896.



Figure 54 Decorated bicycle at Effingham House; Album 1, July 1896.



Figure 55 Decorated bicycle at Effingham House; Album 1, 15 July 1896.



Figure 56 Decorated bicycle at Effingham House; Album 1, July 1896.



Figure 57 Collecting hay, Adria at left and Nina right of centre; Album 1, 1896.



Figure 58 Some of the Lambert sisters, with friends, and (rear right) their brother Winterton; Album 1, 1896.



Figure 59 The Lamberts with friends at Glen Isla; Album 1, August/September 1896.



Figure 60 Louisa and Annie with friend; Album 1, 1896.



Figure 61 Adria; Album 1, 1899.







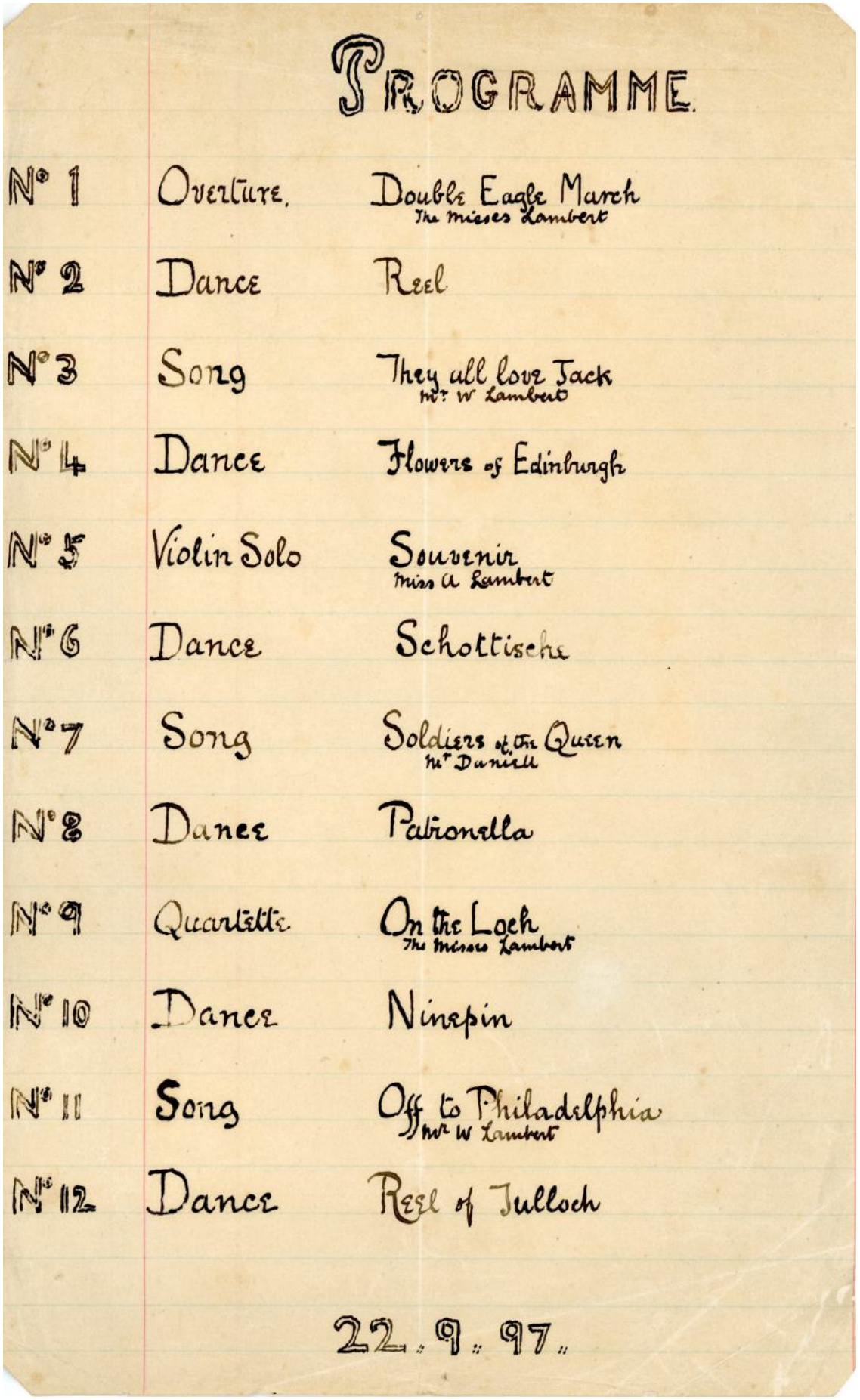

Figures 62a-62f Six Lambert family photographs; Album 2, from 1902.



Figure 63 An elegant gathering at Effingham House; undated.

APPENDIX VI

The Lamberts' musical programmes



PROGRAMME.

N° 1	Overture.	Double Eagle March The misses Lambert
N° 2	Dance	Reel
N° 3	Song	They all love Jack Mr. W Lambert
N° 4	Dance	Flowers of Edinburgh
N° 5	Violin Solo	Souvenir miss A Lambert
N° 6	Dance	Schottische
N° 7	Song	Soldiers of the Queen Mr Daniell
N° 8	Dance	Patronella
N° 9	Quartette	On the Loch The misses Lambert
N° 10	Dance	Ninepin
N° 11	Song	Off to Philadelphia Mr W Lambert
N° 12	Dance	Reel of Tulloch

22. 9. 97.

Figure 64 Musical programme of 1897 including two songs by Winterton and a violin solo by Adria.

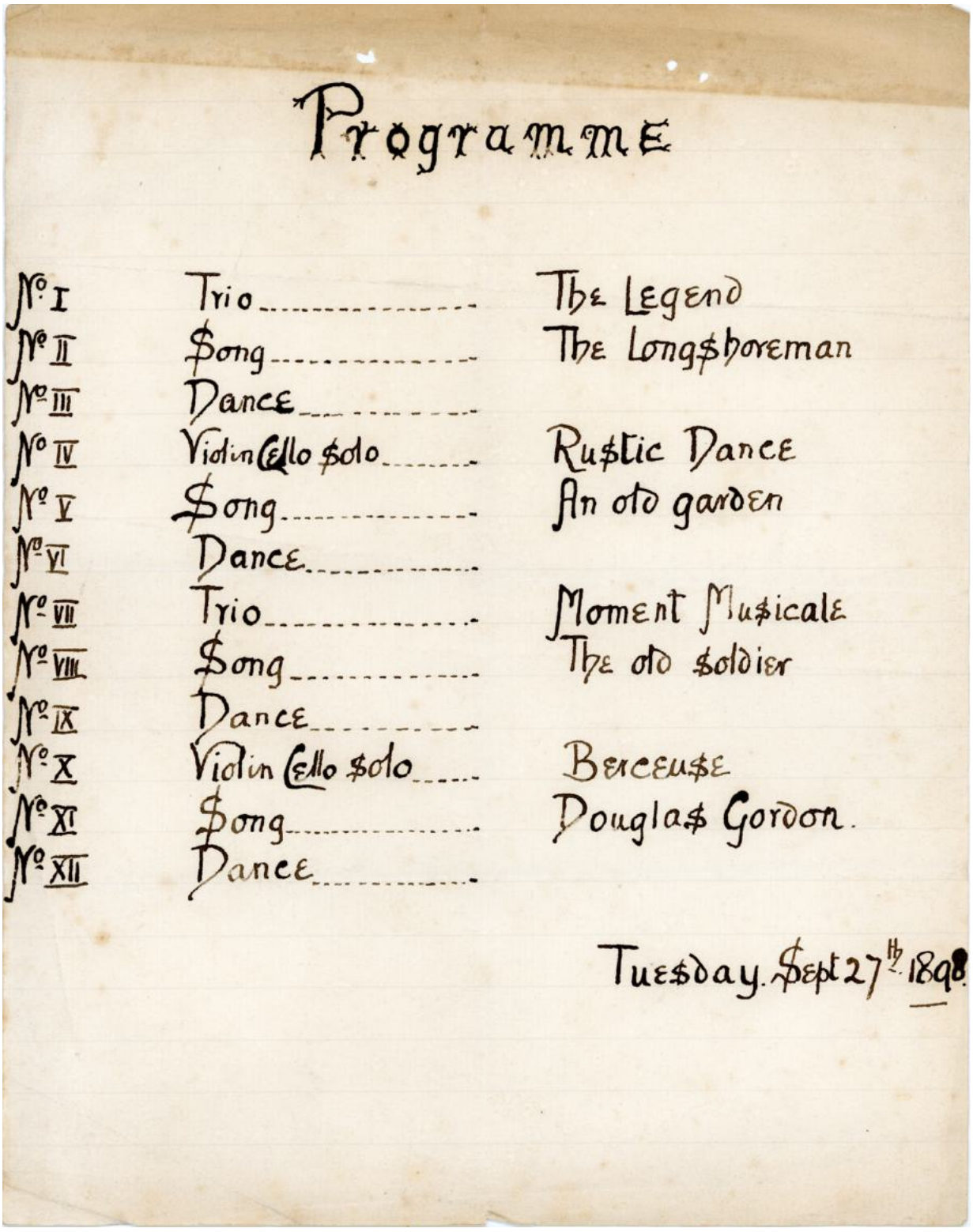


Figure 65 Musical programme of 1898.



Figure 66 Musical programme of 1899 in which the Lambert sisters evidently danced and sang.

Gwen Farrar and the Effingham Theatrical Colony

JEREMY PALMER

The purpose of this article is to provide an overview of the musician, revue artist and actor Gwen Farrar's life and career in Surrey. We will look at how the theatrical colony in Effingham formed and how this might have influenced Gwen's decision to lease a cottage in the village. We will examine how Gwen knew members of this group, both before and during her life in Effingham.

Background

In recent years there has been a surge of interest in the revue artist Gwendoline ('Gwen') Farrar. She was born on 14 July 1897, the third of an eventual six daughters of Sir George Herbert Farrar and Lady Ella Farrar née Waylen. Sir George had prospered in gold mining activities in South Africa, and during the Boer War was mentioned in dispatches and awarded the D.S.O. In 1902 he was knighted, and after the Boer War became leader of the opposition in the first Transvaal Parliament. In 1911 he was created Baronet Farrar, for his role in the creation of the Union of South Africa.

During WW1 Sir George was sent to South Africa, but in 1915 while repairing damaged water boreholes, he was killed in a rail accident. Thereafter Lady Farrar returned to the family residence at Chicheley Hall, Buckinghamshire, remaining there until her death on 29 December 1922 following an accident while moving furniture.

Gwen inherited a fortune, albeit a fortune controlled by a trustee, indicating that her father was not confident it would be used wisely. She was educated at an exclusive girls school in Ascot, from which she ran away. She studied classical music and was taught cello by Herbert Walenn, England's leading exponent of the instrument. She also developed a remarkable baritone speaking voice, and a deep, lugubrious singing tone. In January 1917 she qualified with Honours for violoncello playing from the London Royal Academy of Music.



Figure 1 Gwen Farrar.

Her soon-to-be partner Norah Blaney was born as Norah Mignon Cordwell, on 16 July 1893 in Fulham, taking her stage name Blaney from her maternal grandmother. Her father was an oboist with Sir Henry Wood. As a child she had showed great musical promise, winning scholarships for the piano from the age of 13 and gold medals at the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music. She gave piano recitals as a child, performing abroad in Paris and Belgium, before making her stage debut in 1910. Thus by 1917 Norah had already been performing professionally for a number of years, earning a living through her music and receiving notices of high praise, both for her classical playing and for the comic songs she performed.

She was also married, to the pianist Albert Charles Lyne. They had met when both were part of a concert party in Cliftonville and had married in Thanet in late 1914, despite parental disapproval. Albert served in the London Regiment (the London Scottish) in the War, until his death in 1918.

By comparison, Gwen had performed publicly in concerts only in the area around Chicheley. Her earliest appearance as a cellist was in November 1914, performing in a concert raising funds for Belgian refugees at Harrold Hall. She also appeared in a number of concerts with the great tenor (and close neighbour to Chicheley Hall at Great Billing) Gervase Elwes from as early as 1916 (at the Science and Art Institute, Wolverton on 27 April).

Elwes had inherited a substantial estate. Alhough he had trained as a lawyer and diplomat and spent some years in Brussels, he followed his heart in first taking formal singing lessons and then beginning to perform professionally in the early 1900s. Gwen might therefore have seen him as a role model for following a musical career ahead of the privileges of an aristocratic life.

Elwes proved to be instrumental in bringing Gwen and Norah together. He had agreed to lead one of Lena Ashwell's WW1 concert parties, touring the lines in France in mid-June 1917. Ashwell, a pioneering Edwardian actor-manager, believed that bringing music to the troops might offset their suffering at the Front. Norah was already part of the party when Lady Farrar successfully petitioned Elwes to include the troublesome Gwen as well.

Some of Elwes' thoughts from the Front were included in the biography [*Gervase Elwes* by Winifride Elwes and Richard Elwes, *publ* Grayson & Grayson, 1935] written by his widow, including sketches of Gwen and Norah. The following entry on p251 was dated 20 June 1917:

> 'Norah Blaney is very amusing and a wonderful pianist, and Miss Farrar is also most entertaining and as clever as can be. She and Miss Blaney make up the young and giddy part of our Company and of course have great fun with the young officers. We call them the bad girls of the family! Miss Farrar and I have dogfights sometimes for the entertainment of the officers when we are dining at their Mess. She can growl excellently and her wounded dog is priceless, so that when we are both doing a dog-fight the noise is really quite life-like…!'



Figure 2 Gervase Elwes.

Gwen and Norah's partnership began on a later tour in October/November 1917, when another of the touring artists, the comedienne Wish Wynne, injured herself. This time Gwen and Norah paired up to fill in when Wynne could not perform. They seem to have extemporised one of Norah's comic songs, with Gwen clowning around on the stage with her cello. Evidently the watching Tommies loved it and demanded more.

Returning from the Front, Gwen later recounted what had happened in a biographical article from *The Sunday Post* in 1920. When the Armistice was declared she and Norah had had their own Council of War, at which they decided that, based on the audience reaction to them in National Sunday League concerts, they would develop their act in the music halls. If we take this at face value – since we know that Norah's first husband Albert had died within a fortnight of the Armistice – it is tempting to wonder whether this played any role in their decision. Norah left us this account:

> 'PARTNERS AND PALS
>
> We came back to England and Gwen and I were such good pals by this time that the thought of parting from each other was almost unbearable. It so happened that I was engaged to sing at the Palladium at one of the Sunday evening concerts and I asked the manager if I could bring my friend along with me and do a double turn. He didn't like the idea at first but at last I managed to win him over so Gwen came along almost as a bit of a make weight as she afterwards put it and absolutely refused to share my fee although I pressed her to take half. To come to the point quickly we made a wonderful hit and the manager was delighted with us. After the show a Music Hall agent came to see us and told us we must go on the Halls. Gwen said it was a thrilling idea so on the Halls we went and the agent booked us solid for four years.'
>
> [*Popular Music and Dancing Weekly*, 8 March 1924]

We know that Norah had also moved into Gwen's house at 217 King's Road, so were now partners both on- and off-stage. Although Norah married their theatrical agent, Philip Barron Bruce Durham, in 1922,

this was a marriage which showed every indication of having been as stage-managed as the West End productions in which they were starring.



Figure 3 Norah and Gwen.

Over the following five years they developed their act and incorporated many new songs into their repertoire. They mixed highly sentimental numbers with more comedic and satirical fare, full of tongue-in-cheek references to figures of the day, passing fads and social observations. Touring the music halls toughened up and sharpened their act; from here they graduated to brief slots in established revues, then performing in the opening casts with an act which rarely drew poor notices. By 1925 they were at the height of their fame, appearing in the highly successful revue *The Punch Bowl* at the Duke of York's Theatre, receiving rave reviews and partying with the most fashionable people all across the West End.

They were then taken over to the United States by Flo Ziegfeld who wanted to use them in his musical comedy *Going South*, with the intention of also including Gwen and Norah in his 1926 *Follies* in Palm Beach. This was the only one of his *Follies* not to open on Broadway. But the New York winter tested the health of both women and illness caused them to cancel performances. Florida's climate revived their spirits but, after arguments over business, Gwen left Norah behind and headed home in March 1926. Norah was furious; she and Gwen did not speak for 18 months and their act did not reunite until the end of the 1920s. Norah restarted her solo career, appearing in musical dramas such as Rudolph Friml's *The Vagabond King* which ran for 480 London performances before touring.

It took Norah's flat to be burgled in December 1927 to bring them back together, Norah calling on Gwen for help as her husband, Philip Durham, was mysteriously absent. Because of professional commitments their reappearance together on stage was delayed until they joined the production of *The House that Jack Built* after it transferred to the Winter Garden in 1930. They then opened in André Charlot's *Wonder Bar* at the Savoy Theatre in December 1930, a lavish production which intentionally blurred the distinction between the stage area and the audience in its recreation of a Vienna night club.

Their reunion lasted until a little under two years. It was dissolved after Norah divorced Philip Durham, became engaged to the Bradford surgeon Basil Hughes and gave up her career on the stage. Their farewell appearance at the London Palladium was reported by *The Yorkshire Post* on 15 February 1932:

> 'The couple, who presented one of their distinctive double musical turns, were given a tremendous ovation, and Miss Blaney had to make a speech. The house was thronged, and every item by the pair, who were making the last of thousands of joint appearances, was cheered to the echo. They received many curtain calls and finally came through the tabs to receive handsome bouquets. When silence fell Miss Blaney's speech was short but to the point. "I want to thank you for the wonderful way we have been

treated all these years. I now want to say "Goodbye" and give my love to you all. Bless you, and be as sweet to Gwen as you have been to us both." '



Figure 4 Norah playing the part of Huguette in *The Vagabond King* ; *Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*, 28 May 1927.



OLD COMRADES : Miss Norah Blaney and Miss Gwen Farrar have their bright little turn at the piano in this novelty revue. The scene is a Viennese night club whose audience overflows from its own stage into the stalls and cocktail bars

Figure 5 Norah and Gwen in *Wonder Bar* ; *The Graphic*, 13 December 1930.

Through the 1930s, although Norah was retired from the stage and Gwen's career had taken new directions in theatrical production and supporting roles in movies, they were occasionally reunited either at charity events or in their last recordings in 1935. These recordings occurred while Gwen had taken a cottage in Effingham, and this article will consider why she might have chosen Effingham for her country retreat as well as her wider connections to Surrey.

Meanwhile Norah and Basil Hughes were pillars of the Bradford community, Norah even unsuccessfully standing for political office. Gwen and Norah came to national attention once more in 1937, through their joint support for the National Spinsters' Pensions Association, leading a procession of 3,000 women across London protesting against inequalities in how women received pensions.

At the outbreak of war Gwen and Norah reunited for a last and brief series of concerts around the Chicheley area, joined by other stars to support the Forces. However their intention of travelling to France to entertain the troops was prevented by illness. The last time, as far as we know, that they worked together was on the opening episode of a radio series entitled *Vaudeville of 1944*, broadcast on 29 January 1944.

Earliest appearances in Surrey

Gwen's probable earliest public appearances in the Surrey locale can be traced by the charitable concerts in which both she and Norah appeared in the months following their return from the Front in 1917. The *Westerham Herald* of 17 November 1917 reported Gwen's appearance at a 'Variety Sale and Entertainment' at the Hoskins Assembly Room in Oxted, with the other entertainers including André Mangeot, a close friend of future Effingham residents Lady Audrey Hale (née Lewin) Waterhouse and Yvonne Arnaud. A month later, on 16 December, both Gwen and Norah appeared individually in a concert for soldiers held at Godalming Borough Hall, concluding with a comic duet [*West Surrey Times and Surrey Advertiser*, 22 December, 1917]. Norah then performed at the Public Hall, Woking on 20 March 1918 under the auspices of the newly-formed Martinsyde Musical Society [*The West Surrey Times*, 22 March 1918]. This was just days before their double act was – in all likelihood – formally launched at the Richmond Hippodrome as *Nora [sic] Blaney and Somebody Else* [*The Surrey Comet*, 23 March 1918] and staged twice nightly (but far down the bill) for the following week.

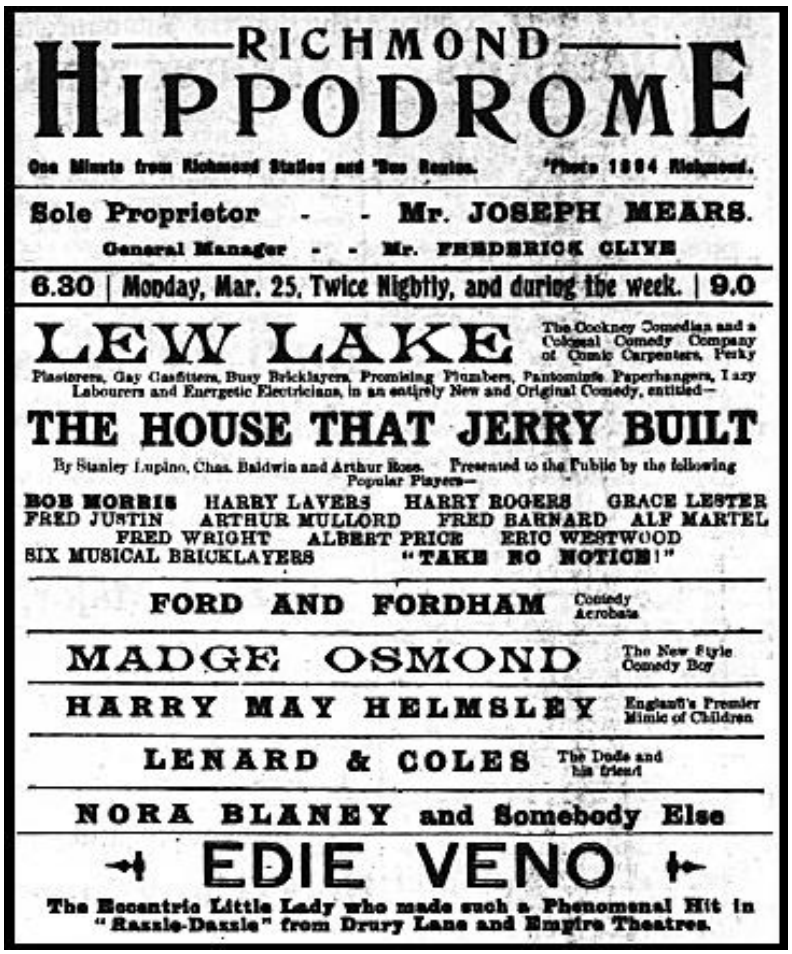

RICHMOND
HIPPODROME
One Minute from Richmond Station and 'Bus Routes. 'Phone 1884 Richmond.
Sole Proprietor - - Mr. JOSEPH MEARS.
General Manager - - Mr. FREDERICK CLIVE
6.30 | Monday, Mar. 25, Twice Nightly, and during the week. | 9.0
LEW LAKE
The Cockney Comedian and a Colossal Comedy Company of Comic Carpenters, Perky Plasterers, Gay Gasfitters, Busy Bricklayers, Promising Plumbers, Pantomimic Paperhangers, Lazy Labourers and Energetic Electricians, in an entirely New and Original Comedy, entitled—
THE HOUSE THAT JERRY BUILT
By Stanley Lupino, Chas. Baldwin and Arthur Rose. Presented to the Public by the following Popular Players—
BOB MORRIS HARRY LAVERS HARRY ROGERS GRACE LESTER
FRED JUSTIN ARTHUR MULLORD FRED BARNARD ALF MARTEL
FRED WRIGHT ALBERT PRICE ERIC WESTWOOD
SIX MUSICAL BRICKLAYERS "TAKE NO NOTICE!"
FORD AND FORDHAM Comedy Acrobats
MADGE OSMOND The New Style Comedy Boy
HARRY MAY HELMSLEY England's Premier Mimic of Children
LENARD & COLES The Dude and his friend
NORA BLANEY and Somebody Else
EDIE VENO
The Eccentric Little Lady who made such a Phenomenal Hit in "Razzle-Dazzle" from Drury Lane and Empire Theatres.

Figure 6 Norah and Gwen at the Richmond Hippodrome: *Richmond Herald*, 23 March 1918.

Gwen and Norah's first documented visit to the immediate Effingham area was in July 1924, when they performed at a private party held in the nearby parish of Great Bookham at Polesden Lacey, owned by the wealthy socialite Maggie Greville. This engagement was reported in *The Sketch* on 23 July 1924) but Norah also recorded her own memories of the event in conversation with the actor Derek Hunt in the 1970s:

> 'One night on a Sunday … we were engaged to go down to Sussex [sic] at a place called Polesden Lacey which was owned by a rich American widow called The Honourable Mrs Ronnie Greville, and we were engaged to go down and entertain at a house party. And we went down and there was a room put to the side for the artists you see, and champagne, sandwiches and so on…so we started getting ready, Gwen started tuning up the cello and all the rest of it, and we heard gasps and groans and up the stairs came a gentleman who'd just been performing to the party, and it was no other than dear Will Fyfe! And he was sweating like a pig. He said "Oooh girls I wish you luck…I sang me guts out to them and never got so much as a titter!" Before we went to them, we said to him "Who's there and how many?" He said "I counted 8 gold chairs and 8 people. That was all". I said "Who?". "Well," he said, "there's our hostess who's paying your fee and my fee, and the Queen of Spain, Queen Ena, and Prince and Princess Arthur of Connaught." So down we went, sang our songs and not a titter! Nods of approval and one or two little half-smiles, you see… and when we finished Ronnie Greville came up and said "Her Majesty would very much like you to be presented to her. So we went up, did our curtsey and the Queen said "I very much enjoyed your performance." And we thought "You liar!" However that was that.'

Other theatrical people in Effingham

Certain friends in Gwen's theatrical circles had already discovered the village's charms, principally her close friend, the singer, dancer and celebrity Teddie Gerard, who owned a property named Orchard Cottage on Effingham Common. The earliest documented date for which we can be reasonably sure that she was there is Friday 24 August 1923, as the diarist Una Troubridge mentions a visit to Teddie's cottage for 'tea, dinner and a wet walk across country' [*Canadiana Heritage* website, Lovat Dickson fonds H-1196, digitised image 1491]. That her cottage was in Effingham is confirmed in the entry for 16 September when Una noted a visit from Teddie's to the 'Hut' for lunch, this being the Hut Hotel in Wisley, on the Portsmouth Road. A month later, information about Teddie's country retreat appeared in newspaper articles concerning a motoring accident she had suffered on the way to Cobham ['Miss Teddie Gerard Motor Smash', *London Daily Chronicle*, 19 October 1923]. Gwen appears in the Troubridge diaries, but only within the context of the London social scene.

Although Teddie Gerard was established in Effingham, it seems to have taken until 1928 for others from the theatrical community to discover the village. An article *About Plays and Players* by Bernard Buckham [*Daily Mirror,* 15 August 1928] reported that the great theatrical impresario Charles Blake Cochran was based in Effingham for the summer, combining pleasure and work:

> 'A Surrey Retreat – "This is a nice place to work in," says C B Cochran, writing me from Effingham. "Today I have Doris Zinkeisen here conferring with Marjorie Moss and George Fontana and self as to costumes and décor for a new dance scena which they will do in the American production of 'This Year of Grace.' They will also do the Blue Danube waltz now done at the Pavilion by Jack Holland and Jean Barry." '

A month later Buckham [*Daily Mirror*, 12 September 1928] checked in again on Cochran, still in Effingham where he was now working with M Saint-Granier, a French actor, singer, author and producer; in this article he compared Saint-Granier to Cole Porter who in turn was to write the music for the new revue being worked on. Where Cochran was staying was revealed a week later – Lower Farm, off Effingham Common Road – with a parade of photographs (see Figure 7) of his famous friends relaxing in its gardens [*The Sketch*, 19 September 1928].

The revue that Cochran and Saint-Granier had been working on may have been *Wake Up and Dance* which opened on 27 March 1929 at the London Pavilion and starred, among others, Sonnie Hale and Tillie Losch (as pictured in the article) with music and lyrics by Cole Porter.

One individual shown in the photographs possibly casts light on why the Cochrans had come to Effingham. Mrs. Roger Pilkington, described as 'The Photographer of this Page' was hitherto known as Heather Louise Forster Chapman. She was a significant presence amongst the Bright Young People, well-known for driving the streets of Kensington and Chelsea in a large sports car with a Dalmatian dog secured in the passenger seat. Heather hailed from a relatively undistinguished background but by 1925 seems to have become a favourite and lover of the Standard Oil heiress Joe Carstairs. Possibly as a cover for her potentially scandalous dalliance, Heather married Sir Roger Pilkington in January 1927. Although this was a conventional enough ploy, it was to go terribly wrong when the artist John Wells' striking portrait entitled *Mrs Roger Pilkington* became the star of the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition. Unfortunately the sitter for

the portrait was Roger Pilkington's mistress, Cora Chambers, not his real wife Heather. When this came to light, Heather had no option but to sue for divorce, the *decree nisi* being granted a few weeks after the Effingham photographs appeared. Possibly these photos were the first shots in a prolonged reclamation of her identity; Heather continued to call herself Mrs Roger Pilkington for the rest of her life, becoming one of the prime party hostesses for the Bright Young People and hosting some of the most notorious and eagerly reported events of the time.


578 The Sketch Sept. 19, 1928

A PEACEFUL INTERLUDE: MISS NANCY BARNETT (ONE OF COCHRAN'S YOUNG LADIES), MRS. CHARLES COCHRAN, AND MRS. WILLIAM MOLLISON (FORMERLY MISS JOAN CLARKSON).

PYJAMAS AND A "PEKE": MRS. COCHRAN WITH MRS. WILLIAM MOLLISON, AND THE PEKINGESE "YOUNG WOODLEY."

PRODUCER AND CRITIC "OFF DUTY": MR. C. B. COCHRAN AND MR. PHILIP PAGE.

THE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THIS PAGE: MRS. ROGER PILKINGTON AND FRIENDS.

Mr. Charles Cochran, who is known as "the world's greatest showman," spent a well-earned holiday this summer with Mrs. Cochran at Lower Farm, Effingham, Surrey. Mr. and Mrs. Cochran are famous for their hospitality, and a great many people, especially those who have made "This Year of Grace" so famous for its galaxy of beauty and talent, found themselves in this delightful spot.——Miss Nancy Barnett is one of Mr. Cochran's Young Ladies in his latest success at the Pavilion.——Mrs. William Mollison was formerly Miss Joan Clarkson, who first appeared in "The Gold-Diggers," where she met her husband, the well-known producer. They were married quite recently.——Miss Tilly Losch and Miss Lauri Devine are both particularly bright stars in Noel Coward's revue. Their dancing is marvellous.——Sonnie Hale, who is the husband of Evelyn Laye, is also a man of many parts in the same production.——Mr. Philip Page is a distinguished dramatic and musical critic.

DANCE, DANCE, DANCE, LITTLE LADIES! MISS TILLY LOSCH AND MISS LAURI DEVINE.

THIS FOR A HALF: MR. SONNIE HALE AND MISS BARNETT AT CLOCK GOLF.

GRACES FROM "THIS YEAR OF GRACE" ON HOLIDAY.

Figure 7 Friends of Charles Blake Cochran at Lower Farm: *The Sketch*, 19 September 1928.

Heather's intimate involvement in Joe Carstairs' set also linked her into the Bohemian and lesbian circles of Chelsea in which Gwen and Teddie Gerard moved. Heather was a close friend of Cochran's wife Evelyn Alice and so it is reasonable to hypothesise that, acting on information from Teddie, she suggested Lower Farm as a working holiday location for the Cochrans.

Lower Farm was occupied from 1927 to 1930 by Joseph Pearman Smith and his wife Marjorie Jean Illesley. Joseph Pearman Smith's trade in the 1921 Census and in the 1939 National Register is described as that of export and import merchant. No known connection between the Pearman Smiths and Cochran has so far emerged. It is possible that Lower Farm was vacated for periods by the Pearman Smiths and their four children, allowing Cochran full use of the house. From a later *Country Life* advertisement we can gain some idea of the size of the property as it had been in the late 1920s:



EFFINGHAM, SURREY

Facing common, yet only 10 minutes from station.

FINE OPEN POSITION

An imposing modern Country House with pleasing brick elevations. Architect-designed and first time on the market.

Spacious hall, 3 reception rooms, 4 principal and 3 secondary bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, cloakroom, kitchen.

DOUBLE GARAGE with flat over.

Usual services.

1 ACRE of garden and grounds also good ½ acre building plot.

FOR SALE BY PRIVATE TREATY OR AUCTION LATER

CUBITT & WEST, Effingham Office. (E.98)

Figure 8 Lower Farm for sale: *Country Life*, 16 August 1956.

Seven bedrooms would have been required to accommodate the Cochrans and all their visitors. Cochran returned to Effingham in 1929. In *The Diary of a Man About Town* [*Daily Chronicle*, 27 August 1929], the writer 'Quex' reported a somewhat circuitous return to Lower Farm:

> 'Some time after 1am on Saturday morning Mr. C B Cochran and I left London and motored into Surrey towards Shere, a show-place of rural loveliness , and through a succession of hedge-lined lanes and sleeping villages until we came to Effingham, and turned off the road towards a farmhouse with stables and a duck-pond and an old-world garden, and a Wendy house for children… It was the country retreat that Mr. and Mrs. Cochran have found for themselves during the summer months; and on Sunday afternoons receive visits from the friends.'

Visitors this year included Archibald 'Arch' Selwyn, an American theater owner and stage producer, who had taken a number of Cochran's West End successes over to Broadway in the 1920s, and his brother Edgar who also worked in Hollywood as a screenwriter, producer and director. Tilly Losch was back again; Quex recounted a walk with her in his column of 19 September:

> 'One day this summer, at Mr. and Mrs. Cochran's country house at Effingham, Miss Tilly Losch, who now ranks as one of the leaders of the ballet at the Vienna Opera House, surprised me by her liking for long walks. We set out for a short stroll across country; it extended to miles.

> On the way back we called at a village inn. The signboard bore the name "Douglas Haig" and the landlady informed me that she was psychic. She had been told at a séance that she would keep an inn that was named in memory of a great soldier.
>
> She said that her spirit messages came from Joey Grimaldi, the Sadlers Wells clown. She showed me an excellent coloured etching of that famous character. I learned afterwards that it was the gift of Mr. Cochran, who bought the drawing for her after he had heard her story.'

The licensee of *The Sir Douglas Haig Hotel* in Effingham was at this time Albert Frederick Froud, with his wife Catherine Emily, who relinquished the licence after Albert's death in April 1935. Two days later Quex expanded on his Effingham observations, writing in his article *Surrey Theatrical Colony*:

> 'The other day I mentioned the tucked-away Surrey village of Effingham and the farmhouse where for two years in succession Mr. and Mrs. C B Cochran have spent the summer. Other theatrical folk have settled there too.
>
> Miss Teddie Gerard has a house and small estate in the neighbourhood. In the winter, when she goes to her villa in Capri, a bailiff looks after it for her. Miss Celia Glynne and Miss Betty Chester share a cottage not far away, and Miss Clarice Hardwicke has also become a local inhabitant.'

Given the temporary nature of their residences it has not been possible to identify exactly where these three actresses were staying. Teddie Gerard had worked for Cochran, replacing Alice Delysia for a month in *As You Were* in June 1919, followed by *The Eclipse* at the Garrick. Betty Chester had worked alongside Gwen in *White Birds*, which had opened at His Majesty's Theatre on 31 May 1927. (Curiously, Gwen's partner in financing the profligate disaster that *White Birds* became was Ernest Everard Gates, son and only heir to the fortune acquired by his father, the Bradford mill owner Ernest Henry Gates. Ernest Henry was the second child born to an Effingham family, whose previous two generations had lived around Effingham and Little Bookham, working as labourers and bricklayers. Ernest Henry's grandparents, Henry and Sarah, were buried in St Lawrence churchyard in the 1860s. Ernest Everard eventually returned to Surrey, living in Hascombe and then at a property named Hurtwood House, near to the Windmill Inn on Pitch Hill above Ewhurst).

A month after Quex's ramble with Tilly we can finally place Gwen in Effingham for the first time, thanks to another diary-writer of the age, the photographer Barbara Ker Seymer. In her diary for 12 October 1929 she writes:

> '… motor down to Teddie Gerard weekend, Gwen Farrar and Olivia'

'Olivia' was Olivia Wyndham, a society photographer whose studio Barbara Ker Seymer took over once Wyndham had departed for America. She and Gwen shared many close friends, and to differing degrees circulated within the Bright Young People scene.

Although Gwen was not living in Effingham at this time, there is some evidence that Grove Paddock was not the first cottage she had leased. However, locating Gwen's 'other' country retreats is as difficult as pinpointing where other theatrical people lived in the Effingham area. Chronologically the probable first location was revealed in an article written by Betty Kirby-Green entitled *Chorus Girl to Air Heroine* [*Sunday Post*, 28 November 1937]. Betty recalled Gwen and Norah taking a cottage adjacent to the Links Hotel at Thurlestone (owned by Betty's father) on the South Devon coast. In this case Norah's mother, Molly Cordwell, was also installed in the cottage, and struck up a friendship with Betty's mother. The early 1920s is a best guess for this occupation; the cottage was probably used as a bolt-hole from the London scene to allow Gwen and Norah to work on new material. The same may have been true for a cottage they are alleged to have taken in West End, Esher, probably around the time of their reunion in 1929 or 1930. The earliest mention of this is in an article by 'Bystander' [*Esher News and Mail*, 27 June 1974] entitled *Esher: Art Centre* where the author asserts:

> 'Gwen Farrar and Norah Blaney lived for a time at The Chequers, West End.'

The Chequers, once a pub, still exists as a house. In later articles on the same subject, it is mentioned that Carl Brisson, a Danish film actor and singer, had also lived there. Gwen and Norah appeared with Brisson in *Wonder Bar* (Savoy Theatre, 1930 into 1931), so this may provide an approximate date for when they took occupation. In 1932 and 1933 Gwen was pictured firstly at Hurst Park Racecourse in West Molesey and then at Sandown Racecourse with her temporary musical partner Rex Evans; both these places were within convenient reach of Esher. Finally, in Gwen's small archive at Talton Lodge there is a colour painting of a cosy living room, inscribed on the reverse in one hand with 'Painted by Gwen Farrar' and in another hand with 'Her cottage at Hassocks Sussex 1940 – 1945'. No trace has ever been found of this cottage.

Gwen in Effingham

By 1934 Gwen's life and career were moving in new directions. Norah had retired from the stage following her wedding to the Bradford surgeon, Basil Hughes, in February 1932. Gwen had not retired but had not been seen in a London revue since *After Dinner* in October 1932, which had opened and closed in the West End within a week. Her quest to find a musical partner to replace Norah was one that would remain unfulfilled throughout the 1930s. Hence the move to Effingham also coincided with Gwen branching into new forms of entertainment, such as supporting roles in British movies beginning with *She Shall Have Music* in 1935, as well as occasionally producing and directing plays in London. In July 1934 she let out her house at 217 Kings Road to Benn Wolfe Levy, a playwright and screenwriter, and his wife the American actress Constance Cummings, who in time would build their own, starkly modern house in Old Church Street. Gwen meanwhile toured her act with Rex Evans through the summer months.

Gwen's residency in Effingham officially began when she signed a lease on a property named Grove Paddock (also referred to as Grove Paddocks and Groveside) beginning on 14 June 1934.

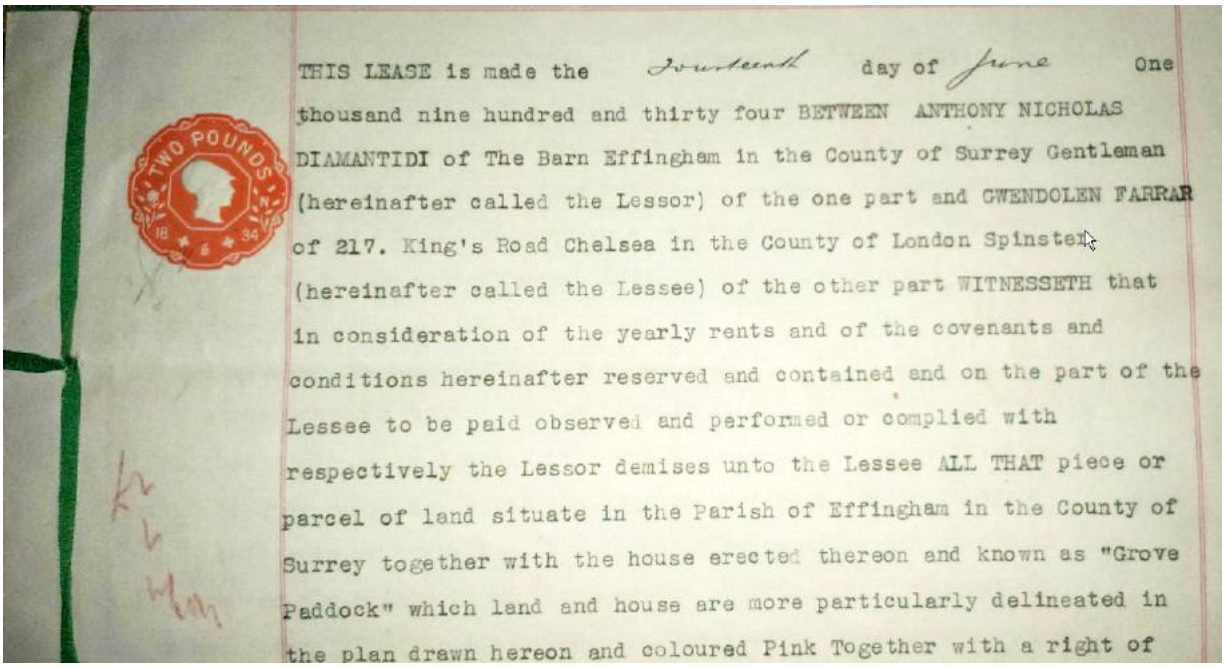

THIS LEASE is made the fourteenth day of June One thousand nine hundred and thirty four BETWEEN ANTHONY NICHOLAS DIAMANTIDI of The Barn Effingham in the County of Surrey Gentleman (hereinafter called the Lessor) of the one part and GWENDOLEN FARRAR of 217. King's Road Chelsea in the County of London Spinster (hereinafter called the Lessee) of the other part WITNESSETH that in consideration of the yearly rents and of the covenants and conditions hereinafter reserved and contained and on the part of the Lessee to be paid observed and performed or complied with respectively the Lessor demises unto the Lessee ALL THAT piece or parcel of land situate in the Parish of Effingham in the County of Surrey together with the house erected thereon and known as "Grove Paddock" which land and house are more particularly delineated in the plan drawn hereon and coloured Pink Together with a right of

Figure 9 The start of Gwen's lease on Grove Paddock, 14 June 1934.

Grove Paddock was both a new and an old house, one of three attractive properties relocated from their original sites to Effingham by the property developer Anthony Nicholas Diamantidi. Grove Paddock was built on land to the north-east of Diamantidi's property Grove House which in turn was situated opposite the recently established Effingham Manor Golf Club. It is not known if Gwen was a member of the Golf Club although we do know that friends of Gwen from the Stage Golfing Society had played matches at the Club as recently as 1931 and 1932. The Club did have a Ladies section; for example caricatures published in *Tatler* from 17 October 1934 show a Mrs Donovan as the 'Lady Captain' and the author states they have '120 members of the gentle sex'.

Grove Paddock, when Diamantidi was advertising both it and his main house The Grove (in *The Surrey Advertiser* from 24 September 1937 and later in national newspapers), was described as

> 'A Charming Cottage Residence and Gardens of over an acre. Let on lease.'

being offered for private sale or, failing that, sale at auction by Hampton and Sons on 16 November. Evidently it did not sell, as *The Observer* of 14 November mentioned both properties were to be auctioned, adding that Grove Paddock's lease was worth £180 pa.

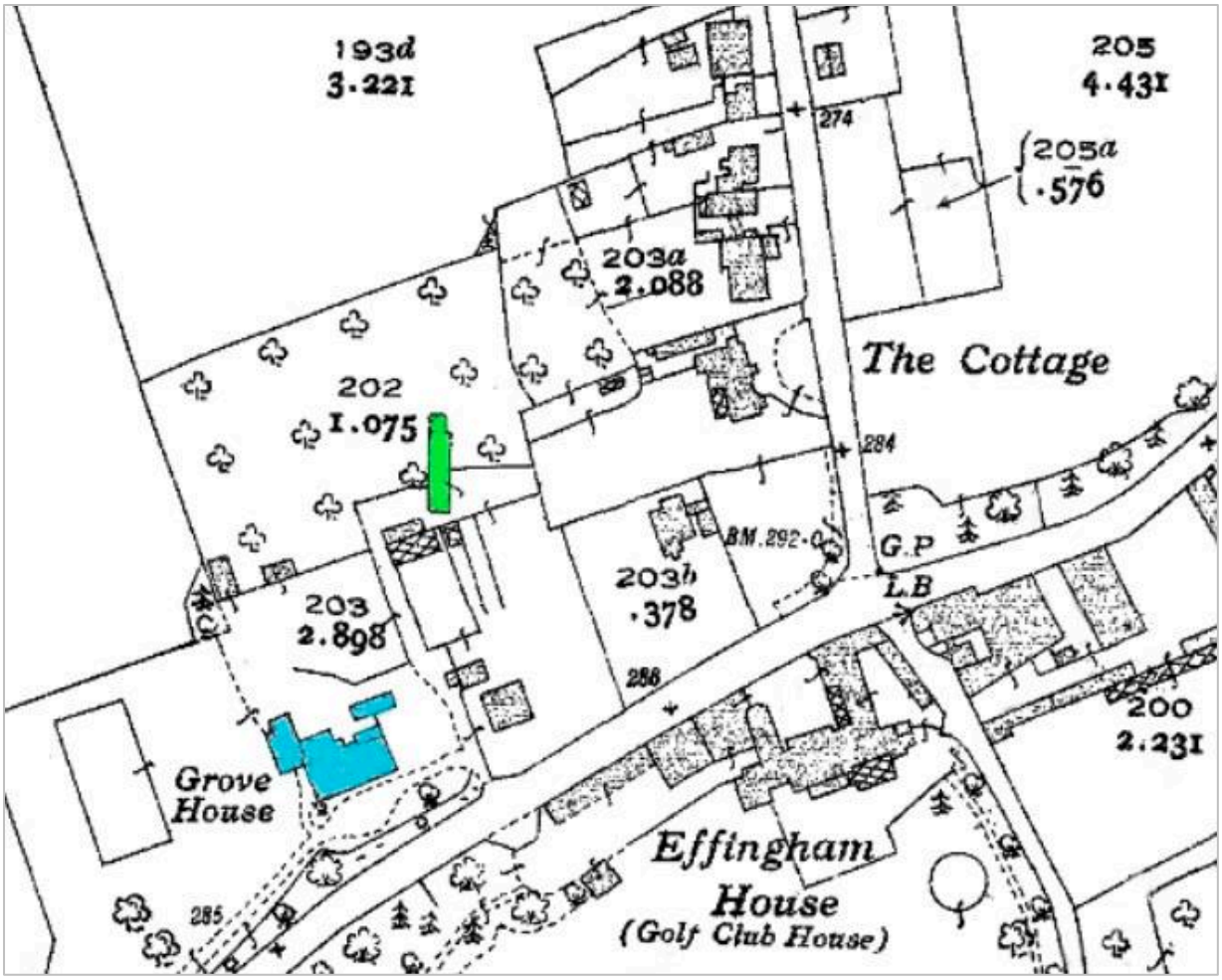


Figure 10 OS map of Effingham in 1934 showing Grove Paddock (green) and Grove House (blue).

The Gwen Farrar archive contains a number of undated photographs and among them are a few which were taken in the garden of Grove Paddock.

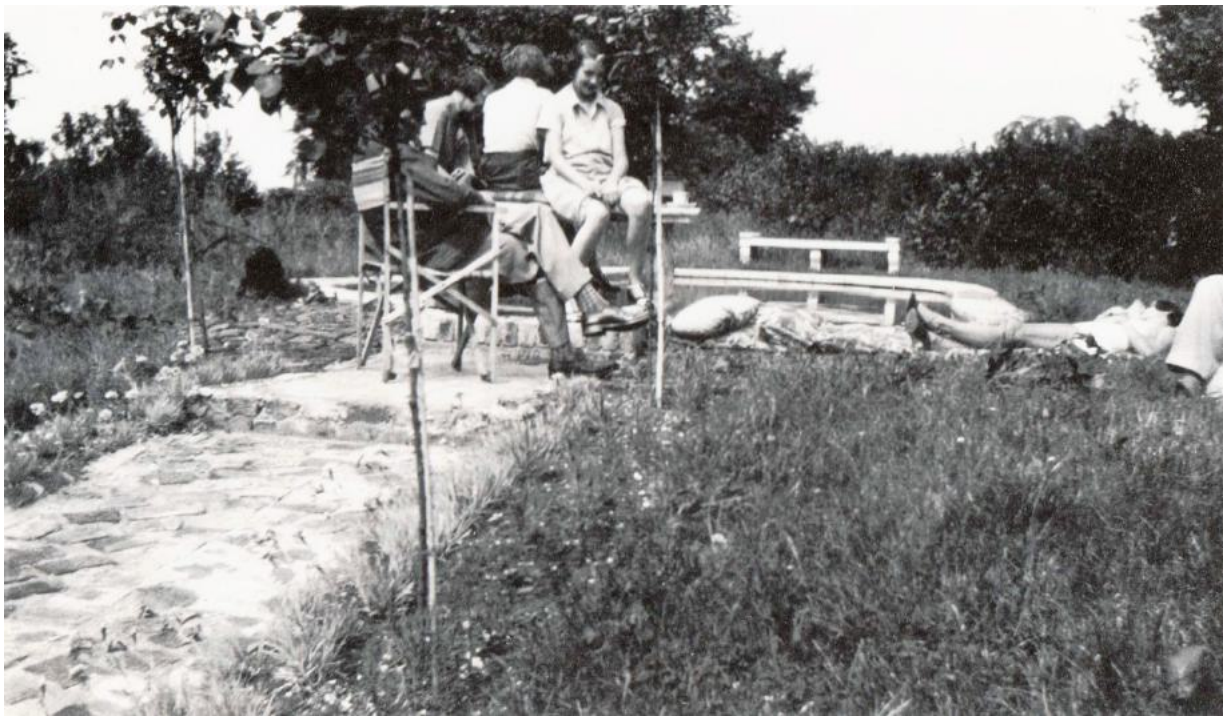


Figure 11 Relaxing around the swimming pool at Grove Paddock.

Figure 11 shows a party relaxing around Grove Paddock's swimming pool, a feature which, with the stone bench on the far side, survives to this day. The bench was originally complemented with a stone table, which is seen here being used for *ad hoc* seating at the opposite end of the pool, closest to the house. The woman lying by the pool on the right of the photo might be Teddie Gerard; she had arrived on the *SS Hakozaki Maru* bound from Yokohama to London, stopping off at Naples and arriving in London on 17 June, three days after Gwen had signed the lease. She travelled as 'Mrs T M Gerard' and it seems too much of a coincidence that she would return from her villa on Capri just as Gwen was moving to Effingham. This might imply that the party was held in the second half of June 1934. Teddie returned to Naples on 10 August.

The scene in Figure 12 looks like a house-warming party for Grove Paddock; the garden is generally rather unkempt, although the saplings appear newly planted and staked. The guests are seated on a motley collection of chairs, making do where they can.



Figure 12 Gwen's guests at Grove Paddock.

Figure 12 shows that Gwen's guests included Audrey Carten (seated in the lower left corner), playwright and one of Gwen's closest friends. Audrey would later begin a lifelong relationship with Caroline Paget, eldest child of Charles Paget the 6th Marquis of Anglesey, muse of Rex Whistler and much photographed by Cecil Beaton. Gwen had previously written revue sketches with Audrey, as well as producing the play *Gay Love* written by Audrey and her sister Waveney at the Lyric in March 1933. The man seated on the stool behind Audrey is possibly Rex Evans. Gwen's musical partnership with Rex Evans, pianist, raconteur, actor, and later an art gallery owner in Los Angeles, was especially busy with shows in July and August 1934. Their musical partnership lasted from July through to early October, and seems to have encompassed shows in London, Liverpool and Edinburgh. Gwen's friendship with Rex Evans went back to the early 1930s, which may explain why their musical partnership proved more durable than other musical partners she had tried such as Anne Denys/De Nys and Edward Cooper.

It has not been possible to make more than tentative identifications of Gwen's other guests. However it is worth pointing out that the woman seated on the stone table in Figure 11 and looking down is wearing a sandal with a white toe cap and a black strap running along the centre of the shoe. This shoe appears also beneath the table seen in Figure 12, so we can be reasonably confident that the wearer is the same person in both photos. The two men, from what we can see of their clothing, also appear in both photographs. Lastly, we can see Gwen Farrar herself in Figure 11, leaning forward behind the seated man on the left. She is wearing a light tan blouse, which also suggests she is the 'arm' seen on the far left side of Figure 12. If this is correct then it suggests that both of these photos were taken by one unknown person, possibly using Gwen's camera. Thus there are four people who appear in both photographs, leaving possibly Teddie Gerard also in Figure 11 and the woman sat at the table and holding a drinking glass in Figure 12.

That Audrey Carten was present might suggest that her sister and writing partner Waveney was also at the party. Waveney had married the wealthy Russian art, fur and horse trader Vladimir Provatoroff in 1932. However, neither of these two distinctive figures can be seen in these photos, but a third one in Figure 13 may well show Vladimir Provatoroff's mother, Maria Lazarevna Provatoroff.



Figure 13 Perhaps Vladimir Provatoroff's mother, Maria Lazarevna Provatoroff, at Grove Paddock.

However it is not possible to say if this photo was taken on the same day. Another photo in the collection shows the pianist and comic actress Yvonne Arnaud standing outside the entrance porch to Grove Paddock. Arnaud would move to Effingham in the summer of 1937, being long-standing close friends with the Waterhouses, but beyond that there is no evidence she moved in the same professional and social circles as Farrar and Blaney.

The Russian connection is also apparent in the manner by which Gwen probably came to know Grove Paddock's owner, Anthony Diamantidi. This is through his involvement with the Ballet Russes. It is known that dancers from the Ballet Russes were coming down to Grove House for parties in the 1930s. These parties are mentioned by Irina Baronova in her autobiography *Irina: Ballet, Life and Love* [publ Penguin/Viking, 2005]. According to Katherine Sorley-Walters' history of the company, Colonel De Basil – the director of the De Basil Ballets Russes – and his wife Olga Morosova were frequent visitors to the Diamantidis in the 1930s.

One known link from Gwen to the Ballet Russes is via their erstwhile principal dancer, Anton Dolin. He was born in Slinfold, Sussex and had joined Sergei Diaghilev's Ballets Russes in 1921. He was also employed in various revues, including Archie de Bear's *The Punch Bowl* (1925) in which Gwen and Norah had leading roles. Dolin and Gwen's professional lives intersected again two years later, in the previously

mentioned short-lived revue *White Birds*. Dolin is shown in Figure 14 with Gwen and Norah, with a reference to the production in which they were starring, *Wonder Bar* at the Savoy Theatre in May 1931.



A "WONDER BAR" GROUP AT THE CRITICS' CIRCLE BALL: M. ANTON DOLIN, MISS NORAH BLANEY, MISS DOROTHY DICKSON, MISS ELSIE RANDOLPH, AND MISS GWEN FARRAR.

M. Anton Dolin, the dancer, is shown above with a "Wonder Bar" group at the Critics' Circle Ball. Miss Gwen Farrar, Miss Norah Blaney, and Miss Dorothy Dickson are in their original parts in the Savoy success, and Miss Elsie Randolph appeared in it until she was due to go to the London Hippodrome for the production of "Stand Up and Sing." Other pages of snapshots of celebrities at this festivity, taken by Sashalite, appear elsewhere in this issue.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SASHA.

Figure 14 Anton Dolin and Norah Blaney at far left, Gwen Farrar at far right; *The Sketch*, 6 May 1931.

Finally we also have the eye witness testimony of former Effingham resident Lena Bridger, who mentions Gwen and the Ballet Russes dancers in her oral history:

> '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… They used to dress up and walk up the village and all sorts of peculiar things.'

Although Lena was mistaken in believing that Norah also lived there, it is understandable as Norah still occasionally worked with Gwen in the 1930s. For example, their last set of recordings was made on 15 February 1935. These comprised two original songs, *Another One Gone* written by Beverley Nichols (another guest and friend of Mrs Greville's at Polesden Lacey) and their finest recording, a unique duet take on *Maybe I'm Wrong Again* by Joe Trent and Jack Bennett. At the same time they recorded two medleys entitled

Old Favourites 1 and *Old Favourites 2*, each featuring snippets of their most famous songs from the 1920s. Norah would later write to the BBC and ask them to not use their 1920s recordings because of the poor quality. These medleys may have been an attempt to capture at least snippets of their songs with improved equipment. Nichols would make his own move to Surrey in 1946, when he bought the Georgian house Merry Hall in Agates Lane, Ashstead.

Both before and after the 1935 recordings, Gwen made appearances in *The Surrey Advertiser* by adding to a lifetime of infrequent but regular motoring infringements:

> 2 February 1935: Epsom magistrates fined her £1 for driving without a rear light and a further 7s 6d for failing to sign her driving licence.
>
> 30 March 1935: she was fined 40s at Epsom Police Court for (again) driving without a rear light, and 10s for (again) failing to sign her driving licence.

Her address on both occasions was given as 'Groveside' Effingham, rather than 'Grove Paddock'.

Another friend from Gwen's life in Kensington and Chelsea, now residing at Norwood Farm on Effingham Common, was Lady Audrey Waterhouse. Gwen had an association with Lady Waterhouse that stretched back to at least 1921. This was an important year for Gwen and Norah's musical act as they would perform in front of royalty at the first Royal Variety Performance in October. Off-stage, Gwen and Norah, together with Lady Waterhouse and a woman named Mrs Dorothy Monteith, at the end of January 1921 opened a venue for young artists named the Chelsea Art Gallery at 91 King's Road. This was in a building described as a Government aeroplane factory and possibly also used by the Aeronautical Inspectorate Division.

The four women converted the building into a teashop and academy, for the purpose of allowing unknown artists to show their work at 5s per canvas. However for the opening, as the newspapers reported, the walls were hung with paintings by famous artists such as CRW Nevinson, Francisco Sancha and Ethelbert White, among others. Lady Waterhouse's role was to design the furnishing scheme, including painting the lampshades and buying the china and curtains. A report in *The Pall Mall Gazette* reported that she wore:

> 'a lovely printed silk frock with a cherry-red ground and collar and hem of beaver'

The Gallery lasted until at least October 1921 when it advertised an exhibition of 'Ladies Work and Craft' [*The Kensington News* & *West London Times*, 21 October 1921]. Lady Waterhouse remained a friend of Gwen and Norah, attending Norah's engagement party to Philip Barron Bruce Durham and being among the guests at their subsequent low-key wedding on 7 September 1922.


Page of Intere

Norah Blaney and Gwen Farrar, of music-hall fame, recently started a picture gallery where artists can exhibit cheaply and which also boasts a tea room. Our photograph shows Miss Farrar and Mrs. Hugh Monteith, another partner, while Lady Waterhouse chose the curtains and "crocks" and painted the lamp shades.

Figure 15 Dorothy Monteith and Gwen at the Chelsea Art Gallery, 1921.

Completing this home-from-home, the singer, dancer and actress Teddie Gerard had, as mentioned earlier, owned a property named Orchard Cottage on Effingham Common since 1922. Gwen and Teddie had possibly been lovers in the early 1920s, both being part of the scene revolving around Joe Carstairs. There is a collection of intimate photographs, which probably date from this time, in the Gwen Farrar archive showing Gwen and Teddie relaxing together outside an unknown house. We know that their friendship continued into the 1930s, as Norah described her and Gwen visiting a very ill Teddie in Effingham [undated audio conversation with Norah, recorded by Derek Hunt]. Teddie's presence in Effingham was probably the main inspiration behind Gwen's choice to rent Grove Paddock. That said, in the 1930s Teddie was dividing her time between Effingham and her villa on Capri, so Effingham may have suited Gwen for additional other reasons. From 1932 Teddie's address was modified to 'The Bungalow, Orchard Cottage' so she may have downsized into a smaller property within the grounds of Orchard Cottage. Indeed across three auctions in 1936 and 1937 Teddie disposed of the contents of her houses.

Gwen kept the lease on Grove Paddock until 9 May 1938. At this time Diamantidi was in the throes of updating his property portfolio in Effingham; on 14 December 1937 a notable auction of Grove House's contents had taken place. Thereafter Grove House was converted into separate dwellings. Gwen may have seen this as a signal to give up the lease and return to London. At the same time she had begun an affair with Dolly Wilde, niece of Oscar, whose similar talent for barbed wit was diminished by an array of addictions. Dolly, with her various health issues, needed more personal care than Gwen could provide from a country cottage.



Figure 16 Gwen and Dolly in Paris at a bar in the Champs Élysées; *The Tatler*, 3 November 1937.

From August 1938 Grove Paddock was occupied by the motor racing driver Roland Stuart Scott Hebeler, who married and raised a family there during the war years. He may have known Gwen through the Brooklands racing driver, Patricia 'Poppy' McOstrich, who had friends in common with Gwen such as the stage mimic Elizabeth Pollock. Hebeler had sold his rebuilt Talbot PL4 to McOstrich and her racing partner Geraldine Hedges in 1932, and these women raced it for the next two years.

Gwen's last association with Surrey was producing two plays at the Richmond Theatre, staged in the week commencing 13 December 1937. These were *Someone to Dinner* by Inez Holden and Arthur Reid and *Nothing Ever Happens* by Eda Clarke, with both plays being performed each evening.

Gwen's departure from Effingham saw the slow dispersal of the theatrical colony. Teddie Gerard returned for good from Capri at the start of the war with the same intention of entertaining the troops as Gwen and Norah had done, but died soon after on 31 August 1942. Gwen herself died after being admitted to hospital on 25 December 1944. Lady Waterhouse succumbed to a long illness at Norwood Farm on 7 September 7 1945, aged 62. Although artists from various disciplines would continue to make Effingham their home, with Gwen and Teddie gone the village must have seemed quieter, with far fewer of the 'peculiar things' that Lena (née Keeling) Bridger seemed to envy while keeping at arm's length.

Today the house Grove Paddock still exists, but renamed as The Paddock and with much of its gardens used for the construction of the Paddock Grove estate. Gwen's house at 217 King's Road Chelsea has also survived, with a surprising amount of its interior recognisable from the time when Gwen lived there. The antiquity of Orchard Cottage and Norwood Farm saved them from development, although this factor did not prevent other very old houses in Effingham from being demolished.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figures 1-4: from Jeremy Palmer's own archive

Figures 5, 7, 14: Image © Illustrated London News Group. Image created courtesy of The British Library Board

Figure 6: Content provided by The British Library Board; All Rights Reserved

Figure 8: Image © Future Publishing Ltd

Figure 9: from the archives of Effingham Local History Group

Figure 10: from Ordnance Survey Maps published by the National Library of Scotland

Figures 11-13: used by kind permission of Olivia Hatch

Figure 15: used by kind permission of the late Sir Andrew Watson

Figure 16: Image © Illustrated London News Ltd; under licence from the Mary Evans Picture Library

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

For many years Gwen and Norah's story was lost, eclipsed by those whose music and legends endured from the 1920s, and who forged international careers once the audiences for revue and variety discovered new forms of entertainment. That they were rediscovered is due to the efforts of Alison Child who began the process of uncovering their lives and, with Rosie Wakley, recreating Gwen and Norah's songs on stage. Coincidentally at the same time Effingham Local History Group (ELHG) was beginning its investigations into Effingham's forgotten theatrical colony and this has led to an ongoing collaboration with Alison. She brought Gwen and Norah to a much wider audience with her biography of them *Tell Me I'm Forgiven – The Story of Forgotten Stars Gwen Farrar and Norah Blaney* [*publ* Tollington Press, 2019] which was shortlisted for the Polari First Book Prize 2020. Our efforts were given a significant boost by Philip Jones, who living in Norah and Basil's house in Baildon, was intent on researching and publishing his work on their lives. Between us, this continues to generate a huge amount of new information on Gwen and Norah's circle of friends, family, acquaintances and fellow travellers.

Particular thanks must also be extended to the late Sir Andrew Watson, and to Olivia Hatch of Talton Lodge who kindly allowed ELHG to use photographs from the Gwen Farrar archive in this article.

Sydney Hastings Dowse – RAF Pilot and Great Escape Survivor

DAVID ANTHONY COCKLE and CHRISTOPHER JOHN HOGGER

Sydney Hastings Dowse was a highly regarded RAF pilot in the early period of the second world war, specialising in photographic reconnaissance. After being shot down over France in 1941 and captured by the Germans, he achieved particular renown from the daring escapes he and others made as prisoners of war, including the 'Great Escape' from the Stalag Luft III prison camp. Nearly two decades after the war he came to live in Effingham, in Leewood Way, where he remained for at least five years.

Introduction

Sydney Hastings Dowse was born in Hammersmith, London in 1918, the second of four children born to Irish parents William and Patricia. In his teenage years he became a flying enthusiast and in 1937 at age 18 he joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. When the second world war began two years later it was inevitable that he would enter the RAF in which he rapidly became a Pilot Officer. His active service in the RAF was soon brought to a close when when having been shot down with his aircraft he was taken prisoner of war in 1941. There followed for him a remarkable succession of imprisonments, escapes and re-imprisonments that he was lucky to survive, although he was not freed until the war ended. He is of particular interest to Effingham Local History Group on account of his having lived in Effingham for a few years during the 1960s.

Family background

Sydney's parents were William Robert Dowse and Patricia Emmeline (née) Frankenberg.

William Robert

William Robert had been born in the Donnybrook district of south Dublin. His birth registration [Dublin South 2 509, 1891 (Q4)] gives his date of birth as 23 November 1891. He was born at 12 Havelock Square West, the home of his parents Robert and Anne Elizabeth (née Kirke); Robert's occupation was recorded as builder's foreman. He was one of two children born to Robert and Anne; the other was his older sister Jane Margretta. Robert had been born on 19 June 1851 to parents William and Jane (née Bell) and baptised on 17 July 1851 at St Peter's, Dublin. He had married Anne on 23 April 1889 at Inver, Donegal in the Registrar's Building there 'according to the usages of the Methodist Church'. Their marriage certificate describes him as a builder's foreman residing at 11 Beechwood Road in Ranelagh, Dublin and she as residing at Drumconner, Inver.

Jane Margretta was born on 20 January 1890 at her parents' home 9 London Bridge Road in Donnybrook, south Dublin.

The 1901 Census finds the family living in Mount Pleasant Avenue in the Rathmines and Rathgar East district of Dublin. Robert was occupied as a builder's assistant. He, his wife and the two children were all recorded as being of the Methodist religion.

The 1911 Census finds them living at 15, Booterstown Avenue in the Blackrock No. 1 district of Dublin and Robert now occupied as a builder's manager; living with them were their domestic servant and a boarder. Jane Margretta (recorded as 'Margaret') aged 21 was an undergraduate at Trinity College Dublin whilst William Robert aged 19 was a working as telephonist.

We know very little of Jane Margretta's subsequent life. She evidently graduated at Trinity College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in June 1913 [*The Evening Herald* (Dublin), 26 June 1913]. She died aged 83 on 10 February 1974 at Gascoigne House (a home for the elderly) in Camden Row, Dublin. Her death certificate gives her profession as 'MA' (Master of Arts) and the cause of death as 'cerebral thrombosis (R. hemiplegia)'. She was buried in Dublin's Deans Grave Cemetery [Plot: South-West/J1/88]. Probate was granted in England, her estate valued at £346, she being named as 'Jane Margretta Dowse' whose place of residence had previously been Drumconner, Inver in County Donegal.

The 1911 Census is our last 'sighting' of Robert. He evidently died at some point during the next fifteen years. Anne died aged 70 on 28 February 1926 at Chestnut Lodge in Booterstown Avenue, Rathdown, Dublin. Her death certificate describes her as 'widow of builder's clerk' and gives the cause of death as liver cancer for about 6 months.

Aged about 21, William Robert joined the General Post Office service as an unestablished skilled workman in July 1912 [*British Postal Service Appointment Books 1737-1969*, British Postal Museum and Archive, POST 58 No 108]; by April 1914 he had become a skilled workman class II.

His employment with the GPO must have been interrupted by the First World War, as *The London Gazette* listed him (by his full name) in its issue of 29 January 1915 as among those to be made temporary Second Lieutenants in the Royal Engineers.

He married in 1916 to Patricia Emmeline.

Patricia Emmeline

Patricia Emmeline had been born in the Coolock district of North Dublin. Her birth registration [Dublin North, Group ID 9374310] gives her date of birth as 17 March 1892. She was born at 1 Victoria Terrace, the home of her parents Rudolph and Jane (née McEvoy); Rudolph's occupation was recorded as Quartermaster Sergeant in the Royal Engineers regiment.

Patricia Emmeline was the third of six (known) children born to Rudolph and Jane. The two born before her, in Malta, were

Gerald Baptist Frankenberg	born in 1888, precise date uncertain
Reginald Hastings Frankenberg	born 7 December 1890 (in Sliema)

and the three born after her were

Rhoda Janetta Frankenberg	born 22 October 1897, in Bermuda
Ronald Evelyn Frankenberg	born 1899, precise date uncertain, in Bermuda
Maurice Gordon Frankenberg	born 29 March 1905, in Dublin

The diversity of their birthplaces is owed to the movements of their father in the course of his military service in the Royal Engineers. His service details are held at The National Archives in the file British Army Service Records: WO97/4877/067/001 which in 2002 was extensively transcribed, interpreted and narrated by Lt Col Edward De Santis [*https://www.reubique.com/14060.htm*].

Rudolph was born in Manchester on 29 January 1859 to parents Adolphus Frankenberg and his wife Christiana (née Hodgson) and baptised at the Cathedral there on 23 February 1859. In the baptism record the occupation of Adolphus is given as 'Traveller' but on the birth certificate [GRO Ref: Manchester 8d 177, 1859 (Q1)] it is given as 'Riding Master'. There are genealogical complications regarding Christiana's origins and the certificate of her marriage to Adolphus which are too far unresolved to justify articulating here.

Rudolph grew up in Hulme, Manchester and enlisted there in the Army in January 1877, to serve eight years with the Colours and four on the Reserve. After training at Chatham he embarked from there to Cyprus in 1878 with the Royal Engineers, returning to England in May 1880. Various postings and promotions followed during his career in the Supernumerary Staff, with Regimental Number 14060. While in Malta in 1887, he married on 30 June to Jane, a widow who had previously married in County Westmeath, Ireland on 19 April 1881 to William Parker, then serving as a Sergeant in the Royal Artillery at the barracks in Athlone. We do not know when William died.

As noted above Maurice, the last child of Rudolph and Jane was born in 1905 when Rudolph was aged 45 and nearing the end of his military life. After just over 30 years of service Rudolph was discharged from the Army at Dublin on 24 January 1907, his pension date set at 17 January. It is not clear whether Rudolph and Jane were still together at this time; in the 'Proceedings on Discharge' section of his service file where it requests the 'Intended place of Residence' the entry states 'Woolwich (full address will be notified later)'.

Rudolph and Jane were certainly not together on the night of the 1911 Census. He was in the household of his married sister Beatrice Thompson, whose husband John was an engineer pattern maker; they were living at 12 Alexander Grove in Salford. Meanwhile Jane was living in South Dublin at 10 Leinster Road, Rathmines and Rathgar with her five youngest children – in June 1906 the oldest, Gerald, had enlisted as a Sapper with the Royal Engineers. It is known that by 1915, and probably some years before, they had separated, as a newspaper stated in an account of Rudolph's 'downfall' [*The South Western Star*, 17 September 1915]. This short article reported that Rudolph, an 'incurable inebriate' of no fixed abode, had been charged with wandering the streets of Earlsfield and had been previously arrested for trouble-making in Melody Road, Wandsworth where Jane had been living. He had recently had a spell in prison. He was discharged with a warning to be more careful.

He was in trouble with the law again five months later, having been summoned in front of the Croydon County magistrates by Jane for threatening her with grievous bodily harm. Although she was legally separated from him he had turned up at her home, now in Birdhurst Road, Mitcham, and made threats to her there on two successive evenings. Their separation had come about through his brutal treatment of her.

The details of his threats were set out in a rather longer article [*The Croydon Times*, 9 February 1916]. On this occasion it was intended to bind him over to keep the peace in the sum of £20, but as he could find no such surety he was instead 'removed in custody'.

Some years later Rudolph was prosecuted by Lambeth's Board of Guardians for repeatedly obtaining relief, to which he was not entitled, by way of admitting himself into the Lambeth workhouse, having already spent two terms similarly in the Southwark workhouse [*Gloucestershire Echo*, 30 December 1920]. He was sentenced to 14 days' hard labour and warned that a repeat offence would make him liable to 3 months' imprisonment.

The 1921 Census finds Rudolph at age 63 among a very large number of others in a lodging house at 92 Westminster Bridge Road, a street running south-east behind Waterloo station. His occupation was entered as pensioner. Meanwhile Jane was living at 104 Sinclair Road, Hammersmith. The only others in her household were her daughter Rhoda Janetta (an actress) and the latter's American husband Sydney Herbert Chapin (a general agent, whose age was twice hers), both described as visitors.

Five years later, on 28 April 1926, Rudolph – described as of no fixed abode – died at Lambeth Hospital from stomach cancer [GRO Ref: Lambeth 1d 215, 1926 (Q2)]. He was buried in Lambeth two days later.

Although we do not know precisely when Jane had secured her judicial separation from Rudolph it is clear from the newspaper article mentioned earlier that she did so no later than 1915 and therefore when her daughter Patricia Emmeline was aged no more than 23. As Rudolph and Jane were apparently already living apart in 1911 their separation may well have preceded that, in which case their matrimonial turmoil would have occurred while Patricia was still a teenager. It seems quite likely that all of the children suffered to some extent from witnessing Rudolph's abusive treatment of their mother.

Patricia would not have been directly impacted by her father's behaviour in the 1920s. In 1916 she married William Robert Dowse [GRO Ref: Camberwell 1d 1831, 1916 (Q2)] who as we have seen, was by then serving in the Royal Engineers. Shortly after the War she would move with him to Malaya.

Early married years of William Robert and Patricia Emmeline

Their first child was Gerald Robert Dowse born on 28 April 1917. His birth certificate [GRO Ref: Hammersmith 1a 314, 1917 (Q2)] states that he was born at 104 Sinclair Road, Hammersmith, the home of Patricia's mother Jane. William's occupation was given as Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers and Jane was the informant.

Their second child was Sydney Hastings Dowse born at the same address on 21 November 1918. His birth certificate [GRO Ref: Hammersmith 1a 302, 1918 (Q4)] gives William's occupation as Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers, serving as a telegraph engineer.

There seem to be no records of William being awarded military medals which perhaps implies that he did not serve in any theatre of war abroad. No Army service or pension record has been found for him.

Immediately after the War William took up employment as a telegraph engineer with the British Malay Government. While there, he and Patricia produced two more children, Ronald Gordon McGregor Dowse (born about 1921) and Patricia Mary Dowse (born 8 March 1923). These two were born in the city of Seremban in Negeri Sembilan, one of the four British Protectorates making up the entity known as the Federated Malay States established by the British government in 1895 [from the family's records]. Patricia Mary was later to go back to Malaya, and as described below spent several years of World War II there.

In 1923 the family returned to England, sailing on the newly-built *SS Sarpedon* (Blue Funnel Line), having embarked at Port Swettenham, Malaya's principal port located in Selangor, another of the Federated States. Accompanying William, Patricia and the four children was their female nursemaid, or 'amah', Chuan Ah Flo (?or Ho) aged 33. In the ship's manifest [The National Archives, BT26 Piece 744, No 91] William was described as an engineer with proposed address 'c/o Crown Agents, London'. The children's ages were entered as 6, 4, 1½ and 5 months. The ship arrived at London on 11 September. The purpose of their journey may have been to acquaint Patricia's mother Jane with her two latest grandchildren and/or to fulfil some aspect of William's work.

This trip was to have a tragic outcome for the family, namely the death of their third child Ronald. His death certificate [GRO Ref: Paddington 1a 15, 1924 (Q1)] states that he died age '2' on 6 February 1924 at 23 Randolph Crescent (in the Little Venice area of Maida Vale). The cause of death, ascertained without *post mortem*, was certified as '(1) pneumonia – double croupous 14 days (2) cardiac failure' and the informant was William, of the same address, described as 'telegraph engineer (Malay Government)'. Family records assert that the underlying cause was the accidental scalding of Ronald in a bath prepared by the family's amah Chuan Ah Flo. The two older boys Gerald (aged nearly 7) and Sydney (aged 5) would surely have felt keenly both this loss of their baby brother and the grief of their parents.

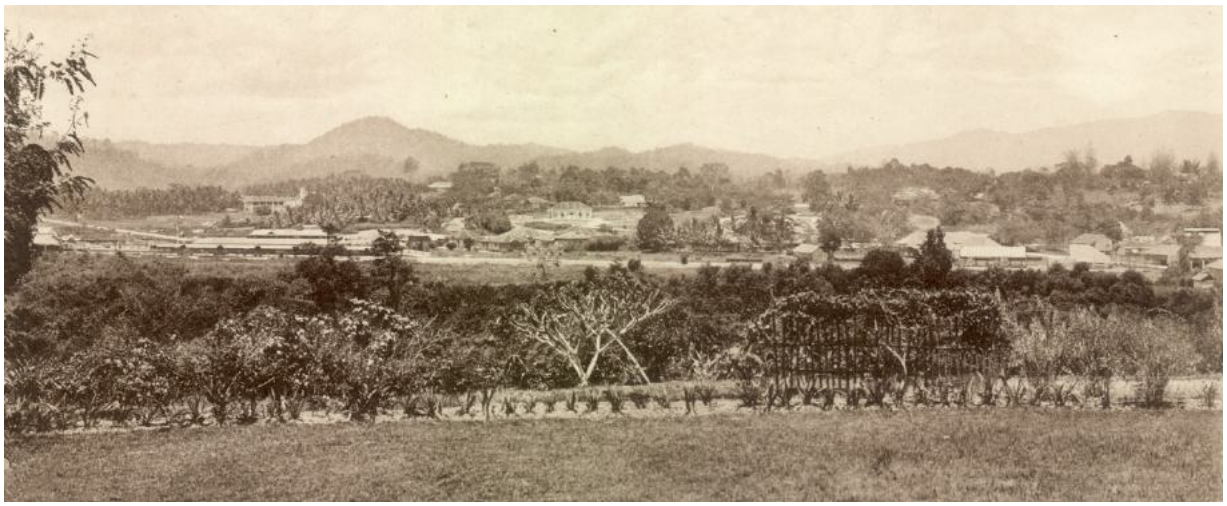


Figure 1 Seramban (seen here in 1910), where Sydney was taken to live by his parents in his infancy.

Soon after Robert's death William returned to Malaya via the *SS Patroclus* (another new ship from the Blue Funnel Line), embarking at Birkenhead and departing on 16 March 1924. It appears that he travelled without the rest of the family, who are not listed on the manifest even though the wives and children of other male passengers are. Described as an engineer, his last address in the UK was recorded as 'c/o Crown Agents, 4 Millbank, London SW1' and his destination as the Federated Malay States.

Six months later Patricia likewise returned to Malaya, departing on 11 October 1924 from Merseyside on *SS Hector*, a new ship of the Ocean Steamship Company. Accompanying her was just her daughter Patricia Mary (recorded on the manifest as 'Moya', an Irish familiar form of 'Mary'); they were scheduled to disembark at Singapore. Their last address in the UK was recorded, curiously, as 3, 'Litchfield' [sic – Lichfield] Road in Alrewas, a village in Staffordshire. We do not yet understand the significance of Alrewas to Patricia. There does not seem to be any family connection to explain it. It is not impossible that William had been sent to the Alrewas area tasked with work on the telephone services there. In his book *An Alrewas Miscellany* [publ Hailwood Enterprises, July 2012] the author Roger Hailwood states that '*Up to 1923 there were no telephones on Alrewas ... When the telephones came to Alrewas in 1923* ...' However, it does not seem likely that the Malay Government would have despatched one of their engineers to work in rural Staffordshire, unless some very special kind of expertise were required that William happened to possess.

In 1927 Patricia returned from Malaya to England, again accompanied by just her daughter Patricia Mary, now aged 4. She sailed from Penang on the *SS Malwa*, arriving in London on 18 November 1927. Her intended address after arriving was recorded in the ship's manifest as Alrewas. This Staffordshire association had therefore lasted for at least three years.

In 1929 William was admitted as an Associate of the Institution of Electrical Engineers [*Lists of Corporate and Non-Corporate Members*, publ IEE, London, 1930]; the latter source describes him as 'Senior Engineer, P & T Dept, Kuala Lumpur, Federated Malay States'. It seems that in the 1930s at least some of the family resided in Lancing, West Sussex. The Electoral Register for Lancing in 1929-30 records Patricia (but not William) as residing there at The Cliff, Brighton Road, but this must have been only transitory. In 1932 Patricia and William sailed together back to England on the mail ship *RMS Carthage* (Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company) from Penang, arriving at London on 15 April. The ship's manifest described William as an engineer and their intended address in the UK as Douglas House, South Lancing. At the start of World War II the 1939 National Register listed Patricia as still residing in Lancing, now at a house called 'Drumconner', clearly named in memory of the family's roots in County Donegal. She was aged 47 and married. William is not listed. He was presumably still working in Malaya. Aged 50 and working for the 'Colonial Postal Service' he was captured there when Singapore surrendered to the Japanese in February 1942 and held there in the notorious Changi prisoner of war camp until Singapore was liberated in 1945 [*https://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/view/MS-RCMS-00103-00012-00022/59*].

In the Lancing electoral register for 1946-47 Patricia is recorded as still at 'Drumconner', with her son Gerald. William died in Sussex in 1967 and Patricia died in Perthshire in 1978.

Sydney's life before the War

We currently know rather little about this. Perhaps the greatest unknown is whether Sydney and his older brother Gerald, after being brought to England from Malaya in 1923, then remained permanently in England throughout the rest of their childhood and early teenage years (perhaps at boarding school or living with a relative) or were instead spending that period largely in Malaya whilst making occasional visits to England with one or both of their parents. The known sailings of William and Patricia between these places suggest that they had undertaken other sailings of which no evidence has yet been found by us in the principal sources detailing immigration and emigration.

Sydney and Gerald may have been boarding at a prep school in England up to this time. However this may be, it was at Christmas 1932 that Sydney was admitted to the prestigious public school Hurstpierpoint College in Sussex, about ten miles north-east of Lancing. Gerald had already been admitted there in the summer of 1932. The College's archivist has confirmed to us that Sydney's time at the College spanned 1932-36 and it seems that the same was true of Gerald. Both boys were assigned to the *Fleur de Lys* House. Their activities and progress can be charted through the hundreds of mentions made of them in the College's magazine *The Hurst Johnian*, which has been continuously produced since 1858 and is accessible in digitised form from the Hurst Johnian Archives at *https://www.thehurstjohnian.org*. Most of the references to them (and to the other pupils) are concerned with sporting achievements.



Figure 2 Hurstpierpoint College, pre-War.

Sydney was active in most of the principal sports undertaken there, including rugby, cricket, hockey, squash, tennis, athletics, running, shooting and boxing, and was highly proficient in many of them. The magazine gives detailed accounts of his performances in the various matches and tournaments. He obtained swimming colours in 1933 and 1934; 1st XV rugby colours in 1933; 1st XI hockey colours in 1935; 2nd XI cricket colours in 1935; 1st XI cricket colours in 1936; running colours in 1936. He was the College's all-round junior sports champion – '*Junior Victor Ludorum*' – in 1934 and the senior champion – '*Senior Victor Ludorum*' – in 1936. He was at his peak in his final year, 1936: School Prefect, Captain of House, Captain of Rugby, Captain of Boxing, Captain of Running, Vice-Captain of Hockey, winner of the Clayton Challenge Cup and of the Steeple Challenge Cup and winner of a half-mile race (in 2 minutes and 29 seconds). Besides sports, he took part in the College's annual Shakespeare play in 1933, won the Lowe English Prize in 1934 and sang for *Fleur de Lys* in the House Music Competition in 1936. He also undertook training in the College's Officer Training Corps, obtaining his passing-out (graduation) Certificate 'A' in 1935, being ranked as Drum-Major in that same year, then Sergeant followed by Company Sergeant Major in 1936.

In 1937, having left Hurstpierpoint, he joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. This had been established the year before with the intention of bolstering the capability of the RAF in the event of war. He learned to fly during his time in the RAVR and completed his flying training with the RAF after his call-up in September 1939, gaining a commission in 1940.

His prowess in rugby had led to him being taken on by the Harlequins, one of the country's top amateur rugby clubs. This was noted in the Press in April 1938 when he played in a seven-a-side tournament for the Worthing Rugby Club [*The Herald* (Worthing), 22 April 1938]:

> 'The Worthing Club, which had an exceptionally good Eastertide, will have the services of a Harlequin player in their seven. He is Dowse, a full-back, who played for the Harlequins "A" against Worthing earlier in the season, and who has been assisting the club over the holiday period.'

In 1939 he again played for Worthing in their seven-a-side tournament [*Worthing Gazette*, 5 April 1939:]

> 'The Worthing Rugby Club's Seven-aside [sic] Tournament on Saturday week looks like being an even greater attraction than in former years ... The Harlequins will also be represented, though not as Harlequins, for Dowse the Harlequin player, who lives at Lancing and has played for Worthing in the past, is bringing down a team of fellow-Clubmen, who will probably adopt some weird name of their own for the occasion.'

Sydney's War

Researching Sydney's wartime experiences is difficult owing to the sparsity of public sources on military matters in this period. This section draws in places upon a small set of online narratives. These are here indented in quotes with their sources cited; in some cases their wording has been changed slightly to aid continuity. The internet addresses of these sources are listed in this article's Bibliography.

Shoreham-on-Sea: Flying Training 1937 to 1939

As noted earlier, Sydney was educated at Hurstpierpoint College, Hassocks in Sussex, where – according to its files – membership of the (army) Officer Training Corps was compulsory; in this he enjoyed drill, the summer camps at Tidworth and the Tactical Exercises. He joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in July 1937, learning to fly on weekends at No. 16 Elementary and Reserve Flying Training School (ERFTS). This was based on the Shoreham-on-Sea airfield and operated as a civilian-run flying school from its establishment on 3 July 1937. Operated by Martin School of Air Navigation, the school provided initial flight training for aspiring pilots. In 1937 it received a contract to train pilots for the Royal Air Force, initially using the de Havilland Tiger Moth bi-plane but later supplemented by the Hawker Hart and Hawker Hind.



Figure 3 Terminal building at Shoreham-on-Sea, late 1930s; at left – a De Havilland DH.89 Dragon Rapide.

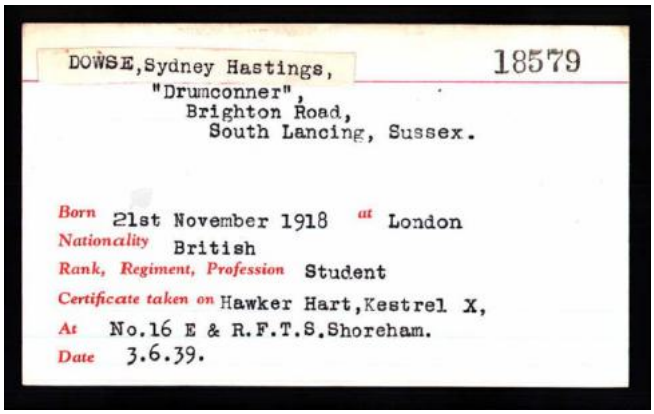
Sydney's instructor was Johnnie Love, who taught him on the Tiger Moth, involving dual flying skills, aerobatics and emergency landings. He flew solo in early spring 1939. He was a natural pilot and excelled at map reading on cross-country flights, which benefitted him in his later service as a photographic reconnaissance pilot. On 3 June 1939 he was awarded his Royal Aero Club Aviator's Certificate No. 18579. He completed pilot training at Shoreham-on-Sea in August 1939. With the start of the Second World War imminent, the training school moved away from Shoreham in August 1939 until its disbandment on 3 September 1939, preceding the War.



Figure 4 Example of a De Havilland DH.82 Tiger Moth.



Figure 5 Example of a Hawker Hart, being flown by RAF 33 Squadron.


DOWSE, Sydney Hastings, 18579
"Drumconner",
Brighton Road,
South Lancing, Sussex.

Born 21st November 1918 at London
Nationality British
Rank, Regiment, Profession Student
Certificate taken on Hawker Hart, Kestrel X,
At No.16 E & R.F.T.S. Shoreham.
Date 3.6.39.

Figure 6 Sydney's Royal Aero Club Aviator's Certificate.

The storm clouds gather: Royal Air Force commission : 1939 to 1940

When war broke out in September 1939, Sydney, by then aged 20, was called to regular service and went on to advanced training on the more powerful Hawker Hart, undertaking formation flying as well as simulated and live firing exercises on the Aldershot ranges. He completed pilot training at Shoreham-on-Sea in August 1939.

He received his commission as a pilot officer on 21 October 1940, with seniority from 9 August 1940 [from his RAF Personnel Service Record, Form 543], this fact being published in *The London Gazette*.

Serving with RAF Coastal Command in Scotland: 42 Squadron: 1940

No. 42 Squadron had been created on 14 December 1936 by expanding 'B' flight of No. 22 Squadron. By 1939 it was based at RAF Bircham Newton, Norfolk. Initially it was equipped with Vickers Vildebeest bi-planes (light bombers) but was re-equipped with the new twin-engine Bristol Beauforts in January 1940. Sydney was assigned to this new Squadron which was operating under RAF Coastal Command, and on 16 September 1939 he was posted to RNAS Donibristle 2.7 miles east of Rosyth, Fife on the Firth of Forth. He was not on bombing runs, but seconded to the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm on photographic reconnaissance along the Norwegian coast, flying Fairey Swordfish biplanes from the aircraft carrier *HMS Furious*. From here he also took part in an unsuccessful search for the German ships *Gneisenau* and the cruiser *Koln* north of the Shetlands, after reports of their passage into the Atlantic intending attacks on shipping.



Figure 7 Fairey Swordfish carrying a torpedo at the Shoreham Airshow on 22 August 2015.

In October 1939 he was posted to RAF Gosport on the Solent in Hampshire, a joint RAF Coastal Command and Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm airfield. He carried out further training in general reconnaissance and anti-submarine patrols. By November he had completed his advanced training and in January 1940 was moved with the Squadron to RAF Silloth in Cumbria. He undertook further operational training here as well as flying Avro Anson general reconnaissance aircraft on maritime and anti-submarine patrols over the North Sea, remaining with 42 Squadron at RAF Silloth until February 1940, when he was posted to 608 Squadron at RAF Thornaby-on-Tees, North Yorkshire.



Figure 8 Avro Anson Mk.I of RAF 321 (Dutch) Squadron; Imperial War Museum Image IWM (C 2117).

Anti-submarine patrols and convoy protection: 608 Squadron: 1940

> '608 Squadron was formed at Thornaby-on-Tees, North Yorkshire on 17 March 1930 as a day bomber squadron within the Auxiliary Air Force. Its initial equipment was the Avro 504N and Westland Wapiti. These were replaced by Hawker Demon fighters in January 1937, when the squadron's role was changed to that of a fighter squadron. Its name was changed to 608 (North Riding) Squadron in May 1937.
>
> On 20 March 1939, shortly before the war broke out, the squadron's role was changed yet again, now into that of a general reconnaissance unit flying under RAF Coastal Command, and was re-equipped for that role with Avro Ansons.' [*Wikipedia*]

Sydney, having completed more operational training, joined the squadron and flew these aircraft on anti-submarine and convoy escort missions. He remained with this squadron at RAF Thornaby until September 1940.

Eager for more action and bored with flying Ansons on submarine patrols, Sydney requested transfer to the reconnaissance force, focusing on observing the movement of German capital ships (the largest ships such as battle ships and battle cruisers).

After converting to the Supermarine Spitfire, on 20 October, he was discharged from regular squadron service and was transferred to a temporary commission in the RAF's Photo Reconnaissance service.

In 1940 this service was still relatively unknown in the RAF and remained secret to the wider country lest Nazi Germany should become aware of its operations over occupied Europe.

The Admiralty's concerns over the Kriegsmarine (Nazi 'War Navy')

> 'One of the main motivators to improve Photo Reconnaissance was German work on two new battleships. The *Bismarck* and the *Tirpitz* would be the largest battleships in the world. As such, they would be a huge threat to Britain's maritime supply lines.' [*War History Online*]

British surveillance of these two battleships was a massive, relentless intelligence and military effort. It combined aerial reconnaissance, codebreaking, human intelligence (underground Resistance networks), and surface naval shadowing to monitor the vessels, which were seen as primary threats to the Atlantic and Russian convoys and national security.

The RAF Photographic Reconnaissance (PR) units were also tasked with aerial reconnaissance of the Kriegsmarine battle cruisers *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* docked in the French Atlantic port of Brest.

> 'Admiral Godfrey, the head of naval intelligence, encouraged the use of PR in finding these ships. It led to the swift identification of the *Tirpitz*. It also showed how important the right tools could be, as a Spitfire with extra fuel tanks could obtain photos that other planes could not. Additionally, it demonstrated how important context and interpretation were. Clues to the *Tirpitz*'s imminent departure were not understood because there were no photos of its dock from earlier dates.' [*War History Online*]



Figure 9 Supermarine Spitfires F.Mk.I of 65 Squadron in May 1940; Imperial War Museum Image IWM (HU 1664).

The development of Photographic Reconnaissance

> 'PR was revitalized by the work of two men – Frederick Winterbotham and Sidney Cotton. Winterbotham, a First World War PR pioneer, was now the senior air officer in the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS). Finding the British uninterested in PR, he worked with the French in early 1939. They arranged PR flights piloted by Cotton, an Australian flyer, over Germany. The results revealed what could be achieved and got the British interested.
>
> Huge improvements had to be made if PR was to be effective. PR pilots and photograph interpreters and analysts were recruited and trained.' [*War History Online*]

Sidney Cotton was an Australian inventor, photographer and aviation and photography pioneer, responsible for developing and promoting an early colour film process, and largely responsible for the development of photographic reconnaissance before and during WW2. In April 1939, Cotton was recruited by Fred Winterbotham of MI6 to take clandestine aerial photographs of the German military buildup. Cotton's mission was using flights for the Aeronautical Research and Sales Corporation as a cover for espionage with the only difference being that his paymasters were MI6 instead of the Deuxième Bureau. Cotton was provided with a new Lockheed 12-A Electra aircraft by MI6.



Figure 10 Sydney Hastings Dowse with a Spitfire at an unknown airfield, perhaps early 1941.

Photograph interpreters formed an elite body of specialists who analysed aerial reconnaissance photographs to extract critical intelligence for military planning and operations, using a diverse skill set and equipment such as stereoscopes to create 3D images.

> 'Specialist on-board equipment was needed. In order to carry out PR flights without being detected, pilots needed to fly quickly and at high altitude, which meant using the latest planes and improved lenses. Finding such equipment became easier once the RAF had taken overall control of the PR operation. In a change from the separate intelligence gathering of Britain's military arms, the RAF carried out PR not only for itself but also for the Army and the Navy. Coordination, men and resources all contributed to the further improvement of PR operations.' [*War History Online*]

'B' Flight No 1 PR Unit (PRU): 1941

> 'On 24 September 1939, the RAF formally took over the 'Heston Flight', a civilian PR unit headed by Sidney Cotton based at Heston Aerodrome [near Hounslow, west London]. The unit had previously been contracted by MI6 to perform clandestine PR over Europe, using civilian-registered Lockheed 12A aircraft. The Flight was re-designated several times, firstly on 1 November 1939 as No 2 Camouflage Unit, then on 17 January 1940 as the Photographic Development Unit, then on 18 June 1940 as the Photographic Reconnaissance Unit (PRU), and finally on 14 November 1940, as No 1 PRU.' [*Military Wiki Fandom*]

'B' Flight, based at RAF Heston and later at St Eval near Padstow in Cornwall, operated unarmed, high-altitude Spitfires for crucial, top-secret intelligence gathering during the war. It was famous for using pink-camouflaged Spitfires for dawn/dusk sorties, acquiring intelligence for missions such as detecting Germany's V-1 bomb facilities.

- Key operations: 'B' Flight was part of the unit formed in 1940, focusing on low and high-altitude, long-range reconnaissance.
- Iconic aircraft: the Spitfire PR Marks I, III, IV & VII (specifically X4497) were the key aircraft used by 'B' Flight for reconnaissance, often piloted by officers like Sydney.
- Mission: it was crucial for photographing German naval movements, including the *Tirpitz*, and played a significant role in Allied intelligence.
- Legacy: the unit was known for high risk, with 1 PRU suffering heavy losses. It eventually evolved into the specialised PR squadrons Nos 540, 541, 542, 543 and 544 in October 1942.

'B' Flight was involved in reconnaissance training and operational flights from other airfields such as Thornaby, and Turnhouse (Edinburgh).

Sydney joins 'B' Flight: 1941

In early 1941 Sydney volunteered to join 'B' Flight at RAF Benson in Oxfordshire, flying Supermarine Spitfire Mk III Type(s) A/B/C/E.



Figure 11 A Type F.8 Mark II (20-inch lens) aerial camera being loaded into the vertical position in a Supermarine Spitfire PR Mark IV at RAF Benson; Imperial War Museum Image IWM (CH 10847).

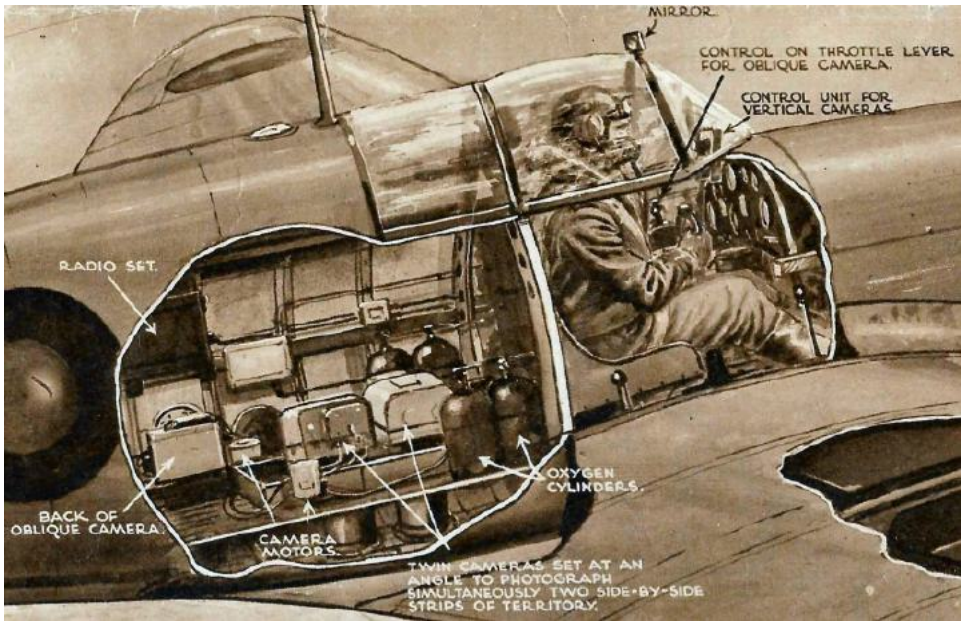


Figure 12 Sketch showing camera placements in a PRU Spitfire; *The Illustrated London News*, 11 March 1944.



Figure 13 An air reconnaissance camera type F24, weight 8kg; the predominant kind used by the RAF during WW2; © The Board of Trustees of the Science Museum.



Figure 14 Low-level oblique photographic-reconnaissance aerial image of the German heavy cruiser *Admiral Hipper* in dry dock at Brest, France, 1941. Obtained on a 'dicing' sortie by a Supermarine Spitfire PR Mark IG of No. 1 PRU Detachment flying from St Eval; Imperial War Museum Image IWM (C 2576).



98. View of a pink Spitfire PR IG, R 7059, pictured at St Eval in Cornwall early in 1941 when it was used for low altitude reconnaissance missions over the French ports. Note the unusual positioning of the roundels above the wings, which was fairly common on pink aircraft. This version, which was later re-designated the PR Mark VII, was fitted with a laminated glass windscreen and carried an armament of eight machine guns; one oblique and two vertical cameras were carried in the rear fuselage, plus a tank for 29 gallons of fuel. *(Salwey)*

Figure 15 Reconnaissance Spitfire at St Eval in early 1941.

From 26 January to 15 April 1941 Sydney was based at RAF Wick in Caithness and flew PRU missions mainly to Norway.



Figure 16 A Supermarine Spitfire Mk.III; Sydney was recorded as flying this particular aircraft (X4492) on 14 March 1941 and also as flying it from RAF Wick on a PRU sortie to Norway.

From 19 April to 2 August he was posted /transferred to RAF Mount Farm in Oxfordshire and flew PRU missions to Belgium, France and Germany.

From 5 August to 20 August he was posted /transferred to RAF Harrowbeer in Devon and RAF St Eval, flying PRU missions to the French Atlantic coast, going down to the Spanish border. He was photographing airfields and HQs, overflying Spain, Gibraltar, Portugal and Switzerland.

His tally of completed PRU missions between March and August 1941 totalled 40, as follows:

- RAF Wick – 4
- RAF Mount Farm – 29
- RAF St Eval - 7



Figure 17 A view of RAF Wick on 29 January 1942 showing Spitfire PR.IV AA810 taxiing-in, Robert Tomlinson at the controls; it is the only known photograph of this aircraft which holds special significance in the history of the Spitfire's role in WW2.

The aircraft AA810 seen in Figure 17 logged more operational hours than any Spitfire of its type and was also the first one to be lost over Norway during the war. It went into service on 17 October 1941 and in the months that followed it was flown by several pilots, including Alastair 'Sandy' Gunn. Most of those pilots did not survive the war. Gunn was flying it, on a reconnaissance flight seeking the *Tirpitz*, when it was shot down near Trondheim. He bailed out, was captured and made a prisoner-of-war. He landed up in the Stalag Luft III camp in which Sydney was also incarcerated and was the 68th man to escape during the 'Great Escape' (narrated presently in this article). He was recaptured and later executed by the direct order of Hitler.

The remains of the aircraft were recovered in 2018 and a major project was initiated to restore it to flying condition by the company Spitfire AA810 Restoration Ltd, the target date for completion being 2027. It will be dedicated to the memory of all the RAF PRU pilots who risked their lives, including Sydney. Details of the project can be read at

https://www.spitfireaa810.co.uk/the-machine

and

https://vintageaviationnews.com/restorations/rare-reconnaissance-spitfire-pr-iv-aa810-on-display-at-the-royal-automobile-club.html.



Figure 18 Ft Lt Alastair ('Sandy') Gunn leaning on the tail of Spitfire R7056 in November 1941.

Sydney shot down while serving in 'B' Flight: 1941

On 20 August 1941 he took off from RAF St Eval in a Supermarine Spitfire Mk III PR Type C (serial number X4497), equipped for long-range missions with additional fuel tanks and a modified camera, from RAF St Eval on a mission over Brest to photograph the Kriegsmarine battle cruisers *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau*. He flew below 18,000 feet, the cloud base, in order to obtain clearer photographs.

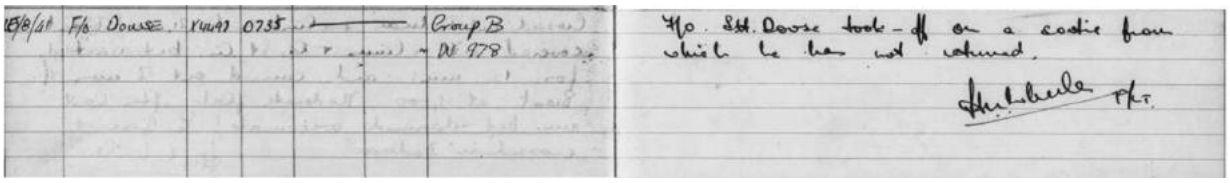
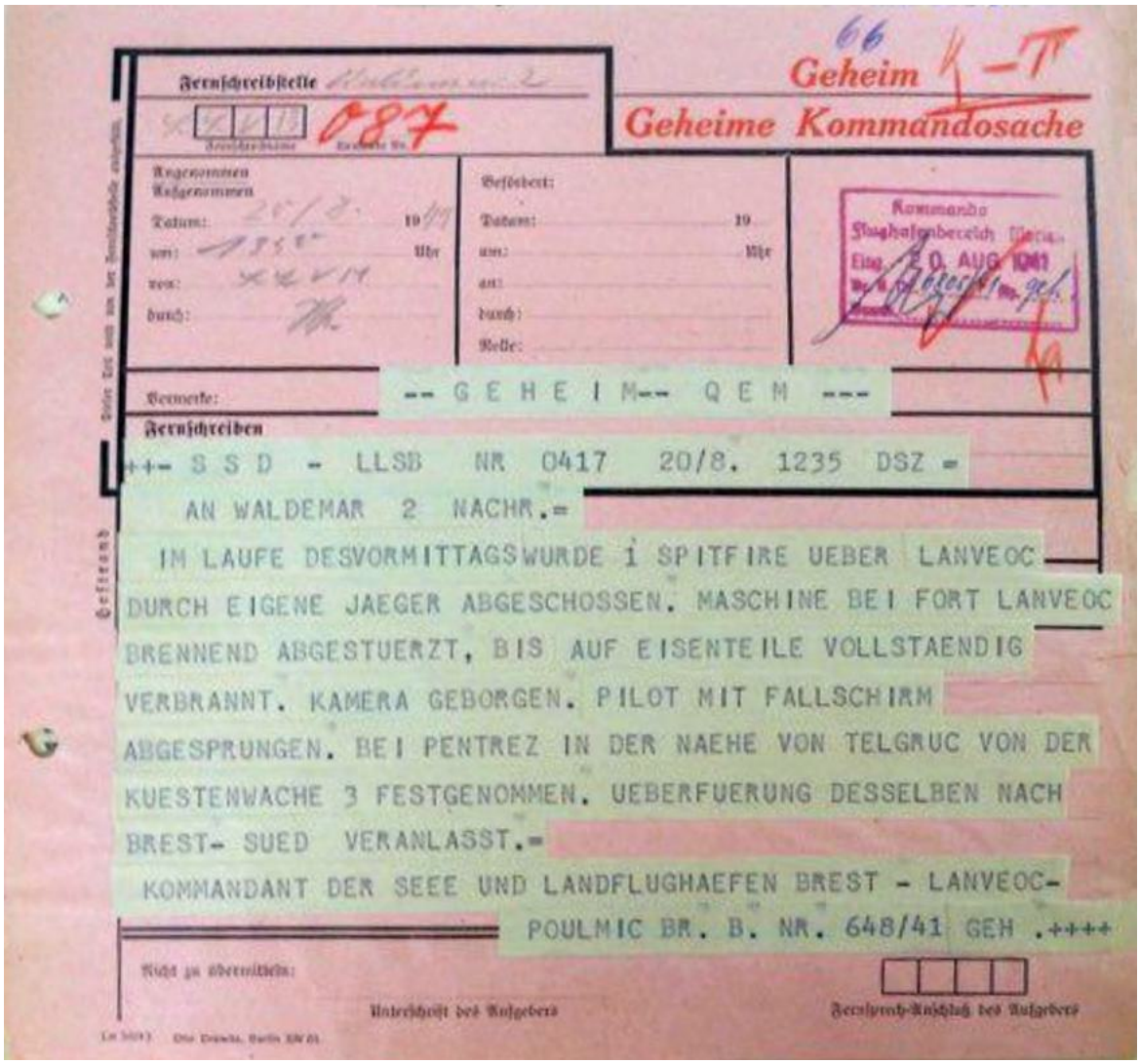


Figure 19 Record of Sydney's departure in Spitfire X4497 at 7.35am on 20 August 1941 in his squadron's operations record book, the note in the right-most column stating 'F/O S.H. Dowse took-off on a sortie from which he has not returned'.

While flying over Lanvéoc (Finistère, Brittany) he was bounced and attacked from behind by two Messerschmitt Bf 109F ('Friedrich') fighter aircraft of the Luftwaffe's Jagdgeschwader 2 (fighter wing 2) (JG 2) 'Richthofen' wing based at the Brest-Guipavas airfield in France. Their 7.62 mm machine gunfire hit his Spitfire, damaging its Rolls Royce Merlin engine and wounding him in the leg. The engine stopped and he decided to bail out. He turned the aircraft on its back, released the canopy and his harness and fell out, pulling his parachute's ripcord. He landed in the sea about a mile from land and, although he was wounded, he managed to swim ashore. He initially evaded capture, clambering over the rocks and hoping nobody had seen him and that he could make contact with the French Resistance. In Pentrez near Telgruc he was seen by some French girls who gathered around him, attracting the attention of the German Coast Guard. The girls were shooed away and he was arrested, the German soldiers uttering the immortal words 'The War is over for you'. He was taken to Wehrmacht HQ in Brest where a doctor tried to remove the bullet from his leg. From there he was taken into central Germany.

His Spitfire had crashed into the sea in flames near Fort Lanveoc. Its wreckage, including its camera, was later recovered by the Germans.



Fernschreibstelle

Geheim

Geheime Kommandosache

Kommando Flughafenbereich

Bemerke:

-- G E H E I M-- Q E M ---

Fernschreiben

++- S S D - LLSB NR 0417 20/8. 1235 DSZ -

AN WALDEMAR 2 NACHR.=

IM LAUFE DESVORMITTAGSWURDE 1 SPITFIRE UEBER LANVEOC DURCH EIGENE JAEGER ABGESCHOSSEN. MASCHINE BEI FORT LANVEOC BRENNEND ABGESTUERZT, BIS AUF EISENTEILE VOLLSTAENDIG VERBRANNT. KAMERA GEBORGEN. PILOT MIT FALLSCHIRM ABGESPRUNGEN. BEI PENTREZ IN DER NAEHE VON TELGRUC VON DER KUESTENWACHE 3 FESTGENOMMEN. UEBERFUERUNG DESSELBEN NACH BREST- SUED VERANLASST.=

KOMMANDANT DER SEEE UND LANDFLUGHAEFEN BREST - LANVEOC-

POULMIC BR. B. NR. 648/41 GEH .++++

Nicht zu übermitteln:

Unterschrift des Aufgebers

Figure 20 Sydney's capture confirmed by the German Commander of the Brest-Lanvéoc-Poulmic air base.



Figure 21 The wreckage of Sydney's aircraft on a lorry following its recovery by the Wehrmacht from the sea off Brest.

In captivity as a prisoner-of-war: early escape attempts

> 'Flight Lieutenant Dowse was captured by the Germans at Brest in August, 1941, after he had abandoned his aircraft which had been set on fire by enemy fighters. Throughout his captivity, this officer persistently tried to escape but never succeeded in reaching England. In December, 1941, he escaped from hospital at Stadtroda to which he had been taken after capture for treatment for an injured leg. Three days later, he was caught by a frontier guard at the German-Dutch border. Flight Lieutenant Dowse later escaped from a camp at Bad Sulza by mingling with a fatigue party. After travelling by train to Werwitz, he continued on foot, through deep snow towards the German-Belgian border where he was eventually captured, suffering from extreme exhaustion. After some days in hospital, Flight Lieutenant Dowse was imprisoned at Oflag VI-B.' [*Third Supplement to The London Gazette*, 13 August 1946]

Oflag VI-B (a prisoner of war camp for officers at Warburg) was a desolate place, west of the Weser on a plateau three miles from Warburg station, housing 2,500 officers. When Sydney arrived, the inmates were still clearing it of rats and fleas as well as planning a variety of escapes.

> 'At Warburg, he participated in the excavation of an escape tunnel, which was completed on 18 April 1942. He and 34 others (including the legless air ace, Douglas Bader and Sydney's later escaping partner Stanislaw Krol), prepared to escape. However, as the tunnel broke surface, it became clear that it was slightly too short, and the exit hole had emerged directly in the patrol path of a German sentry. Six RAF officers managed to escape, but, due to the proximity of the sentry, none of the others, including Sydney, was able to do so.' [*Military Wiki Fandom*]

He was mentioned in dispatches on 11 June 1942 and promoted to Flight Lieutenant on 21 October 1942, with seniority from 9 August 1942.

> 'He joined in the construction of other tunnels at Warburg. On 30 August 1942 an attempt – which became famous as the 'Warburg Wire Job', using articulated ladders to scale the wire – led to the escape of 28 prisoners from this camp, although only three of these managed to make it home.' [*The Times*, 11 April 2008]

However, Sydney was not directly involved in this attempt.

Imprisonment in Stalag Luft III: 1942 to 1944

> 'In May 1942, Sydney was transferred to Stalag Luft III at Sagan in Silesia; it housed officers of the Allied air forces and other RAF officers.
>
> The camp stood in a pine forest clearing with huts on stilts to prevent tunnelling. When Dowse arrived, it held 900 Allied airmen and was seriously overcrowded. His jovial and easy-going manner soon won him friends, and he was popular with the more relaxed of the German guards.' [*The Times*, 11 April 2008]

> 'His next escape attempt occurred on 30 November 1942 when he and Flight Lieutenant Stanisław 'Danny' Krol cut through the wire into the camp's central compound and crawled across that compound using blankets as camouflage. They were in the process of cutting the perimeter wire to get out when they were arrested and sentenced to 14 days' solitary confinement.
>
> Sydney, who spoke some German, befriended a German Corporal Hesse who worked alongside him in the camp's censor office. From this contact, he was able to gain useful information and documents which aided the camp escape organisation. He was able to 'borrow' a genuine gate pass which was copied by the POWs' forgery department, and this copy was used on the delousing break mass escape in June 1943.
>
> Through this same contact, Dowse was able to gain information about the German secret rocket establishment at Peenemünde [on the Baltic Sea island of Usedom]. This information was passed on to British Intelligence via secret codes written into POWs' letters home.
>
> Dowse also learnt that the Gestapo had liquidation plans for [his fellow prisoner and key escape planner] Roger Bushell if he were caught escaping again. Dowse warned Bushell, who chose to ignore the warning.' [*Military Wiki Fandom*]



Figure 22 Compound at the Stalag Luft III camp; Imperial War Museum Image IWM (HU 21013).

The camp was established to hold air force personnel. Its guards, numbering about 800, were drawn from the Luftwaffe. It was divided into distinct compounds, that on the northern side being opened on 29 March 1943 for British airmen.

Besides the raising of the huts on stilts to deter escape attempts, the site had been deliberately chosen for its sandy soil which made tunnels highly unstable. The Germans also buried microphones around the camp to detect sounds of tunnelling.

Around the perimeter were watch towers and high barbed wire fences as a futher deterrent. The camp had been designed to be assuredly escape proof, but its designers has not reckoned sufficiently with the ingenuity and tenacity of prisoners like Sydney, Gunn and many others, as events would demonstrate.



Figure 23 One of the watch towers at the Stalag Luft III camp.



Figure 24 RAF inmates of Hut 122 at Stalag Luft III; Sandy Gunn is the left-most of the pair standing at the rear in the doorway, whilst seated below him with face downwards is Arnošt ('Wally') Valenta – like Sandy, Wally was one of the fifty 'Great Escapers' murdered by the Gestapo in 1944.



Figure 25 Sandy Gunn (at right) in the North Compound preparing fresh straw for bunk mattresses and pillows.

The Great Escape 1944

'During his time in the North Compound at Stalag Luft III, Dowse became involved with the construction of the three tunnels intended for a mass escape, masterminded by Roger Bushell, Harry Day and Canadian Wally Floody, who was instrumental in the tunnel's design and construction. One tunnel, codenamed 'Harry' which Dowse had helped build, was completed in early 1944.

On 24 March 1944, he took part in The Great Escape through tunnel 'Harry', escaping with Stanisław 'Danny' Krol. Dowse had drawn escape number 21 and was disguised as a Danish foreign worker, equipped with the appropriate (forged) documents and clothing provided by his 'contact'.' [*Wikipedia*]

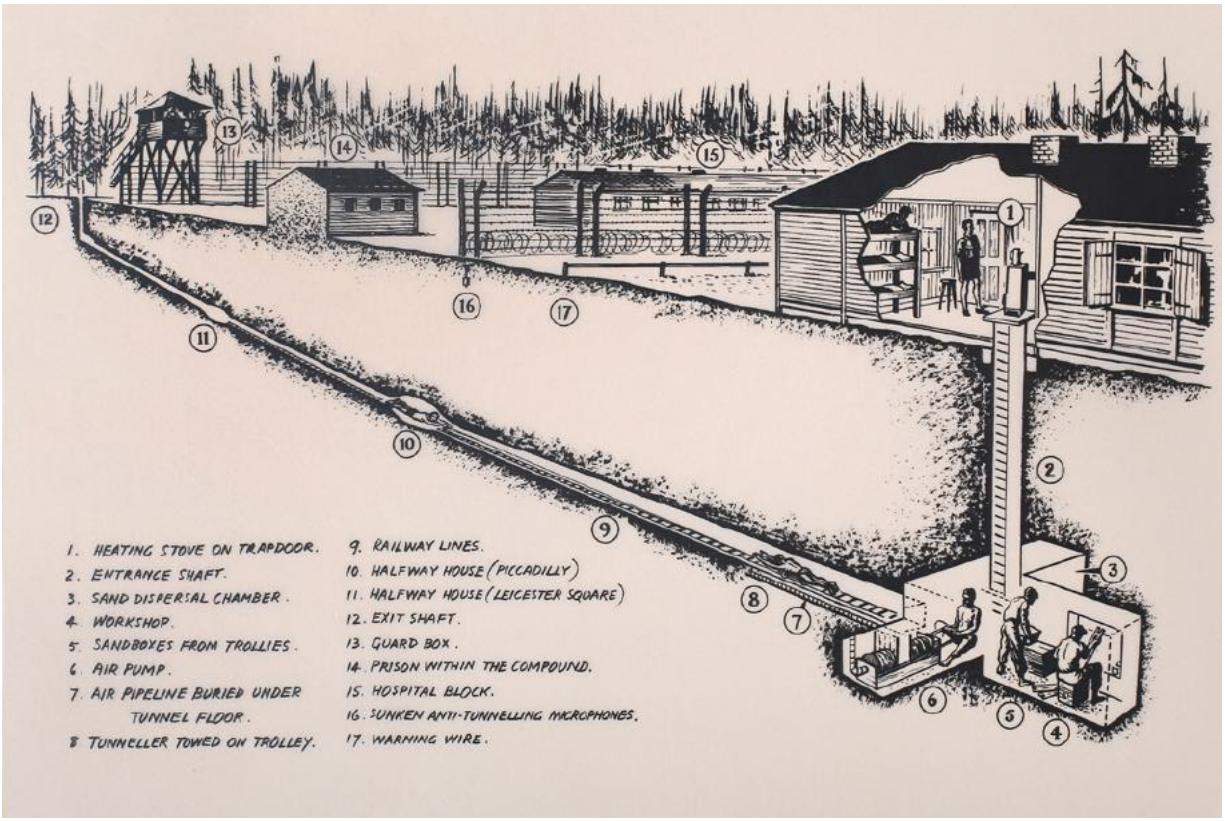


Figure 26 Sketch showing the details of tunnel 'Harry' in relation to the compound and Hut 104.

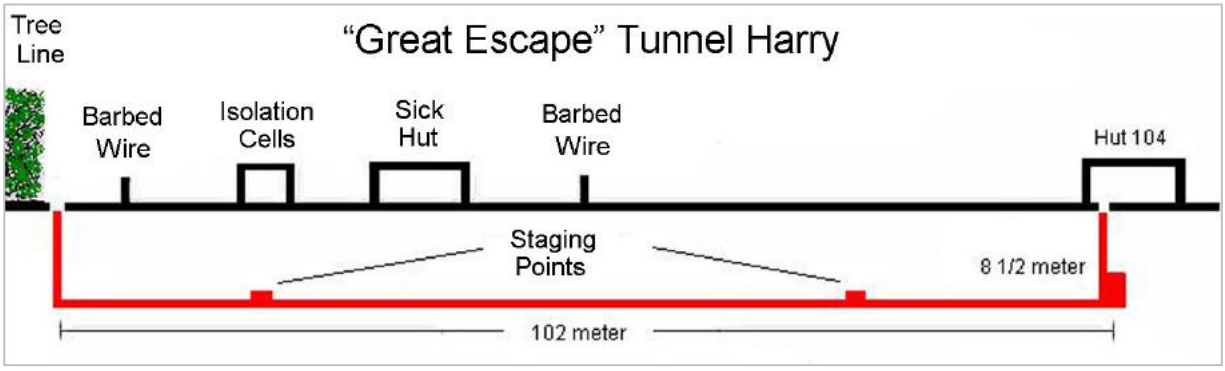


Figure 27 Sketch showing the depth and length of tunnel 'Harry'.

'The escape was delayed because the exit hatch took longer to dislodge than expected. Then it was discovered that the exit was some 25ft short of the edge of the forest which they had relied on to provide cover from the sentries' watchtower. Despite these setbacks, the escape got under way at 10.30pm and shortly after 2.30am 80 men had gone through the tunnel. Four of these were supervising the exit and dispersal procedure when a prowler sentry outside the wire stumbled across the exit hole and fired a warning shot to alert the guards.

> Stanisław 'Danny' Krol had gone through the tunnel ahead of Dowse and miraculously the two met in the woods beyond the wire. Their plan had been to catch a train to Berlin then Stettin (now Szczecin [in Poland]), but the delays in the tunnel meant they had missed the first one. Not wishing to hang about Sagan station waiting for another, they decided to follow the line of the railway eastwards and walk the 80 miles to Poland.
>
> They made remarkably good progress and were within a few miles of the Polish border on April 6 when a farmer discovered them in his barn, where they were taking a rest before crossing under cover of darkness. Disbelieving their cover story of being Polish workers, the farmer called a party of Hitler Youth and Volksturm [local militia].
>
> Dowse was sent to Sachsenhausen concentration camp [near Frankfurt]. Stanisław 'Danny' Krol was among the 50 recaptured officers to be executed.' [*The Times*, 11 April 2008]

German retaliation: Sachsenhausen concentration camp 1944 to 1945

> 'At Sachsenhausen, Dowse found himself with three fellow survivors of the 'Great Escape': (Harry Day, Johnnie Dodge and Bertram James). They were placed in Sonderlager A (Special Camp A) within the main camp. Here were housed a handful of other 'political' prisoners, including [Special Operations Executive] SOE agent Peter Churchill, two Russian generals, various other Russians, Poles, Italians and four British soldiers of Irish origin. Later, they were joined by British Commando Lieutenant-Colonel (Mad) Jack Churchill who had been taken prisoner on the Dalmatian island of Brac.' [*Wikipedia*]

> 'Unlike in Sagan, where the guards were vigilant for signs of escape, the Sonderlager prisoners were left to their own devices.' [*The Times*, 11 April 2008]

> 'Dowse and James almost immediately began another tunnel, which was kept secret from all non-British personnel. The 120ft-long tunnel ran from a corner of their prison barrack room under the nearby fence to an empty compound beyond. Their tools were a table knife with a serrated edge and two spoons. The earth dug out was dispersed in the foundations of the barrack block. This was completed and used on the night of 23 September 1944, when Dowse, James, Day, Dodge and Jack Churchill escaped.
>
> Dowse paired up with Harry Day and they travelled by train into Berlin. However, they were recaptured the next day when hiding in a bombed-out house in the Berlin suburb of Mahlsdorf.' [*Wikipedia*]

> 'The four former Stalag Luft III inmates and Churchill crawled through the tunnel and scaled the outer wall of Sachsenhausen on September 23, 1944, but all were recaptured by early October and returned to Sachsenhausen and placed in separate cells in the punishment block. After further questioning, during which Dowse informed his interrogators that he had posted a letter to the International Red Cross during his few days of freedom, the five men were returned to the camp cell block.' [*The Times*, 11 April 2008]

> 'All the escapers who had been re-captured had been spared execution mainly thanks to Day's efforts under interrogation. [*Wikipedia*]

Sydney then spent a period at Sachsenhausen in solitary confinement – accounts vary, but the duration of this seems to have been 4-5 months, from late December 1944 into the early months of 1945. He, together with a couple of other 'Great Escapers', were then grouped with more than 130 other individuals of several nationalities and varied backgrounds and moved to Dachau concentration camp near Munich. Under the direct orders of Hitler this group of 'prominent' prisoners (*Prominenten*) were to be used as pawns by the Nazi regime in the course of negotiation if they were to arrive at the point of losing the war. They were moved on yet again, overseen by SS personnel, and landed up at Niederdorf in the South Tyrol. By this time German command structures were disintegrating as the leadership of the regime entered its death throes in Berlin. Nazi officers, amidst increasing lapses into disorder, internal conflicts and drunkenness, became uncertain of their duties and authority. It was discovered that one of them guarding the group at Niederdorf was carrying a document ordering that 28 of the group, including Sydney and his two colleagues, were to be executed. Fortuitously, German Wehrmacht troops then intervened. After a tense and perilous standoff, the SS guards laid down their weapons and departed. Some of the *Prominenten* managed to disperse. On 1 May, Sydney and others set out towards the nearby American 5th Army, reaching them two days later. On 4 May the Americans went to rescue the remaining hostages and in the

face of this the Werhmacht in turn dropped their weapons and surrendered; the *Prominenten* were officially liberated.

Useful details about Sydney's early flying career are contained in his summary Service Record (Form 543) held in The National Archives. Some segments of this two-page record are shown in the Appendix.

After the war – Malaya and the first marriage

With the war in Europe ended Sydney was repatriated to England. In January 1946 he was released from the RAF, ranked as Flight Lieutenant. He was 27.

A month later, on 11 February, Sydney's sister Patricia ('Paddy') Mary married in London at St George's, Hanover Square to David Anderson Borrie of the Colonial Administrative Service. Her parental home was still 'Drumconner' in Lancing. A quite long account of the wedding was published on 15 February in *The Herald* (Worthing), noting Patricia's interesting wartime career. She had been serving in the Observer Corps in Malaya, escaping from there only two days before Japan had invaded. On return to England she had then served as a Leading Torpedo operator with the Wrens (Women's Royal Naval Service). Her husband David had served as a pilot with the RAF Volunteer Reserve when the war began but subsequently worked, as did Patricia, in the Observer Corps in Malaya. Like Patricia's father William Robert, David was captured when Singapore surrendered to the Japanese and was interned until the war's end in the Changi prison camp. The newspaper's report of Patricia's wedding does not mention the presence there of any of her siblings, but it seems highly probable that Sydney would have attended it. She was given away at the wedding by her father.



MONDAY'S WEDDING at St George's Church, Hanover Square, London. Mr David Anderson Borrie, of the Colonial Administrative Service, is the 'groom. His bride was Miss Patricia Dowse of Lancing

Figure 28 Wedding of Sydney's sister Patricia; 11 February 1946.

The Electoral Registers for London in 1946 show Sydney living in London NW1 at 56 Warren Court, a large block of apartments adjoining Warren Street underground station on the Euston Road, borough of Camden. One other person was listed with him there, a widow Mary Ann Cook, who would soon become his first wife. In 1958 she told a court that she and Sydney had first met in April 1946.

Mary Ann had been born in Malta with surname Cesareo in the first decade of the 20th century and had come to live in England at about the age of 16. She had married at Westminster Register Office in 1937 to a

clerk George William Cook. Their marriage certificate [GRO Ref: Westminster 1a 1212, 1937 (Q2)] states her age as 30 and his as 27. It describes him as of independent means and living at 9 St Martin's Court (as was Mary Ann), London WC2. It names his father as William Cook, a company director, and her father as Henry Cesareo, a deceased mechanical engineer.

George had been born in Leigh, Lancashire on 8 December 1909 to parents William (at that time a shop keeper) and his wife Amy. By the time of the 1921 Census William had become joint director of a company C Cook & Co Ltd, dealing in household furniture.

After marrying in 1937 George and Mary Ann settled at 56 Warren Court, being listed there in the Electoral Registers of 1938 and 1939 as well as in the 1939 National Register. In the latter, George's occupation was given as wine store clerk and ambulance organiser (having enrolled at St Pancras) and Mary Ann as a clerk's secretary (presumably his); her birthdate was entered as 4 December 1907 which was more or less consistent with the marriage certificate but may not have been accurate.

George enlisted in the Army in 1939 and served in the Royal Regiment of Artillery with Service Number 224496. Described as a Cadet, he was named in the *Supplement to The London Gazette* of 17 February 1942 as having been made a 2nd Lieutenant with effect from 31 January. He died on active service a few months later, in Tunisia. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records that he died aged 33 on 24 April 1943 while serving in 231 Battery of the Royal Artillery's 58th Anti-Tank Regiment, and that he is buried or commemorated by memorial 16.F.9. at the Medjez-el-Bab War Cemetery. After his death Mary Ann continued living at 56 Warren Court and, as noted earlier, by 1946 Sydney had also taken up residence there.



Figure 29 Warren Court, Euston Road where Sydney took up residence with Mary Ann in about 1946.

In 1946 Sydney journeyed by sea to Singapore on the *Monarch of Bermuda*, departing from Liverpool on 18 July. The ship's manifest describes him as aged 27 and engaged in Colonial Administration; his last place of residence had been 'Drumconner' in South Lancing. In returning to Malaya, he was of course returning to an area in which his family had been very involved.

Just a month afterwards, on 16 August, he was awarded the Military Cross, announced three days in advance in *The Third Supplement to The London Gazette* published on 13 August. The citation is quite long and detailed, and it is clear that the award had been made for his contributions to helping others escape from imprisonment. The Gazette's announcement is shown in the II.

On the same day that this award was announced in the *Gazette*, Mary Ann Cook embarked at Liverpool on the Bibby Line's ship *Derbyshire* bound for Malta, probably to visit friends or family there. The passenger

manifest prefixes her name with 'Mrs', gives her age as 38 and her last address as 56 Warren Court. She must have returned to Britain before long, because on 6 February 1947 she embarked again, this time at Southampton on the ship *Arundel Castle* bound for Singapore, her age listed as 39 and her last address as 56 Warren Court.

According to Mary Ann's later testimony (in July 1958) to the Penang High Court, Sydney had been writing to her from Singapore saying that he wanted her to come there and marry him. He married her in Singapore in the afternoon of the same day she arrived there in March 1947. He had married a woman at least 11 years older than himself and it would have been doubtful whether she could by then have produced children. He later claimed that his parents had strongly disapproved of the marriage.

On 6 April 1947, or thereabouts, Sydney was appointed to the role of District Officer at Balik Pulau, his predecessor having been transferred from there [*The Straits Budget*, 10 April 1947]. (District Officers played an essential role in the districts to which they were assigned, carrying out both administrative and executive functions in the interface between the Colonial government and the inhabitants.) Balik Pulau, then a small village, is today a suburb of George Town in the Malayan state of Penang, nearly 400 miles north of Singapore. He was presently transferred to Parit in Perak state, south of Penang, before being appointed in 1949 (according to Mary Ann) to the Secretariat in Kuala Lumpur.



Figure 30 The fountain at Balik Pulau town centre; about 1940s/50s.

He and Mary Ann visited Britain in 1950, sailing on the P&O line's ship *Canton* and arriving at London on 17 April. The passenger list describes him as a civil servant and states their intended address as 20 Gordon Square, WC1. Her age is entered imaginatively as '31' rather than at least 43. They returned nearly six months later, departing from Southampton on 6 October 1950 bound for Singapore on the Dutch ship *Oranje*. They cited their last place of residence as 20 Gordon Square and his occupation as in the Colonial Administrative Service.

Back in Malaya, he was posted to Larut, Matang in Perak as Chairman of the Town Board, but scenes arising from their turbulent marriage caused him to be transferred from there, and in 1951 they returned to Penang. Unhappy in her situation, Mary Ann left him on 19 October 1952 and returned to Britain aboard the *Canton*, arriving at London on 27 October; the passenger list gives her age as '37' rather than at least 45 and her intended address as 20 Gordon Square. The 1954 Electoral Register for St Marylebone shows her living at 54 Blandford Street, where she was to continue living for at least the following ten years.

Details of Sydney and Mary Ann during the next few years are known primarily from a series of newspaper articles recounting in excruciating detail their long-drawn-out divorce case in the Penang High Court and the Malayan Federal Court of Appeal, extending from 1958 until 1962. Those articles about the case appearing in *The Straits Times* are freely available online, whilst others in the *Singapore Standard* are not. The divorce proceedings reached the Penang High Court in the summer of 1958, Sydney testifying that he had first asked Mary Ann for a divorce in September 1953. Mary Ann had travelled to Malaya from London to contest his suit. The following summaries are drawn from the accounts in *The Straits Times* of the evidence offered by both sides during the court proceedings.

The Straits Times, 23 July 1958

Sydney's case was made on the basis of her desertion. She contested this, counter-alleging cruelty towards her on his part. He said that she had broken gramophone records over his head on one social occasion, which he had passed off as a joke. He stated that after the transfer to Kuala Lumpur she had been always picking quarrels with him, creating scenes whenever he returned from playing golf or rugby and had been in the habit of throwing things at him. He described a holiday they had taken in Lausanne, Switzerland. Part way through this she had packed her bags and gone back to London; he had persuaded her to return to the holiday, which she did, but after returning to London she had walked out on him again. He denied that in July 1952 he had torn off her dress leaving her nude.

The Straits Times, 24 July 1958

Sydney said that at a party Mary Ann had spotted a small smudge of lipstick on his coat. She had then used her own lipstick to smear his entire coat with it. At another party, at the home of a Dr Yeo Choon Hooi in August 1952, she had had a few drinks before they had driven off homewards. During the journey she had jumped out of the car and lain down in the middle of the road. Another car stopped and its driver, a Mr Moller, tried to assist in getting her up. After some time Mr Moller gave up and returned to his car, whereupon she got up of her own accord and got back into Sydney's car. He denied that he had threatened to crash the car, or that he would drive her out of town and murder her or that he had punched her in the face. He also denied that he was afflicted by obsessive jealousy and suspiciousness, or had a persecution complex or had a wild temper.

The Straits Times, 25 July 1958

Mary Ann claimed that at a Rotary Ball in 1952 Sydney had paid excessive attention to the wife of a Dr Ooi Kee Wan, a former president of the Penang Rotary Club, causing her (Mary Ann) humiliation and distress. Dr Ooi testified that no such behaviour on Sydney's part had taken place, that he had never see Sydney drunk and had never see the facial disfigurements that Mary Ann claimed to have resulted from Sydney beating her. Referring to the incident alleged to have occurred in August 1952, Dr Yeo testified to the same effect and said he had no memory of her being dragged away from the party as she had alleged. Sydney denied that he could be an extremely wild and difficult person to deal with, but counsel produced a letter written by Sydney's brother in 1946 urging him to control his temper.



Figure 31 Mrs Ooi Kee Wan.

The Straits Times, 30 July 1958

Mr Moller, the car driver mentioned previously, was examined in detail about the incident of August 1952. He said that Mary Ann, lying in the road, had asserted that Sydney had threatened to murder her. He said that when she had eventually risen from the road on her own accord she had been very calm; he thought she had been 'putting on an act'. A former servant of the Dowses testified that she had seen Mary Ann throw a tin at Sydney but had never seen him throwing anything at Mary Ann, or hitting her. Sydney stated that his parents had tried to break up his friendship with Mary Ann before the marriage. He intended to fly back to them this September.

The Straits Times, 31 July 1958

Mary Ann testified that during their journey aboard the *Canton* in 1950 Sydney had 'gone crazy', hitting and biting her in their cabin. She broke down during this testimony, resulting in a 10-minute adjournment. She alleged that on the day they had married she had invited him to meet some friends she had made during her voyage to Singapore on the *Arundel Castle*. After a nice party with them, Sydney asked her if she had slept with a particular man among those friends. Subsequently, every time they had a row he would accuse her of having slept with that man. She described how after a party in Balik Pulau he had driven their car at 80mph, saying 'I'll show you who is the master'. The car crashed into a pile of stones, ripping off its bonnet and left door; the next day she was diagnosed in hospital with mild concussion. On another social occasion there he had repeatedly accused her of being drunk despite their host denying this was so and telling him not to be so silly. She related that on their return he had beaten her unconscious – she had awoken in a bath of cold water, Sydney trying to press her face into it. She had needed to wear dark glassess afterwards to hide bruising to her eyes. She gave the court her account of the earlier incidents involving Dr Yeo, Dr Ooi, Mr Moller and the Lausanne holiday.

The Straits Times, 1 August 1958

Mary Ann continued her testimony, stating that Sydney was a very jealous man, not liking her to speak to other men and forbidding her to mention the name of her former husband. She had left Sydney because of his violent temper. He had used foul language to her throughout their marriage. After her return to England in 1952 she had written letters to him, telling of her loneliness, hoping for reconciliation until receiving his request for divorce in September 1953. Cross-examined, she said she had not given the names of people in London who had witnessed the beatings because 'they were all friends who did not like to be dragged into a case like this'. She had told Sydney that she would return to him in Malaya if he paid for her

journey and promised to stop beating her, but he had written back to say that he had been 'thrown out' of the Colonial Administrative Service and no longer had a job. After that he had sent her no more money.

The Straits Times, 2 August 1958

She continued testifying, saying she had heard that he was living in a big house and driving a big car. She admitted he had sent her £1,200. She would have settled the divorce case for £4,000 as that was the amount she had spent on him during their marriage. She denied that her aim in contesting his suit was to exact payment from him as the price of not making claims that would lose him his friends. Dowse's counsel stated that all her claims in the court had been falsehoods driven by her desire for money. He said that Dr Yeo had testified that in the incident of August 1952 it was she who had become 'rude and aggressive', whilst Mrs Yeo had testified that Mary Ann could be a very temperamental woman with a jealous disposition, always imagining that Sydney was running around after other women; but she (Mrs Yeo) did not believe that he was flirtatious. The case was now adjourned for other witness evidence to be sought.

The Straits Times, 7 November 1958

Three months had passed. The judge who had been hearing the case, Mr Justice Rigby, had just granted a *decree nisi* to Sydney, to be made absolute three months henceforth. With Sydney's consent, $4,000 would be paid by him to Mary Ann's solicitors to cover the costs of the proceedings. In his findings the judge stated that whilst he had shown considerable sympathy to Mary Ann it would be 'quite impossible for him' to say that Sydney had been guilty of causing constructive desertion. He would not accept her allegations of assaults 'without corroboration by independent witnesses'. He believed that she had left him in October 1952 'without reasonable cause'. It was also his view that both parties were 'wholly unsuited' to each other.

> It thus appeared that in his pursuit of a divorce Sydney was now home and dry with his reputation having been not too badly mauled during the proceedings. But this was not to be. In January 1959 Mary Ann wrote a letter to the Attorney General reporting to him the allegations of an unmarried woman named Tan Phaik Kooi, aged 23. On 22 August 1958 (ie after the conclusion of the court hearings, but before the verdict) Tan had reported to the police in Pulau Tilus that she had been raped on four occasions times by Sydney at his home, the first time in March of that year. She had become pregnant. Mary Ann had known of this during the divorce case hearings but had not disclosed it. Moreover, if Sydney had already committed adultery with this woman prior to those hearings then he had not presented to the High Court all material relevant to Mr Justice Rigby's determination of the case.
>
> In early February 1959, just four days before Sydney's *decree nisi* would have been made absolute, the Attorney General intervened and in early 1960 the case was reopened in the Penang High Court, again in front of Rigby.

The Straits Times, 20 January 1960

The intervention had been triggered by it being brought to the court's attention that in May 1958 Tan Phaik Kooi had been found by a doctor to be pregnant following, as she claimed, a number of occasions when, against her will, she and Sydney had been intimate. Because Sydney had denied being the father she had filed a statement at Pulau Tilus on 22 August. On 7 December 1958 she had given birth to a boy at the Penang Maternity Hospital, naming Sydney as the father. She was seeking damages.

The Straits Times, 22 January 1960

Sydney told the court that he had 'many enemies', with whispering campaigns against him all around the town. He denied being the father and said he had 'never even seen' Miss Tan. He did recall an occasion on 12 August 1958 when Tan and her guardian and another woman 'called at his house one night and made a commotion at the gate'. When they refused to leave he agreed to have her examined by a doctor (as will later appear, it was perhaps not an 'examination' Sydney was wanting from the doctor, but something more destructive). Rigby found it hard to understand why Sydney would have agreed to this if there had been no prior association between him and Tan. Sydney referred to threats having been made to him during the earlier proceedings by Mary Ann, whom he said was a 'vicious and spiteful woman capable of doing such a thing to him' – he was implying that this was all a set-up engineered by her. He had noted the commotion in his diary, with a side note that Tan was a prostitute. He had agreed to her seeing a doctor only in order to avoid publicity. A former servant of Sydney told the court that she lived next door to Tan and that on the night in question she had heard the commotion at Sydney's house. She confirmed Sydney's account of how he had eventually given in to Tan's demand to be examined. She also said that Tan had been 'mixing with

other men'. Sydney's counsel said there were discrepancies in Tan's evidence and asked the court 'what better way was there of scotching this false accusation than to see whether or not she was in fact pregnant?'

The Straits Times, 23 January 1960

Mr Justice Rigby declared that 'he had no doubt' that Sydney had 'deliberately and wilfully' suppressed the fact of his adultery with Tan Phaik Kooi. Having seen Tan and the two women who had accompanied her to Sydney's house, Rigby said that he did not believe that any of them were other than respectable women. He believed that Sydney's conduct, in agreeing for a medical examination, had been consistent with his knowing that he had been the father of her child. Regarding Tan's allegations that the intimacies had been non-consensual, these were not germane to the case in hand.

Rigby acknowledged that during the earlier proceedings in 1958 Sydney must have been much distressed by the 'sensational, unpleasant and vulgar publicity' it had provoked. He branded Mary Ann as 'a thoroughly vindictive woman who, for motives that can be actuated by little else but pure spite, would go to considerable lengths to resist the dissolution of the marriage'. He awarded costs against Sydney and ordered that the rescinding of the *decree nisi* be stayed pending an appeal, notice of which had been given by Sydney's counsel.



Figure 32 Mary Ann, photographed in London on 22 January 1960 while in Penang Justice Rigby was castigating her.

The Straits Times, 23 February 1960

In February 1960 Sydney appealed to the Federation Court of Appeal against Rigby's decision. The appeal hinged on the question of whether the accusation that Sydney had committed adultery with Tan had been satisfactorily corroborated in the recent hearings. Sydney's counsel pointed out that Tan's allegations had not been made known to the authorities until after those hearings, even though Mary Ann had known about them at the time. He asked whether the report of the commotion on 12 August 1958 amounted to corroboration of Tan's claims.

The Straits Times, 24 February 1960

The Penang Legal Adviser, acting on behalf of the Attorney General, argued that Rigby had acted properly when concluding that Tan's claims had been corroborated. Sydney's counsel said that for Tan's evidence to hold, it had to be shown not only that a crime had been committed but also that the accused had committed it. The mere fact that a girl was pregnant was no corroboration of that. He stated that Sydney's actions in response to the commotion had been entirely understandable.

The Straits Times, 25 February 1960

However, the Federation Chief Justice, Dato Sir James Thomson, presiding over the Appeal hearings with two other judges, thought otherwise, saying that there had been ample corroboration. Referring to Tan's evidence he conceded that 'it was extremely unlikely that the whole of her story was true' and that it was incredible that she would have had a succession of intimacies with Sydney that were all against her will. Thomson stated that the 'crucial question' was Sydney's state of mind when he had remarked, during the commotion (as witnesses had testified), that Tan did not look pregnant. Such a remark, said Thomson, suggested that Sydney had been 'more interested in the question of whether or not Tan was pregnant than anything else'. Moreover, not content with having arranged Tan to see a doctor, Sydney had then gone to that doctor the next day to ascertain the result of the examination. He would surely not have done so if he had never had intercourse with Tan. Thomson concluded that Rigby had been correct to regard these considerations as corroborative and dismissed the appeal with costs against Sydney.

The Straits Times, 12 April 1960

Sydney was not a man to give up easily. In April, on hearing submissions from his counsel and also from the Penang Legal Adviser, the Appeal Court granted Sydney conditional leave to appeal to the Privy Council against the rescission of his *decree nisi* granted in 1958.

The Straits Times, 30 April 1960

It was announced that the appeal would be heard by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council at sittings beginning on 11 January 1961.

The Straits Times, 6 May 1961

Following those sittings the Privy Council's findings were published in early May 1961. The issue was very simple, being a conflict between the testimonies of Sydney and Tan as to whether or not her pregnancy had been the result of their having had sexual relations. The findings rehearsed all the details of the events on 12 August 1958 and the matter of interpreting how Sydney had acted. The Council could find nothing exceptional in the way Mr Justice Rigby had formed his judgment on the evidence in front of him. The appeal was dismissed.

The Straits Times, 23 June 1962

But, as already observed, Sydney was not a man to give up easily. It appears that back in 1958, presumably in order to have disclosed everything material to her contesting Sydney's petition, Mary Ann had submitted 'discretionary statements' to the court admitting that in 1956 and 1957 she had herself committed adultery while in London. Now, in 1962, Sydney sued her for divorce on the grounds of that adultery, her statements now having become acceptable as evidence under the terms of the prevailing Evidence Ordinance. We do not know the details of these proceedings but in June 1962 Mr Justice Hepworth of the High Court granted Sydney a *decree nisi*, to be made absolute three months henceforth, whilst awarding costs against him. He was finally free of Mary Ann.

Curiously, Mary Ann retained her Dowse surname in the years that followed. Electoral Registers list her as residing at 54 Blandford Road in St Marylebone from 1954 until at least 1964. She may also have been the 'Mary Ann Dowse' listed in those registers during 1961-63 at 23 Lisle Street in Soho, at that time the premises of a nightclub. Mary Ann had been involved with such clubs even before she had met Sydney. In her testimony in 1958 she had told the High Court that (before the war) she had worked in the Burlington Club and then, during the war while her husband was away, she had run the Crackers Club in Denman Street. After the war she had managed the White Room Club. Later, during the divorce proceedings with Sydney, she had hoped to acquire enough money to purchase a club premises, but the £1,200 he had sent her had not been sufficient.

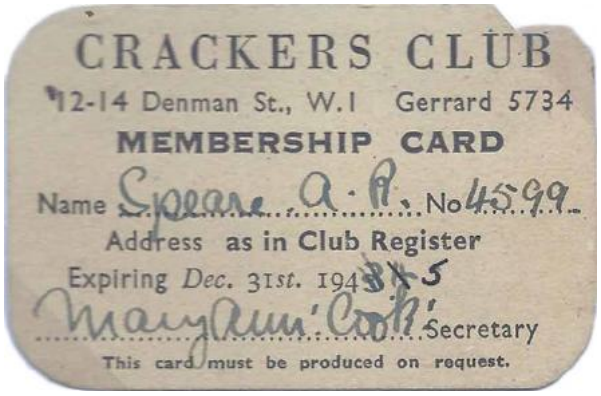

CRACKERS CLUB
12-14 Denman St., W.1 Gerrard 5734
MEMBERSHIP CARD
Name Speare A.A. No 4599
Address as in Club Register
Expiring Dec. 31st. 1943
Mary Ann Cook Secretary
This card must be produced on request.

Figure 33 Mary Ann Cook, acting as Secretary to the Crackers Club in the early 1940s; this membership card had belonged to fighter pilot Almus ('Al') Reed Speare, an American serving in the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Currently we know nothing more about the life she lived in London after returning there from Malaya in 1952. She appears to have died on 22 September 1978 [GRO Ref: Camden 14 1713, 1978 (Q3)] aged '63', a figure consistent with the underestimate of eight or so years that she had typically employed in earlier records citing her age. The Islington Cremation Register states [Reg No 21420] that cremation followed on 19 September. The Probate Register states that she had been residing at 32 Clare Court, Judd Street in London WC1 and that her effects were valued at £42,801, administration being granted on 12 December.

The second marriage

Sydney wasted little time before getting remarried. At the beginning of August 1963 it was announced that he had become engaged to the sister (Florence) Marion of Mr Frank Byers, Chairman of Britain's Liberal Party; they were expecting to marry in London in September [*The Straits Times*, 1 August 1973]. Marion was about the same age as Sydney, having been born in Birkenhead, Cheshire on 30 January 1918 to parents Charles Cecil Byers and his wife Florence May (née Fairclough). The 1939 National Register finds the family living in Lancing, their home almost next to that of Sydney's family. Marion's occupation was entered as 'artist'. It seems highly probable that Sydney had known her long before he married Mary Ann. Marion had first married to John Brook [GRO Ref: Westminster 1a 1318, 1940 (Q1)] and by him produced two children, Caroline S (1945) and John Marcus (1947). By the time she became engaged to Sydney she had evidently divorced, being referred to in *The Straits Times* as 'Miss Marion Byers'.

Sydney and Marion married a little later than September – their marriage was registered in the 4th quarter [GRO Ref: Westminster 5c 639, 1963 (Q4)]. It seems that Sydney had put Malaya behind him for the time being. His life in Malaya had been very different from what it would be during his next few years in England. In 1961 and 1962 he had been President of the Penang Rugby Union and had been regularly lauded in the Press there as a 'rugby star'.



Figure 34 Marion Byers.

Sydney Dowse takes up residence in Leewood Way, Effingham

Not long after marrying, Sydney and Marion took up residence in Effingham, Surrey. The then still very new house into which they moved was called The Elms and stood in Leewood Way (this is entirely distinct from the dwelling nearby of the same name on Orestan Lane).

The builder of The Elms and its previous occupant had been property dealer and Effingham stalwart (Wilfred Charles) John Brind (1913-2001) who had first appeared – with his third wife Madeline (née Winterborn) – in Effingham's electoral registers for 1961-62 (the qualifying date was 10 October 1960), as well as a Councillor on Effingham Parish (EPC) and a member of the local board of school managers. Having joined EPC at the local elections of May 1962, his first appearance in the Minutes was for the meeting of 5 June 1962. He also served on the Committee of Management for Effingham's King George's Field and Hall charity (as it was then named) and in 1963, when he was Chairman of that Committee, he was given a cheque for £52-10s by Barnes and Molly Wallis to start up a fund for building a 'pavilion' on the charity's premises, this building becoming subsequently known as the King George V ('KGV') Hall [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 4 May 1963]. From early 1963 Mr Brind had been Chairman of Effingham Residents and Ratepayers Association (ERRA as it was styled then), in the formation of which he had been the prime mover; the intention was to ensure that villagers could share their views and feed these to their elected Councillors.



Figure 35 (Wilfred Charles) John Brind, c1948-49.

During his time in Effingham Mr Brind was desirous of developing land lying between Leewood Way and Orestan Lane, land that had long been farmed by the Killick family of West Lane Farm. He may have been the source of a planning application [Ref: GU/R 11426] submitted to Guildford Rural District Council (GRDC) seeking consent to demolish the farmhouse, and some farm buildings, and erect one house – we do not yet know the full details. We do know that consent was granted, on 27 March 1963.

Two earlier planning applications [Refs: GU/R 5441 and GU/R 5743] for residential development on this land had already been refused by GRDC in 1956 while the Killicks were still resident. Again, we do not yet have further details of these plans but we do know that consent was refused.

Mr Brind resigned from EPC in early 1964, his letter being noted at its meeting of 24 February 1964; at that meeting another resident of Leewood Way, Anthony Cockle (David's father), was unanimously elected as a Councillor in Mr Brind's place. At an ERRA meeting in February 1964 tribute was paid by its incoming new Chairman Mr Kenneth McCrae Hall to Mr Brind who, it was noted, had moved away from

Effingham to take up residence in Cobham Way, East Horsley [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 1 February 1964]. From this it seems safe to conclude that Sydney and Marion purchased The Elms from the Brinds and moved into it in late 1963 or early 1964. As will be related presently, Mr Brind's property ambitions for Effingham attracted particular public attention after he had moved away and Sydney was one of the many residents who would express their opposition to those ambitions.



Figure 36 Kenneth McCrae Hall and his bride Rowena Joan (née Chalk) at their wedding in 1954.

During the period when Sydney and Marion were living in Effingham they were familiar to the Cockle family living opposite to them. David now relates here his recollections of Leewood Way in its early days and, in particular, his memories of Sydney.

Early days in Leewood Way

We moved to Effingham in the summer of 1957 – my father, mother, myself and my sister Jillian – from Kingston upon Thames where we had lived in the converted upstairs flat of my paternal grandfather's house in Latchmere Road. I was nearly six years old and had just completed my first year of primary school education at Latchmere Road Junior School.

My father Anthony ('Tony') and my mother Donalda ('Donnie') purchased a newly built three-bedroom detached house, No 14, in Leewood Way. My father, a chartered electronics engineer with Solartron Ltd in Cox Lane, Chessington, installed the electrical power system in the new house. My parents gave the house the name Kander after the river which runs through the Swiss village of Kandersteg in the Bernese Oberland, where my parents had gone on their honeymoon.

The Leewood Way estate of detached houses and bungalows was built on the site of Upper Leewood Farm. Construction began in 1955, with the last bungalows completed in early 1958. The developer/builder was W H Gaze & Sons Ltd of Thames Ditton, Surrey. The majority of the houses at the lower, western, end of the estate, were built on piled foundations owing to the local geology. The underlying strata there are the Thanet Sands & Reading Beds (Late Paleocene), overlying the chalk (a boundary known as the K-T boundary); these beds consist of green sandy clay and sand, approximately 59-40 million years old, lying between Home Farm in the south and Leewood Way in the north. The piling contractor was Colets Piling Ltd, their plant workshop and offices located at the corner of The Street and Orestan Lane on the site of the old Village Hall.

In the autumn of 1956, we all visited Leewood Way to see the progress on our new house. The recent Suez crisis had imposed petrol rationing on Britain. With my father requiring his

Rover 12 for work, we had to travel by train from Surbiton to Effingham Junction and then walk the 1½ miles to Leewood Way. In what would become our garden, I had the misfortune to step in a puddle which turned out to be a completed pile bore, which soaked my lower legs from foot to knee. Squelching back to the station and waiting for a train back to Surbiton is a very powerful memory.



Figure 37 Leewood Way in 1965, with No. 14 (the Cockle home) marked; The Elms lay beyond the left-hand edge of this picture.

Opposite (south of) No 14 and across the road there is a bank and a ditch, a hedge of elm and then fields. These fields between Leewood Way and Orestan Lane extending westwards towards East Horsley had long been known as West Lane Farm (or 'Killicks'). The farm was a composite holding, made up of some tenancies and some land owned by the Killicks themselves, on which they grazed their dairy herd. At the eastern end was the farmhouse (since demolished) fronting onto Orestan Lane. At that time West Lane Farm belonged to farmer Ernest Arthur Killick (1891-1970). His father Arthur John (1852-1928) and Arthur's uncle John (1809-1883) had also previously farmed West Lane Farm. On Arthur's death in 1928 Ernest had taken over the additional position of Clerk to Effingham Parish Council (which his father had held since 1894) and held this office until 1946.

Since the 1930s Ernest, by an agreement with Mrs Dolores Pauling of The Lodge, also had a tenancy to graze his dairy cattle on her parkland which, after her death in 1938, became what is now the KGV playing fields.

Ernest began winding down his own dairy herd after the end of the War. He began selling off land and relinquishing tenancies. He last appears on the Electoral register for qualifying date October 1960, after which he moved to Great Bookham.

I and the other young boys who lived on Leewood Way regularly scrumped fruit in Ernest's orchard. He apprehended us on several occasions, threatening either to report us to the village bobby for trespass or to visit our fathers. I don't remember if he ever followed through on his threats.

The Elms

Property developer John Brind (mentioned earlier) personally bought the orchard plot and gained planning permission from Guildford Rural District Council to build a large family house which he named The Elms on part of the site, accessed from Leewood Way. Planning consent for The Elms [Ref: GU/R 8856] was gained on 29 July 1960. Brind and his family lived at The Elms for about three years. By February 1964 they had sold the house to Sydney Hastings Dowse and moved away from Effingham.

Memories of Sydney in Effingham

Sydney moved into the Elms in early 1964. He would be about 46 at that time. Electoral Registers list his new wife Marion there with him. I remember him having a lady there with a significantly tanned complexion; probably this was Marion.

Sydney made an immediate impression in Leewood Way and Effingham. He drove a silver/grey 1960s Bentley S2 saloon. It was known that on several occasions he drove the Bentley up to Gibb's butchers in The Street in his swimming trunks and bare feet and went into their shop so attired.

He and his wife sunbathed in the nude beside the swimming pool in the garden of The Elms. The teenage boys of Leewood Way, including myself, were curious at what had been told by somebody's parent and we went to peer through the hedge surrounding the back garden. Sydney became aware of the voyeurs and threw apples at us, so we scarpered!

Many of the residents of Leewood Way and Effingham were suspicious and very wary of Sydney, having little knowledge of his background. My father was an exception and, being a former WW2 RAF serviceman with an interest in radios, radar and the fate of RAF prisoners of war, struck up a casual friendship with Sydney. My father told Sydney that I was a Cadet Sergeant in No 261 Guildford Air Training Squadron, undergoing Air Experience Flying at RAF White Waltham, Berkshire in de Havilland Chipmunks. My father also told Sydney that I had recently gained my 'C' Class Gliding Licence at RAF Tangmere, Sussex and that I had ambitions to join the RAF, subject to passing the aptitude tests at the Air Crew Training Centre at RAF Biggin Hill, Kent. (I was accepted, subject to school/college examinations, for Officer and Air Crew Training but my pilot training was deferred for 18 months owing to Ministry of Defence budgetary restraints in that period; somewhat crestfallen, I decided to pursue my second career choice – Civil Engineering.)

It was through these conversations my father had with Sydney that in 1967, when I was about 16, I was invited by him to come to The Elms after school, to see his RAF photographic album. I remember that apart from his photographs of pilot friends and colleagues, there were others showing:

- Sydney in his rugby kit – he played for RAF teams;
- his flight training when he was in the RAFVR – de Havilland Tiger Moths, Hawker Harts and North American Harvards;
- the Fairey Ansons, Fairey Swordfish and Supermarine Spitfires that he flew;
- the RAF bases that he flew from, Benson in Oxfordshire for one – being the home of 1PRU this base was secret, for obvious reasons;
- Sidney Cotton's Lockheed 12 Electra, probably at RAF Benson or RAF Heston.
- unusually, original copies of aerial photographs of locations in France, Germany and Scandinavia, which he undoubtedly took on his photo-recce missions; several of these featured Kriegsmarine battle ships and battle cruisers, including Bismark, Tirpitz, Scharnhorst and Gneisenau – he shouldn't have been able to keep copies of these!

He enjoyed telling me about his reconnaissance missions to France, the Ruhr, Norway and, surprisingly, southern Spain. I cannot recollect if he mentioned his time as a POW in German camps or his taking part in the Great Escape.

Sydney's 'lady friend'/wife brought in a tray of coffee and cakes during our meeting in their sumptuous lounge, which I remember was expensively furnished. Sydney offered me a brandy or a scotch to accompany the 'Cafe keuken'; I politely said "thanks but no thanks" as my parents would have taken a dim view of a sixteen-year-old drinking spirits in the afternoon, but I accepted the offer of a small beer.

Sydney and his lady disappeared from The Elms and from Effingham some time in 1968; I never saw him again.

In 1968 we had a family holiday in Kandersteg, Switzerland. One day in the two-week holiday we travelled to the Swiss Federal Capital, Bern, by train to visit museums and the extensive shops. In the early evening, we returned to the Bern railway station (Bahnhof Bern) to catch our return BLS service to Kandersteg. Waiting outside a café on the concourse for the platform board to display our train, my father suddenly exclaimed "that woman in the fur coat walking across the concourse, isn't that Sydney Dowse's partner?" We all looked and at that same moment she saw us and quickly walked on without acknowledging our presence.

Mr Brind's development proposals

After his move to East Horsley Mr Brind's ambitions for Effingham became more starkly apparent. On 2 December 1963 a company named Orestan Developments Limited (ODL) had been incorporated and registered at Companies House. Its declared objects were to acquire lands and premises and to carry on the business of builders and contractors. Initially it had two subscribers, Susan Mary Lowes and Thelma Platman, each holding one share. Its registration document records that the company's compliance with the Companies Act of 1948 had been declared by a solicitor John David Almond Leaver on behalf of the legal practice Baker, McKenzie & Hightower of Compton House, Aldwych, London WC2. ODL's registered address was 28 Ealing Road, Wembley in Middlesex, being the premises of Clifford & Clifford Ltd (auctioneers, surveyors, house, land and estate agents). Another company, Effingham Developments Limited (EDL), was likewise claiming to be based at that address and also at East Horsley but, curiously, cannot be found in the online records of Companies House. Mr Brind was a director of EDL, this being stated in an article about his involvement in a controversial proposal to develop land in Tadworth [*Surrey Mirror and County Post*, 31 January 1964]. In November 1964 he had offered to the 'education authority' (referring to Surrey County Council's Central Divisional Education Executive) to 'dedicate' 7 acres of land between Orestan Lane and Leewood Way for the use of the Howard of Effingham School and St Lawrence Primary School; as noted earlier, these 7 acres had been farmed since at least the early 19th century by the Killick family of West Lane Farm in Orestan Lane. Land Registry documents indicate that ODL had acquired the title to this land in late December 1963. In respect of a further section of land between Orestan Lane and Leewood Way, Mr Brind was seeking planning permission to build six houses which were supposedly to be let to teachers at a nominal rent. Both ODL and EDL were thus involved in these proposals, ODL as the land owner and EDL acting in partnership with it.



Figure 38 The view east across part of the land that Mr Brind wished in 1964 to 'dedicate' to the schools; The Elms (with its white-edged gable) is at right of centre whilst other houses in Leewood Way opposite The Elms can be seen on the left.

The proposals were viewed with considerable suspicion. Many column inches were given to Mr Brind's statements disputing that he been promoting them for personal gain [*The Surrey Advertiser*, 20 March 1965]. A week later his position was attacked by Mr Hall who only a year previously had taken over the Chairmanship of ERRA from Mr Brind and had at that time praised him for his multiple contributions to the community. He now accused Mr Brind of having not disclosed the full facts about his intentions, suggesting that the proposal to offer the 7 acres for the use of the schools was 'tied up' with another application made by Mr Brind 'to build about 60 houses and a shopping centre in the Effingham area' [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 27 March 1965]. Mr Brind denied this, saying that his proposals had been made purely 'from the goodness of his heart'. Mr Hall may have had his own reasons for opposing the proposals – he was a resident of Orestan Lane, living with his wife Rowena at the house named Dalehurst.

These proposals appear to have been turned down by GRDC during 1965. ODL then submitted a plan to build 34 detached houses on the afore-mentioned 7 acres, whilst offering an adjoining plot of 11 acres to Surrey County Council for a new school and/or playing fields. GRDC refused this proposal for 34 houses as it was judged to be incompatible with Green Belt policy. ODL subsequently appealed. A public inquiry to hear this appeal was scheduled to take place on 16 February 1966. At a meeting of ERRA in September 1965 the Chairman – now Brian Cassell, who had succeeded Mr Hall – urged residents to attend the inquiry and to submit their views in writing [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 2 October 1965]. At a further meeting in December ERRA announced that it would contribute £50 towards the estimated £300 required for its legal representation at the inquiry; an appeal for contributions to this 'fighting fund' was to be sent to all residents [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 4 December 1965].



Figure 39 A view east of Leewood Way, dominating the centre of the photograph; Orestan Lane is at far right.

In this aerial photograph taken in 1965 can be seen, in green, the land formerly to be 'dedicated' to the schools (forming most of the reputed '7 acres') but on which Mr Brind now wished to build 34 homes. The area shown in mauve was a small part of the '11 acres' he now offered to SCC for a new school or playing fields, as indicated by the contemporary hand-written label at lower left. The blue circle marks The Elms and the red circle marks an electricity sub-station (which would be replaced by a smaller one in 1968). Figures 37-40 are drawn from a bound file of 11 photographs [SHC Ref: 8423/5] submitted to GRDC in 1965 by Mr Brind's EDL 'in conjunction with' ODL.

The inquiry duly took place, at Millmead House, Guildford. Effingham's opposition to ODL's plan appears to have been spearheaded by EPC which at this time was chaired by Dr Charles Thomas Sutton. However, it was Councillor Antony ('Tony') Donald Page who represented EPC at the inquiry [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 19 February 1966]. He expressed the view that there had been 'a hint of bribery' in ODL's offer of the 11 acres site alongside its application to build on the 7 acres site, as well as 'a hint of blackmail' in the possibility that if ODL did not get its way then it might inflict something even worse upon Effingham. He said 'Seldom have I heard a case presented with a more cynical contempt for the Green Belt policy'. EPC's Vice-Chairman, Brian Cassell, also spoke. He was EPC's representative on the board of governors for the two local schools and reported that following inspection of the land offered it had been concluded that it was unsuitable for playing fields. A resident John Wright described Effingham as a place not far from London which had preserved the character of a true village; its residents and associations had worked actively to maintain that character.

Sydney was also given the opportunity to speak. The rear of The Elms directly overlooked the 7 acres site. One of the 11 photographs submitted to GRDC is captioned 'View of the Site as seen from the upper window of "The Elms" Leewood Way'; it must surely have been taken by Mr Brind before he sold The Elms to Sydney. The Elms would arguably be more directly affected by the proposal than any other property in Leewood Way. There was some irony in the fact that Mr Brind, who had previously enjoyed his unspoilt rural outlook from the rear of The Elms, was now seeking to alter that outlook against the wishes of the very person to whom he had sold the house and to whom he had no doubt conveyed reassurances as to the stability of its situation.

In Sydney's statement to the inquiry he said:

> '... he bought his house because he had definite information that it was in the Green Belt, and that there was no chance whatsoever of any building there. He was told two applications for planning consent [on that site] had been turned down.'

In the end, the Minister of Housing and Local Government rejected ODL's application to build the 34 houses. Brian Cassell's joyful response to the announcement in August was reported at length [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 20 August 1966]; he likened the battle by ERRA, in particular, as 'rather like the story of David and Goliath'. The inquiry inspector had recommended that the appeal be rejected on the basis that 'there were no special reasons to warrant the overriding of normal Green Belt principles in this case' and that 'this portion of the Green Belt served as a small but definite and valuable break between the main village development and the unfortunate ribbon development to the west'.

Soon afterwards Sydney did experience a little development behind his house when, in 1968, a new electricity sub-station was built directly behind The Elms, surrounded by a fence six feet high.

GRDC had received no objection to this and in any case the work lay within the scope of permitted development [*The Surrey Advertiser*, 6 January 1968].



Figure 40 The view south from the rear of The Elms towards Orestan Lane; directly ahead is the old sub-station whilst at the right can be seen the farmhouse of West Lane Farm.

ODL was not a company to give up easily. After the 1966 failure another plan was submitted for the 7 acres site and that too was refused, on 3 February 1971 [SHC Ref: GU/R/1/71/EFF]. This refusal was subsequently appealed and a public inquiry to hear the appeal was scheduled to take place later that year, on 6 October. However, in September it was reported that ODL had withdrawn its appeal [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 24 September 1971]. Evidently ODL then sat on the land for about 55 years until such time as the Green Belt principles were relaxed. That relaxation came in December 2024 when the Government set in motion a revised National Planning Policy Framework whereby some land within the Green Belt could be viewed as 'Grey Belt' and potentially suitable for development. At the end of December 2024 ODL had current assets of only £34,575 whilst owing £42,090 to its creditors; it must have been putting a low market value on its land holdings. In late 2025 the housing association Aster Homes Ltd, having an option to purchase the 7 acres site from ODL, submitted to Guildford Borough Council an application for permission to build 37 dwellings there. And so the arguments over this site will go through yet another cycle, more than sixty years since the first one. One of ODL's directors today (2026) is the son of the Mr Leaver who had endorsed the company back in 1963.

There is much more that ELHG would wish to learn about the history of Orestan Lane and West Lane Farm and of the various attempts to develop the land there – we intend to research this topic more closely in the future and to write an article about it for this series.

Another significant matter for Sydney during his years in Effingham was concerned with the quest to obtain compensation for those who – like him – had been imprisoned at Sachsenhausen. After the war a campaign had been launched to secure compensation for British victims of Nazi persecution. Its proponents had engaged in a ten-year battle against resistance from the Foreign Office but by the summer of 1964 an agreement had been made between the British Government and the Federal German Government that Germany would provide £1M for the British Government to distribute as it saw fit. Accordingly, by late 1966 about a third of more than 3,000 claimants had been compensated, receiving on average about £1,000 each. The fund was then depleted. However, about a dozen surviving ex-prisoners of Sachsenhausen had been excluded from this scheme, the Foreign Office taking the view that these individuals had not been in 'Sachsenhausen proper', that is, in a true concentration camp, but rather in an associated special camp within the complex where they were held (in the view of the Foreign Office) merely as prisoners-of-war.

Sydney had become much exercised by the Government's attitude. His views were reported at length in the autumn of 1965, when he stated [*Daily Express*, 10 October 1965]:

> 'There is someone sitting in an office somewhere who obviously hasn't much of an idea about what went on during the war. This person obviously thinks that just because we didn't come back from a concentration camp with grievous injuries we don't deserve any compensation'.



Figure 41 Group Captain Harry Day.

By mid-1967 the relevant survivors included six whose whereabouts were then known: Group Capt Harry 'Wings' Melville Arbuthnot Day; Flight Lt Sydney Hastings Dowse; Flying Officer Bertram Arthur 'Jimmy' James; Capt Sigismund Payne Best; Col John 'Mad Jack' Churchill and Capt Peter Morland. The survivors' case had been taken up in Parliament – at the request of Harry Day and Sydney – by Conservative MP Lt-Col Airey Neave who by mid-1967 had spent 18 months locked in argument about the matter with Foreign Secretary George Brown and Prime Minister Harold Wilson. It transpired that the Foreign Office had never interviewed any of the Sachsenhausen survivors and had instead relied, for its view of what their conditions and treatment had been like, only upon what had been written in books authored by Captains Best and Churchill. Neave pointed out that Harry Day, Sydney and others 'had spent long periods in cells, shackled to the floor and sometimes to the ceiling, being fed like animals and in fear of execution in the main compound' [*The Birmingham Post*, 16 June 1967]. An all-party motion signed by 353 MPs was laid in the Commons requesting an independent inquiry, this to be followed by *ex gratia* payments in appropriate cases. As a result, the matter was put before the Ombudsman Sir Edmund Compton whose verdict would then be debated on a free vote. He examined the evidence of just the four individuals who had chosen to lodge their claims: Harry Day, Sydney, Col Jack Churchill and Capt Best.

Sir Edward's report was published in December 1967 as reported with relish in the Press [*Daily Express*, 22 December 1967]:

> 'The case of a compensation battle by British soldiers [sic] held in a Nazi concentration camp blew up in the face of Foreign Secretary Mr George Brown yesterday. Devastating disclosures are made in a report by the Ombudsman, Sir Edmund Compton. Nameless mandarins of the Foreign Office are blasted by Sir Edmund for arguing that the 12 Servicemen were not entitled to compensation because they were not held in the main camp. But Mr Brown must bear the ultimate responsibility for the affair, which some MPs believe is as serious as the Whitehall blunder in the notorious Crichel Down case.'

Sir Edmund had concluded that the Foreign Office had followed incorrect procedure in its assessment of the claimants' case, resulting in an injustice to them as well as damaging their reputations. In the ensuing parliamentary debate George Brown disputed the view that his civil servants had blundered in their approach and argued that the whole business had been just one of differing judgments. Nevertheless, Brown grudgingly agreed to pay compensation, from the public purse. There were 11 recipients, including Sydney. However, Sydney was still dissatisfied, as reported in early 1968 [*Express and Star*, 30 January 1968]:

> 'But even this news has not satisfied Mr Sydney Dowse, one of the claimants and one of the organisers of the Great Escape from Stalag Luft III in 1944 when 50 British RAF men were shot. He thinks the money should come from the Germans and not from public funds. Mr Dowse, who lives in Effingham, Surrey, is still angry for people like widows and orphans [ie for relatives of the ex-prisoners who had since died].'

Returning to Sydney's domestic circumstances, it is perhaps significant that in the Electoral Register for Effingham his wife Marion's last appearance is for the year 1968, whereas Sydney continued to be listed at The Elms up to 1972. This may connect with a remark made about Sydney on the *military-history.fandom.com* website:

> 'He married three times, for the most part to women of some fortune but was single at the time of his death. (He married Florence Marion Byers, daughter of wealthy businessman and Liberal, C. Charles Byers, then ran off, in 1968, with Wings Day's wife, to his former superior officer's eternal chagrin.) In retirement Dowse divided his time between elegant homes in Chelsea and Monte Carlo.'

Harry 'Wings' Day, one of Dowse's fellow prisoners of war and petitioners in the claim for compensation, had married and divorced several times before finally partnering (or marrying) Margaret ('Margo') (née Holmes) Pollock. Electoral Registers for Knightsbridge list Harry and Margo as residing there at 2 Trevor Square during at least the period 1965-70. Reputedly they also lived at times in Monaco and then Malta. It is not clear whether they ever separated or whether Sydney had indeed 'run off' with her. Harry died in Malta on 2 December 1977. Three years later Sydney (by then aged about 62) and Margo married in London [GRO Ref: Westminster 15 1039, 1980 (Q4)].

Sydney must by then have been divorced from Marion. We know nothing of her subsequent life. Numerous public trees on *Ancestry* claim that she died in 1967, doubtless mis-identifying her as the person named 'Florence M Brook' who died aged 52 in that year [GRO Ref: Barrow-in-Furness 10b 215, 1967 (Q1)]. However, they are all mistaken. French government death registers prove that Marion died, as 'Florence Marion Byers born in the UK on 30 January 1918' on 12 February 2001 in Puiselet-le-Marais, Essonne in France [*https://www.data.gouv.fr/datasets/fichier-des-personnes-decedees*].

Sydney's last years

We do not know precisely when Sydney left Effingham. It appears that he sold The Elms in the early 1970s as the Electoral Register shows it occupied in 1974 by the family of John and Valerie Townsend. We also do not know what had brought Sydney to Effingham in the first place. He is reputed to have had homes in various parts of the globe; perhaps he just wanted a quiet English country retreat as well.

It appears that after Harry Day died in 1977 Margo continued living in the Trevor Square home where Sydney joined her after they married in 1980. The freehold of the property, as well as many others in Trevor Square, was held by the department store Harrods. It was reported in 1983 that Harrods had sold 32 houses in the square to a property company for a 'cut price' £2.5M. Harrods was part of the House of Fraser Group and at an extraordinary meeting of the Group's Board of Directors their Chairman, Professor Roland Smith, was challenged on this matter by Sydney [*Daily Post*, 1 July 1983]. Sydney told the Board that after that sale one of the tenants had been 'offered his freehold at £200,000, more than double [what] the property company had paid. Professor Smith said there was no "sinister" background'.

Another of our unknowns is what became of Margaret (Margo), whose origins remain undetermined. She had first married in 1924 [GRO Ref: St Geo Hanover Square 1a 1076, 1924 (Q4)] to a recently-divorced Army captain Hugo McDowell Pollock. She was not listed with him in the Electoral Registers until 1931, in which year they were living at 9 Hanover Square. During 1933-35 they were at 39 Kensington Place but appear to have moved in 1935 to 7 Middle Street in Knightsbridge. In that year, while living at that address, Margaret went bankrupt, being described as 'a commission agent and dealer in stocks and shares' [*The Edinburgh Gazette*, 8 November 1935, p944]. The Electoral Register for 1937 lists them together at a flat in 71, Sloane Street but the 1938 register shows Hugo living alone at Flat 8 in 1a Queen's Gate, South Kensington. It seems likely that they divorced, as he remarried in 1952, in Durban, South Africa, to Isabel Ann North. As noted earlier, she later partnered or married Harry Day before marrying Sydney.

In 1993 Sydney was remembered by Jimmy James when the latter made his third visit, since his incarceration during the War, to Sachsenhausen. An account of that visit [*The Journal*, 14 May 1993] tells graphically of the horrors inflicted upon that camp's inmates.

In 1994 Sydney and thirteen others who had made the 'Great Escape' from Stalag Luft III met in Sagan (today, Zagan); his recollections were reported as follows [*Daily Express*, 31 March 1994]:

> 'Sydney Dowse is now 75. He is almost the caricature of the Spitfire pilot: chirpy, dapper and raffish. Dowse was third in the tunnel. His partner was a Pole, Flying Officer Danny Krol ... Dowse says "We were caught a couple of weeks later. We were hiding in a haystack and Russian slave labourers uncovered us. They tried to hide us but we were seen".'

Also in March 1994 a memorial service in tribute to the former inmates of Stalag Luft III was held in London at St Clement Danes, attended by 15 including Sydney who had financed and organised it [*Wales on Sunday*, 13 March 1994].

Sydney seems not to have had been short of money in his retirement years, reputedly driving expensive cars and occupying fine properties in London and Monte Carlo. In 1999 he purchased a Rolls Royce 'Corniche', registration number TLC 138M, which had belonged to the recently deceased tycoon Roland 'Tiny' Rowland' of Lonrho fame, to whom it had first been registered on 20 September 1973. Rowland had driven it to his work himself every day. (In 2016 this car was put up for auction at Blenheim Palace where it was expected to reach up to £50,000.) We do not know for how long Sydney kept it.



Figure 42 The Rolls Royce Corniche purchased by Sydney in 1999.

In 2000 Sydney became a director of a plastics manufacturing company named Polyval plc based at Villa Spera, 11 Rue Louis Aureglia in Monte Carlo, and maintained that position until 2002. The company had been incorporated in 1995 and was dissolved in 2010.

In March 2004 Sydney, Jimmy James and three others – the only living survivors who had tunnelled out of Stalag Luft III – attended a reunion to mark the 60th anniversary of their escape. It was held at the Imperial War Museum. One report of the event [*Shropshire Star*, 16 March 2004] referred to Sydney in these terms:

> 'He is now 84 and divides his time between London and Monte Carlo.'



Figure 43 Jimmy James (at left) with Sydney at their reunion in 2004.

Another report [*Yorkshire Post*, 17 March 2004] describes the meeting there of Sydney and the actor John Leyton who had played the part of Sydney in the film *The Great Escape*:

> 'There was an emotional encounter on the lawns of the Imperial War Museum in South London, when Mr Dowse met John Leyton who played him in the 1963 film of the daring escape. The two exchanged a warm handshake and chatted animatedly about the film which immortalised the escape of Allied aircrew from the camp near Sagan on the night of March 24, 1944. As the two came face to face for the first time since the film's release more than 40 years ago, Mr Leyton, 65, said "It is wonderful to meet you. It is an honour and privilege, what you did was absolutely extraordinary. I had an insight into it but I went home to a nice hotel every night".'

Sydney died on Thursday 10 April 2008 [GRO Ref: Hampshire (5041C), Entry No 500848239, 2008 (Q2)], leaving only two living survivors of the 'Great Escape'. At the time of his death he had been living at Woodhall House, a large detached residence in Andover Down, on the London Road leading eastwards out of Andover. He was buried in the churchyard of St Nicholas in Fyfield, to the west of Andover.



Figure 44 The grave of Sydney Hastings Dowse, bearing an RAF emblem.

A few obituaries for him were published in national newspapers [*The Times*, 11 April 2008; *The Telegraph*, 12 April 2008; and *The Independent*, 7 June 2008], that in *The Telegraph* having the most to say about him – but almost entirely about his wartime escapades and only this about his later life:

> 'He continued to enjoy the fine things in life – including his Rolls-Royce and fast sports car – into old age, and once remarked: "Once one escapes from [Sachsenhausen], life holds no difficulties." It is thought that Sydney Dowse married three times, but at the time of his death he was single.'

He had made his Will five years earlier, on 16 November 2003. It states only this:

> 'This is the Last Will and Testament of me Sydney Hastings Dowse of 21, Royal Avenue in the County of London made this sixteenth day of November in the year of two thousand and three years.
>
> I hereby revoke all former Wills, Codicils and other Testamentary instruments made by me and declare this to be my last Will. I appoint Penelope Alexandra Vernon of Fyfield Manor, Fyfield, Andover, Hampshire to be my Executor and direct that all my debts and funeral expenses shall be paid as soon as convenient after my death.
>
> I give and bequeath to Lady Penelope Vernon all my money and possessions.'

Royal Avenue contains extremely expensive and desirable town houses in Chelsea; we do not know for how long Sydney had lived there.

Lady Vernon, born in 1940, was the daughter of Air Commodore George Felix Allin Skelton and his wife Karin (née) Rosenius. Her second marriage was to Sir (William) Michael Vernon. Sydney's Will was witnessed by Ingrid Tissot-dit-Sanfin, an 'Interim Agency Manager' of 115 Rue de Lausanne, 1202 Geneva in Switzerland and Margot Cecilia (née Skelton) Morriss (born in 1939), being a 'Personal Assistant' and elder sister of Lady Penelope, of Loxwood Cottage in Marsh Green, Kent. Probate was duly granted to Lady Penelope on 8 May 2008, still residing at Fyfield Manor. The grant of probate stated that the gross value of his estate had not exceeded £300,000 and its net value had not exceeded £92,000. We do not know the nature of the connection between Sydney and Lady Penelope; it may have arisen from her father's connection with the RAF. We cannot now enquire of her, as she died in January 2026, or of her sister Margot who died in 2014.

Sydney's son

In April 2015 Thiam Siew a former student of the Anglo Chinese School in the city of Klang, Selangor in Malaysia posted an account on his website (*https://acsklang1966to76.wordpress.com/2015/04/26/the-great-escape-by-thiam-siew/*) of the friendship he had formed six years earlier with Alan Dowse, the son whom Sydney had fathered in 1958 by his dalliance with Tan Phaik Kooi. It reads as follows (some slight correction has been made to the English):

> 'The Great Escape is a 1963 American World War II epic film based on an escape by British and Commonwealth prisoners of war from a German POW camp during World War II, starring Steve McQueen, James Garner, and Richard Attenborough. All of us in ACS Class 1976 were then 4 years old. This show was one of my favourite films in my ACS secondary school days. I was an innocent young boy seeking the thrill of adventure in the film. Why is this writer so melancholy about the past and a film? Here is my story.
>
> In the year 2009, I became a good friend of Alan Dowse from Penang, aged in his 50s. We met in Subang Jaya, Malaysia and got acquainted with one another pretty well over the years. I must say that meeting Alan Dowse in person was a divinely inspired friendship. He told me that the film was based on his father's story in World War 2. This was a true story of his father, Sydney Hastings Dowse, a fighter pilot shot down in Germany and taken as POW in a German death camp. His father and some 500 prisoners made tunnels beneath the prison walls and escaped in different groups.
>
> Alan Dowse spoke passionately to me about his father who once worked in Penang as a District Officer after WW2. While in Penang, his father met a Chinese girl and had an affair with her. She was pregnant with Alan and the father wanted Alan to be aborted while still in his mother's womb. Somehow miraculously, he survived and was born into this world. His father left the family and went back to live in England. Not much contact thereafter. He was raised by his maternal grandmother in Penang. Life is not a bed of roses for him and his mother. The survival instinct, the "Can Do Attitude", the courage and determination to live for freedom, was inbuilt in Alan as well. This note is a tribute to an old friend Alan Dowse who passed away in Tanjung Malim in August 2014.'

We do not know whether Sydney ever fully acknowledged paternity in respect of this boy, or whether he provided any financial or other support during the boy's lifetime.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1: from *Wikipedia*, public domain; original source – Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies and Leiden University Library/Wikimedia Commons

Figure 2: Raphael Tuck postcard advertised on eBay

Figure 3: from *https://www.shorehambysea.com/shoreham-airport/*

Figure 4: from DND Archives (Department of National Defence, Canada), PL-3582

Figure 5: from *https://www.aeroflight.co.uk/aircraft/types/type-details/hawker-hart*, Crown Copyright (Open Government Licence)

Figure 6: from *Ancestry* collection Great Britain, Royal Aero Club Aviators' Certificates, 1910-1950

Figure 7: from David Cockle (own photograph)

Figure 8: from *https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/205022880*

Figure 9: from *https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/205226399*

Figure 10: from the Ian Sayer Archive

Figure 11: from *https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/205195677*

Figure 12: from *https://allspitfirepilots.org/articles/45*

Figure 13: from © The Board of Trustees of the Science Museum (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0 Licence); *https://collection.sciencemuseumgroup.org.uk/objects/co202262/air-reconnaissance-camera*

Figure 14: from *https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/205023102*

Figure 15: from *https://www.worldwarphotos.info/gallery/uk/raf/spitfire9/spitfire-pr1-1-pru-st-eval-fo-gordon-hughes-2*

Figure 16: from *https://www.aeroflight.co.uk/aircraft/types/type-details/supermarine-spitfire-mks-i-iii*

Figure 17: from *https://www.spitfireaa810.co.uk/the-machine*

Figure 18: attributed to the Gunn family

Figure 19: from The National Archives: Air Ministry Operations Record Books (Appendices Y), AIR 27/2015, Squadron Number 541 (B Flight No. 1 PRU), 1 July 1940 to 31 July 1942, pp239-240.

Figures 20, 21: from *https://www.absa3945.com*

Figure 22: from *https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/205087108*

Figure 23, 26: from the RAF Benevolent Fund *https://www.rafbf.org/great-escape/gallery*

Figure 24: attributed to the Gunn family at *https://www.cwgc.org/stories/stories/flight-lieutenant-alastair-donald-mackintosh-gunn/*

Figure 25: attributed to the Gunn family at *https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-46316377*

Figure 27: from *https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=15231749* (CC BY-SA 2.5 Licence)

Figure 28: courtesy of the British Library Board; Image © National World Publishing Ltd

Figure 29: from an online advertisement by *Rightmove*

Figure 30: from *Facebook*, unattributed

Figures 31, 32, 34: from *The Straits Times* online at *https://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/newspapers/browse/straitstimes*

Figure 33: *from https://flyingforyourlife.com/pilots/ww2/sm/speare/*

Figures 35, 36: from *Ancestry* public trees

Figures 37-40: from the Surrey History Centre, SHC Ref: 8423/5

Figure 41: from *Wikipedia*

Figure 42: from online advertisements of the Blenheim Palace car auction in 2016

Figure 43: from *https://www.telegraph.co.uk/obituaries/2018/03/29/squadron-leader-jimmy-james-real-life-great-escape-hero-obituary/*

Figure 44: from Findagrave: Memorial ID 272660826

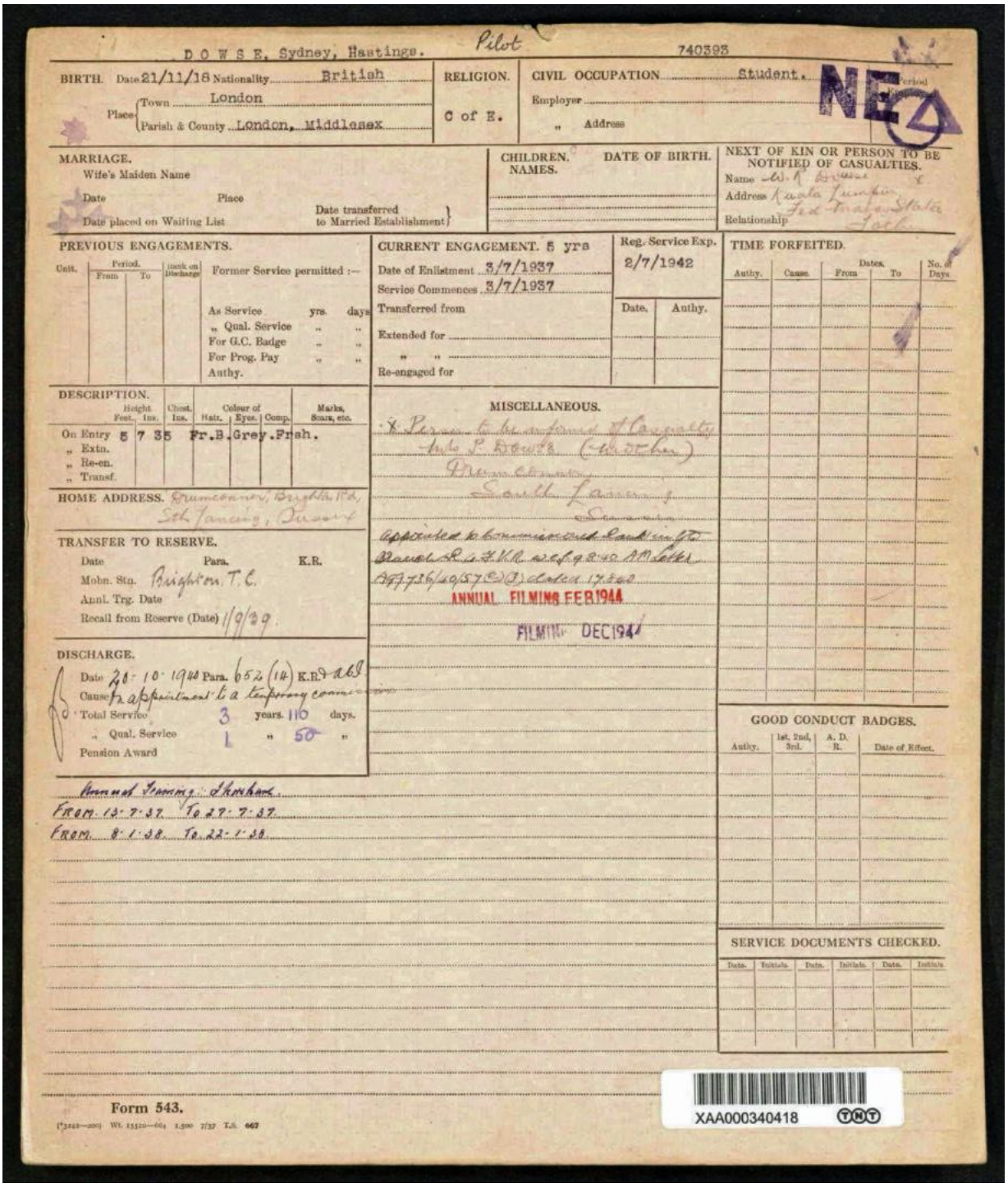
Appendix: from The National Archives [Ref: XAA000340418: SH DOWSE (Service Number: 740393)]

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are especially grateful to David's sister Alison Mayell for suggesting that we collaborate on the writing of this article, as previously ELHG had been unaware that her family had known Sydney personally during his period in Effingham. We also express our warm thanks to Mrs Mary-Louise Rowland, Archivist of Hurstpierpoint College, for kindly providing information about Sydney's time there.

APPENDIX

RAF Service Record (Form 543) of Sydney Hastings Dowse



DOWSE, Sydney, Hastings. Pilot 740393

BIRTH. Date 21/11/18 Nationality British
Place: Town London; Parish & County London, Middlesex

RELIGION. C of E.

CIVIL OCCUPATION Student. Period
Employer
" Address

MARRIAGE.
Wife's Maiden Name
Date Place
Date placed on Waiting List Date transferred to Married Establishment

CHILDREN. NAMES. DATE OF BIRTH.

NEXT OF KIN OR PERSON TO BE NOTIFIED OF CASUALTIES.
Name W. K. Dowse
Address Kuala Lumpur, Fed. Malay States
Relationship Father

PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENTS.
Unit. Period. From To. Rank on Discharge.
Former Service permitted :—
As Service yrs. days
" Qual. Service " "
For G.C. Badge " "
For Prog. Pay " "
Authy.

CURRENT ENGAGEMENT. 5 yrs
Date of Enlistment 3/7/1937
Service Commences 3/7/1937
Transferred from
Extended for
" "
Re-engaged for

Reg. Service Exp. 2/7/1942
Date. Authy.

TIME FORFEITED.
Authy. Cause. Dates. From To. No. of Days.

DESCRIPTION.
Height Feet. Ins. Chest Ins. Colour of Hair. Eyes. Comp. Marks, Scars, etc.
On Entry 5 7 35 Fr.B. Grey. Fresh.
" Extn.
" Re-en.
" Transf.

HOME ADDRESS. Drumconnor, Brighton Rd, Sth Lancing, Sussex

MISCELLANEOUS.
* Permanent Commission in the rank of Capt. to P. Dowse (Wireless)
Dispensed with
South Lancing
Sussex
Appointed to Commissioned Rank in the Royal Air Force with effect from 2.40 AM 28th Aug 39 A.M. Letter A.F.7716/40/57(C.D.) dated 17.8.40
ANNUAL FILMING FEB 1944
FILMING DEC 1944

TRANSFER TO RESERVE.
Date Para. K.R.
Mobn. Stn. Brighton T.C.
Annl. Trg. Date
Recall from Reserve (Date) 1/9/39

DISCHARGE.
Date 20.10.1940 Para. 652 (14) K.R. & A.C.I.
Cause To appointment to a temporary commission
Total Service 3 years 110 days.
" Qual. Service 1 " 50 "
Pension Award

GOOD CONDUCT BADGES.
Authy. 1st, 2nd, 3rd. A. D. R. Date of Effect.

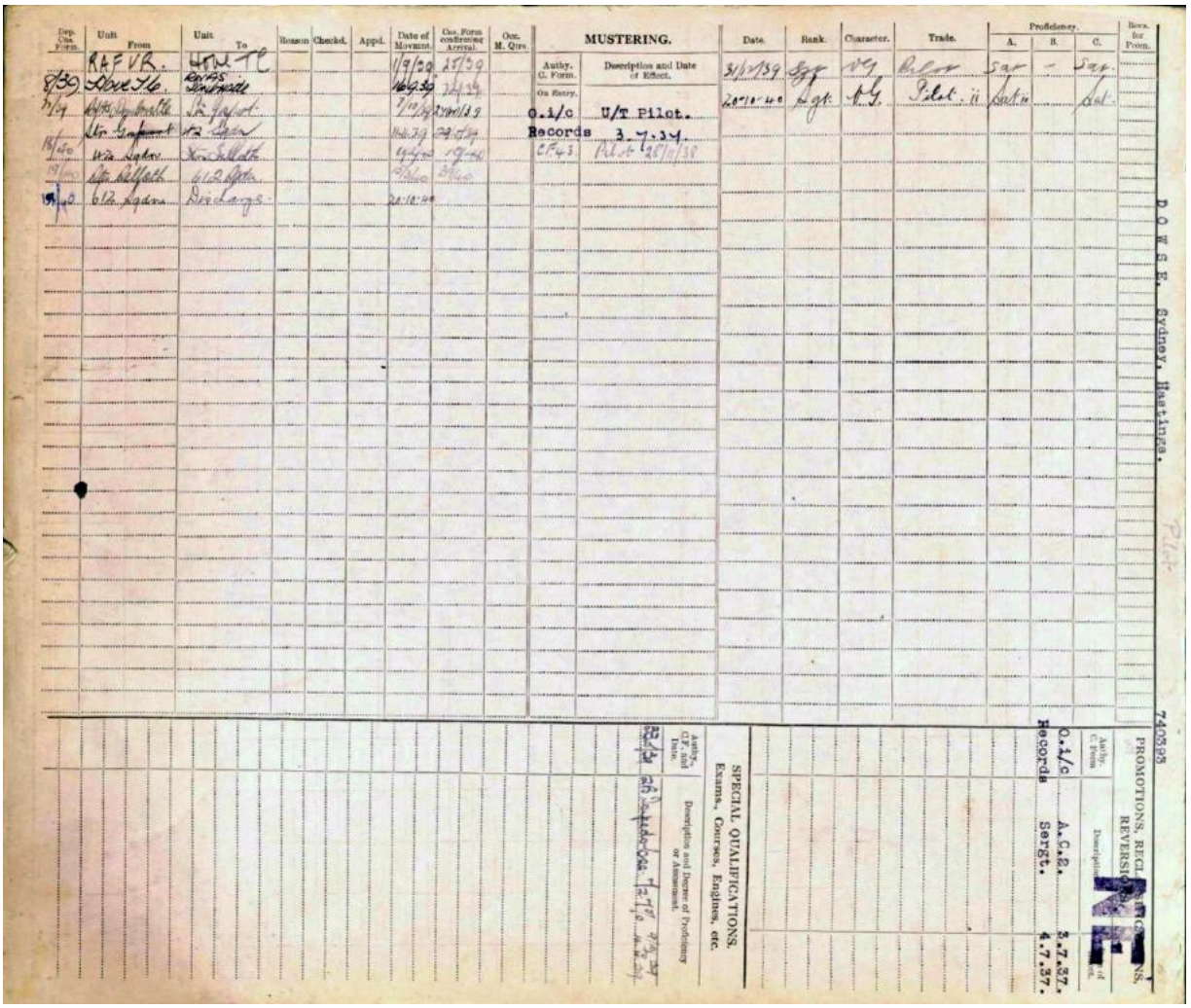
Annual Training: Shorehams
FROM 13.7.37 To 27.7.37
FROM 8.1.38 To 22.1.38

SERVICE DOCUMENTS CHECKED.
Date. Initials. Date. Initials. Date. Initials.

Form 543.
(7348—200) Wt. 13510—664 1,500 7/37 T.S. 667

XAA000340418

continued on next page ...



As can be seen, the form covers only the period 1937-40 and provides only sparse details. At the top of the first page is his Service Number 740393. His height was 5' 7" and his eye colour grey. He had enlisted on 3 July 1937 for 5 years of service, joining the RAF Volunteer Reserve and being assigned the lowest non-commissioned flying grade rank of Sergeant (or possibly even Flight Sergeant). His 'annual training' at Shoreham consisted of a fortnight from 13 July 1937 and a fortnight from 8 January 1938. He was recalled from the Reserve on 1 September 1939, undergoing training at Hove Training Centre, and was appointed to a commissioned rank a year later. His next of kin was entered as his father in Kuala Lumpur, and in case of casualty his mother – at 'Drumconner' in Lancing – was to be informed. 'Drumconner' was also cited as his own home address.

The second page of the form has a particular detail of interest in its second line which records his service in September 1939 at RNAS Donibristle, the former Fleet Air Arm base located 2.7 miles east of Rosyth, Fife. This might connect to a later verbal account given by Sydney to the Imperial War Museum about his serving on *HMS Furious*, an aircraft carrier based at Donibristle which had been used for advanced deck landing training.

Effingham Common – Commoners' Day in 2010

CHRISTOPHER JOHN HOGGER

The Commoners' Day of 2010 revived a tradition of demonstrating in public the exercise of Commoners' rights on Effingham Common, these attaching to four particular properties. This activity had been previously undertaken annually during the 1980s, less regularly in the 1990s and only in 2001 and 2002 in the first decade of the 21st century. Commoners' Day in 2010 was significantly more elaborate than any of the earlier ones.

Introduction

This event on Effingham Common took place on Sunday 26 September 2010 and was jointly organised by The Friends of Effingham Common (Brian Hendry, Chairman), Guildford Borough Council (GBC, Adam Owen, Trees and Countryside Manager) and Effingham Parish Council (EPC, Sue Morris, Clerk). Its fundamental purpose was, as in many earlier years, to exercise in public view the various Commoners' rights; but on this occasion it was decided to make it a more substantial event to encourage wider public interest in the Common's history and ecology.

The Commoners' Day in 2010 was to an extent a postponement of the Commoners' Day that had been intended to take place on the weekend of 19-20 September 2009. A meeting of The Friends had been held on 6 April 2009 to plan that occasion, but as the year progressed it became apparent that there would not be sufficient time to put all the arrangements in place. At a later meeting that year, on 14 September, The Friends agreed upon a new date for Commoners' Day, Sunday 26 September 2010, and also set dates for six further meetings in which to discuss it – of these meetings, we have the notes emerging from three, these being held on 11 November 2009, 3 February 2010 and 23 June 2010. The notes can be read in Appendix I.

Planning and advertising

Two posters were produced to advertise the day and to indicate the programme of activities; the first, sent out in 2009, was of a preliminary nature but the second, sent out nearer the day in 2010, was more detailed. Both of them display old photographs dated '1920' but we now know that these were taken some years earlier than that. In August 2010 a letter was sent by Arnold Pindar, Chairman of EPC, to residents living near the Common, inviting them to the event. Additionally, a document was distributed by the Clerk to EPC, setting out the practical arrangements. These items are presented in Appendix II.

Literature distributed

Some documents were made available at the event to provide context for visitors. They included a one-page article *A Short History of the Common* written by Jessica Page whilst two others were provided by Guildford Borough Council: *Effingham Common: looking after the wildlife and people* and *Effingham Common: A commoners' rights*. These are shown in Appendix III.

The marquees

Two principal marquees, kindly loaned by the 1st Effingham Scouts, were used for presentations by various groups. They provided essential shelter from adverse weather. As it happened, the weather was overcast throughout the day but the rain held off until just the point at which the event came to its scheduled end in the late afternoon. Despite these conditions the organisers were surprised and delighted that 296 visitors were recorded at the official entrance points, besides many more who went unrecorded.

Two of the organisers – Brian Hendry and Peter Bergman (respectively Chairman and Secretary of The Friends) – heroically slept in the marquees during the preceding night in order to safeguard them.

The smaller marquee contained a display by Effingham Local History Group (ELHG). These included timelines, maps of the Common showing relevant properties, nearly 20 photographs (including some from the Mary Rice-Oxley Postcard Collection scanned by ELHG), printed recollections by some long-term residents and character quotes from various oral histories recorded by ELHG member Yvonne Shaw. We now know that there were a few factual errors in this material. Tables and display boards were kindly loaned by EPC. All the photographs were ones that now appear elsewhere in ELHG's printed output or on its website. The above-mentioned recollections and quotes are shown in condensed form in Appendix IV.



Figure 1 Entrance to the Common, with a board for recording visitor numbers.

Visitors were able to enter the Common from many points and it is likely that many never passed these boards for counting, or perhaps ignored them anyway. So the total number probably exceeded significantly the 296 actually recorded.



Figure 2 The smaller of the two marquees.



Figure 3 ELHG's display in the smaller marquee, on one side of the boards.

This event was ELHG's second opportunity to make its presence and interests known to the public, following its formation earlier in the year. The displays were largely drawn from those used earlier by ELHG at Effingham's Summer Fête (Village Day) held on the King George V Playing Fields on 26 June, when our primary focus was again on Effingham Common.



Figure 4 ELHG's display on the other side of the boards.

The larger marquee contained three displays: firstly, of works for sale by local artist and resident Louisa Botley, the proceeds from which were contributed to orphanages in Kenya; secondly, of the findings of a term-long wildlife project carried out on the Common by Year 4 pupils at St Lawrence Primary School and supervised by their teacher Gill Witter; and thirdly, of items describing the valuable work of the Effingham First Responders who, led by resident Craig Chitty, provide life-saving 24-hour First Aid cover across the parish – the day before, Craig had abseiled down Guildford Cathedral to raise money for the group.



Figure 5 The larger of the two marquees.



Figure 6 Louisa Botley's display of her art works.



Figure 7 St Lawrence School's display of wildlife and habitats, viewed by Gill Witter, a teacher at the school.



Figure 8 Effingham & District's display of the work of Community First Responders.

Animals and Commoners' Rights

There are four properties on the Common having commoners' rights; their locations can be seen on the maps in Appendix III. On this occasion the rights for all four were exercised to some extent, either by their occupants or by proxy. The total number of animals grazed was less than the sum of all the animals listed in the rights of all the properties and they were grazed or tethered on a representative area of Common rather than on the specific areas to which their individual rights pertained.

The animals taking part were: horses, including a 'docile' cob and a Shetland pony; two donkeys Joey and Potter on loan from Merrist Wood (Joey was a rescued beach donkey aged about 8 and Potter was aged about 7); two goats (not strictly mentioned in the registered rights) named Gaia (an Anglo Nubian) and Gwen (a Pygmy), both born in 2009; three sheep comprising Flop (X breed) and Josie and Jocasta (Jacob breed), also born in 2009; two Irish Moiled Cattle cows Dapple and Grace with calves at foot; and three geese comprising two from the rare Steinbacher breed together with their friend, a Brecon Buff. All these animals, apart from the horses, were brought to the Common by Adam Owen's team from GBC.



Figure 9 The 'docile' cob.



Figure 10 The Shetland pony.



Figure 11 Donkeys Joey and Potter.



Figure 12 Sheep – Flop, Josie and Jocasta.



Figure 13 Goats – Gaia and Gwen.



Figure 14 Goat – Gaia or Gwen.



Figure 15 Irish Moiled Cattle – Dapple or Grace with calves.



Figure 16 Geese – two Steinbachers and (at rear) one Brecon Buff.

Traditional crafts and pastimes

It is known that fairs used to be held on commons, the obvious locations near many villages because they were wide, flat and open. At such events many crafts, skills, sports and recreations would have been seen, including juggling. We were fortunate on this occasion to have had artist and juggler Hattie Hyder, wearing traditional juggler's costume, to demonstrate her skills and to teach some of them to the visitors.



Figure 17 Hattie Hyder (at left) teaching her skills.

The important agricultural skill of hurdle and fence making was meanwhile demonstrated by Rob Stringer, who had given similar demonstrations at several previous GBC countryside events.

A traditional cricket match was staged throughout the afternoon by Effingham Cricket Club, who also kindly provided welcome barbecue food and refreshments.

Finally, given that commons were often used in the past for archery practice, we were fortunate to have with us longbowman Paul Messett – a member of the Company of Yeoman Archers, a not-for-profit body that raises monies for the Charities of the Armed Services – to demonstrate his skill and to provide visitors with on-the-spot tuition.



Figure 18 Rob Stringer demonstrating hurdle making.



Figure 19 Paul Messett (at left) teaching archery.



Figure 20 Effingham Cricket Club in full flow.

History and ecology

Two guided tours, led jointly by Adam Owen and Sue Morris, were arranged for visitors during the afternoon, focusing on the special features of the Common's history and ecology. They began with introductory talks next to the GBC information point where there were many related pamphlets and documents on wildlife and land management in the Borough.



Figure 21 GBC's tent, displays and information point.



Figure 22 Sue Morris and Adam Owen ready to give their guided tours.

Sue's talk used a diagram to illustrate the extent of the Common, its historic division between the two manors and the locations of the four properties with rights. She explained that what made Effingham Common special compared to many other commons is that it still had those rights, which became registered only after a hard-fought twenty-year campaign by parishioners. She noted the fact that the Common was privately owned and that the general public do not have the right to do what they want there; the right to roam was limited to people on foot, whilst dogs could not roam in the breeding season because of ground nesting birds. The role of common land historically was for cottagers to be able to graze animals supplementing their diet or household economy and working as transport animals (eg donkeys).

Adam's talk explained that the Common presented a variety of different ecological habitats and environments – woodland, grassland, wetland, ponds and water courses – which benefited in their own ways from differing management techniques. He pointed out that the Common on the eastern side of Effingham Common Road had not been mown or grazed and was going over to scrub, which the main Common would also rapidly do if not actively managed. He then gave examples of some of the wildlife to be found here and discussed how one could maximise the chances of obtaining the widest range of wildlife, viz:- by leaving the grass at different lengths and by cutting the wooded edges back in 'scoop' shapes rather than in straight lines. He explained why reintroduction of restoration grazing would help with both the wildlife and the management of the land. Consideration was being given to re-excavating the overgrown pond, to expand the opportunities for wildlife. More generally, he noted, the Borough was keen for local people to report information about the wildlife (eg the species seen) and to protect and enhance it.



Figure 23 Visitors setting off on a guided tour.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figures 1-23: from Christopher John Hogger
Appendices I and II: documents from the archives of Effingham Parish Council

APPENDIX I

Notes of Meetings of The Friends of Effingham Common

Meeting to discuss Effingham Commoners' Day
9.00 am, Monday 14 September 2009, Effingham Parish Room

Present
Cllr Liz Hogger, Effingham Parish Council and Guildford Borough Council
Adam Owen, Parks and Countryside Manager, GBC
Jessica Page, former Chairman, Friends of Effingham Common
Cllr Ian Symes, Effingham Parish Council
Sue Morris, Clerk, Effingham Parish Council

Apologies
Cllr Eddie Crouch, Chairman, Effingham Parish Council

1. Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Effingham Common
The date had been set as 17 November 2009.

2. Postponement of Commoners' day 2009
Cllr Symes and the Clerk of Effingham Parish Council had reluctantly asked to postpone this – it was agreed the run-in time had been insufficient. However there was still plenty of enthusiasm for the idea from all sides.

3. Date for Commoners' day 2010
A new date of **SUNDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2010** was agreed.

4. Format for Commoners' day
It was agreed that the Parish Council and the Borough Council would aim their efforts at the outcome they wanted, and other groups could contribute if they wanted.

Desired outcome: the Borough and the Parish Council want to increase local people's awareness and valuing of the Common. The simplest and most basic ways to achieve this would be

a) Display of information. Adam's existing DVD presentation which could be run on a loop; also a guided walk on the Common

b) Residents will need to see the rights being exercised, eg grazing (or a placard). Commoners can arrange for someone to exercise their rights on their behalf.

5. Miscellaneous practicalities
Animals – sheep or cattle? Adam can arrange these but they should be only the 'relevant' animals

EPC will try to strengthen public awarenss of the history of the Common.

Chris Hogger was volunteered as able to scan photos and set up a web-site

Raising awareness will start now. Adam Owen and Sue Morris will draft a letter to get it going – to be targeted at the people of Effingham. The Commoners themselves also need to be told now.

The Borough can design and print an information leaflet to raise awareness.

A statement of what we want to do will be agreed and taken to the Friends' AGM.

Mary Rice-Oxley (Effingham local historian) will be kept in touch.

6. Dates of future meetings
Wednesday 11 November
Wednesday 3 February 2010
Wednesday 12 May
Wednesday 9 June
Wednesday 28 July
Wednesday 1 September

7. Actions before the next meeting
Adam Owen will draft the statement and a flyer – by mid October
Jessica Page and Eddie Crouch – will look at the text and look out photographs
Liz Hogger will scan these to high resolution.

When the wording has been agreed, Ian Symes will send it to the Cricket Club and Sue Morris will send it to the schools, to ask them if they would like to be involved.

Adam Owen will contact the Land Registry and get a list of all owners of the Common (CP24)

Sue Morris will e-mail the EPC logo to Adam Owen.

Meeting to discuss Effingham Commoners' Day
9.00 am, Wednesday 11 November 2009, Effingham Parish Room

Present
Peter Bergman, Secretary, Friends of Effingham Common
Cllr Liz Hogger, Effingham Parish Council and Guildford Borough Council
Adam Owen, Parks and Countryside Manager, GBC
Cllr Ian Symes, Effingham Parish Council
Sue Morris, Clerk, Effingham Parish Council

1. Notes of previous meeting
These were agreed. Adam provided Land Registry details of the GBC holding. It was noted that GBC owns Effingham Common Road as well as the Common.

2. Flyer
Various suggestions had been made. Telephone contact details for the three organisations would be added. Print runs were agreed: 10 x A4, 2 xA3, 500 x A5. A poster will be reading in time for the AGM. Logos must be sent to Adam asap.

3. Contact with the Commoners
Adam will draft a letter to the Commoners. Sue will give the up-to-date names and addresses to Adam and proof read the letter. Ian will personally deliver the letters when ready. There was discussion over *who* is the commoner at Leebrook.

4. Informing the public
Sue will contact the schools. Liz will ask Chris Hogger to get in touch. Adam will put news of this on the Effingham Common web-site. Sue will inform ERRA.

5. Actions by 3 February
Commoners will be informed
Schools will be informed
Flyers and posters will be up
Ashley at GBC will have produced the list of land-owners / commoners
All will have begun to assemble pictures, historical and ecological info etc.
Sue will notify Effingham community groups who might want to be involved
Sue will find out who might be interested in oral history and try to identify actual or potential local historians
Effingham PC Chairman's Annual Report will include a section

Meeting to discuss Effingham Commoners Day
9 am, Wednesday 3 February 2010, Effingham Parish Room

Present
Peter Bergman, Secretary, Friends of Effingham Common
Ivor Gillespie, Friends of Effingham Common
Adam Owen, Parks and Countryside Manager, GBC
Jessica Page, Friends of Effingham Common
Cllr Ian Symes, Effingham Parish Council
Sue Morris, Clerk, Effingham Parish Council

Apologies
Liz Hogger

The following were discussed and agreed:

1. Format for the day
Timings: 12-4 pm
Animals to be tethered near the cricket pitch for a petting corner. Adam will organise relevant licences through Merrist Wood.
Ian will ask the Cricket Club if they would open up to offer (ie sell) refreshments
Guided tours at 1pm and 3pm
The day will focus on Unit CL24 on the west side of Effingham Common Road, not Banks Common.

2. Information / posters / display material to be available on the day
Diagram of which properties with commoners rights exist, and where they are
Diagram of which rights exist on which bits of the common – ie pictures of the relevant numbers of horses, donkeys, geese etc laid on a map
Diagram of 'Your rights as a member of the public' on the common
Diagram of special habitats
Photo comparisons – then and now
Map and route for guided walks.

3. Progress on notifying folk
Drip feed information now, then a big push in August.
The letter for the commoners will be sent signed by GBC, EPC and the Friends.
Jessica will ask the Horsley Countryside Preservation Society for their copy deadlines so an article can be placed. Sue will provide detail and info.
Sue will approach schools.
Adam will book space in the GBC press release queue.
Friends of Effingham Common are being briefed.

4. Actions by the next meeting
Source material and text for the leaflet, texts and resources for visitors on the day will be assembled.

5. Date of next meeting
Wednesday 12 May, 9.00 am, Effingham Parish Room

Meeting to discuss Effingham Commoners Day
9 am, Wednesday 23 June 2010, Effingham Parish Room

Present
Brian Hendry
Liz Hogger
Adam Owen
Jessica Page
Yvonne Shaw (Effingham Local History Group)
Sue Morris

This was an interim meeting to discuss practical arrangements for 26 September.

1. Dates of future meetings
Wednesday 28 July and Wednesday 1 September.

2. Local history
Sue passed on two boxes of finds from Home Farm Estate to GBC, whose property they now are. It was agreed they can be on loan in Effingham. **Adam** has a history of the Common, written by an amateur historian who used to know the area, that he will send the Group. Helen Gilbert, SCC Registration Officer, is researching whether there is any information about which animals should be grazed where.

3. Attractions for 26 September
a) Animals
Adam has a completely self-contained mobile farm unit including animals, generator, hand-washing, bins, signs etc (run by Luke). It is important to avoid a knee-jerk reaction after the Godstone issue; children can still touch animals.

b) Conservation grazing
It was agreed that cows will be put on the Common for temporary grazing as permitted under new legislation for about a month before and after the event, within an electric fence. This will be restorative/conservation grazing at a density of less than one cow per hectare and unlikely to damage the ground. Cows are easier than sheep to find in Surrey, are visible, less at risk of trouble from dogs. This is just the first year and possibly sheep can have a go next year. Volunteers to monitor the animals and the fencing are needed, ideally from the nearby houses.

c) Guided walks at 1pm and 3pm
Adam and Sue will lead, ecology and history respectively, 30-45 minutes duration

d) Cricket Club
Brian to ask them to confirm what they would like to do, for publicity details

e) Gathering point – main information centre
This will be in the square between the cricket pitch and the road.
SM to ask Scouts to provide a marquee.

f) Information / stalls on the day
GBC will have displays about the management of the common; signage about the guided walks
Effingham Local History Group will have:
- a display about the history of the Common
- information about Mary Rice-Oxley's images and book; does Mary want a stall? **Liz** to ask her
- a group collecting oral history and memories
- music. **Hilda** to find musicians who might want to be there

Cricket Club – do they want a stall to encourage new members?
Farm shop – **Sue** to ask James Nicholls if he will approach Badger Farm

Hurdle maker – **Adam** to ask his contact if he would like to be there
Hog roast – **Sue** to ask Andrew Hunt if he would like to run one
Effingham First Responders – **Sue** to ask if they want a recruiting stall as well as being on duty (unwary drunks might be bitten by adders).

All stall holders to bring own tables and chairs; vehicles off site by 11.15 unless part of the display; when we know how many stalls we are expecting we will tell people what pitch size they can have / what size marquee is needed.

4. Toilets
Adam will organize a bank of 4 portaloos near the gathering point.

5. Access (discouragement of cars, parking etc)
All publicity material to encourage people to walk; if driving to park considerately, but to mention (in very small writing) proximity of Effingham Junction Station Car Park.
Brian will send Adam information of how many left or right arrow signs on posts, to direct pedestrian routes to the main events area on the day, are needed (from Heath View, Heath Way, Forest Road, station, and village shops). These will be installed by GBC on the Friday before.
Brian will contact James Browne / SCC Rights of Way to get the Public Footpaths across the Common re-cleared and fully signed in advance of the day

Letter to go to all residents bounding the Common alerting them to the event asap. – **Sue to write**
Sue to inform PCSOs as soon as possible.

6. Advance publicity material
All information to be with Adam by the end of July, for printing by GBC during August.
Adam will organize a banner to go up on the Common itself from the beginning of September; dates to be fixed with Velcro so the banner can be re-used in future years.
A3 posters for around the village – **Sue** to let Adam know how many could be needed.
Sue to send the schools a second reminder.

7. Press
Adam has commissioned a photographer and GBC can do Press Releases; please can Liz see a draft before they go out.

8. Guests
Adam to invite Cllrs Jen Powell, Jenny Wicks and Andrew French
Sue to send addresses of commoners to Adam

APPENDIX II

Planning and advertising

Effingham Common – A celebration
26 September 2010



The Common from the Station 1920



Cutting hay 1936

Effingham Parish Council, the Friends of Effingham Common and Guildford Borough Council will jointly celebrate Effingham Common

The Common is very important to Effingham today but in the past it would have been more than that – an essential source of sustenance for villagers. For over 1000 years ancient rights of grazing and estovers (collection of fallen deadwood) allowed the occupiers of certain properties to use Common Land.

There are still many commons around the country today but Effingham Common is special in that it is one of the few where Commoners' rights have been preserved and still exist.

In 1968 the Commoners' rights of four properties were registered allowing only the owners of these four properties the rights of estovers and to graze the common.

Next year the annual ritual of exercising these Commoners' rights is to be resurrected and celebrated.

Please look out for further details, which will be forthcoming. If you would like to be involved in helping organise this day please contact us.

Effingham Parish Council

EFFINGHAM

Friends of Effingham Common

GUILDFORD BOROUGH

T. 01372 454 911 M. 07774 706 786 T. 01483 444 771

E. adam.owen@guildford.gov.uk

A Celebration of Effingham Common

Sunday 26 September, 12 to 4pm

Effingham Common Road near the track to Effingham Cricket Club

Bring the family to see the annual exercise of Commoners' rights
Find out more about why Effingham Common is so unusual and special

Admission free. Attractions include:

Animals	Meet the sorts of animals which still have the right to graze areas of the Common
Guided tours, 1pm and 3pm	Introduction to the unique ecology and the unusual history of the Common. Jointly led by Adam Owen, Trees and Countryside Manager, GBC, and Sue Morris, Effingham Local History Group (each tour approx 40mins)
History of Effingham Common	Photographs of the Common in earlier times; also information and extracts from oral history, provided by Effingham Local History Group. Come and give them your memories of the Common. Publications about Effingham history & East Horsley local history for sale
The special ecology of the Common	Display of work from a term's project by Year 4 pupils of St Lawrence Primary School
Cricket match	On site since the mid 19th century, Effingham Cricket Club is one of the oldest regular users of the Common. Come and enjoy a timeless village scene



Grass cutting by hand



The common from the station 1920



Indian Farm 1920

Also

Artist Louisa Botley who lives by the Common will bring along some paintings/cards inspired by it, and will be available to chat. Louisa is in her gap year raising money for 3 orphanages in Kenya. Profits from sales will all go to this cause • **Archery practice** When Lords of the Manor were responsible for providing trained men, open spaces like commons were regularly used for practice. Longbowman Paul Messett will train you (£5 for 15 mins, £15 for 50 mins. All profits to Army Benevolent Fund and army charities) • **Juggling** Village commons were the obvious site for local fairs where attractions like this would have been seen. Let Hattie Hyder entertain you • **Hurdle-making** Rob Stringer will show how sturdy fences are made from the sort of materials you might collect on a common • **Jelly legs** On the previous day, Effingham resident Craig Chitty will have abseiled down Guildford Cathedral to raise money for Effingham First Responders who provide 24 hr First Aid cover for our residents, and for this event. Come and ask him how much he raised • **Common keeper** In the past Effingham Common had a 'keeper' who kept order; today Effingham and East Horsley Neighbourhood Police are in support.

Above correct at going to press

Light refreshments Available in the Cricket Pavilion
Transport and parking Walk if you can – don't bring the car. If you do, please park considerately (Effingham and East Horsley share a nearby station). There is no parking available on the common.
Weather This event will go ahead whatever the weather. Marquees kindly lent by Effingham Scouts

Event jointly organised by The Friends of Effingham Common, Guildford Borough Council (adam.owen@guildford.gov.uk) and Effingham Parish Council (01372 454911; www.effinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

To all residents and Residents' Associations of roads bordering or near Effingham Common:
Banks Way, Berrington Drive, Copthorne Place, Effingham Common, Effingham Common Road, Forest Lane, Forest Road, Heath Way, Heathview, Howard Road, Lovelace Close, Lower Farm Road, Nightingale Road, Old Lane, Old Lane Gardens, Orchard Close

Dear Neighbours of Effingham Common,

Guildford Borough Council, the Friends of Effingham Common and Effingham Parish Council all cordially invite you to

A Celebration of Effingham Common

Sunday 26 September 2010, 12- 4pm

We look forward to welcoming you to this event, jointly planned by our three organisations, so that you can enjoy and appreciate the special characteristics of the Common. One of the most important of these is the Commoners' ancient rights to graze animals and collect fallen wood – rights which have been mostly lost elsewhere, making Effingham Common very special and unusual. You will be able to witness animals grazing on the Common again for the first time in some years. This is an important ritual that helps to protect the Common for the future.

Other attractions will include:

- information on the history and ecology of the Common
- animals to meet and pet
- guided walks
- marquees with special exhibitions
- local stalls

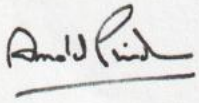
Look out for full details on the posters which will be appearing nearer the day. The main events will be located on the Common between the Cricket Pavilion and Effingham Common Road.

We are writing to you, as neighbours of the Common, to give you advance news of the event which is being advertised primarily in the immediately local area (Effingham and East Horsley). To minimise the impact on you, the publicity will strongly promote leaving cars at home if possible and walking to the event, but we wanted you to be aware that there might be some extra traffic in this part of Effingham for just a few hours and to thank you in advance for your understanding and support.

Guildford Borough Council will provide signs and arrows around the edge of the Common indicating the pedestrian routes, while GBC and the Surrey County Council Rights of Way team will make sure all Public Footpaths and Bridleways on the Common itself are unobstructed and well signed.

We are looking forward to a happy and historic day, and we hope you will enjoy attending and taking part.

Yours faithfully



Adam Owen, Manager, Trees and Countryside, Guildford Borough Council (adam.owen@guildford.gov.uk)
Brian Hendry, Chairman, Friends of Effingham Common
Cllr Arnold Pindar, Chairman, Effingham Parish Council (Clerk to EPC 01372 454911)

3 August 2010

A celebration of Effingham Common
Sunday 26 September

PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

Dear All,

I enclose some details about organisation for the day and hope that it will help with your planning. Any problems, do get in touch.

This is our first attempt so if there are some teething problems it will not be a surprise, but we hope we have covered most things!

Best wishes

Brian Hendry, Chairman, Friends of Effingham Common

Adam Owen, Trees and Countryside Manager, Guildford Borough Council

Sue Morris, Clerk, Effingham Parish Council
Clerk2010@effinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk
01372 454911

Who is where

There are two versions, depending on weather. If you don't like the look of your location or it is not suitable, let Sue know ASAP.

If the weather is GOOD

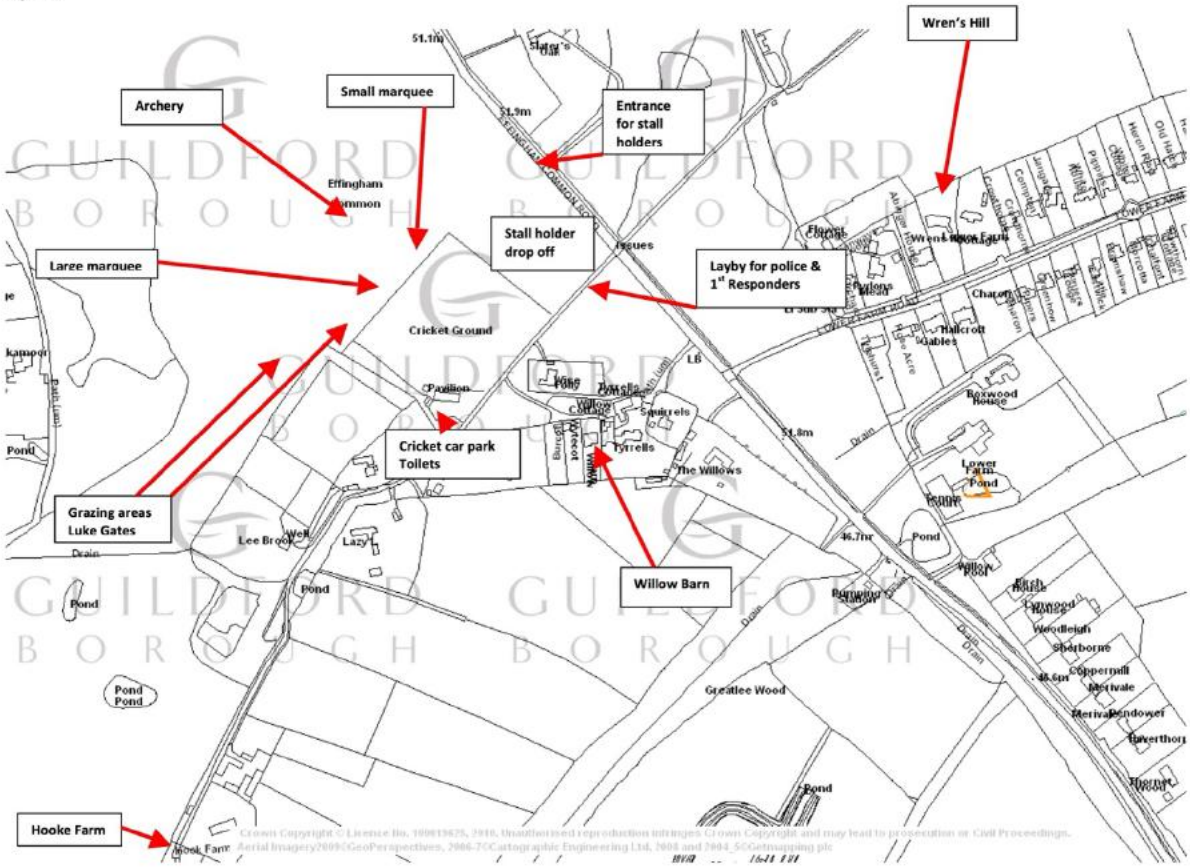
OUTSIDE - FIXED	OUTSIDE & CIRCULATING	LARGE MARQUEE	SMALL MARQUEE
Volunteers counting visitors on arrival	Welcome committee & special guests	GBC Info stands	Effingham Local History Group stall
Live animals	Identifiable organisers circulating	Friends of Effingham Common stall	Sale of local history publications - HCPS
Hurdle-making demonstrations	Exercise of Commoners Rights	St Lawrence Primary School	Sophie – Surrey Archaeology
Longbowman	Guided walks	Louisa Botley art (pref. in a well-lighted position)	?Neighbourhood police
Cricket match	Yvonne & tape-recorder	Effingham First Responders info & abseiling fund-raising result	
Refreshments at cricket pavilion	Juggler	? Scouts membership etc	
Portaloos	Police	*(? Scouts food stall)*	
4 litter stations	Jon Frasor - GBC photographer		
Parking for stall holders	Guy Martin, photographer from *L'head Advertiser*		
First Responders 4 x 4 vehicle			
First Responders treatment tent			
(? Scouts food stall)			
Brian's barbecue in own gazebo			
12	***9***	***7***	***4***

If the weather is BAD

OUTSIDE - FIXED	OUTSIDE & CIRCULATING	LARGE MARQUEE	SMALL MARQUEE
Volunteers counting visitors on arrival	Welcome committee & special guests	GBC Info stands	Effingham Local History Group stall
Live animals	Identifiable organisers circulating	Friends of Effingham Common stall	Sale of local publications
	Exercise of Commoners Rights	St Lawrence Primary School	Sophie – Surrey Archaeology
Longbowman	Guided walks	Louisa Botley	?Neighbourhood police
Cricket match		Effingham First Responders & abseiling fund-raising result	Hurdle-making demonstrations
Refreshments at cricket pavilion		? Scouts membership etc	Yvonne & tape-recorder
Portaloos	Police	*(? Scouts food stall)*	
Parking for stall holders	Jon Frasor - GBC photographer	Juggler	
First Responders 4 x 4 vehicle	Guy Martin, photographer from *L'head Advertiser*		
First Responders treatment tent			
9	*7*	*8*	*6*

No Brian's barbecue
No Scouts food stall outside, but could still be inside?

Layout


Wren's Hill
Archery
Small marquee
Entrance for stall holders
Effingham Common
Stall holder drop off
Large marquee
Layby for police & 1st Responders
Cricket Ground
Pavilion
Cricket car park Toilets
Grazing areas Luke Gates
Willow Barn
Hooke Farm
Greatlee Wood
Pond
Lee Brook
Lazy
Squirrels
Tyrrells
The Willows
Lower Farm Pond
Boxwood House
Hallcroft
Gables
Woodleigh
Sherborne
Merivale
Drain
Well
Crown Copyright © Licence No. 100019625, 2010. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or Civil Proceedings.
Aerial Imagery2009©GeoPerspectives, 2006-7©Cartographic Engineering Ltd, 2003 and 2004_SCGetmapping plc

What to bring
Bring any tables, chairs, display stands, cushions, sunglasses, refreshments, specialist kit, a person to hold the fort while you go to the loo, Blu-tak, give-away flyers, comments books with working biros, stones to hold things down if it is windy etc, that you need. If you have any problems acquiring or transporting your stuff, get in touch with Sue Morris ASAP.

Electricity supply
There isn't any! Charge up your batteries!

When and where to arrive
See the map.
Please bring your kit to the Common and set up between 9.00 and 11.30am on Sunday morning. You can drive your car temporarily onto the Common so you can unload near to where you will set up, and drive on again to collect up at the end of the day. Use **the entrance from Effingham Common Road which will be signed 'stall-holders entrance' on the day** and **unload in the area called 'stallholder drop off' on the map**. All cars need to have left the Common by 11.30am. The gate will be unlocked again at 4.00 for you to drive back on and collect your stuff. If you have friends coming, remind them to *walk*, not drive if at all possible (suitable outdoor footwear etc), and that there is a handy station not very much used on a Sunday nearby.

Parking during the event
We have allocated you parking as follows. We hope you can manage with one vehicle each.

On the track to the Cricket Club, near the pedestrian access to the Common (there is a small layby)
First Responders' vehicle
Neighbourhood Police
No-one else!

At Wren's Hill, Lower Farm Road (6th drive on the left – parking kindly provided by Jessica & Tony Page)
Gill Witter, St Lawrence Primary School
Lousia Botley, artist
Paul Messett, archer
Hattie Hyder, juggler

Cricket Club pavilion area
Cricket Club members and visiting team
Invited County / Borough Councillors who may attend (max 4 on present replies received)
Vehicles for disabled visitors
No-one else!

In front of Willow Barn (accessed from the track to the cricket club; kindly provided by Brian Hendry)
Adam Owen
Photographers

At Hooke Farm, far end of the track to the Cricket Club (kindly provided by Ivor Gillespie)
GBC Rangers
Scouts vehicles (ie equipment delivery)
Rob Stringer, hurdle-maker
Sophie Unger, SCC Archaeology
Any First Responder volunteers who have to come in cars
NB Ivor has kindly said he can accommodate up to 12 cars, so if there is an emergency need, bear this in mind.

For safety:
The Merrist Wood van and animal trailer will have to stay on-site near the animal compound in case of any problems.
The GBC countryside vehicle will also be on-site for the duration of the day, to assist anyone who may get stuck, need a lift etc

Insurance
Guildford Borough Council has Public Liability insurance which would cover **visitors** who have accidents or unforeseen problems for which the facilities or arrangements could be held responsible. Stall holders or providers of attractions **must take great care to think about public safety**, and may need additional insurance if something is beyond a normal risk. Do get in touch if you need to talk about this.

Queries on the day
These three organisers will be on site at all times. They will be wearing hi-visibility arm bands:

Adam Owen, GBC
Brian Hendry, Friends of Effingham Common
Sue Morris, Clerk to Effingham Parish Council

NB. Adam and Sue will be giving guided talks between 1-1.45pm and 3-3.45pm.

Members of GBC Parks and Countryside team and Rangers will be wearing clothing with the GBC logo. Effingham Parish Councillors and committee members of The Friends of Effingham Common will be wearing name labels.

Medical emergencies
Effingham First Responders are kindly providing First Aid cover. They will have a small treatment tent on site. They will also have their paramedics' 4x4 vehicle. **NB they will also be on call for all of Effingham and district, so it remains a possibility that some staff may get called away during the event.**

APPENDIX III

Literature distributed

A SHORT HISTORY OF EFFINGHAM COMMON

From 1066 the King of England claimed that he owned all the land in England. This was described in the Domesday Book. He then gave or let most of it to Lords of Manors who cultivated it in unfenced fields or strips. Some land, which was usually poor land or land too heavy to plough, could be used by villagers to graze animals, find sticks for fuel and so on. These were the 'common' fields.

By the late 1700s the population had grown. There were also enormously improved machines to cultivate land, so that much more was usable. This resulted in a desire for larger fields (not strips) with hedges and fences. Parliament passed a series of Enclosure Acts which meant that villagers' rights to graze animals (pasturage), pick up firewood (estovers), cut turf (turbary) and take fish from ponds (pescary), could be confined to much smaller areas. However some common land was still usually left for them. Sometimes this was called 'manorial waste'.

Effingham Common and the Commons Registration Act 1965

Effingham Common consists of land which was in two different manors, Effingham Eastcourt and Effingham La Leigh. This is why the area to the east is known as Effingham Eastcourt and that to the west, as Hooke Common. In 1965 an Act was passed by Parliament which allowed all commons and village greens to be registered as common land. This would prevent owners from selling them for development. Effingham Parish Council helped the owners of four properties (The Willows, Leebrook, Slaters Oak and Huckamoor) to claim their commoners' rights on Eastcourt and Hooke commons. The then Lord of the Manor disputed the claim. The subsequent court case was won by Effingham, and the Common and the commoners' rights are now safe. The 'rights' go with the properties in perpetuity, not with the people / owners at any particular time. 'Exercising' the rights regularly helps people understand what Effingham Common is, and why it is like it is.

Today the major part of the common is owned by Guildford Borough Council, but there are several other owners of various smaller parts. Owners of common land must not install fences or barriers or permanent structures of any sort, because the commoners' rights to graze etc must not be impeded in any way.

Animals which Effingham commoners have the rights to graze

Horses, ponies, cows, sheep, geese, donkeys.

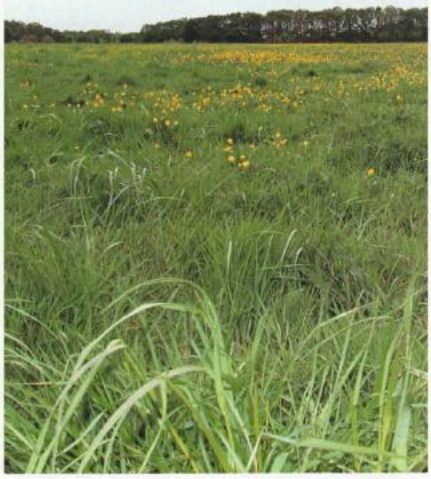
There are also rights of estovers, picking up wood.

Written for 'A Celebration of Effingham Common', 26 September 2010

by Jessica Page on behalf of The Friends of Effingham Common and Effingham Local History Group

Effingham Common

Looking after the wildlife and people



Unimproved wet grassland, East Court, Effingham Common

GUILDFORD BOROUGH

GUILDFORD BOROUGH

What is common land?

Common land has had many different definitions over hundreds of years. None of which are definitive. Today, for land to be true common, it must have been registered under The Commons Registration Act 1965. Commons date back to the remnants of the Manorial System however, by 1965 many that have been in existence for generations were not registered. This lead to numerous disputes. The Commons Act 2006 made changes to the registration and the management of commons in the hope of resolving some age old issues, whilst increasing relevance to the modern era.

Who looks after the common?

Effingham Common is a registered common owned by over 27 individuals. The largest area is owned by Guildford Borough Council and this covers East Court and Hooke Common as shown on the access map overleaf.

Why is the common important for wildlife?

The area owned by the council has areas of open grassland, mixed broad-leaved woodland, agriculturally improved pasture and ephemeral ponds. Public footpaths and a bridleway run along the edges of the site, with Effingham Common Road running along the north-eastern boundary.

The grasslands of Effingham Common are ecologically important as they support a considerable number of different insects, including 16 species of butterfly, 26 types of moth and 51 different kinds of beetle. This means there is a diverse number of birds which use the site. Similarly the wet woodland also supports many insects, especially 10 varieties of craneflies and 26 species of hoverflies in the wetter areas. This combination provides a very unique area for plants and wildlife to live.

www.guildford.gov.uk



Hoverfly on umbellifer plant (Photo by Jon Fraser)

How are these important plants and wildlife protected?

The woodland is relatively young, less than 50 years in most areas. As the woodland ages it will become more important for wildlife. However, it is essential to stop the woodland expanding across the grasslands as this will kill the grassland. Therefore the edge of the woodland is regularly cut, with much help from volunteers; the Friends of Effingham Common. The grassland is presently cut and collected by machine.

How was the common managed in the past?

Throughout Effingham Common's long history reaching back to manorial times in the pre-conquest era, tenants of the land have been grazing. It is only since 1980 that the practice has ceased. Over such a long period of time grazing creates conditions that species of plants and animals adapt to and create their lifecycle around. Uneven grass heights combined with bare earth patches from trampling prevent any one species from dominating.

Mowing gives two distinct grass heights; long and shorter (but not short). These limited conditions allow only a small number of species to thrive. Also the sudden change from long to short grass can have a severe impact on insect and especially beetle populations. There are many plants and insects that depend on grazing as part of their life cycle. If grazing does not return to the common many of the insects special to the common will be lost. The best way to maintain grassland is to use the methods by which it was created i.e. grazing. This will reintroduce the conditions necessary for niche plant species to return. In short, grazing is better for wildlife.



Highland cow at rest (Photo by Jon Fraser)

Are there problems with grazing?

There are many regulations protecting common land. One such regulation is common land cannot be fenced without permission from the Planning Inspectorate. This requires much consultation and agreement. In the past people used to shepherd their animals so there was no need for fences, or the fences were not on the common.

GUILDFORD BOROUGH

Modern society is now more industrialised and people enjoy the countryside for leisure, to escape from the stresses of modern living, rather than working the land. Conflicts can arise between different users of the countryside and it is important to consider every aspect when deciding on a change to wildlife management.

However, if the four commoners decided to exercise their rights tomorrow you could see 2 horses, 3 ponies, 2 donkeys, 11 cattle, 46 sheep and 37 geese grazing the common. This would be perfectly legal as it is their 'commoners' right. The animals do not have to be controlled from straying into private properties, the law states it is for private properties to secure their premises from commoner's animals.

People and wildlife

It is very important that people can freely enjoy Effingham Common. The common is a large area that offers much to the visitor, whether for exercise or for those with an interest in wildlife. In 2002 the Friends of Effingham Common were established. The group works closely with the council to look after the common, supported by Effingham Parish Council. Each year local residents join the countryside team on the common to complete tasks such as cutting back the willow, improving access, erecting signage and restoring the old ponds. Everyone is welcome to join in and if you would like to help please contact the countryside team on the details below. Even if you do not wish to get involved directly you can help protect Effingham Common simply by keeping an eye on things.

Parks & Countryside Services
01483 444 771
countryside@guildford.gov.uk

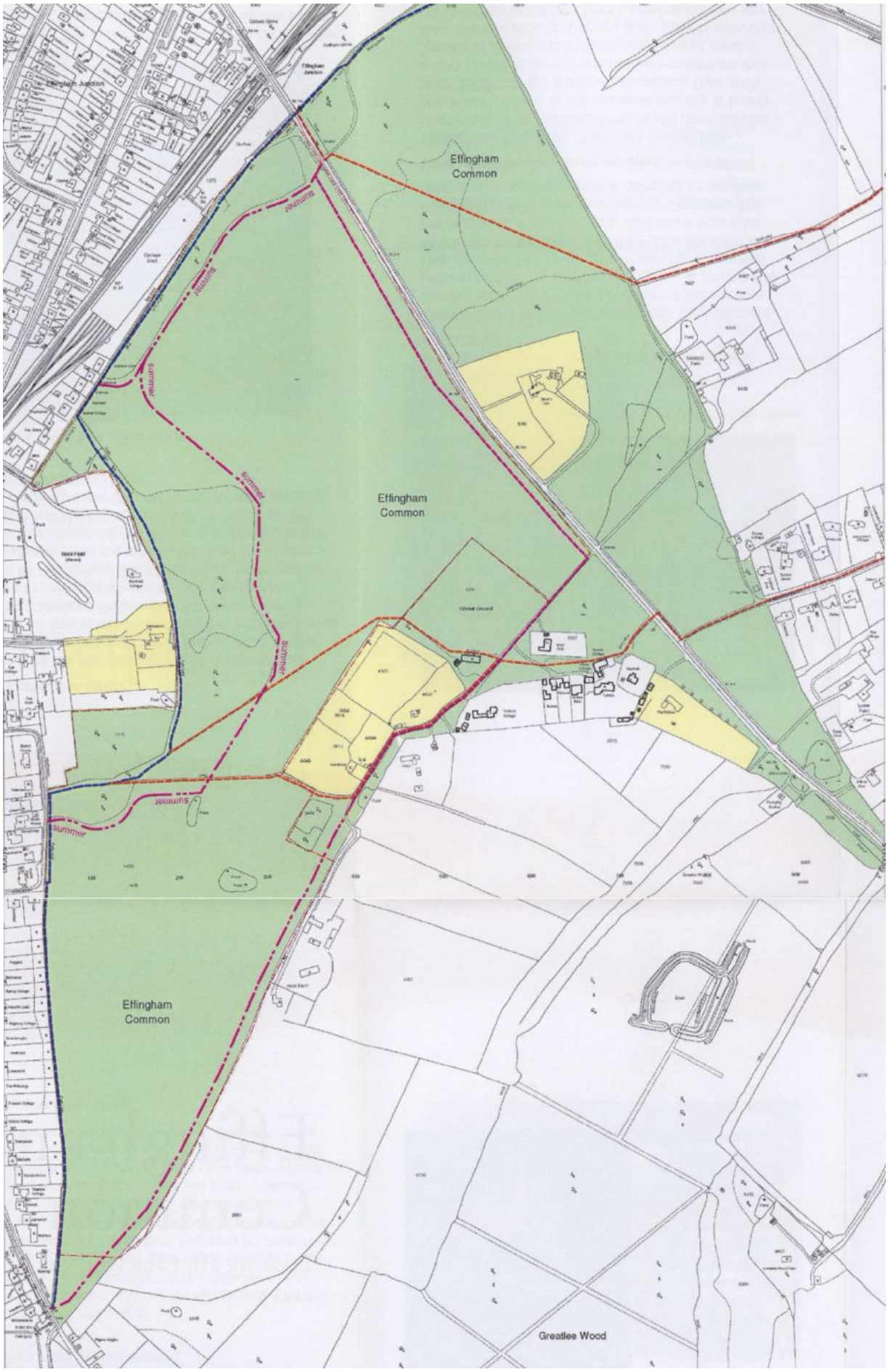
Telling us about what birds, butterflies and the myriad of insects you may have seen is always of interest as well as hearing about problems such as flytipping, dumping of garden waste, bonfires outside properties and illegal parking on the common.
It all helps.



A Friend of Effingham Common cutting back scrub round a pond

Guildford Borough Council's Trees & Countryside Section work to re-establish and maintain important habitats and green spaces. We aim to balance our management to give the best possible conditions for wildlife, whilst providing access for all.

www.guildford.gov.uk


Effingham Junction
Effingham Common
Effingham Common
Effingham Common
Greatlee Wood
summer
summer
summer
summer
summer
summer

KEY:

= common

= properties with commoners' rights

= public footpaths

= bridleways

= permissive bridleway

= *proposed* permissive bridleways
(summer = for summer use only)

= GBC ownership

Shown on the map are the existing rights of way. The council is considering an extension to the permissive bridleway so riders can gain access all round the common. The problem at present is many riders do not follow the true right of way which can cause the clay soils to become very pitted and waterlogged; this in turn makes the ground difficult for walkers. It is hoped by improving riding surfaces and through education everyone can enjoy the common responsibly.

If grazing returns to the common the same access will remain and just like 30 years ago visitors to the common will walk amongst grazing animals.

Access on the common

Many people believe they have a right to enter common land. Although this is usually the case under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, the access laws applied to common land are the same as any other piece of privately owned land.

Fortunately Effingham Common is access land and the largest part is owned by Guildford Borough Council. This means people can walk anywhere they wish on the common land, not just on the public footpaths.

However, this right does not mean you can cycle, ride a horse, drive a vehicle or park a vehicle anywhere on the common.

The only place you can ride a horse or cycle on Effingham Common is on the bridleways, or permissive bridleways.

N



Effingham Common footpaths & bridleways scale 1:25000

NOTE: all designations are for illustrative purposes only and do not infer or confirm any legal definitions

Effingham Common

A 'commoners' right's



Map of Effingham Common, Roque 1770

GUILDFORD BOROUGH

What is common land?

Common land has had many different definitions over hundreds of years. None of which are definitive. Today, for land to be true common, it must have been registered under The Commons Registration Act 1965. Commons date back to the remnants of the Manorial System however, by 1965 many that had been in existence for generations were not registered. This lead to numerous disputes. The Commons Act 2006 made changes to the registration and the management of commons in the hope of resolving some age old issues, whilst increasing relevance to the modern era.

Popular Misconceptions

Common land is owned by the public X

Common land is usually privately owned by individuals or organisations, it is not owned by the people ✓

Any person has a right to enter common land X

Although this is usually the case under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, the access laws applied to Common Land are the same as any other piece of privately owned land. Not including those who possess 'commoners' right's ✓

Public can collect fallen wood X

Only those with 'commoners' right's that include the removal of wood may do this ✓



Highland cattle grazing meadow (Photo by Jon Fraser)

www.guildford.gov.uk

Six Rights of Common

1. Pasture – grazing of specified numbers of cattle, sheep, horses and geese.

2. Pannage – turning out of domestic pigs into wooded areas for acorns, beechmast, chestnuts etc.

3. Piscary – right to catch and process fish.

4. Estovers – wood and bracken a commoner may take for fuel or repairs.

5. Turbary – the removal of peat for fuel or thatching.

6. Common in the Soil – right to take stone, sand or minerals.



Map of common land in England (www.magic.gov.uk)

Statistics

- 373,570 hectares of Registered Common Land in England.
- 57% of this is designated SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest).
- 35% of 7,039 units of common land have registered rights of Common.
- 1,900 commons are ownerless.



Geese and sheep grazing

A brief history of common land

Commons are known to pre-date parliament and the modern monarchy. They were a result of the Manorial land ownership system that was created when land was largely ownerless. It was a type of 'Warrior Aristocracy', where land was rewarded to Lords and Knights for loyalty, on which they would oversee agriculture and the upkeep of the manor. By the 8th century the giving of a landholding became standard, not just as a reward. At this time the land was now owned but the peasantry kept their customary rights. This was the beginnings of common land.

The Commons Act 1285, also known as 'the statute of Westminster the second', established landowners rights to 'approve common land'. This was not necessarily a good thing. It enabled landowners to fence off land for profitable agricultural use, leaving less common land for the peasantry. This caused conflict between landlords and commoners for hundreds of years until landlords 'approvement' was regulated under the Law of Commons Amendment Act of 1893. This system has now been abolished, but with many areas of common land left in existence.

www.guildford.gov.uk

GUILDFORD BOROUGH

A brief history of Effingham common

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 enclosure movement). Many commons were taken into private farming use and, despite protests, villagers in many areas lost their customary 'commoners' right's.

This did not happen in Effingham. At that time, the area we now call Effingham Common belonged to the Lords of two different manors: the Manor of Effingham, and the Manor of Effingham East Court Both introduced Enclosure Acts, but these did not affect the common. However, there was a great village battle over the common 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' right's. This would mean the common was preserved from development for ever, and the 'commoners' right's could never be taken away from them.

By this time one family owned the land of both Effingham manors. Effingham residents wanted to register Effingham Common, 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. A village campaign was started and residents contributed a considerable amount of money to pay for the court case needed to challenge him. Many ancient documents and proofs were exhaustively researched, examined and discussed in court.

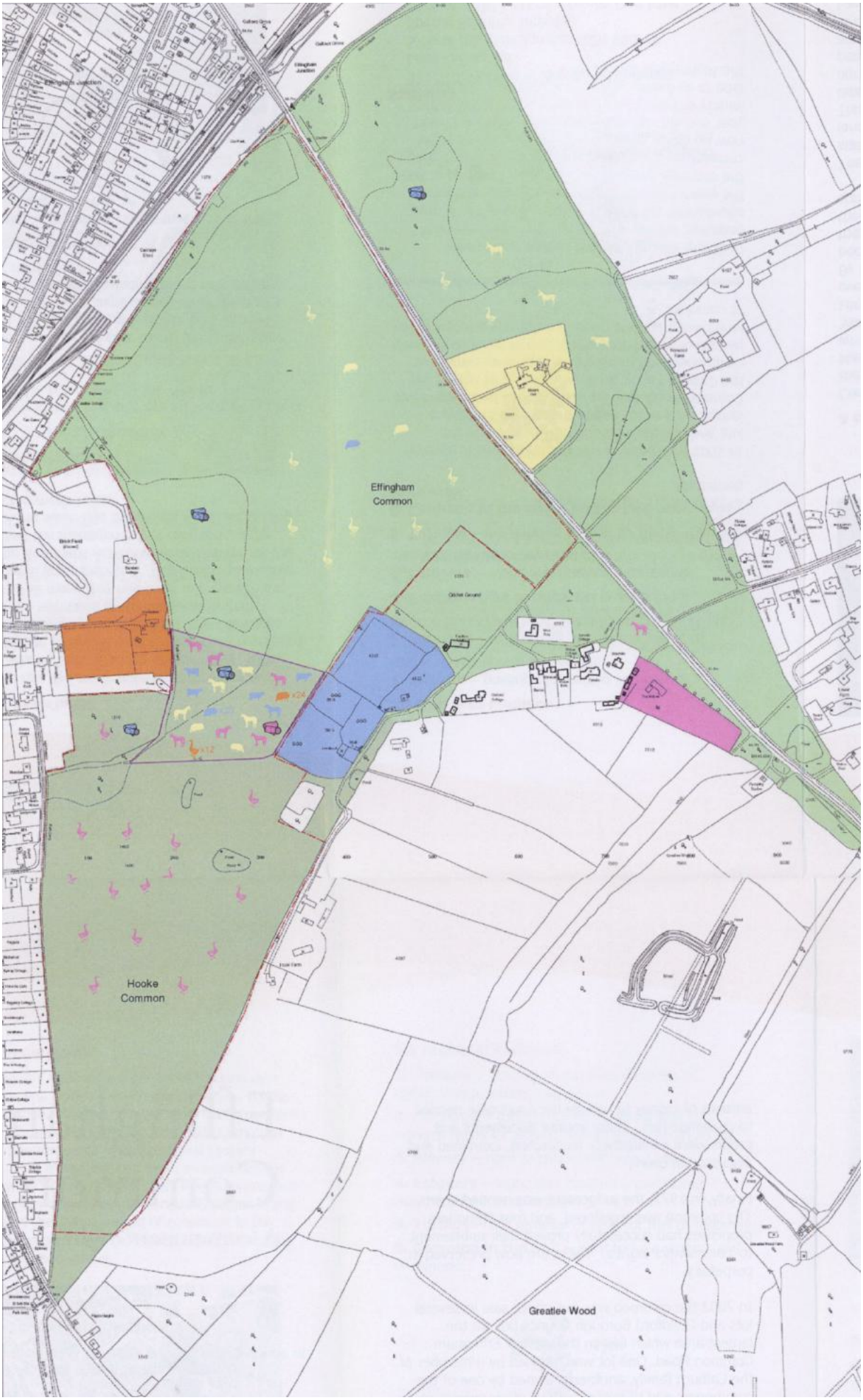
Finally, in 1972, the judgement was handed down. The common was registered, and four Effingham properties had successfully proved their entitlement to 'commoners' right's. These are now preserved in perpetuity.

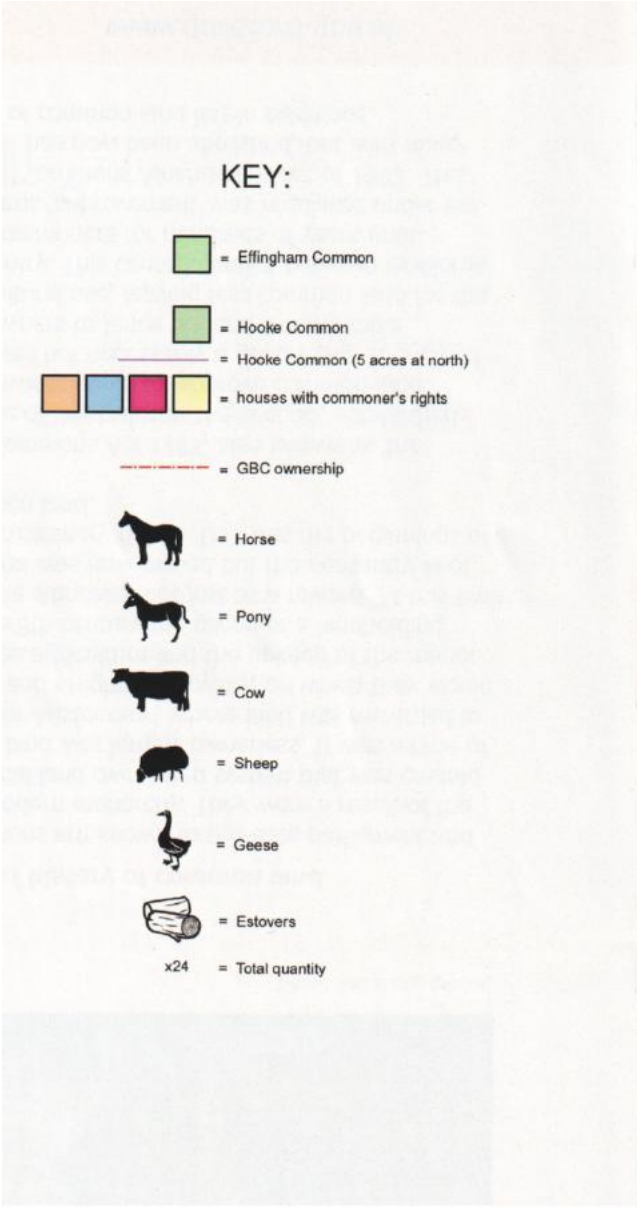
In 2002 the common was put up for sale in several lots and Guildford Borough Council bought the largest area which lies on the west of Effingham Common Road. One lot was retained by a member of the Calburn family, another is owned by one of the commoners and there are various other owners of parcels of land. Effingham Common has always had a land owner, but this makes no difference to the rights of common.

Guildford Borough Council manages the main common, and surveys show it is a very important countryside site for plants and wildlife. Sadly over the years many of the birds which used to frequent the common have either declined in numbers or gone completely. There used to be plenty of nightingales, now no more. However, the skylarks return every year and are nationally protected. There is a wide variety of insects and butterflies. By restoring the land to its former glory it is hoped that birds such as the Nightingale will return.

Parks & Countryside Services
01483 444 771
countryside@guildford.gov.uk

www.guildford.gov.uk


Effingham
Common
Hooke
Common
Greatlee Wood



'Commoners' right's

There are four properties that enjoy 'commoners' right's on Effingham Common's East Court and Hooke Common.

These are shown on the map as coloured properties.

These rights were bestowed hundreds of years ago, but were nearly lost in 1965 when 'commoners' right's in England and Wales were reviewed.

Effingham parish council won a long legal battle to retain these rights for the properties (see the back for more details). The properties and their rights are shown on the map opposite.

The grazing rights of each property are coloured the same as the property and the correct number of livestock are shown. Note they are only allowed to graze a specified number of animals in each particular place.

Sadly no commoners regularly exercise their rights to graze any more and this is why we celebrate the rights of the commoners in September, to remind visitors and local residents that Effingham Common is a rare and valuable place for the community.



Effingham Common
scale 1:25000 (at A1)

NOTE: all designations are for illustrative purposes only and do not infer or confirm any legal definitions

APPENDIX IV

Recollections and character quotes displayed by ELHG

Adrian Estler

"Leebrooke Farm was occupied by Adrian Estler. He was a character."

"Adrian was a great supporter of the [cricket] club and he played for them and he used to give us transport to away matches. This transport was in the form of a very battered and ancient Rolls Royce the doors of which didn't open, and I can't remember a top ... anyway we had to climb over the doors to get in it. There was usually about half a dozen of us and if you can visualise Adrian being a somewhat tall man, never immaculately dressed in any shape of form and wore an enormous hat, and we'd turn up for away matches in this ramshackle vehicle."

"Adrian was quite a good cricketer and in home matches we'd turn up with children to be amused and when we were batting, Adrian used to get hold of the horse, William, and most of the children had rides on this horse during the course of the afternoon."

Feuding Farmers

There was bad blood between two local farmers in the 1940s – let's call them H and M.

"H used to ride his horses over M's farmland which upset him no end, as a result of which M got his tractor and drove it at H on the Common one day – luckily everyone escaped unhurt but because of this M tried to put some fencing round the Common. But a Brigadier Faviell and Adrian Estler used to go out at night and cut this fencing for two reasons: they had Common Rights and being a Common it couldn't be fenced, and ultimately, M was forced to take the fencing down. There was another story concerning H and M in that H was aware that M was paying far too much attention to H's wife and as a result of which H and his sons chased M round the Common with a horsewhip."

Feisty Ladies

Two spinster ladies owned farmhouses nearby – let's call them Miss M and Miss O.

"Miss M had on her grand piano a picture of her with her Prince of Wales feathers where she'd been presented at court and she was a very large lady. She rode a white horse which was rather highly strung and on several occasions it used to go all over the road carrying on, with traffic building up on either side and Miss M rather red in the face but well in control. Miss O unfortunately was a bit of a drinker. She owned a shot gun and in her worst moments if anyone turned up in her drive she used to fire on them with the shot gun so she was someone people fought shy of. [When she] died people going into [her house] opened the cupboard doors and were covered in empty gin bottles which fell out on them … various doors were peppered with shotgun pellets."

Birds and Birdsong

Recollection from Ivor Gillespie, Hooke Farm 2010

"When I came [in about 1968] there were a lot of nightingales, and there haven't been any in recent years, until last year, coming home from town, there was a nightingale singing in the carpark at the station, and this year I have heard one once. Swallows and martins are much less frequent as are peewits – lapwings. There were a lot of lapwings flying up and down on the Common and of course there used to be a lot of skylark song. All of that is diminished. I don't hear any skylarks' song now although they tell me there are still skylarks on the Common."

Effingham Cricket

Recollection from Edward Crouch, 2010

"Cricket has been played on that part of the Common reputedly for more than 100 years. The site was given to the Cricket Club by the Parish Council. I played there from the late 40s to the early 60s when the ball was hitting me more than I was hitting it. But to have a half-day's fielding in the outfield at the beginning of the season was quite hard work and you needed a good day's rest afterwards. I remember also fielding one day and a kestrel caught a vole and came and perched on one of the stumps within a few yards of me and religiously ate it while I was trying to concentrate on the fielding. It was very boggy in the outfield ... it was pretty sticky stuff early in the season. And it was also a while before we got the square into any sort of proper condition. Bearing in mind we didn't wear helmets in those days, you had to duck and weave quite a bit if a fast bowler was on!"

Changing Landscape

Recollection from Jessica Page, 2010

"These are my memories of the Common just before the second world war. My recollection is that it was quite close, rather nice, grass which had been obviously browsed by sheep ... it was really rather pleasant and I think I can even remember seeing some harebells. And it had large may bushes and blackthorn all over it. But by 1939 the bushes were getting more and more huge and there was less and less grass in

between and you really had to thread your way through. Then the war came and I remember seeing these big machines on the Common and they just tore everything up ... it looked so different because the whole thing was flat and open. It was then ploughed and for the rest of the war it was used for Dig for Victory and there were various crops."

Childhood at Wise Folly

Recollection from George Ranger, told to Mary Rice-Oxley in 1991

George Ranger's grandfather lived at Wise Folly before the second world war, and kept geese, sheep and a donkey. George himself lived in one of the 'wooden houses' behind Wise Folly. As a child, George used to watch the timber wagons passing by, coming from Davis's sawmill in Church Road, Great Bookham.

Additional comment by ELHG

Another familiar sight for residents on the Common from the early 1900s through until the 1920s would have been the baker from Effingham village, delivering with his horse and cart.

Boys' Brigade Camp

In the early 1900s, local philanthropist George Pauling paid for boys in the Catholic Boys' Brigade from the Clapham and Balham areas to camp on Effingham Common. Not everyone appreciated the opportunity! In 1903 one boy sent a postcard saying "Lovely scenery, poetical sights but dreadful life – couldn't stand it – boys singing the whole night – couldn't sleep – got up with an awful headache – I'm better off in Balham."

Effingham Celebrations – the Coronation of George VI in 1937

CHRISTOPHER JOHN HOGGER

Soon after Effingham had celebrated the Silver Jubilee in 1935 of King George V, the latter died and his child Edward briefly became King until abdicating. Edward's brother Albert then became King, to be known as George VI, and was crowned on 12 May 1937. This article describes Effingham's celebrations of this event which in some respects mirrored that in 1935 but had significant differences as well. Some local records and images are presented to illustrate the text.

Introduction

It is probable that at the start of 1937 the memory of village life still most vivid in the minds of Effingham's residents was of the celebration they had held nearly two years previously, in May 1935, of the Silver Jubilee anniversary of King George V's coronation. The King, however, had been in poor health ever since a riding mishap in 1915, this followed by years of respiratory problems together with a bout of severe septicaemia. In his last years he had had to depend for the exercise of many of his duties upon his first-born child Edward, Prince of Wales. He died just before midnight on 20 January 1936, having been discreetly euthanised with lethal injections administered by his chief physician.

Edward, being first in line, immediately became King. He had not married but had instead been embroiled for many years in affairs with various married women, one of whom introduced him in the early 1930s to the American Mrs Wallis (née Spencer) Simpson, now in her second marriage after an earlier divorce. By late 1936, less than a year into his reign, Edward had decided to marry Wallis – once she had divorced her present husband – and continue as King, but the opposition and constitutional impediments to this intention proved insurmountable, leading Edward to abdicate in the December.

Almost immediately the throne passed to his younger brother Albert ('Bertie') whose regnal name was chosen to be King George VI. His Coronation was scheduled for 12 May 1937.

The Coronation

The Royal Family, members of foreign royal families and heads of state processed in separate groups in the time-honoured way from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey. The last and largest procession was that of George and his wife Elizabeth, in the Gold State Coach, who arrived at the Abbey at 11am. The Archbishop of Canterbury then performed the Coronation Service, first crowning George and then Elizabeth. The scene is captured in the painting by Frank Owen Salisbury shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1 *Coronation of King George VI (1895-1952)* by Frank Owen Salisbury.

The King and Queen then processed from the Abbey through London back to the Palace. A direct route from the Abbey to the Palace is only about two thirds of a mile, but this State Procession was nearly ten times longer than that, much longer than in previous coronations. Lining the route on either side were more than fifty thousand troops and police officers.

The following photographs (both public domain) show highlights of the service and the Royal Family's appearance on the palace balcony. A lengthy *Pathé* film at *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcYG9CUXceU*, presenting the entire proceedings, can be viewed on the website of Effingham Local History Group (ELHG) at *https://elhg.org.uk/discovery/village-events/coronation-1937/*.



Figure 2 *Princess Margaret; Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother; King George VI; Queen Elizabeth II* by Hay Wrightson; (detail) National Portrait Gallery Photographs Collection NPG x32327. This oddly-ordered caption is as given in the NPG catalogue – the last-named person was of course the *future* Queen Elizabeth II.



Figure 3 *Queen Elizabeth, Princess Elizabeth, Princess Margaret and King George VI on the balcony at Buckingham Palace May 12, 1937 after the coronation of King George VI* ; from The National Archives.

Effingham Celebrations

The topic of coronation celebrations was raised in the previous year at a meeting of Effingham Parish Council (EPC), under the chairmanship of John Thomas Bunce, on 11 September 1936 – at that date everyone was anticipating that Edward would be crowned – the Minutes stating:

> 'Coronation Celebrations in this Parish. It was resolved that discussion of this stand over till the next meeting, and in the meantime information be sought as to the legality of it being made a charge on the rates.'

Mr Bunce was living at, and managing, The Stores on Woodlands Road, at its intersection with Strathcona Avenue. The Minutes of the next meeting of EPC, held on 20 January 1937, noted that:

> 'Mr Carter proposed that the Clerk be instructed to approach the Jubilee Committee who it was understood was still in being & ask if they were willing to organise the celebrations for the forthcoming Coronation [of George VI]. Mr West seconded. Carried.'

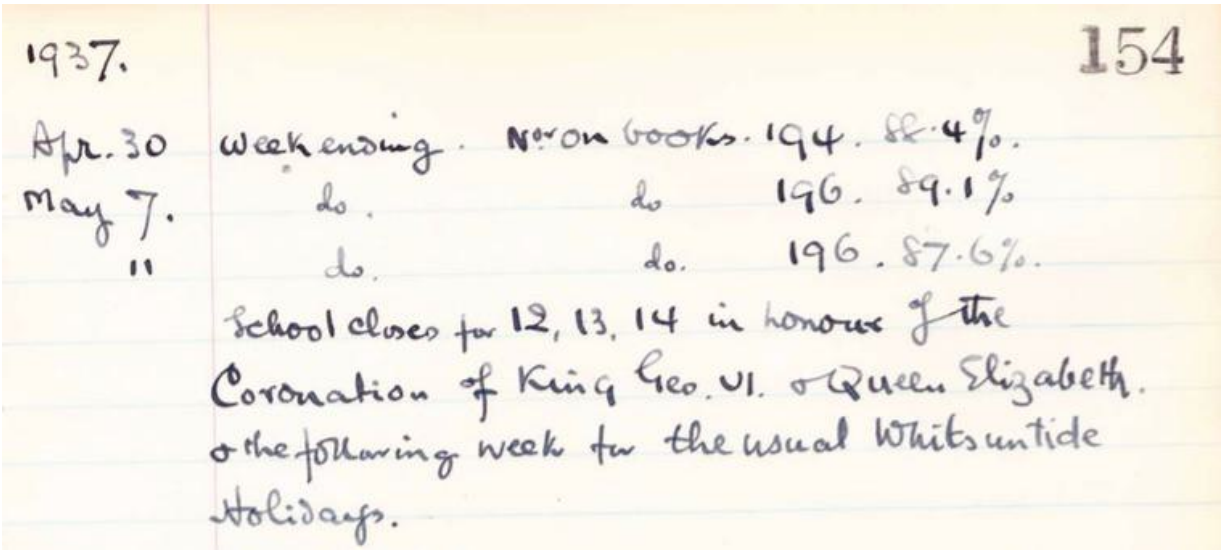
'Mr Carter' was Alfred William Carter, then living at The Little Lodge (located where the drive from The Lodge opened onto Lower Road); he was at this time Vice-Chairman of EPC and would take over the chairmanship from Mr Bunce in April 1937. 'Mr West' was EPC Councillor Thomas William Plowright West, then living at the house Sterlingworth in Norwood Road. The Jubilee Celebration Committee had been elected at a public meeting on 11 March 1935 for the purpose of organising the Effingham's celebrations, to be held on 6 May that year, of the Silver Jubilee of George V's accession to the throne.

The Minutes of EPC's next meeting, on 22 March 1937, contained two notes about the celebrations:

> 'Arising out of Minutes. Public Meeting for forming Coronation Celebrations Committee. That the action of the Chairman & Clerk in arranging and calling a public meeting by circular letter to occupiers in the Parish was approved and the necessary expense attached to the meeting was passed.'

> 'Coronation Celebrations. It was resolved that the Parish Council contribute the sum of £25 towards the Celebrations in the Parish. Mr West proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Bunce the retiring Chairman – who did not seek re-election to the Council – for the able and impartial way he had during his term of Office carried through his duties. Mr Carter seconded and voiced the feeling of the Council in wishing him health & good fortune.'

By early May the coming celebrations were being noted also in the records of the local school. From the school log book we see (Figure 4) that the children would be given three days' special holiday during 12-14 May to mark the Coronation, followed by their usual Whitsuntide holiday.



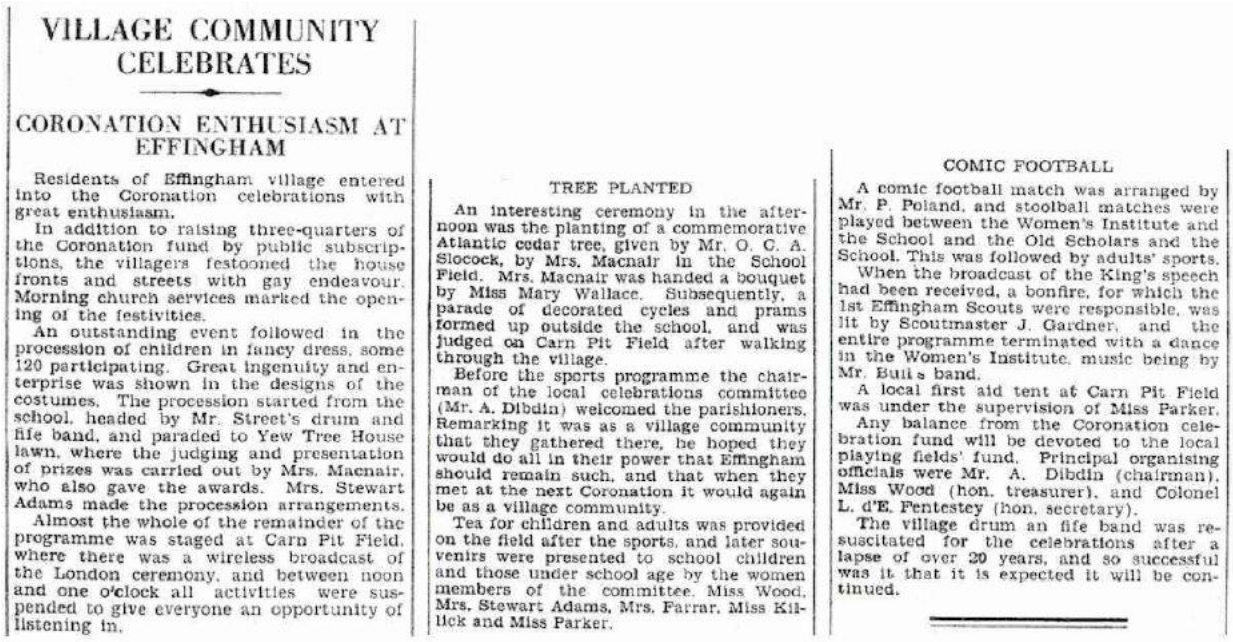
1937. 154

Apr. 30 Week ending. Nos on books. 194. 88.4%.
May 7. do. do 196. 89.1%
" do. do. 196. 87.6%.
School closed for 12, 13, 14 in honour of the Coronation of King Geo. VI. & Queen Elizabeth. & the following week for the usual Whitsuntide Holidays.

Figure 4 Entry in the school log book made in May 1937.

In this period the local school – eventually to become St Lawrence Primary School – was called simply Effingham Council School and its head teacher was Mr Joseph Stewart Adams who lived in the adjoining School House with his wife Florence, the school Governess.

One detailed account we have of Effingham's celebrations is provided in this newspaper article:



VILLAGE COMMUNITY CELEBRATES

CORONATION ENTHUSIASM AT EFFINGHAM

Residents of Effingham village entered into the Coronation celebrations with great enthusiasm.

In addition to raising three-quarters of the Coronation fund by public subscriptions, the villagers festooned the house fronts and streets with gay endeavour. Morning church services marked the opening of the festivities.

An outstanding event followed in the procession of children in fancy dress, some 120 participating. Great ingenuity and enterprise was shown in the designs of the costumes. The procession started from the school, headed by Mr. Street's drum and fife band, and paraded to Yew Tree House lawn, where the judging and presentation of prizes was carried out by Mrs. Macnair, who also gave the awards. Mrs. Stewart Adams made the procession arrangements.

Almost the whole of the remainder of the programme was staged at Carn Pit Field, where there was a wireless broadcast of the London ceremony, and between noon and one o'clock all activities were suspended to give everyone an opportunity of listening in.

TREE PLANTED

An interesting ceremony in the afternoon was the planting of a commemorative Atlantic cedar tree, given by Mr. O. C. A. Slocock, by Mrs. Macnair in the School Field. Mrs. Macnair was handed a bouquet by Miss Mary Wallace. Subsequently, a parade of decorated cycles and prams formed up outside the school, and was judged on Carn Pit Field after walking through the village.

Before the sports programme the chairman of the local celebrations committee (Mr. A. Dibdin) welcomed the parishioners. Remarking it was as a village community that they gathered there, he hoped they would do all in their power that Effingham should remain such, and that when they met at the next Coronation it would again be as a village community.

Tea for children and adults was provided on the field after the sports, and later souvenirs were presented to school children and those under school age by the women members of the committee. Miss Wood, Mrs. Stewart Adams, Mrs. Farrar, Miss Killick and Miss Parker.

COMIC FOOTBALL

A comic football match was arranged by Mr. P. Poland, and stoolball matches were played between the Women's Institute and the School and the Old Scholars and the School. This was followed by adults' sports.

When the broadcast of the King's speech had been received, a bonfire, for which the 1st Effingham Scouts were responsible, was lit by Scoutmaster J. Gardner, and the entire programme terminated with a dance in the Women's Institute, music being by Mr. Bull's band.

A local first aid tent at Carn Pit Field was under the supervision of Miss Parker.

Any balance from the Coronation celebration fund will be devoted to the local playing fields' fund. Principal organising officials were Mr. A. Dibdin (chairman), Miss Wood (hon. treasurer), and Colonel L. d'E. Fentestey (hon. secretary).

The village drum an fife band was resuscitated for the celebrations after a lapse of over 20 years, and so successful was it that it is expected it will be continued.

Figure 5 *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 15 May 1937.

From this account it is clear that the activities were as varied and engaging as they had been in the Silver Jubilee celebrations two years previously, contrary to the recorded recollection of the late Mrs Lena Bridger that 'the Coronation of King George the Sixth was not so involved, just a tea party for the children'.

The venue for the main activities is given as Carn Pit Field. The location and naming of this site are examined in an article by Effingham Local History Group (ELHG) entitled *Madge's Field / Carn Pit Field* [*Studies in the History of Effingham*, Article 35, Vol **4**, 2024].

The above newspaper article's last paragraph states that the band had been 'resuscitated … after a lapse of over 20 years', but this is certainly mistaken: the band had featured prominently (and been photographed doing so) just eighteen years previously, in the Peace Celebrations of 1919. ELHG's archives also hold photographs showing the band assembled for some other occasion and bearing the date 1920.

We are fortunate also to have in the ELHG archives this photograph showing 'Mr Street's drum and fife band' at the 1937 celebration:



Figure 6 Effingham's Drum and Fife Band at the Coronation celebrations on 12 May 1937.

Local resident Anthony ('Tony') D F Cuckow has kindly provided for us the surnames of the persons seen here, from left to right, as follows: 'Mr Street, Mr Stovell, Mr Pole, Mr Sawyer, Mr Patten, Mr Lamb, Mr Lucas'. Their full names and addresses in 1937 were:

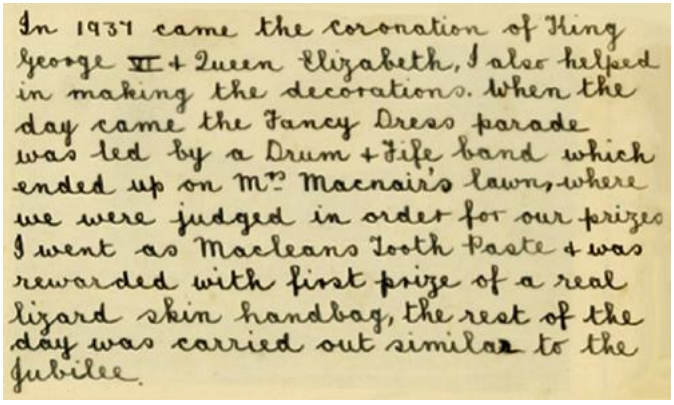
Ralph Edgar Street	The Lodge Gardens, Church Street – this bungalow, demolished in the 1960s, stood in the north-western corner where Church Street meets Lower Road.
Arthur Archibald Stovell	Forge House, Church Street – this property was formerly a pub, The Blacksmith's Arms, since demolished and replaced by a similar building.
Frank Pole	No. 1, Plough Cottages, Orestan Lane – this terrace of cottages, since demolished, stood just east of The Plough Inn.
Henry Sawyer	No. 3, Plough Cottages, Orestan Lane.
Frank John Patten	High Barn Cottages, High Barn Road.
Reginald Cecil Lamb	"Sunny View", Dowlans Road, Great Bookham
Alfred Lucas	"The Elms", Orestan Lane – later this would become the home of Mr Street in his retirement.

We have another photograph of the band, showing the same seven individuals, taken probably in or near the Carn Pit Field:



Figure 7 Effingham's Drum and Fife Band at the Coronation celebrations, perhaps at the Carn Pit Field.

The band was remembered in an essay *My Career in the Effingham School* composed on 1 April 1938 by a 14-year-old pupil of the local school, the late Margaret Mary Nicholls who had attended the event, and also in a much more recent article appearing in the 'Yesteryear' column of the local newspaper [*Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser*, 17 May 2012]:



In 1937 came the coronation of King George VI + Queen Elizabeth, I also helped in making the decorations. When the day came the Fancy Dress parade was led by a Drum + Fife band which ended up on Mrs Macnair's lawn, where we were judged in order for our prizes I went as Macleans Tooth Paste + was rewarded with first prize of a real lizard skin handbag, the rest of the day was carried out similar to the Jubilee.

Figure 8 extract from the essay by Margaret Mary Nicholls.



Plenty of excitement at coronation celebrations

THE Coronation celebrations in Leatherhead district will not soon be forgotten.

Some idea of the crowds that gathered can be found from the fact that 930 bottles of milk were distributed to the children.

A feature of the Effingham celebration was the resuscitation of the village Drum and Fife Band after a lapse of nearly 20 years.

Effingham is one of the very few villages with its own band.

We have not heard of anyone celebrating the Coronation in as strange a way as a Coronation was celebrated at Leith Hill a 100 years ago.

On the June morning of Queen Victoria's Coronation Day, Edward Fitzgerald, James Spedding and Sir Frederick Pollock journeyed to Leith Hill and when distant guns proclaimed that the crowning had taken place, they all flung themselves into a duck pond and sang "God Save The Queen".

Figure 9 from the local *Advertiser*, 17 May 2012.

Our best source of detail about the event in Effingham is the *Programme of Celebrations*, which is shown in full in Appendix I. Its front page names the members of the organising committee, chaired by Mr Aubrey Dibdin CIE, an accomplished senior civil servant with the India Office and living at Fair View in Beech Avenue. At this time Mr Dibdin was serving also on the Effingham Playing Fields Committee, a body that had evolved from the 1935 Jubilee Celebration Committee and was now deeply engaged in the negotiations to purchase from Mrs Dolores Pauling of The Lodge about 31 acres of her park land for the use of local playing fields. In due course he would join six others, including Barnes Neville Wallis, as the purchasing trustees of that land.



Figure 10 *Programme* cover (detail).

The *Programme of Celebrations* sets out in chronological order the many activities of the day, starting in the morning with services at Our Lady of Sorrows and at St Lawrence Church, these followed by a Children's Fancy Dress Procession. In the afternoon there was a tree-planting ceremony in the school's field and then, on the Carn Pit Field, parades of decorated cycles and perambulators followed by an extensive series of sporting races for children and youths. After teas for both children and adults there was a Comic Football Match and two Stoolball Matches. After these came Sports for seniors, including married couples 'trotting in double harness' and a Grandfathers' Race. Later in the evening visitors listened to The King's Broadcast, enjoyed a bonfire arranged by the 1st Effingham Scouts and rounded off the day's excitements with a dance to the music of Mr Bull's Band.

ELHG has so far acquired only two photographs of these events, both relating to the Comic Football Match.


Figure 11 Participants in the Comic Football Match.

The comic football match was timed to start at 5.45pm and had been organised by Mr Edward Philip ('Phil') Poland, born in 1914 and now working as a confectioner. His family lived at 2, Church Street, one of the pair of semi-detached cottages immediately south of the old forge. He is seen here at the centre of Figure 11 wearing a broad-brimmed hat. The man immediately left of him is Peter Edward ('Bunny') Loxley, a son born in 1918 to Ernest Albert Loxley and the latter's wife Ethel Almena (née Mills) who until the early 1920s had been tenants of Effingham's Home Farm but subsequently lived at 3, Victory Cottages on the Guildford Road. The man standing at the rear (behind the person wearing a Union Jack across his chest) is Edward Henry John ('Jim'!) Tyrrell, born in 1916 and in 1937 living with his parents at 6, Victory Cottages and occupied as a gardener as also was his father Edward. The left-most man in the group is Peter James ('Jim') Patrick Nicholls, born in Effingham in 1919, who was dressed as a 'groom' with the man next to him – wearing a brightly patterned dress and holding a folded umbrella – as his 'bride'. Jim Nicholls was later to die on active service in appalling circumstances aboard *HMS Chakdina* which was sunk on 5 December 1941. Two of Phil Poland's brothers also died on active service in the second world war.

Our second photograph of the Comic Football Match (Figure 12) offers a closer view of the three at the centre of the group; we see Phil Poland flanked by 'Bunny' Loxley and 'Jim' Tyrrell. In later years 'Bunny' Loxley would run the shop at Effingham Golf Club for which he would serve as the 'club professional' for 25 years.



Figure 12 The Comic Football Match – 'Bunny' Loxley, Phil Poland and 'Jim' Tyrrell.

A *Souvenir Programme of Celebrations* provides a similar level of detail about the Coronation celebrations in Bookham, Fetcham, Leatherhead and Ashtead and some extracts are shown in Appendix II. The full version can be viewed on ELHG's website.

We can let Joseph Stewart Adams have the last word, with an entry in his school log book almost a fortnight later, on 25 May which he observes to be Empire Day. He mentions that the school has re-opened after the Whitsun break and then states that Mrs MacNair – that is, Mrs Nina (née Lambert) MacNair of Yew Tree House – had planted a 'Coronation tree' *Cedrus Atlantica Glauca* in the school field. This must surely have been a reference back to Coronation day itself since the tree had already been planted as part of the celebration, as reported in the 15 May newspaper report.

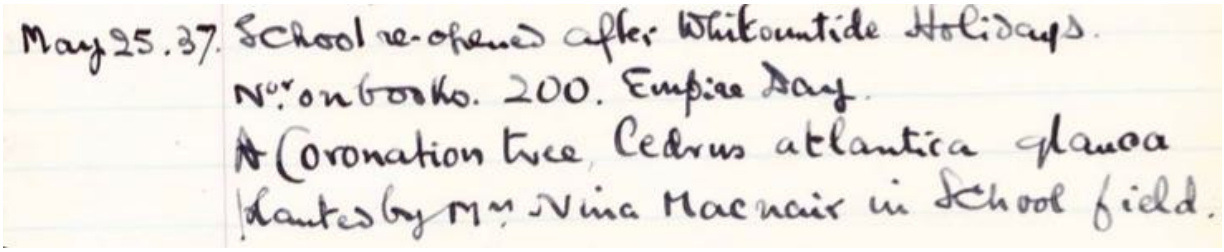

May 25. 37. School re-opened after Whitsuntide Holidays.
No. on books. 200. Empire Day.
A Coronation tree, Cedrus atlantica glauca
planted by Mrs Nina Macnair in School field.

Figure 13 Joseph Stewart Adams' record of the planting of the Coronation tree in the school field.

The ELHG archives hold another photograph, shown in Figure 14, which may well have been taken of Effingham's celebration of the Coronation. It was printed on a postcard on the reverse of which is written in pencil 'Madge's field Effingham 1937'. There is no other writing and no clue as to the identity of the producer of the postcard. At the centre of the picture is some kind of shelter liberally festooned with straw, laurel leaves and other vegetation and it appears that cold drinks are being served from a table in front of it; a young girl sitting in the foreground is drinking from a tall glass with a straw. A sign suspended from the roof of the shelter bears the word 'American' but if there were any other words above that then they are

too faint to discern. At the right of the shelter a tall man wearing a dress coat and top hat holds a bell, whilst standing prominently on the left is a somewhat buxom lady who bears a strong resemblance to Miss Effie Jane Ross of The Hollies in The Street. Effie was an important figure in the local community, especially in Effingham Women's Institute, 47 of whose members would enjoy a coach trip to London on 18 May 'to see the Coronation decorations' [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 22 May 1937].

We cannot be sure that this intriguing photograph does pertain to the Coronation celebration, but we do not know of any other significant public event taking place in Madge's Field in that year.



Figure 14 An event in Madge's Field/Carn Pit Field in 1937, probably the Coronation celebration.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1: *Wikimedia Commons* – public domain
Figure 2: from the National Portrait Gallery Photographs Collection NPG x32327
by Creative Commons License *https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/*
Figure 3: from The National Archives; Crown Copyright/public domain
Figures 4, 13: from the log book of 1923-58 kindly made available to ELHG by St Lawrence Primary School
Figures 5, 9: by kind permission of Reach Plc / *Mirrorpix*
Figure 6: from the late Winifred Annie (nee Stovell) Hall
Figure 7: from Ralph Frank Wallace, grandson of Ralph Edgar Street
Figure 8: from Linda Ann (née Pratley) Reid, daughter of Margaret Mary (née Nicholls) Biles formerly Pratley
Figure 10: from Barbara Henry
Figure 11: from the late James Louie Nicholls
Figure 12: from Elizabeth Ann (née Tyrrell) Wheeler
Figure 14: from Jeremy Palmer

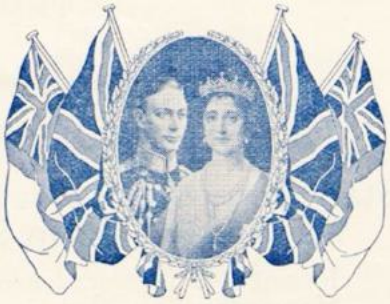
Appendix I programme: from Barbara Henry
Appendix II programme: from the late Angela Putland

APPENDIX I

Effingham's 'Programme of Celebrations'

EFFINGHAM VILLAGE

12th MAY, 1937



Coronation
of Their Majesties
King George VI
& Queen Elizabeth

PROGRAMME OF CELEBRATIONS

Committee:

A. Dibdin, Chairman.
Miss Wood, Treasurer.
Col. L. d'E. Lenfestey, Secretary,
J. Stewart Adams, Mrs. Stewart Adams, Rev. F. E. Bird,
H. N. Bridger, J. A. R. Bull,
W. Butcher, Mrs. Farrar,
Rev. H. A. Floud, F. Forehead,
J. Forehead, A. Hill, Miss Killick, F. Loxley, I. A. W. McGowan, C. Nottage, Miss Parker, P. Poland, R. E. Street.

Dyer the Printer, Leatherhead. 7902. Phone 100

CHURCH SERVICES.

8 a.m. Holy Communion—Parish Church and Catholic Church.

9 a.m. Parish Church—Special Service.
Catholic Church—Sung Mass and Te Deum.

CHILDREN'S FANCY DRESS PROCESSION.

10 a.m. Start from the School, headed by Mr. Street's Drum & Fife Band.

Judging and presentation of prizes by Mrs. Macnair on Yew Tree House lawn.
Prizes kindly given by Mrs. Macnair.
Procession arranged by Mrs. Stewart Adams.

BROADCAST.

There will be a wireless broadcast on Carn Pit Field which will include the King's broadcast at 8 p.m. and, as far as possible, the description and broadcast of the procession and the Abbey ceremony from 10-30 a.m. to 3-15 p.m. The local programme contains no other item between noon and 1 p.m., so that all who wish to do so may have an opportunity of listening in to a part of the ceremony.

COMMEMORATIVE TREE.

2 p.m. Planting in the School Field by Mrs. Macnair.

Tree kindly presented by O. C. A. Slocock, Esq.

PARADES.

1. Decorated cycles (prizes by J. B. Evershed).
2. Decorated prams with babies.
3. Decorated prams with dolls.

Judging on Carn Pit Field.

3 p.m. SPORTS.

South Pitch.

Boys, 7—9.
Flat Race, 50 yds. Sack Race, 50 yds.

Girls, 7—9.
Flat race, 50 yds. Skipping race, 50 yds.

Boys, 9—11.
Flat race, 75 yds. Three legged race. Sack race. Wheelbarrow race.

Girls, 9—11.
Flat race, 75 yds. Three legged race. Egg and Spoon race.

Boys, 11—13.
Flat race, 100 yds. Bun race. Three legged race.

Girls, 11—13.
Flat race, 100 yds. Bun race. Three legged race.

5 p.m. Boys, 13—15.
Flat Race, 100 yds. Flat race, 220 yds. Three legged race. Bun race. Sack race (11—15).

Girls, 13—15.
Flat race, 100 yds. Bun race. Egg and Spoon race (11—15).

North Pitch.

3 p.m. Infants.
Bunny-Hop, Boys and Girls 5—6. Flat race, 25 yds., Girls 5—6. Flat race, 25 yds., Boys 5—6. Flat race, 30 yds., Girls, 6—7. Flat race, 30 yds., Boys, 6—7. Horses and Driver, Boys and Girls. Skipping race, Boys and Girls. Sack race, Boys. Toddlers' race, Children under school age.

3-30 p.m. Youths, 15—17. (Prizes by T. Flack).
Flat Race, 440 yds. Flat race, 100 yds. Obstacle race.

Girls, 15—17. (Prizes by T. Flack).
Flower-pot race. Flat race, 150 yds. Obstacle race.

4 p.m. Youths, over 17.
Flat race, 220 yds. Flat race, 100 yds. Sack race. Obstacle race. Three legged race. Slow cycle race (open).

Girls, over 17.
Flat race, 100 yds. Egg and Spoon race. Flower-pot race. Potato race.

Note:—Considerations of time necessitate races being started in quick succession. Competitors must therefore be ready to start when their race is called.

TEA.

4 p.m. Children (under 15).
5 p.m. Adults.

SOUVENIRS.

4-30 p.m. Presentation to school children and those under school age by the Ladies of the Committee.

GAMES.

5-45 p.m. Comic Football Match.
(Arranged by P. Poland).

Stoolball Match.
Women's Institute *v.* The School.

6-30 p.m. Stoolball Match.
Old Scholars *v.* The School.

SENIORS' SPORTS.

7 p.m. Trotting in double harness for married couples.
(Prizes by Miss Bright).

Grandfather's Race.
(Prizes by J. A. R. Bull)

Tug-of-War.—British Legion, Married Men, Single Men.

8 p.m. **THE KING'S BROADCAST.**

BONFIRE.

Arranged by the 1st Effingham Scouts.

DANCE.

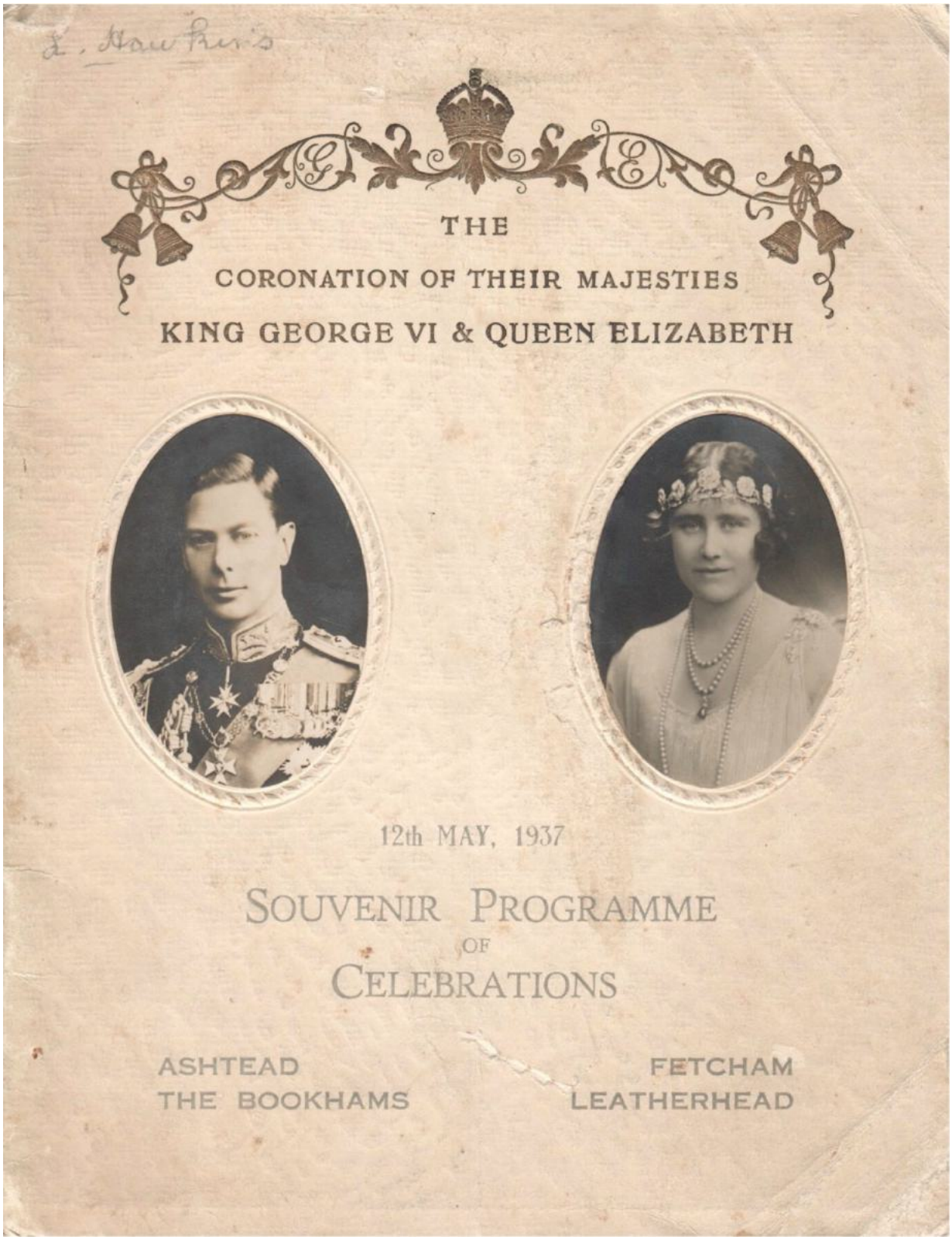
10 p.m. A dance will be held at the Womens' Institute Hall from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Music by Mr. Bull's Band. Admission by ticket (limited to 120) price sixpence, to be obtained from members of the Dance Committee.



The Committee desire to convey their hearty thanks to all those friends who have helped by donations to the funds, by the loan of the field, by the provision of prizes, and by assistance in the arrangement of the celebrations.

APPENDIX II

'Souvenir Programme of Celebrations: Ashtead, The Bookhams, Fetcham and Leatherhead'
(Here showing just the front cover and the section for Bookham)





By Courtesy of *The Daily Sketch.*

Their Majesties leaving Great Bookham Church when on their honeymoon at Polesden Lacey.

Bookham

OFFICIALS:

Chairman:
H. BOSTOCK.

Hon. Treasurer:
MRS. E. E. GRIFFIN.

Hon. Secretary:
R. BISHOP.

BOOKHAM

CORONATION DAY
12TH MAY

9-15 a.m. PARADE of Local Organisations at the Old Barn Hall, followed by March to Recreation Ground for :—

10-0 a.m. UNITED RELIGIOUS SERVICE under the Oak in the Recreation Ground.

10-45 a.m. NATIONAL BROADCAST: Relay of CORONATION PROCESSION and SERVICE in the Recreation Ground.

11-0 a.m. THE CORONATION SERVICE: Relay of Broadcast in the Parish Churches of Great Bookham and Little Bookham.

1-30 p.m. CARNIVAL PROCESSION forms up at Preston Cross Roads.

Prizes will be given in each of the four following classes :—

1. Tableaux, (vehicular and pedestrian).
2. Decorated Private Cars.
3. Tradesmen's Decorated Vehicles.
4. Children's Decorated Bicycles, Tricycles, Scooters, Perambulators, etc.

Points will be awarded for originality, artistry and skill.

BOOKHAM

2-0 p.m. CARNIVAL PROCESSION starts from Preston Cross and will proceed by way of Little Bookham Street, Station Road, Church Road, High Street and Dorking Road, to the Recreation Ground where at approximately :—

3-0 p.m. JUDGING OF ENTRIES in each Class will take place in the Top Field.

3-45 p.m. ATHLETIC SPORTS in the Recreation Ground. Races of all kinds for Old and Young. Entries taken on the Ground. (No entry fees).

Teas and refreshments of all kinds will be obtainable on the ground.

7-0 p.m. FLIGHT OF FIRE BALLOONS and DAYLIGHT FIREWORKS in the Recreation Ground.

8-0 p.m. COMMUNITY SINGING and Musical Programme in the Recreation Ground.

9-0 p.m. CARNIVAL DANCE in the Church House.

10-0 p.m. BONFIRE in the Recreation Ground.

BOOKHAM

FRIDAY
14TH MAY

4-0 p.m. TEA will be given to the Children living in the Parishes of Great and Little Bookham, who are between the ages of 5 and 16 years and who attend any School. This will be provided in the Church House and the Baptist Hall, and will be followed by an Entertainment and Presentation of a Souvenir Book.

FRIDAY
21ST MAY

7-0 p.m. SUPPER and ENTERTAINMENT FOR OLD FOLKS over the age of 65 years will be given in the Old Barn Hall.

CORONATION MUGS will be distributed to every child living in the Bookhams under five years of age.

The Effingham Tithe Barn

SUSAN MORRIS

We might never have known of Effingham's former tithe barn had it not been for a single indication of it on a plan accompanying a contract of sale made in 1803. In this article we explain the history and application of tithes in order to set this finding in context, and also discuss some of the tithe records for Effingham pertaining to the approximate period when the plan was drawn. The article finishes by comparing the tithe barn's site as shown on that plan with how the site appears today.

Introduction

Knowledge of the existence and location of this now-vanished building rests largely on a single label on a plan within a contract of 1803 [Surrey History Centre (SHC) Ref: G165/139/10].

The contract was between Oliver de Lancey, Lord of the Manor of Effingham East Court, and William Currie, Lord of the Manor of East Horsley. De Lancey was selling to Currie a landholding in two large sections. They had been known together as Nyce Court Farm or Nice Farm historically, but the northern section had recently become known as Indian Farm. Figure 1 shows the section of the plan covering the southernmost of the two parts.

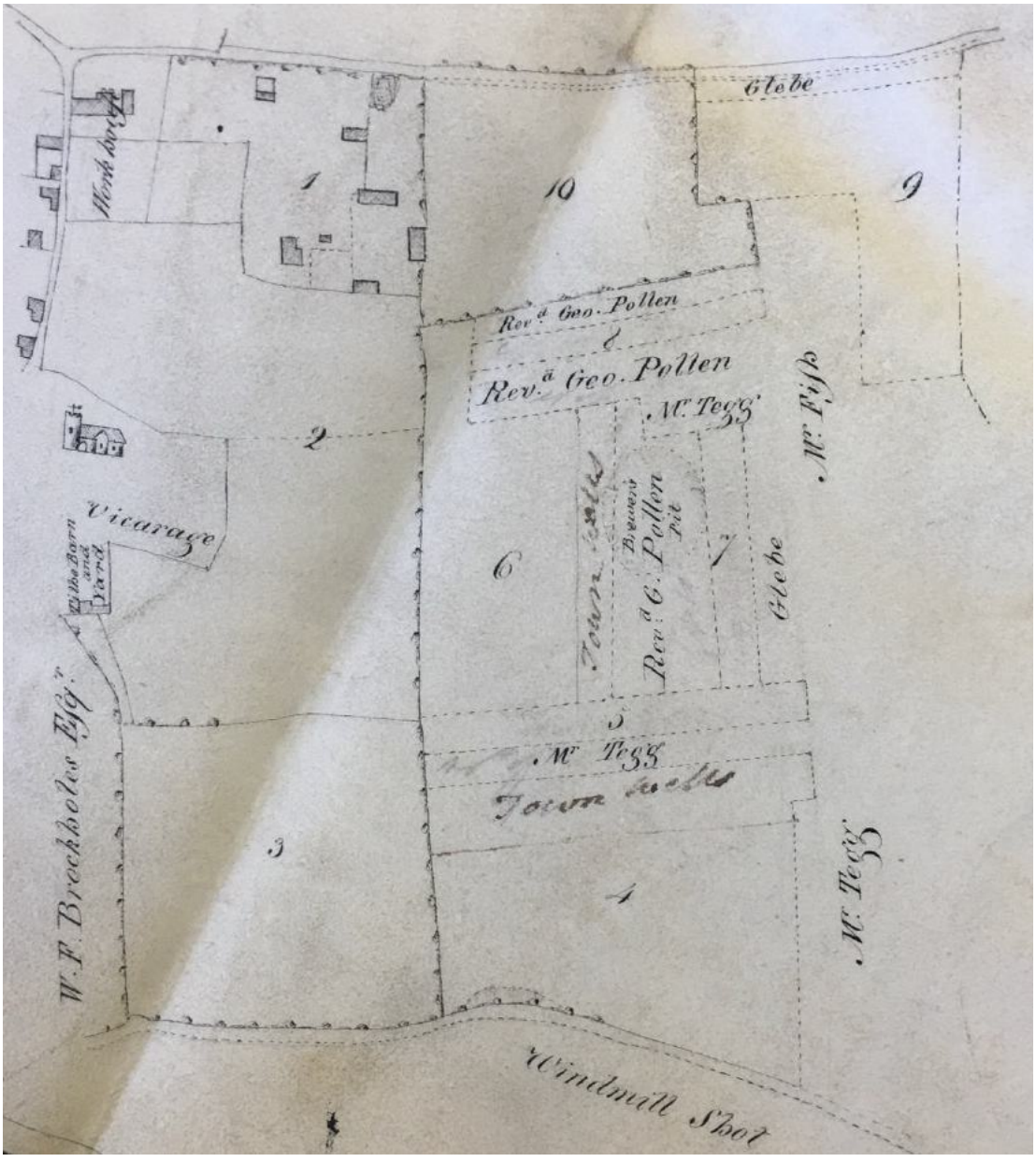


Figure 1 Detail of the 1803 contract.

Figure 2 is a detail of Figure 1, picking out the details of the Church, the Tithe Barn and its Yard (the Vicarage is not shown). Presumably, these features were highlighted because they marked a boundary of the area being sold.

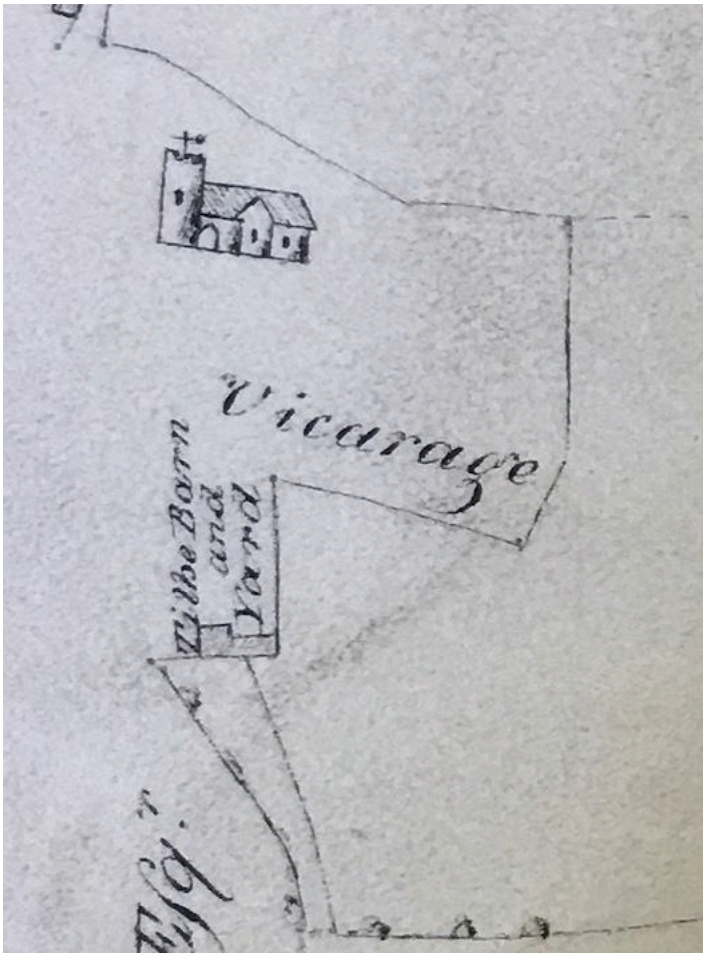


Figure 2 Detail of Figure 1.

How old was this tithe barn likely to have been? How was it used? When did it disappear? Tithes were a very significant part of every household's life for centuries so before discussing the building designed to hold them, a brief explanation of what they were, and what they were for, will perhaps be useful.

Tithes

King Ethelwulf first granted the English church the right to receive tithes in AD 855. Tithes were seen as a gift or donation to the church. The giver acknowledged that God was the benevolent being behind the natural annual cycle which kept each person alive through the increase of living things, such as the harvest from fields or orchards etc, the arrival of new lambs, calves, hens, the harvest of peas, that year's honey and so on. The tithe (= tenth or 10%) was a gift of produce from each year's new yield, not of the resource as a whole. If you had a flock of 50 ewes which produced 50 new lambs in spring, the tithe would be 10% of the new lambs = 5 lambs; it did not mean a tenth of the 100 animals you now owned. Not everyone or every activity was tithe-able. Someone whose property yielded inanimate slate or stone for instance would not necessarily be tithed in stone, but may have had to contribute money. Land which yielded game was not tithed, these creatures being wild not husbanded; sea fish similarly. Mills for grain or wool, being dependent on the produce of the fields, were tithed. People in mercantile business for instance in towns or city parishes, where no growing took place, paid tithes in money not goods to their church.

The intended practical results of tithing were:

- to ensure that the clergy themselves were adequately fed, clothed and so on whilst they acknowledged God, and did His work on behalf of the nation
- for the clergy to be able to give away alms to the poor, sick and so on as God would wish, or to other spiritual causes the clergy favoured.

Tithes were not conceived of as a straight direct tax of a person's capital wealth. A modern parallel is the difference between 'being taxed' for Income Tax, and 'making contributions' to National Insurance – the concepts are fundamentally different in origin although both result in handing over money. Tithes were also thought of as 'spiritualities' ie rooted in the demonstration of faith, quite different from 'temporalities' like secular forms of taxation or payment.

For organizational purposes, tithes were divided into two types. 'Great tithes' were the more valuable, bulkier and less immediately perishable produce such as corn, hay and wool. 'Small tithes' on the other hand were the produce of cottagers' gardens – such things as milk, butter, eggs, poultry, pigs, fruit, vegetables, seeds, roots, saffron, woad, madder, hops, hemp, flax, honey, wax and of course turnips. They were less valuable, came in smaller quantities, and many were quite perishable.

All households, at whatever point on the social scale, insofar as their circumstances allowed donated both 'great tithes' and 'small tithes' to the relevant religious in their vicinity. A distinction was however made about who would receive the great and the small tithes. Great tithes went to the 'rector', and small tithes to the 'vicar'. We have therefore to introduce the concepts of, and the difference between, rector and vicar.

Rectors and vicars

Many churches, chapels and so on were originally founded by pious, wealthy, but secular people. The church hierarchy had a great aversion to leaving those churches permanently in lay control and normally a religious body or person was found to take on the management. 'Rector' was thus the role which developed in the earliest days of the expansion of the church as part of this drive to ensure that every area had a religious entity responsible for the care of souls and to look after buildings dedicated to God. Depending on how the patchwork of ad-hoc arrangements evolved locally, the rector could just as easily be an organisation, for instance a minster church or a monastery, as an individual. Whichever it was, the rector was responsible for ensuring the provision of sufficient religious support (the service of a cleric) to the residents using the church and also the suitable upkeep of the building, in whatever form these responsibilities took and over whatever distance. To reiterate, the rector did not have to reside in the parish and did not have to be a single person – for instance, a monastery at some considerable distance away could be a rector.

Whereas the rector was thus usually the earliest role responsible for religious provision in a parish, eventually a 'vicar' for each parish usually appeared. This role was established to live on-site in the parish and to look after more comprehensively the day-to-day spiritual needs of the local residents. When this step of installing a vicar was taken, the roles of rector and of vicar became complementary; one did not replace the other.

Problems of the tithing system

Tithing may sound reasonably straightforward, but it most certainly was not. Inevitably there were endless complications and arguments. In the hope that there need not be disputes every year, all sorts of undertakings, assessments and contracts were made setting out what an individual's property should give each year and to whom. But, to take just the example of a humble cottager trying to fulfill his obligation to donate small tithes to his vicar: each year it could be easier or harder to render the agreed amount depending on how the crop, herd, etc had actually fared. A vicar might well find himself haggling every single year with some or other parishioners over whether they had rendered their small tithes in full, and many were constantly on the lookout for those who were trying to minimize or evade their traditional agreed contributions. Jane Austen's godfather, Rev Samuel Cooke who became Vicar of Great Bookham in 1769, was made very cross and miserable in the first decade of his ministry by the conviction that he was being cheated of tithes which were rightfully his. He was advised he did not have the evidence to take it to law.

There was also tension over the use to which tithes were put. The contribution had to be physically delivered to a local priest, monastery etc. The recipient was then supposed to apportion the proceeds fairly between the clergy's legitimate needs (they were not supposed to enrich themselves) and the poor. It was not always clear that this sharing was being performed punctiliously. For instance, monasteries or other large clerical communities sometimes retained for themselves not half the tithe, but two thirds: a third was released to the poor, but a third was kept to fund the upkeep of the monastic church, and the final third was kept by the monks themselves on the basis that of course monks were also the poor. If a lord founded a new church near a pre-existing one, there could be arguments about which one was now the correct body to receive the tithes. If a lord made a pious dedication of all future tithes from his own land (demesne) to some distant monastery he especially favoured, this effectively permanently diverted tithes away from the

local rector and/or vicar of the parish church, impoverishing them. In order to receive much-needed cash, people or institutions in receipt of tithes could make contracts with any individual, clerical or lay, who would pay them with money in return for the right to collect in and keep (or sell) the actual produce. Naturally this also often resulted in disputes; but if an aggrieved person then wanted to go to court, it wasn't easy to know if the case should be heard by a church or a secular court. It was a system mired in difficulty for all concerned. As we shall later see, eventually in 1836 Parliament put forward a new option.

Effingham's tithes

On current knowledge, Effingham may have had a church in Saxon times but whilst that is theoretically possible there is no surviving evidence for it. One was however certainly founded here in the early 1100s. It was placed in the care of Merton Priory, ie Merton was the rector so, for decades, all tithes from the parish of Effingham (apart from some which had been gifted in perpetuity to Chertsey Abbey, but this issue need not detain us here) were destined for Merton. Details of the practical arrangements of this – collection, transport, storage etc – are not recorded.

For nearly two centuries from the founding of Effingham church, Effingham did not have an on-site resident vicar or a local parsonage. Presumably there was therefore no need for a tithe barn for storage of the small tithes. Around 1300 however this changed. A document of 1297 [British Library, Cotton MS Cleopatra C.vii] reveals that Merton Priory had decided to set up a vicar and a parsonage in the village. A plan proposed by the Prior was approved by the King. It fell to the Bishop of Winchester, in whose diocese Effingham was, to thrash out the details. A meeting with local men and some from the Priory was convened in Effingham by the Bishop's representative, and the necessary decisions were made.

The Bishop approved this settlement of 13 September 1297, recording the particulars in an Ordinance (*Ordinatio*) as below. The first section deals with how the vicar is to be remunerated via a mixture of occasional donations and fees, tithes, glebe land and access to common land; the next is about providing him with a parsonage; the next about the rector's claim to the great tithes from which they will arrange to fund a stipend to the vicar, and finally come details for the sharing between vicar and rector of future recurring and incidental costs:

> 'The Vicar to have all altarage and small tithes and profits belonging to the altarage, and tithes of crofts and gardens dug by foot and spade, and tithe of all hay and produce of all lands in the Parish held by William Wrenne, in whose hands soever they may happen to come, and 18.5 acres arable land, and common pasture pertaining to the Church, and without tithe as the Rector used to hold it, with free use of the churchyard; and to have a competent site near the church, to be assigned by the Priory, wherein they should build a vicarage house, fit for his position, within a year. The Priory, as Rector of the Church, to enjoy the rest of the tithes of the parish and to repair and maintain the chancel, and pay the pension [meaning wage or stipend, not 'old-age pension'] of two marks (£1. 6. 8.), which the Rector was accustomed to pay. The Vicar to find the books and ornaments of the Church and all ordinary charges both to the Bishop and the Archdeacon. Extraordinary charges to be paid by the Priory and Vicar pro rata.'

'Altarage' was a term used to describe any additional gifts or donations made to the church. It could include for instance bequests or legacies from the pious but also fees for special extra services the vicar might be asked to perform such as memorial masses. The future vicar will be able to take these occasional, not regular, incomes as part of his own remuneration; they will not have to be handed over to Merton Priory or the Bishop.

The *Ordinatio* was written in the heavily abbreviated Latin customarily used by administrators and secretaries at that time. Figure 3 illustrates the final section of the original text. Here is the same section in expanded Latin, and the translation:

> *Dicti etiam Religiosi ipsius Ecclesiae Rectores decimas garbaros et foeni totius Parochie exceptis garbaris et foeno prenotatis integre percipient, et Cancellam dicte Ecclesiae reparabunt et sustinebunt*
>
> The said religious rectors of the church shall receive the tithes of the sheaves and hay of the whole parish, except the previously mentioned sheaves and hay, and they shall repair and maintain the chancel of the said church
>
> *ac Pensionem duas marcas quam Rector dictae Ecclesiae solvere consuevit persolvent*
>
> and they shall also pay to the said church the pension of two marks which the Rector is accustomed to pay.

Vicarii quoque, qui pro tempore fuerint libros et ornamenta dictae ecclesiae invenient et onera ordinaria tam Episcopalia quam Archidiaconalia subibunt et sustinebunt.

Vicars who shall be in post shall supply the books and ornaments of the said church, and shall undertake and bear the [cost of] the ordinary episcopal and archdeaconal dues.

Extraordinaria vero quilibet pro rata Suae portionis tam Religiosi predicti quam Vicarii sustinebunt.

But both the religious men and the Vicars will bear pro rata any extraordinary costs.

In Cuius rei testimonium Sigillum dicti Patris quo presens utebatur, una cum Sigillo Officialitatis Wyntonum praesentibus est appensum.

In witness whereof the seal of the said Father for whom the present was done, together with the seal of the Official of Winchester is attached to these presents.

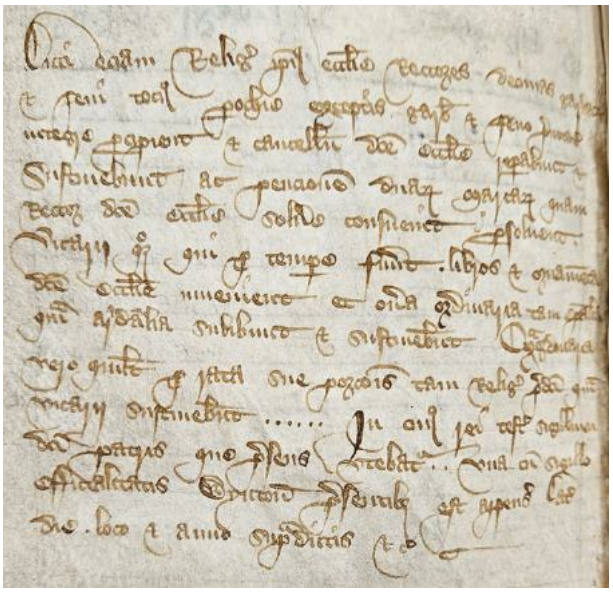


Figure 3 The final section of the original text of the 1297 *Ordinatio*.

Dato die et loco et anno Supradictis. Day, place and year as above.

The King approved this settlement on 10 April 1299, and we may assume that a resident vicar, parsonage and tithe barn first appeared in Effingham around that time. As however has been seen, the great tithes would still be rendered to Merton. The vicar was only to receive the small tithes. Granted he would also need to store his own harvest from his glebe land distributed in strips around the village, but it seems unlikely that a very large barn would be needed.

From 1536 onwards, the Dissolution of the Monasteries created seismic changes within the tithe system. The Vicar of Effingham at that time was Rev John Holgate (in post 1501-43). The implication of a later surviving document [The National Archives Ref: LR 2/190 f187v] is that Merton Priory had at some point granted to Holgate 'a lease of the rectory with all tithes and profits …' in return for cash. Then in 1535 Rev Holgate had himself sublet this to 'his assign', one William Hammond. Judging by how the rectorial tithes featured in the possession of later generations of this family, this was William Hammond 'woollen draper' of Guildford: a very significant individual indeed. He served as mayor in 1515, 1521, 1527 and 1532. According to the subsidy assessments for Guildford of 1546 and 1549, he was the wealthiest man in the town' [*The History of Parliament*, online]. He died in about 1549.

Whether there was any further relationship between the Effingham vicar and the wealthiest man in Guildford – other than that Hammond had the money Holgate presumably thought he would need – is not securely known. However, although it is speculation, it is not impossible that the Hammonds were already friends or acquaintances with people in the Effingham / Horsley area, and more material connections do soon become visible. In 1555 Hammond's wife Joan, by then a widow, acquired the manor of Bishops Horsley. Shortly afterwards, Hammond's son William (by 1525-1575), future MP for Guildford, married (after 1558) Elizabeth née Agmondesham as his second wife. The Agmondeshams' family seat was Rowbarns manor, held in Elizabeth's time by her brother John Agmondesham (I) (c1511-73). The Agmondeshams felt that they were Effingham people. In the next generation, John Agmondesham (II) (c1543-98) claimed vigorously that historically Rowbarns was within the Hundred of Effingham for taxation purposes. His wills of 1597 and 1598 made gifts to the poor of Effingham and the then vicar. When he died he was buried in the church at Effingham. Major Heales who surveyed the church in the 1880s noted that 'In the centre of the nave-floor is a small brass [tablet with an] inscription in Roman characters as follows:

'HERE LYETH BURIED THE BODY OF JOHN
AGMONDESHAM, LATELY OF ROUGH BARNES
IN THE COUNTY OF SURRY: ESQUIRE, SOMTYME
READER OF NEW INNE, AND AFTER AN
APPRENTICE OF THE LAWE WHO DYED
THE FIRST DAY OF AUGUST, ANNO DNI, 1598'.

This brass is now on the south wall of the tower.

The terms of the sublet from Holgate to Hammond were 'for 21 years at £12 6s 8d'. Rather surprisingly – but by no means uniquely for that period – the contract was dated to begin nine years later: 'to hold from Midsummer 1544 …'. Before then however the Dissolution of the Monasteries intervened, after 1538 Merton Priory itself was no more, and in 1543 Holgate himself died. In the great sorting out of the assets of all the monasteries, Hammond's lease of what were in essence Merton Priory's tithes was recorded and seems to have held good. The monarch, who now owned the lease, apparently honoured it because the lease of the tithes passed on after Hammond to a long sequence of secular people. Subsequent vicars of Effingham would have the dubious pleasure of seeing a secular person collect up all Effingham's great tithes, ironically on an arrangement initiated by one of their own who could not have foreseen how events would turn out.

Interestingly, a tiny notebook or 'Memorandum book' [SHC Ref: BKL/18/1a] which once belonged to the vicars of Effingham records information on who owed what by way of small tithes in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. It shows the tithes due to Rev Joshua Andrews who was Vicar 1674-77, Rev William Walker 1677-96, Rev John Miller 1696-1724, and Rev Joseph Godfrey 1735-1738. Alongside lists of small tithes in kind due from named parishioners of Effingham for the years 1677, 1678, and 1679, there is an account of the glebe land belonging to the Vicar of Effingham dated 1698, and a series of sketch plans of plots and strips of land, presumably of glebe, dated 27th February 1709-10. A complete transcription of the notebook was made by John Harvey [SHC Ref: BKL/18/1b] and extracts published by Monica Mercy O'Connor in *The History of Effingham in Surrey*, p73 and Appendix 3, p123.



Figure 4 The vicar's notebook with a pencil for scale.

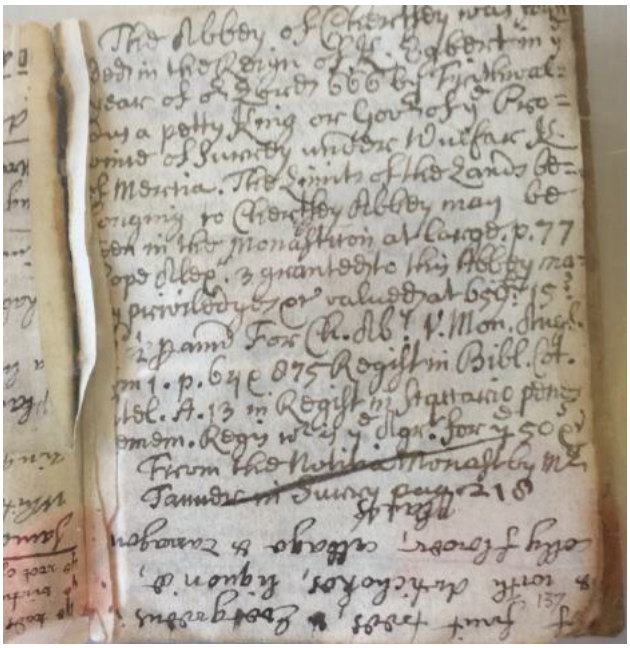


Figure 5 A page from the vicar's notebook showing how tightly the various owners filled up any spaces.

Two extracts from the notebook will serve to illuminate the detail of what the vicars were dealing with. The first, below, shows Rev Joshua Andrews tallying up the value of tithes he either should receive or has received for 1675, soon after his arrival. The notes he has made on the entries are evidence of the continual juggling that had to be made as circumstances changed. The list has been rearranged here by order of value, the wealthiest parishioners at the top. There are entries and notes for 59 names, but some of them (eg Morgan Phillips and the Widow Jeeter) appear twice.

	£	s	d
Mr. Berblock	3	0	0
Jeffery Roffe, for which recd. but 40s. of his father after his decease	3	0	0
Rich. Finden for tithe	1	18	0
For Glebe alias use of the barn, pd nothing		10	0
Richard Skeete	1	15	0
George Preston for Vicar's ham, when he had it	1	4	0
Robert Lee for Bowls	1	0	0
Idem for Marehouse (for both recd but 20s. by reason of his relinquishing Bowls)			
Francis Arundel – Thomas Killick for tithe	1	0	0
For Glebe land nothing because not in his hands, when used			
George Preston for tithe		12	0
Will Elliott – now Will Cooke		12	0
Thos. Martyr (raised to)		10	0
Widd. Richbell		10	0
Thos. Preston		9	0
John Box pd. but 6s.		8	0
Hen. Cooke		6	0
Mrs. Lee		6	0
Edw. Sinke – pd. but 2s.		6	0
Hen. Merch		5	0
Thos. Bishop		5	0
Will Jeeter		5	0
John Chipping		5	0
John Vicary (in whose room Ed. Mascall of whom recd but 3s.)		5	0
Widd. Jeeter now Good Butts but 2s		5	0
Robt. Duddington		5	0
Robt. Berry		4	0
Edward Cowley		4	0
Will Wilkinson		4	0
Robt. Blundell		4	0
Hen. Hillar		3	0
Abram Lee		3	0
Widd. Martyr. Recd 2s.		3	0
Thos. Mascall		3	0
Goodman Eger pd but 1.6		3	0
Thos. Longust		2	6
John Neal		2	0
Hen. Killick		2	0
Thos. Scovill		2	0
Widd. Humphrey		2	0

	£	s	d
John Killick		2	0
Widd. Cooke		2	0
John Matthew (recd but 12d)		2	0
Will Mascall		2	0
Goodman Nye pd. but 1s.		2	0
Lawrence Giles		2	0
Robt. Nettlefield		2	0
Elderfield		2	0
Robt. Grover		2	0
Thos. Sanders		2	0
Morgan Phillips (in twice?)		2	0
John Ven		1	0
Clayton		1	0
Robt. Giles – Senr.			6
James Briggs	[-	-	-]
Goodman Snelling	[-	-	-]
Morgan Phillips	[-	-	-]
Widd. Williams	[-	-	-]
Goody Butts Ante Widd. Jeeter (in twice)	[-	-	-]
Davy Baggs	[-	-	-]
Rich. Dibden	[-	-	-]
Woodroofe	[-	-	-]

Rev Andrews did not stay at Effingham very long. The second extract, below, comes from the time of his successor, Rev William Walker. In 1677 Walker made notes of his 'composition' (agreement) with individual parishioners about what specific items of produce each was apparently supposed to contribute. The agreements for Richard Finden, Henry Cooke and Edward Mascall are shown. In each case the top figure in bold is the total value owed. By this token, of the three 'accounts' shown here, Richard Finden was the wealthiest and Edward Mascall, a shoemaker, the poorest; this is the order in which they are presented here, but is not the order in the Memorandum book. Richard Finden and Henry Cooke appeared in Rev Andrews' list above and so did two Mascalls, but neither of them Edward.

	£	s	d
Richard ffinden	1	18	0
offering & garden			9
cows white		5	6
1 calfe to me		15	0
4 lambs		16	0
wooll 26 fleeces		1	0
pigs 3		3	6
fruit & bees		5	0
geese		2	0
corn		3	0

March: 13th. 78 [1678]. Agreed for 40s. pr Ann. 2 acres plowing, 2 geese. 1. pig & the tith of that pt of the close by the churchyard

[O'Connor comments 'Presumably Richard Finden was living at the East Court Manor House situated north east of the church close by the churchyard'].

Henry Cooke		6	8
6 Hens & Pulletts		0	5
Offerings, & garden		0	5
42 sheep abroad		2	0
30 att home		3	0

2 lambs att home		6
3 cows	1	6
2 calves weaned		3
1 to be sold	1	6
fruit hops & bees	3	0

[All the money values above crossed out]

Agreed for 8s pr annu. & pigs.

Edward Mascall	3	0
4 hens 1 cock		4
garden		1
offerings		4
fruit & grasse		6
carus (?)		6

Agreed for a pr shoes & pigs eggs offerings & beans 6

Regarding other entries not included above, O'Connor comments:

> 'Most of the parishioners had hens and bees' … 'Thomas Martyr's composition was agreed for 20s per annum and one acre "plowing". In 4 cases the labour service of ploughing was part of their tithes; on one occasion it is to be done at "3 or 4 days warning".'

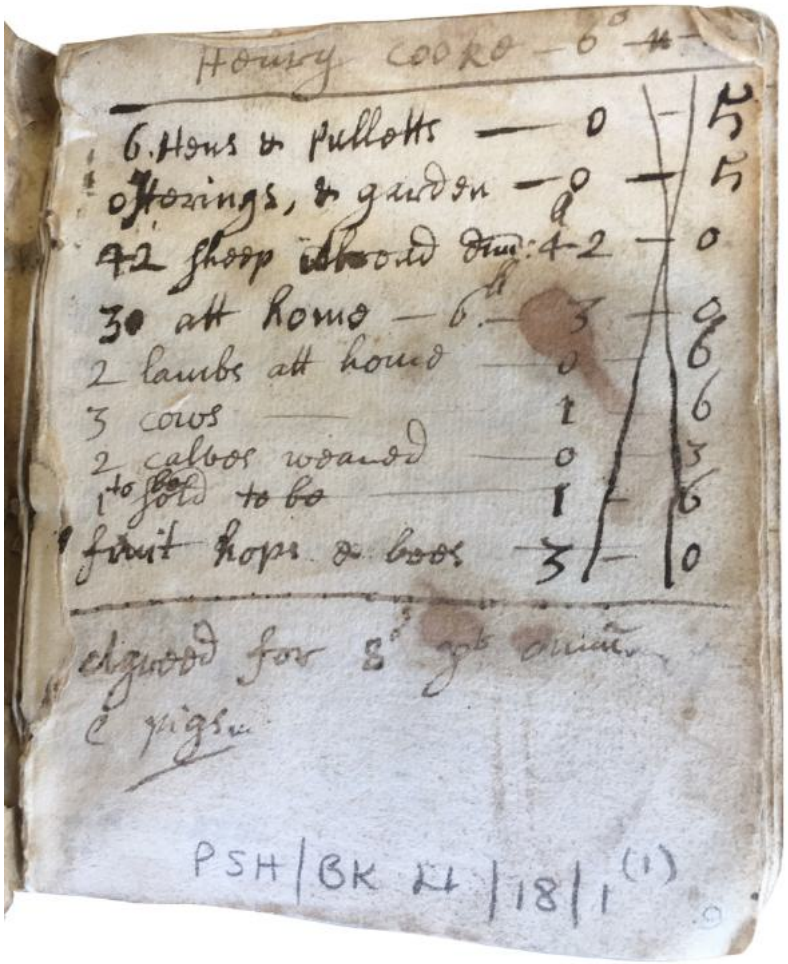


Figure 6 The entry for Henry Cooke as it appears in the notebook.

John Miller who became Vicar of Effingham in 1696 was a scholarly person extremely interested in all aspects of the history of Effingham and of the church. Regarding the terms he was entitled to, he made a visit to see the original 1297 *Ordinatio* at the then Cotton Library, copied it out, and some time after about 1710 wrote it into the new parish Register he had created [SHC Ref: EFF/1/2]. His notes both in this Register and in the tiny notebook show him struggling to reconcile the terms of the *Ordinatio* with what the Vicar currently received, especially the glebe and the tithes.

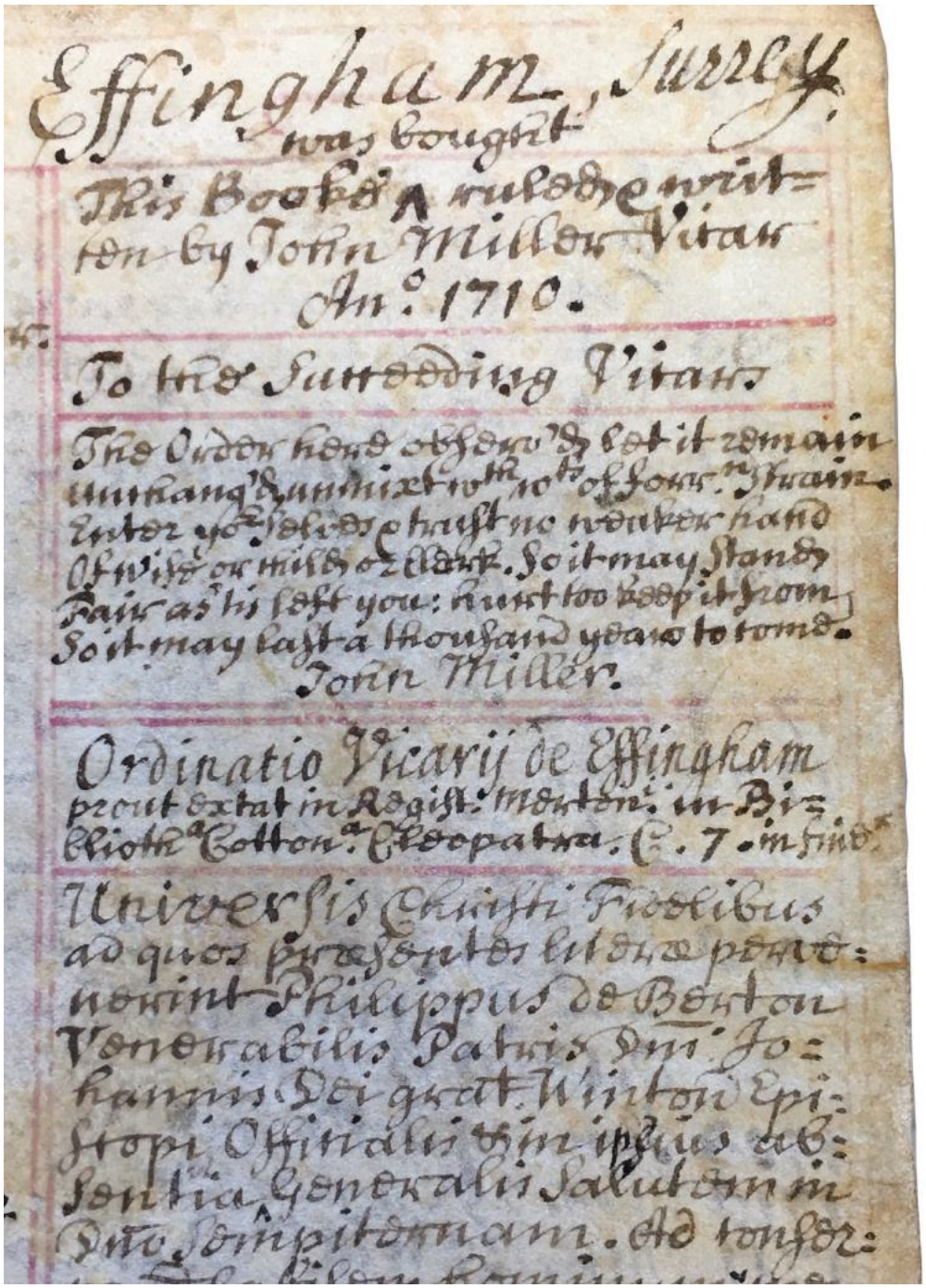

Effingham Surrey
was bought
This Booke A rulodge writ=
ten by John Miller Vicar
An°. 1710.
To his Succeeding Vicars
The Order here observ'd let it remain
unchang'd unmixt with no of your Invain
Enter ye Solid & shall no Worker hand
Of Wife or Child or Child. So it may Stand
Fair as it left you: Hurt too keep it from
So it may last a thousand years to come.
John Miller.
Ordinatio Vicarij de Effingham
prout extat in Regist: Mortoñ: in Bi=
bliotha Cottonª Cleopatra. C. 7. in fineª
Universis Christi Fidelibus
ad quos præsentes literæ pervenerint Philippus de Bath
Venerabilis Patris Dñi Jo=
hannis Dei gratia Wintoñ Epi=
scopi Officialis Curiæ ejusdem ad=
junctus Generalis Salutem in
Dño Sempiternam. Ad tonsor=

Figure 7 The beginning of John Miller's copy of the *Ordinatio* into the 2nd parish register.

The tithe barn

With this background, we have some grasp of what sort of things an Effingham tithe barn would be likely to have had to store. We can also be broadly confident about what it would probably have looked like. Whether built of timber or stone, thatched or tiled, most barns had some fairly standard features. These would include a high roof, plenty of openings for air to circulate through the building, and a central pair of doors high and wide enough to allow a team of animals to pull a cart into the building where it could be unloaded under cover. Since these teams could not then reverse out, there would often be another pair of doors due opposite, ie ahead, by which they could exit in forward gear. Inside the barn there would often be timber bulwarks marking out bays for storing separate types of produce, grain for example. There was often a hardened section of floor near the doors used for threshing grain, so that the through-draft could carry away the lighter chaff. The barn in Figure 8 helpfully illustrates these. It is the famous great barn at Pilton near Glastonbury Abbey. It was probably originally a barn for the Abbey's own produce, not for tithes, and is much larger than anything likely to have been at Effingham.



Figure 8 Barn at Pilton near Glastonbury.

We know that in 1679, Rev William Walker had his thatched barn repaired. Figure 9 shows the relevant page in the vicars' notebook.

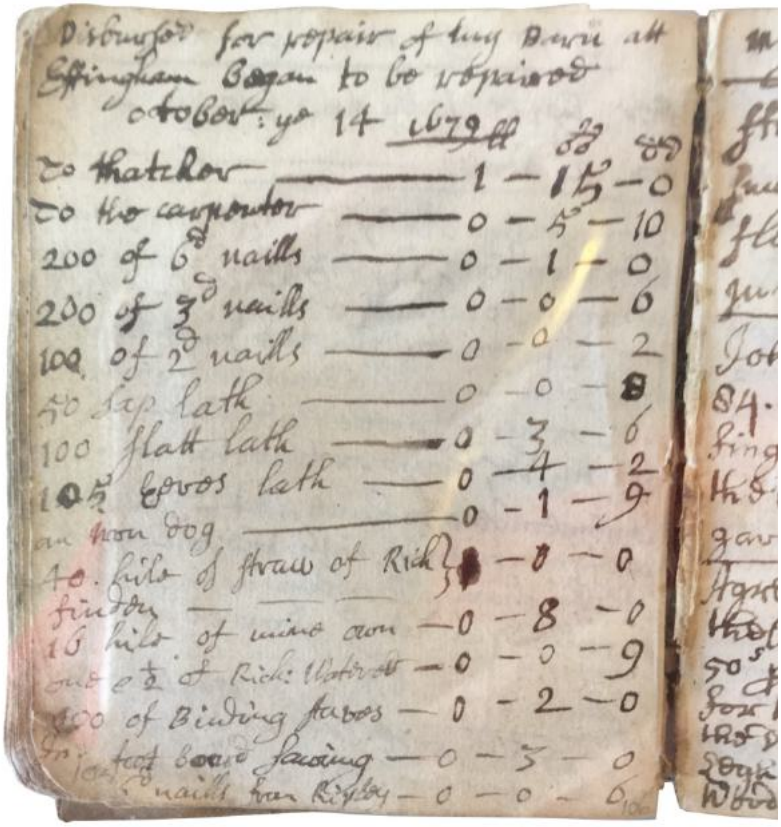


Figure 9 The account for repairing Rev Walker's barn, 1679.

Below is John Harvey's transcription of the barn repair account:

Disbursed for repair of my Barn att Effingham began to be repaired October: ye 14 1679			
To thatcher	£1	15s	0d
To the carpenter		5s	10d
200 of 6d. naills		1s	0d
200 of 3d. naills			6d
100 of 2d. naills			2d
50 Sap lath			8
100 slatt lath		3	6
15 Eeves lath		4	2
an Iron dog		1	9
40 hile of straw of Rich Finden	1	0	0
15 hile of mine own		8	0
one & ½ of Rich: Waterer			9
400 of Binding staves		2	0
…) foot board sawing		3	0
…) 6d. naills from Ripley			6



Figure 10 A thatched barn at Upminster, built in about 1450.

Not all barns were tithe barns, despite the seemingly irresistible impetus to name them as such down the years. They were only 'tithe barns' if they stored tithes, ie the assessed contributions of others, not merely the produce a property-owner had generated on their own land for themselves. For instance, the Great Barn of Wanborough, shown in Figure 11, which was built in 1388 for the monks of Waverley Abbey, 'the oldest and most important wooden structure in Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire', seemingly stored first and foremost the Abbey's own harvest and produce. In other words, it was an Abbey barn, but not a tithe barn.

In Effingham there is a splendid surviving historic farm barn – but not a tithe barn – at Norwood Farm, shown in Figure 12. It is believed to be probably 17th century and is Grade II Listed. It exhibits the typical structural features mentioned above. It has been altered and extended over the years.

In 1912 a fine old barn at Warren Farm was the subject of an article by one Gordon Home [*Journal of the Surrey Archaeological Society*, Vol **25**]. Carvings on the roof beams revealed that it had been built in 1742. Sadly it burned down on 27 September 1917. Manor Barn House and Manor Barn Cottages on Church Street preserve the name and presumably the original location, of barn structures attached to the farm variously called Upper Farm or Manor Farm, now Browns.



Figure 11 The interior of Wanborough Great Barn – not a tithe barn.



Figure 12 Norwood Farm barn – not a tithe barn.

The date of the timber barn at Home Farm, now converted to residential use, is not known. Figures 13 and 14 show the wide and high entrances on both sides, evidently the larger one being the west-facing one nearer to the farmland.



Figure 13 View of the west-facing side of Home Farm barn, early 1990s, before later repair and refurbishment.



Figure 14 View of the east-facing side of Home Farm barn, 1991; it was being used as an architectural salvage business.

Location of the Effingham tithe barn

Given the need for people to drop off produce at a tithe barn, easy accessibility from the road was presumably important. Perhaps the east-west orientation of the original Effingham barn allowed this; it seems to be standing alongside (north of) a wider patch in the highway. Quite possibly the ancient former line of the road is still preserved by today's triangle of green verge which was originally highway. Figures 15 and 16 show comparative views.

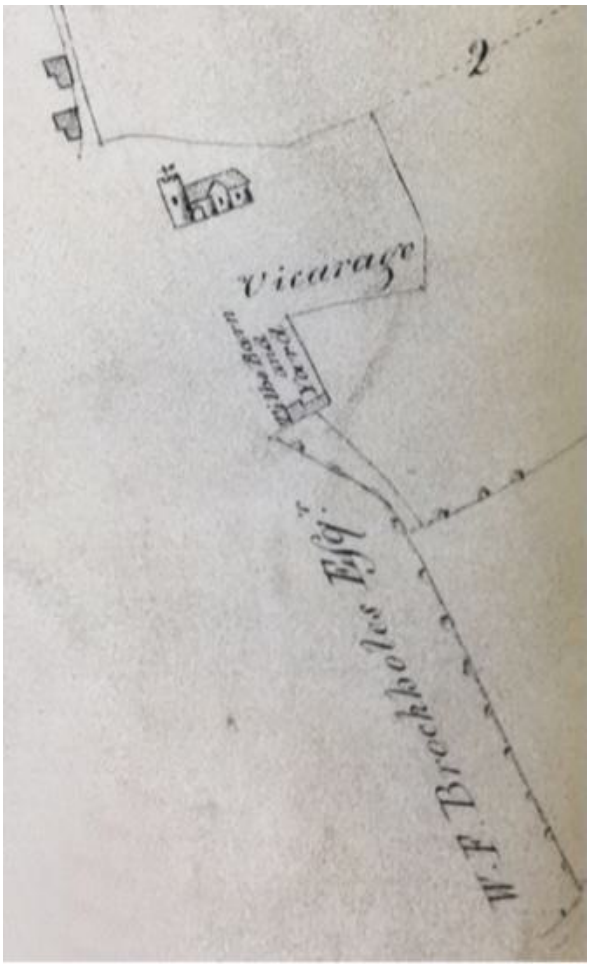


Figure 15 The longer length of the tithe barn is presented to a wide wedge-shaped part of the highway just south of it.

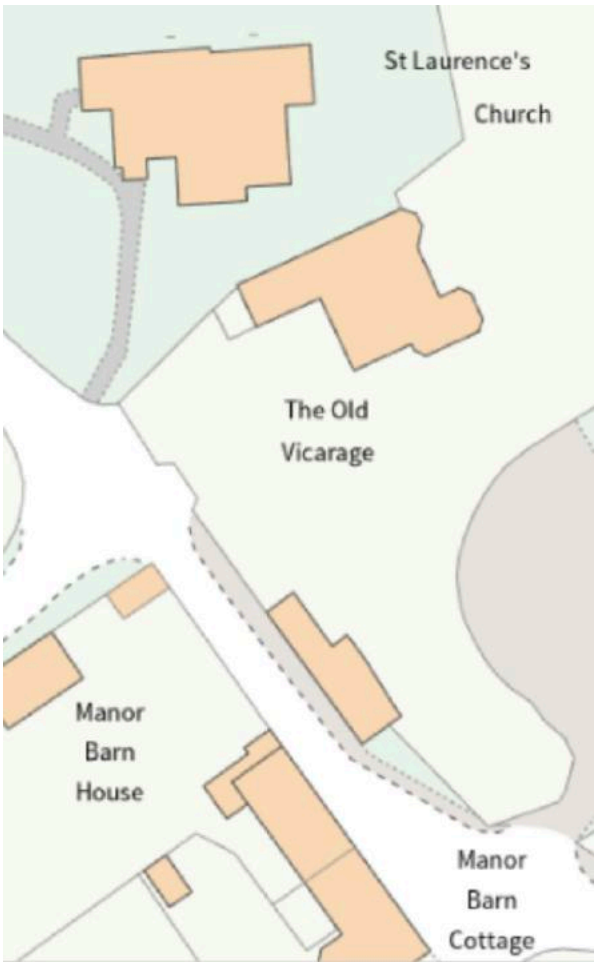


Figure 16 The road layout today, showing thewedge.

The end of the Effingham tithe barn

It is not known for sure when the barn was demolished, but we can make a reasonable assumption that it was between 1836 and 1839. Why do we think this?

The 1803 plan illustrated at the top of this article shows the tithe barn oriented roughly east-west. By the time of Effingham's Tithe Map dated 1842, it had been replaced by a long narrow building running north-south, very similar to the one still on the site today. The plot it was on (Plot 266) was being described as a 'pighouse and yard'. Figure 17 compares the outlines of the buildings as they were shown in 1803 and 1842, whilst Figure 18 shows a recent view of the former pighouse which now stands on the site of the former tithe barn.

We can propose that in 1842 the pighouse may have been very recently built. As we have seen, the giving of tithes in kind was troublesome and disliked by almost everyone. As time passed more and more people made individual arrangements to contribute cash instead, whether to the church or to the lay people who had acquired the right to receive the tithes. Tithe barns began falling out of use. In 1836 the Tithe Commutation Act acknowledged this trend and facilitated the process. It laid down a system by which parishes could convert all tithes in kind to money payments. An extensive process of defining and mapping who held what land, and calibrating the equivalent sum in money to what would previously have been contributed so as to continue funding the tithe-owners, had to be carried out. Once this was all complete, people would subsequently pay 'tithe rent-charges'.

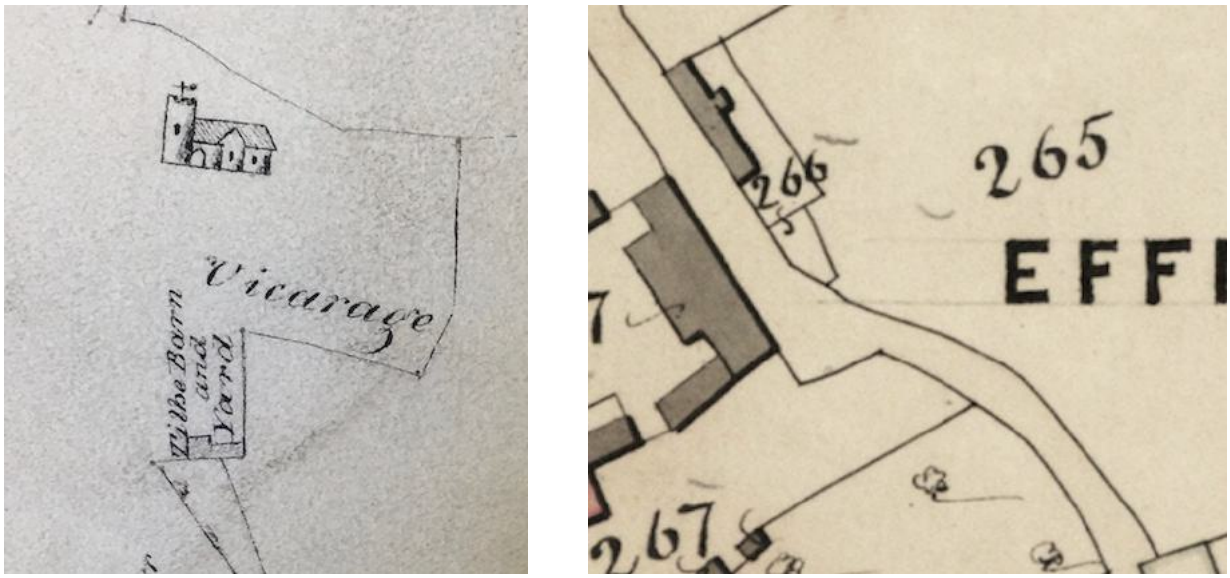


Figure 17 A comparison of the outlines of the buildings as shown in 1803 (17a, left) and 1842 (17b, right).



Figure 18 Within the grounds of The Old Vicarage stands the former pighouse building (since altered) which is today on the site of the former tithe barn. This view 2025.

The timing of the 1836 Act was quite fortuitous for Effingham. In the following year, 1837, Rev William Farley died aged 78. His replacement was Rev Henry Malthus who on arrival apparently found the parsonage buildings in disrepair. It was the perfect moment to make the transition to a money system. The work of assessing everyone's holdings began and on 3 June 1839 Effingham's most important landholders formally confirmed the new arrangements for payment in money rather than kind. As well as the written listings recording each person in the parish's holding or occupation of property, the Commissioners required a detailed map. This was surveyed by 'Michael Fitzgerald Surveyor', and dated 1842, probably September. It was certified by the Tithe Commissioners on 30 September 1843.

The mapping captured the pighouse on the parsonage site, as explained above. A tithe barn had not only become surplus Malthus's requirements, we also know that he liked keeping pigs! (although other vicars had also kept them). For these reasons it seems reasonable, if not fully provable, to suppose that the old Effingham tithe barn was demolished between 1836 (the Act) and 1839 (the mapped agreement about each holding).

The end of the tithe rent-charges

The payment of tithe rent-charges was less inconvenient than payments in kind, but, as other religious denominations challenged the claim of the Anglican church to represent everyone, they became increasingly irksome. They were however to continue for a further century. Effingham Local History Group (ELHG) has seen a document for sale online which was a demand for a half-year of 'Rectorial Tithe Rent-charge' due at 1 October 1920. Addressed to the Executors of James Ross deceased (he had died that year), it related to 'Part Lot 5' and was for 13s 6d (the 'Annual Commuted Rent-Charge' quoted being £1 4s 9d). The sender was White & Sons, Estate and Tithe Agents, 18 High Street, Dorking.

Tithing by whatever means was brought to an end by The Tithe Act 1936. The State intervened to bring it to a close. All tithe rent-charges payable on land before 2 October 1936 were abolished. Instead, people would pay (to the State) tithe annuities for 60 years (unless they paid off a lump sum before then), to end in any event in 1996. People who had previously received the tithes were compensated with government stock. The responsibility for checking annuities, redemptions etc fell to a body which eventually was absorbed by the Inland Revenue. The whole scheme was wound up 'prematurely' by The Finance Act 1977.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figures 1, 2, 15, 17a: from the Surrey History Centre, SHC Ref: G65/139/10
Figure 3: from the British Library, Cotton MS Cleopatra C.vii
Figures 4-7, 9: from the Surrey History Centre, SHC Ref: BKL/18/1a
Figure 8: from *Wikidata* via *https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q7809947*
Figure 10: from Historic England via the *BBC News* website at *https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c626l654x56o*
Figure 11: from *Visit Surrey* at *https://www.visitsurrey.com/listing/wanborough/123906101/*
Figure 12: from the late Mary Alfreda Rice-Oxley
Figure 13: from the late James Louie Nicholls
Figure 14: from Kathleen Hilda Gwenda Parrish
Figure 16: from Guildford Borough Council planning portal
Figure 17b: by kind permission of the Surrey History Centre
Figure 18: from Susan W Morris

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With very grateful thanks to Christopher Whittick for photographing the Merton Cartulary and to Isabel Sullivan for deciphering the lease to William Hammond.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The Revd Samuel Cooke, Jane Austen's 'fidgetty' godfather by Irene Collins, Jane Austen Society Annual Report, 2010, p80.

Tithe Barns by Joseph Rogers, Amberley Publishing, 2021.

The Avons – Popular Music Group of the 1950s and 1960s

VALERIE MURTAGH and CHRISTOPHER JOHN HOGGER

In the second half of the 1950s two young sisters-in-law living in London began singing together and entering local talent contests. Their abilities were quickly recognised and they began performing as The Avon Sisters. When joined by a young male singer the trio became The Avons and were soon established as one of the nation's most accomplished popular vocal music groups. During the early 1960s they lived in Effingham. Their music careers continued for many decades.

Family background

The popular trio of singers who performed as The Avons from 1959 evolved from a duo known as The Avon Sisters. These two were registered at birth as Patricia Valerie (née) Jenkins and Ellien Patricia Mary (née) Murtagh. They were not sisters but in later life would become sisters-in-law. They are of interest in the history of Effingham because they came to live in the village in the early 1960s.

Ellien's origins

Ellien's origins lay in Ireland. Her mother Elizabeth Emily Frances (née Gordon) was born in Ballinacourte, Co Tipperary on 2 January 1908 to parents Henry Edward Gordon, at that time a farmer, and his wife Elizabeth Emily (née Lord).

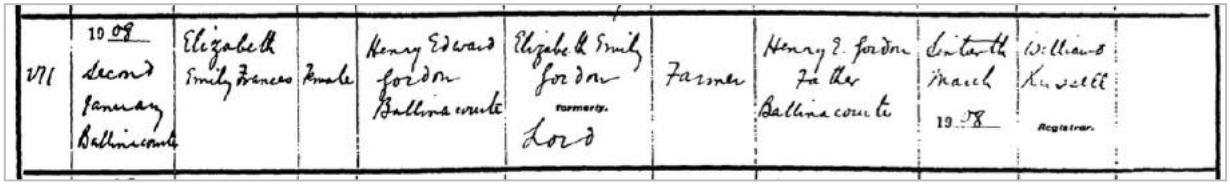


Figure 1 Birth registration of Ellien's mother Elizabeth Emily Frances Gordon; 1908.

The 1911 Census finds the Gordon family living there but with Henry now occupied as a carpenter. Ellien's father William Patrick Murtagh was born at 16, Arklow Street, north Dublin on 17 February 1903 to parents John Murtagh, at that time a railway porter, and his wife Agnes (née Kerrigan).

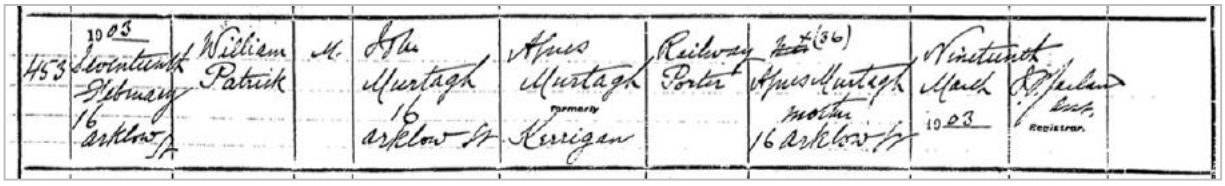


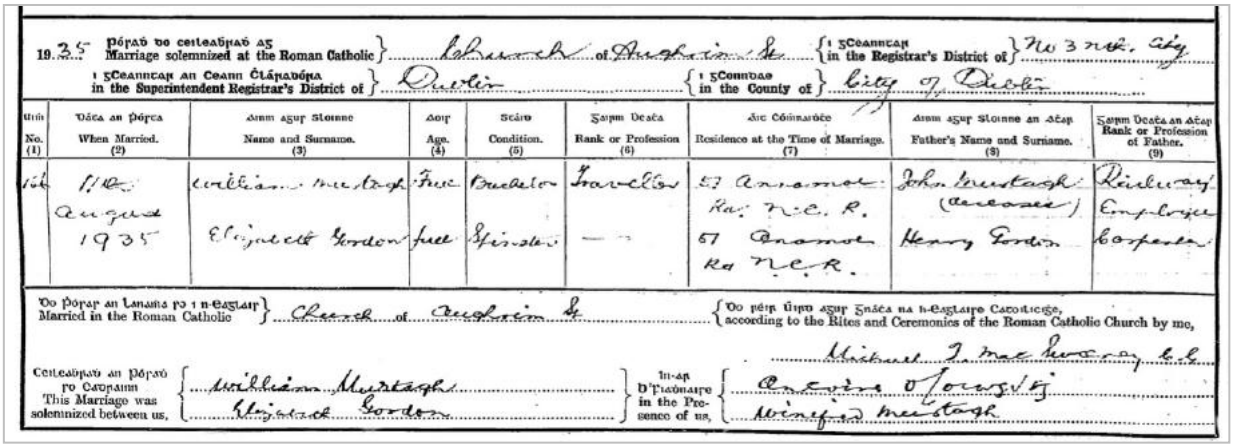
Figure 2 Birth registration of Ellien's father William Patrick Murtagh; 1903.

The 1911 Census finds John and Agnes with their nine children, including William Patrick aged 8, at this same address and John still working as a railway porter. On 4 February 1919, when aged just two weeks short of 16, William Patrick became employed as a porter with the Great Southern and Western Railway, being appointed to the Kingsbridge (Coaching) station in Dublin on 7 March 1921 with staff number 3283 [*Ancestry's* Railway Employment Records, Ireland].

Both William Patrick and Elizabeth Emily Frances came from Catholic families. They married at the Church of the Holy Family, Aughrim Street in Dublin on 11 August 1935. William Patrick's occupation was entered as traveller in the marriage register and his father John was described as a deceased railway employee. The address of both William Patrick and Elizabeth Emily Frances was given as 51, Annamoe Road, off the North Circular Road in Dublin's Stoneybatter neighbourhood.



Figure 3 The Aughrim Street church.



19.35 Póraḋ do ceiseaḃaḋ aṡ Marriage solemnized at the Roman Catholic Church of Aughrim St. in the Registrar's District of No 3 Mid. City

i ṡCeanncaṗ an Ceann Cláṁaiḋe in the Superintendent Registrar's District of Dublin in the County of City of Dublin

Uimh No. (1)	Dáṫa an Póṗa When Married. (2)	Ainm agus Sloinne Name and Surname. (3)	Aois Age. (4)	Ṡcáṫ Condition. (5)	Ṡaṗṁ Deaṫa Rank or Profession (6)	Áiṫe Cóṁnaiḋce Residence at the Time of Marriage. (7)	Ainm agus Sloinne an Aṫaiṗ Father's Name and Surname. (8)	Ṡaṗṁ Deaṫa an Aṫaiṗ Rank or Profession of Father. (9)
166	19th August 1935	William P. Murtagh	Five	Bachelor	Traveller	57 Anamoe Rd. N.C.R.	John Murtagh (deceased)	Railway Employee
		Elizabeth E. F. Gordon	full	Spinster	—	57 Anamoe Rd N.C.R.	Henry Gordon	Carpenter

Do Póṗaḋ an Lanaṁa ṗo i n-eaglaiṡ Married in the Roman Catholic Church of Aughrim St. according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church by me, Michael J. Mac Swiney C.C.

Ceiseaḃaḋ an Póṗaḋ ṗo Ceaṫṗaṁ This Marriage was solemnized between us, William Murtagh Elizabeth Gordon

In-aṗ b'Fiaṫnaiṡe in the Presence of us, Andrew O'Connell Winifred Murtagh

Figure 4 Marriage registration of Ellien's parents William P Murtagh and Elizabeth E F Gordon; 1935.



Figure 5 View of the rather impoverished area in which Ellien's parents were living when they married; 1930s.

Their daughter Ellien Patricia Mary was born in Cork five years later [Ireland Births Register 5 133, 1940 (Q1); FHL 101235]. Although her first forename was registered as 'Ellien' she was raised as 'Eileen', a name she disliked; from her late teens she preferred to be known as Elaine, although all three variants of her forename appeared in newspapers for many years afterwards. Her mother's Will refers to her as Ellien throughout. Henceforth in this article we shall refer to her as Elaine.

Elaine had several siblings, including an older brother William ('Bill') Gordon Murtagh. He was born in Kilkenny in 1931 [Ireland Births Register 3 296, 1931 (Q3); FHL 101231], a few years before his parents decided (or were able) to marry.

At some point the Murtagh family migrated from Ireland, first appearing in the Electoral Registers for England in 1947, when they were living at 139, Lavender Road in Battersea. By the time of the 1950 register they had moved to 5, Avenue Mansions in Sisters Avenue. Avenue Mansions is a large and attractive block of flats standing on the southern side of Sisters Avenue at the point where it curls

eastwards around Marjorie Grove before opening onto Clapham Common Long Road. They were still there in the 1956 register, the household's listing including Bill now aged 21; Elaine, although presumably present, was not listed, being still under 21.



Figure 6 Avenue Mansions in Sisters Avenue, image source: The London Archives (City of London Corporation); photographed in 1978.

Patricia's origins

Patricia's origins lay in Essex, London and Middlesex. Her mother Rosaline Violet (née Fletcher) was born in Manor Park, Essex on 2 November 1905 to parents Thomas Frederick Fletcher (born in Hoxton, London) and his wife Rosaline (née Fraser) (born in Salford) who had married in 1904 [GRO Ref: West Ham 4a 145, 1904 (Q3)]. Rosaline Violet was baptised at Little Ilford parish church on 28 February 1906, the register giving the family address as 37, Bessborough Road and the occupation of Thomas as decorator.

By 1911 the Fletcher family had moved to 20, Selbourne Avenue in Manor Park, their census entry describing Thomas Frederick as a painter and paper hanger. Besides their daughter Rosaline Violet there were two sons Thomas and Edward. The 1921 Census finds the family at 32, Plashet Grove in East Ham, Thomas Frederick still working as a painter. There were now two more daughters, Ivy and Florence Ellen.

On 27 December 1925 Rosaline Violet married at the church of St Michael and All Angels in Manor Park to Maurice Jenkins [GRO Ref: West Ham 4a 241, 1925 (Q4)]. They produced four children:

Sidney Maurice Jenkins, born in Essex, 1927
David Thomas Jenkins, born in London, 1929
Patricia Valerie Jenkins, born in Middlesex, 1936
Garry A Jenkins, born in Middlesex, 1940

Patricia preferred to go by her second forename and henceforth in this article she is referred to as Valerie.

The National Register of 1939 finds Valerie's grandfather Thomas Frederick Fletcher living at 45, Church Street in Edmonton and working on his own account as a house decorator. Living with him was his still unmarried daughter Florence Ellen, born in 1914 and working as a cashier in a cinema.

At this same address was a second household, namely Rosaline Violet and her husband Maurice, he working as a 'cinema film operator' (ie a projectionist); with them, but his register entry redacted, was one of their sons, either Sidney or David. Meanwhile, Rosaline Violet's mother Rosaline was residing with a Collar family at Fir Tree Cottage in Braintree and described as an evacuee, together with one of her (redacted) grandsons, either Sidney or David, and her grand-daughter Valerie; Valerie's register entry gives her birth year inaccurately as 1937.



Figure 7 St Michael and All Angels Church in Manor Park where Valerie's parents married in 1925.

The coming of the war put an end to the hopes of Valerie's mother Rosaline Violet – known familiarly as 'Babs' – to a singing career. After the bombing began in August 1940 the home of Maurice and Babs was demolished by a direct hit, through which they lost everything. In Edmonton Maurice had been working in a Granada cinema, but he now transferred to a different Granada cinema in Battersea. However, this area also suffered from bombs being aimed at Clapham Junction, and so Valerie was evacuated to Wales.

With the end of the war, electoral registration resumed and the 1946 Electoral Register for Battersea finds Maurice and Babs living at 72, Battersea Rise. Valerie recalls that they moved there when she was aged 8, so in about 1944-45. They were still there in the 1950 Electoral Register, Sidney also listed with them having just turned 21. It was in this year on 11 January that Babs died from acute nephritis and cystitis at St Ebba's Hospital in Epsom, aged only 44 [GRO Ref: Surrey Mid-E, 1950 (Q1)]. Up to that time she had been working as a millinery saleswoman and Maurice as an electrical engineer. Valerie was therefore aged only 13 when she lost her Mum.

Formation of The Avon Sisters

Like her mother, Valerie had always wanted to be a singer or entertainer, but suffered badly from nerves. She began her stage career by miming to some Danny Kaye records at the Caius Club, a youth club operating in Caius House, Holman Road. This building, originally established as a mission church, had been rented in the late 19th century by Cambridge undergraduates and fellows, some from Caius College, and used to accommodate various clubs for residents. It continued to serve as a youth club building for well over a century, until eventually being demolished a little over a decade ago. Its site is now occupied by a huge new building, a significant part of which continues to provide youth club facilities.

It was at one of these occasions at the Caius Club that Valerie met her future husband, William ('Bill') Murtagh. Her home in Battersea Rise and his in Sisters Avenue were only a few hundred yards apart, whilst the Caius Club was about two thirds of a mile away. They married in August 1956 [GRO Ref: Battersea 5c 98, 1956 (Q3)] and moved intially into a couple of rooms in Bill's parents' flat.

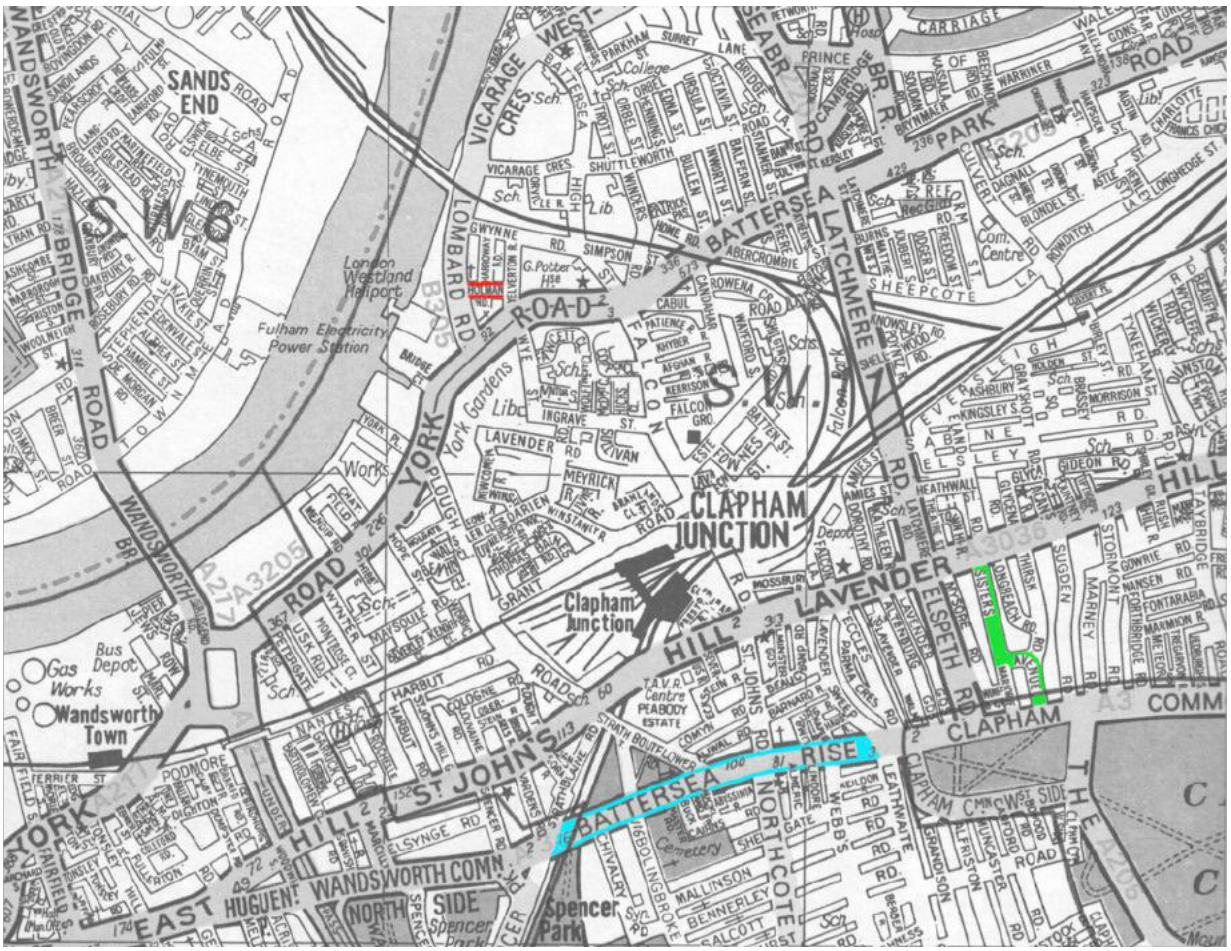


Figure 8 Street map of Battersea highlighting Holman Road (red), Battersea Rise (blue) and Sisters Avenue (green).



Figure 9 Battersea Rise, where Valerie lived before marrying; seen here in about 1925.



Figure 10 Caius House, Holman Road, in which the Caius Club operated (now demolished); probably early 2000s.

Valerie and Elaine had therefore now become sisters-in-law. They began singing together in 1956-57, practising in Valerie's and Bill's flat, and appearing in local Town Hall singing competitions. Valerie's nerves were somewhat ameliorated by having Elaine on stage with her. Elaine never showed any sign of nerves.

The street name 'Sisters Avenue' had suggested a possible title for themselves, 'The Aven Sisters', but they preferred 'Avon' to 'Aven'. Their musical partnership got underway in 1958 and the first mention of it in the Press appears to be the article of Friday 21 February shown in Figure 11.



South West Whispers

WATCH FOR THE NAME AVON SISTERS

By The Jake

THE Avon Sisters. Remember the name. For it hides the identity of two Battersea girls who have formed a singing act about which you may hear a lot more in the not too distant future.

They are Ellien Murtagh, an 18-year-old blonde, and brunette Valerie Murtagh, 21, both secretaries, who live at Avenue Mansions, Sisters Road.

Of them, Mr. John Flood, Battersea entertainments officer said, "They're most promising. They are the best local act I've ever come across."

They are soon to make their first public appearance at Bermondsey Town Hall. After that there are talent competitions at Poplar and Battersea lined up.

Were the sisters nervous about their forthcoming debut? "I'm not," said Ellien. "I've always liked singing and felt I would like to go into show business I more or less talked Valerie into it."

Johnny Flood turns coach

"WE decided to have a try to get somewhere in November. We contacted Mr. Flood and since then he has been coaching us."

Since then the girls "have come on a bundle," to quote Mr. Flood. "We sing most types of numbers except rock and roll. We find that a bit jerky for close harmony singing," says Ellien.

The girls do a lot of their practising around the house, while doing the washing up for instance. Have the neighbours complained yet, I asked?

"No, not yet," said Ellien. "One even said she liked it."

Another point in favour of the Avon Sisters. They're very nearly sisters. Sisters-in-law to be precise.

ELLIEN & VALERIE

Awaiting that break

Figure 11 The Avon Sisters in the *South Western Star*, 21 February 1958.

The article notes that they were both secretaries, living together at Avenue Mansions. They had been coached for some time by John Flood, Battersea Town Hall's Entertainments Officer. It was noted that they were soon to make their first public appearance at Bermondsey Town Hall, this to be followed by talent competitions at Poplar and Battersea.

The Battersea talent competition staged its first round at Battersea Town Hall on 14 March and The Avon Sisters appeared in advertisements for it, as seen in Figure 12. Valerie recalls that she nearly ruined their show business career, before it got started:

> 'Bill's mother had made us matching outfits and we had rehearsed endlessly, but once I was in front of the audience, I froze. The music played, Elaine sang the harmony, the whole way through, and I opened my mouth but nothing came out.'

In this initial round they came 2nd as reported a week later (Figure 13).



Figure 12 *South Western Star*, 7 March 1958.



Tenor is talent tops

Contestants at an amateur talent night at Battersea Town Hall on Friday had the eventual goal of a final judged by Carroll Levis as an incentive. Mr. Levis will judge the all-winners' final on April 28th at the Town Hall.

Winner of the competition was John Johnson, a tenor, of Tyneham Close, Battersea. Also from Battersea were second-prize winners Mrs. Valerie and Miss Eillien Murtagh, of Avenue Mansions, Sisters Avenue, who are harmony singers.

Third was Evelyn Grout, of Latchmere Grove, Battersea, a soubrette. All three will compete in the final.

Figure 13 *South Western Star*, 21 March 1958.



Figure 14 Battersea Town Hall, old postcard view. A Grade II listed building, it is today the Battersea Arts Centre.

The final of this competition was to take place on 28 April, again at Battersea Town Hall. The judges would be Carroll Lewis – a nationally well-known spotter of amateur talent – and Associated Television presenter Fred Wilby. There would be 14 acts including that of The Avon Sisters (since the finalists were those who had come 1st, 2nd or 3rd in the first round). A newspaper article [*South Western Star*, 18 April 1958] anticipating the event stated that:

> 'The immediate future for the Avon Sisters promises to be both busy and bright. In addition to being finalists at Battersea on April 28, they are also in the semi-finals in Bermondsey and Camberwell, and they have another engagement soon in Walthamstow.'

At the final they came 4th and were commended warmly by Fred Wilby, as seen in Figure 15.

Battersea talent show set judges quite a problem

A jam-packed Battersea Town Hall saw acts from outside the borough carry off the first three places in the talent contest finals on Monday. It was left to glamorous harmony singers The Avon Sisters, of Sisters Avenue, appropriately enough, to partially restore lost prestige by taking fourth place.

And the sisters — secretaries Ellien, aged 18, and Valerie Murtagh, 21, who certainly looked as pretty as a picture in their dark blue dresses and yellow sashes and gloves—won a special word of praise from T.V. producer, Fred Wilby, one of two judges.

Prophesied Mr. Wilby, "With a little more experience and encouragement they will go a long way."

The contest was won by The Demarcos, two accordionists from the Old Kent Road, whose swingy version of "Singing the Blues" had the audience singing with them all the way.

Figure 15 *South Western Star*, 2 May 1958.



Figure 16 Fred Wilby; January 1957.

During this period Valerie and Elaine also took part in Camberwell Council's talent contest. This consisted of 7 heats designed to select 16 candidates for a final on 9 June at which they would compete for the 'Observer Challenge Cup'. Those who came 3rd or 4th in any of these 7 heats would get a second chance to be a finalist by competing in an additional 8th 'hard luck' heat. The finalists would be those who came 1st or 2nd in any one of the 8 heats.

The 7th heat, in which The Avon Sisters would take part, was advertised on 10 April in the *South London Observer* which noted that this would take place on the following day at the Havil Hall in Havil Street, just behind Southwark Town Hall. The article briefly described some of the contestants, including Valerie and Elaine.

The **AVON SISTERS** are in fact sisters-in-law, but they live in Sisters-avenue, Battersea. They are Eileen Murtagh (18) and Mrs. Valerie Murtagh (21) — their speciality is close harmony singing.

Figure 17 *South London Observer*, 17 April 1958.



Figure 18 The Havil Hall (foregound, town hall in background); 2009; image credit: Mike Faherty / Theatre Peckham / CC BY-SA 2.0.

In this heat The Avon Sisters came 3rd, as reported a week later (Figure 19). Accordingly they became eligible for the 'second chance' heat to be held on 2 May, again at the Havil Hall. Fifteen acts were due to appear in this heat. The event was advertised on 1 May in the *South London Observer* which gave a brief synopsis of each of the contestants, including this:

> 'Among others taking part will be Anna Barran, a soprano from British Guiana; the Avon Sisters, a close harmony act from Battersea; Reg and Bernie Ayres, two comedy impressionists from Wandsworth, and Stan Richards, a light comedian from Blackheath.'



Tenor wins contest

Camberwell Council had a big bill at the last talent contest for this season, on Friday, at Havil Hall — there is just the second chance show and the final to be held now the winners receiving the OBSERVER Challenge Cup.

Straight into the final went a very fine tenor, 23-years-old **JOHNNY JOHNSON**, who, I understand, has been winning a number of talent contests in South London. He may well take the trophy at the final, which is going to be one of the best shows of talent ever seen in Camberwell — if not the best.

The **AVON SISTERS**—Eileen Murtagh (18) and Mrs. Valerie Murtagh (21) — they are really sisters-in-law and live in Sisters-avenue, Battersea were placed third with their close harmony singing act, and go into the second chance final with 26-years-old **ANNA BARRAN**, a soprano.

Figure 19 *South London Observer*, 17 April 1958.

In this heat The Avons Sisters again came 3rd and so just missed the opportunity to become finalists. On 8 May the *South London Observer*, reporting the outcome of the heat, noted that:

> 'Third were the Avon Sisters, a close harmony act whose sense of rhythm is good.'

These early appearances had caught the eye of various talent spotters and during the summer of 1958 the pace of activity hotted up for The Avon Sisters, as evidenced by the report in Figure 20 from the *South Western Star*; like most previous mentions of the duo in this publication, this one appeared in the 'South West Whispers' column written each week under the pseudonym 'The Falcon'. As the article observes, they had indeed 'been getting around quite a bit'. Their appearances at the Brighton Hippodrome had probably been on the 'Carroll Lewis Sunday Show'; throughout the summer of 1958 Lewis would stage this show there every Sunday evening from 13 July at 6.15 and at 8.30, on each occasion presenting '20 big acts, many of whom have won acclaim on his own television show' [*Sussex Express*, 27 June 1958]. The most important fact in the article, in relation to the future development of The Avon Sisters, came at the end where it was remarked that they were due to appear 'at the Radio Exhibition'.



It was back in February, before their first public appearance, that I advised "Watch for the Avon Sisters." Since then the two girls, Ellien and Valerie Murtagh, of Avenue Mansions, Sisters Avenue, Battersea, have been getting around quite a bit, and successfully at that.

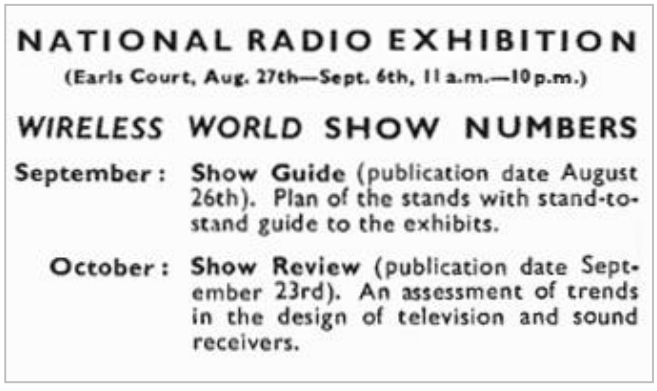
Coached by Battersea's Entertainment Officer, Johnny Flood, the girls — they are sisters-in-law — started by entering a number of amateur talent contests at borough level. At the end of last month they gave two performances on the Sunday Night Show at the Brighton Hippodrome, and four days later won the Mecca "Singers in Harmony" contest at the Royal, Tottenham.

To-morrow they record a broadcast for the BBC Light programme and on Tuesday are due to appear on the ITV stand at the Radio Exhibition.

Nice going, girls.

Figure 20 *South Western Star*, 29 August 1958.

The latter event was the 25th National Radio and Television Exhibition, sponsored by the Radio Industry Council. It mainly featured equipment intended for home use but also served to showcase the electronics industry as a whole. It was staged at Olympia, Earl's Court during 27 August to 6 September.



NATIONAL RADIO EXHIBITION

(Earls Court, Aug. 27th—Sept. 6th, 11 a.m.—10 p.m.)

WIRELESS WORLD SHOW NUMBERS

September: **Show Guide** (publication date August 26th). Plan of the stands with stand-to-stand guide to the exhibits.

October: **Show Review** (publication date September 23rd). An assessment of trends in the design of television and sound receivers.

Figure 21 Advertisement in *Wireless World*, August 1958.

The show attracted about 30,000 people each day and was 'essentially a broadcasting exhibition intended to interest the public in everything that comes to them from the BBC, from commercial television and from radio stations abroad' ['Supplement on the 1958 Radio Show', *The Times*, 28 August 1958].



Figure 22 The Radio Show underway; bottom-right, its opening on 27 August; *The Times*, 28 August 1958.

The experience of performing at the Radio Show (as it was commonly – but not entirely accurately – referred to by the public) was not without its ordeals for Valerie and Elaine. Valerie relates it here in her own words:

'The occasion which made the biggest impact on our future career was the Radio Show. It was in its final week at Earl's Court, and the BBC was giving amateur singers a chance to appear on its stand, so we went to try our luck. On arriving, having been driven there by my husband Bill who then waited for us in the car park, we realised that we were at the back of a crowd of at least 200-300 people, all waiting their turn.

I had a problem which would not let me stand for any length of time without fainting, but I was determined to make it to the front and get on stage. The hall was very hot and, true to form, I kept having to sit down on the floor, where a very nice man kept fanning me. Finally, we were at the front, looking up at the presenter, just as he announced that that was all they had time for. I think that we must have looked near to tears, and the crowd began saying "give 'em a chance", so the presenter gave in and invited us on stage.

Now whether it was the result of waiting so long and the relief of being picked, or whatever, I forgot about my nerves and we sang The Everly Brothers' song, *All I Have To Do is Dream* and received massive applause. The announcer said he had been approached by the producer who asked that we come back the following day (the last day of the exhibition) and sing for them again.

The following day, we went back to the Radio Show. When we arrived the organiser didn't know quite what to do with us, so we were put on two high stalls in an alcove, which all the celebrities had to pass. We looked like two bookends, I said, and we could see people wondering who we were.

Finally someone remembered us and came to take us to the stage to sing. I was nervous but the relief at being asked to perform, after waiting hours, took away the worst nerves. After we had performed, the presenter announced that David Jacobs, a top DJ of the time who would soon present *Juke Box Jury*, had said he would recommend us to his manager, Bunny Lewis, who represented many top-notch entertainers. He kept his word and we were subsequently signed up to the Bunny Lewis stable.'

David Jacobs, born in 1926, was a very popular, personable and accomplished broadcaster, chiefly with the BBC. After serving in the Royal Navy during the second world war he became an announcer for the British Forces Broadcasting Service and by 1950 was a BBC staff announcer. By 1958 he had been working on the BBC Light Programme's *Pick of the Pops* (which began in 1955), had been a commentator for the *European Song Contests* and had been a film narrator. In 1959 he would begin presenting the panel show *Juke Box Jury*.



Figure 23 David Jacobs photographed in 1958.

'Bunny' Lewis – formally Major Bridges George McGibbon Lewis MC, born in 1918 – made his career as a composer, songwriter, manager and record producer, following military service with The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) in the second world war, in the course of which he had been awarded the Military Cross on 24 August 1944 for exemplary gallantry during operations in Italy. He had been fighting with the partisans after escaping in Italy, to which he been transported in an Italian submarine as a POW. In September 1944 he had transferred to the SAS and served in that until 1 January 1946.



Figure 24 Bunny Lewis (at left) on *Juke Box Jury*; Series 1, Episode 253, 6 June 1964.

On 19 September the *South Western Star* reported that a new season would open on 3 October at Battersea Town Hall and that 'Battersea's Avon Sisters who were a terrific success in their first stage appearance last year will top the bill and there are 12 other acts.'

Turning professional

In October it was reported (Figure 25) that The Avon Sisters were to become professional, with engagements lined up for television appearances with both BBC and ITV.



The Singing Sisters of Sisters Av.

SINGING sisters, 21-year-old Mrs. Valerie Murtagh (left) and her sister-in-law, 18-year-old Eileen Murtagh, are to become professionals. They make their television professional debut next month in the BBC's "6.5 Special," and are also to appear in ITV's "Jack Jackson Show."

They sang together for the first time last February in a talent contest organised by Battersea Borough Council.

Both work as secretaries and live in Sisters-avenue, Battersea.

They won several awards singing as the Avon Sisters during the summer at talent shows.

The pair entered their first contest "just for a joke"; then met and decided to team up. They were coached by Battersea Council entertainments officer.

Figure 25 Valerie (at left) and Elaine, soon to turn professional; *The Evening News (London)*, 13 October 1958.

The BBC's show *Six-Five Special*, a major development in televised music, had been launched in February 1957, airing at 6.05 on Saturday evenings, and would continue until December 1958. The episodes had to be televised 'live' owing to the limited capability in that period for pre-recording material. Valerie and Elaine were scheduled to appear on 22 November, when the show would be televised from the USAF Base in Croughton, Northamptonshire and compèred by pop singer Jim Dale in front of an exclusive invitation-only American audience. Appearing also would be The Mudlarks, Joan Regan, Lita Roza, Malcolm Vaughan, Ronnie Carroll, Don Rennie, Des O'Connor, Sheila Clarke and Jerry Angelo [*The Banbury Guardian*, 6 November 1958].

Meanwhile, 'The Falcon' was keeping track of The Avon Sisters in the *South Western Star*. In its issue of Saturday 7 November the column reported that on Friday the duo had

> '... made their first television broadcast in the North and they have just made their first recording – with The Mudlarks – which will be released at the end of the month. Starting this Sunday, they have five more television dates in eight days. They will be seen and heard on the *Vera Lynn Show*, *Music Shop*, *Cool for Cats*, *6-5 Special* and the *Jack Jackson Show*.'

The Mudlarks were a trio of siblings Fred, Jeffrey and Mary sharing surname Mudd, all born in the 1930s. They had been spotted by David Jacobs who secured for them a place on the *Six-Five Show* and a recording

contract with EMI's *Columbia* label. 'At the end of 1958, The Mudlarks were voted top British vocal group by readers of *New Musical Express*' [from *Wikipedia*].

TEAM

● Two vocal groups singing together on one disc. This is a new turn-up for the turntable offered by the Mudlarks and the Avon Sisters.

They're singing a likely best seller called "Which Witch Doctor?" (Columbia).

The Mudlarks are already top-notchers. But who are the Avon Sisters?

They are really sisters-in-law—twenty-two-year-old Valerie and eighteen-year-old Ellaine.

And what a debut they're about to make!

They will be introduced on TV this month by Teddy Johnson in his TV Music Shop show.

Figure 26 *Sunday Pictorial*, 9 November 1958.



Figure 27 The first record by The Avon Sisters; November 1958.

IN the new-girls-department there are the **Avon Sisters,** Valerie and Ellien, who are, in fact, sisters-in-law . . . and happen to live in adjoining flats in Battersea's Sisters-avenue.

A strange debut — for they appear on a Columbia disc called "Which Witch Doctor?" with another vocal team, the big-selling young **Mudlarks.**

How come? Well, both acts were discovered by disc jockey **David Jacobs,** and both have the same agent in ex-disc chief **Bunny Lewis.**

Explains Bunny: "The song needed two sets of voices and this seemed a heaven-sent opportunity."

I must say they all combine to make an ear-catcher.

Working Gals

In the New Year, the Avons will have a disc all to themselves. **Meantime they continue to work—as secretaries in advertising agencies.**

Figure 28 *Daily Mirror*, 13 November 1958.



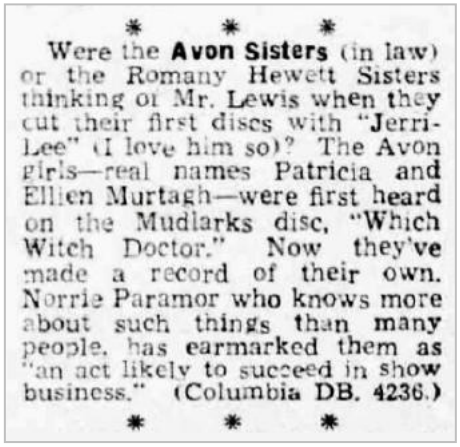
Figure 29 The Mudlarks; 1958.

A slightly muted review of the disc was given in *The Liverpool Echo and Evening Express* on 22 November:

> 'The Avon Sisters make their disc debut with The Mudlarks, in "Which Witch Doctor," yet another sequel to the recent novelty. I would not suggest that this material is worthy either of the sisters' talents or of a place in the Top Twenty, but the flip-side makes up for this: it is a red-hot arrangement of "My Grandfather's Clock." The Muds and the Avons team up admirably, and the result is a lively well-contrived track which rates plenty of spins.'

1959 would prove to be an extremely busy and varied year for these two young singers, as they fulfilled many engagements and travelled wide distances between venues.

The year began with the release of their own record, in which they sang David Clowney's song *Jerri-Lee (I Love Him So)* coupled with *Baby-O*, on the *Columbia* label. On 21 January they appeared on Granada TV's *Jack Jackson Show* at 11pm, together with The King Brothers, Jerry Dene and Roy Castle. They had also performed at the Samson and Hercules ballroom in Norwich and then done a 'late spot' at Lowestoft South Pier [*The Stage*, 22 January 1959].


* * *

Were the **Avon Sisters** (in law) or the Romany Hewett Sisters thinking of Mr. Lewis when they cut their first discs with "Jerri-Lee" (I love him so)? The Avon girls—real names Patricia and Ellen Murtagh—were first heard on the Mudlarks disc, "Which Witch Doctor." Now they've made a record of their own. Norrie Paramor who knows more about such things than many people, has earmarked them as "an act likely to succeed in show business." (Columbia DB. 4236.)

* * *

Figure 30 *Nottingham Evening News*, 16 January 1959.

An unexpected opportunity came their way in February when the jazz singer Maxine Daniels was unable, owing to illness, to appear in a nationwide variety tour featuring The King Brothers, The John Barry Seven and pianist Russ Conway and others. The Avon Sisters took her place, performing on the 23rd at London's Finsbury Park Empire, on the 26th at the Palace Theatre in Newark and on the 27th at the Palace Theatre in Burnley.

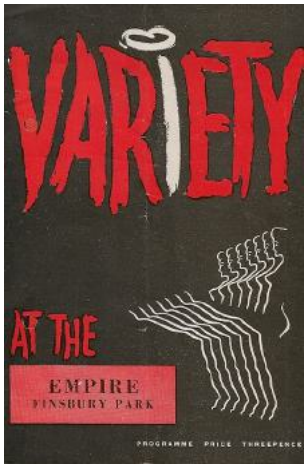


Figure 31 Finsbury Park Programme.


Maxine Daniels Ill

Maxine Daniels, who was due to appear in the King Bros. Show at the Palace, Burnley, on Friday, February 27th, has, unfortunately, been taken suddenly ill and has had to cancel her visit to Burnley.

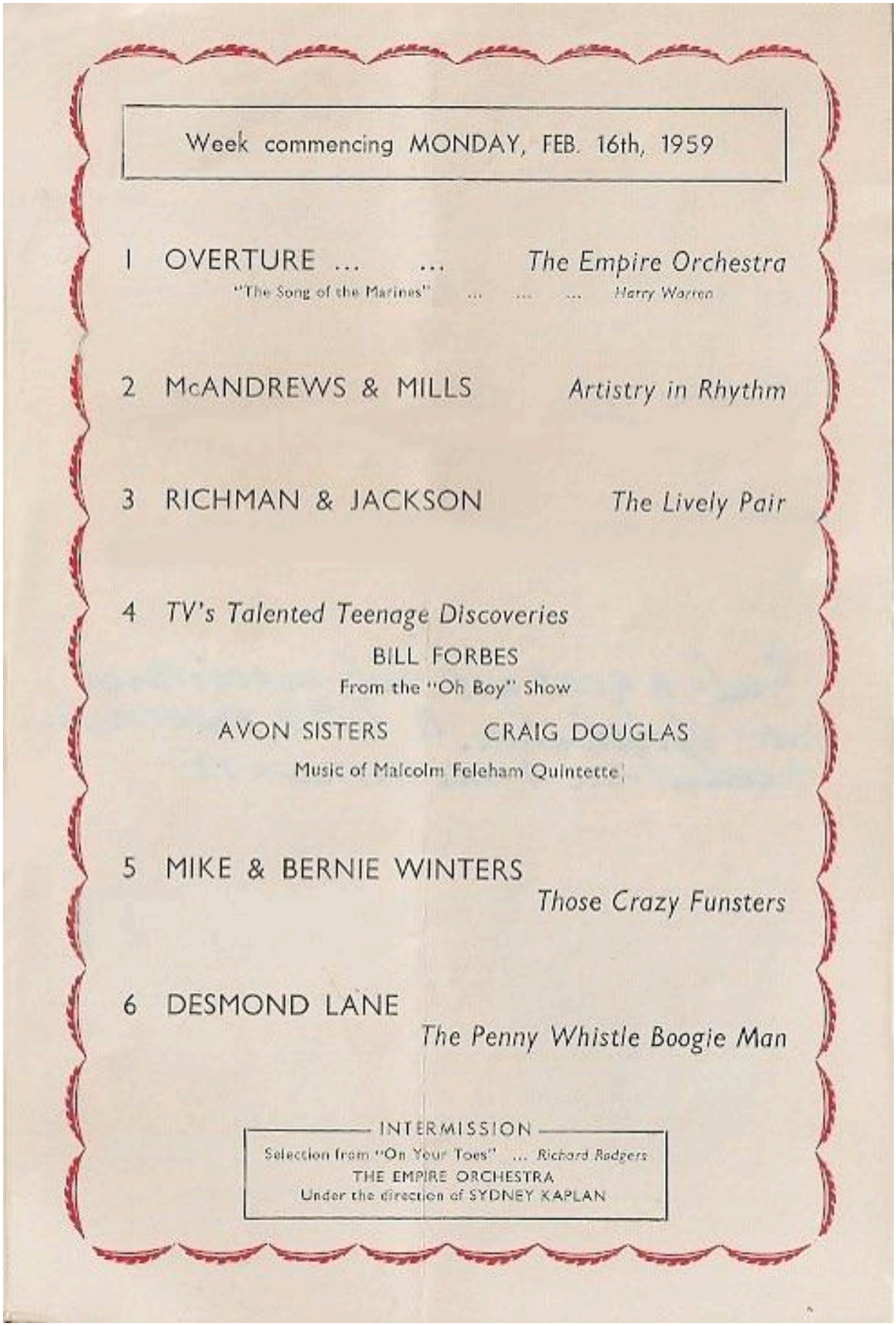
The management, however, have gone to great lengths to secure a "stand-in" and are pleased to announce they have succeeded in obtaining The Avon Sisters as a replacement act. Well known for their appearances on Television, The Avon Sisters are climbing rapidly to the top in the highly-competitive recording world. Also appearing with the King Bros. are Russ Conway and The John Barry Seven.

Figure 32 *The Nelson Leader*, 13 February 1959.



Figure 33 *The Nelson Leader*, 20 February 1959.

The Avon Sisters had also performed with The King Brothers *et al* at the Wombwell Plaza. 'Deputising for vocalist Maxine Daniels, who was ill, the Avon Sisters excellently filled the bill' [*South Yorkshire Times*, 28 February 1959]. *The Newark Advertiser* observed on 4 March that in their performance at Newark on 26 February they and the others 'all combined to give a first-rate show'.



Week commencing MONDAY, FEB. 16th, 1959

1 OVERTURE ... ... *The Empire Orchestra*

"The Song of the Marines" ... ... *Harry Warren*

2 McANDREWS & MILLS *Artistry in Rhythm*

3 RICHMAN & JACKSON *The Lively Pair*

4 *TV's Talented Teenage Discoveries*

BILL FORBES

From the "Oh Boy" Show

AVON SISTERS CRAIG DOUGLAS

Music of Malcolm Feleham Quintette

5 MIKE & BERNIE WINTERS

Those Crazy Funsters

6 DESMOND LANE

The Penny Whistle Boogie Man

INTERMISSION

Selection from "On Your Toes" ... *Richard Rodgers*

THE EMPIRE ORCHESTRA

Under the direction of SYDNEY KAPLAN

Figure 34 Before appearing with The King Brothers at the Finsbury Park Empire on 23 February, The Avon Sisters had already performed there with Bill Forbes of the *Oh Boy!* show a week earlier as seen in this Programme for 16 February. Figure 31 shows this Programme's front cover.

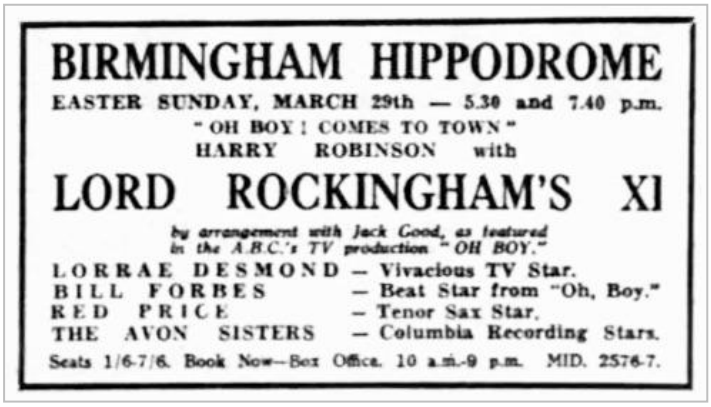
In early March the girls were back in London where, on the 6th, they were guest stars at the Mayoress of Camberwell's charity ball, held at Dulwich Baths [*South London Observer*, 12 March 1959]. Before long they were travelling again to the north of the country, where on 29 March they would appear at the Birmingham Hippodrome with Lord Rockingham's XI, the house band supporting ABC Television's all-teenage *Oh Boy!* show. On 3 April they would perform in *The Marty Wilde Show* at Manchester's Free Trade Hall.



Finsbury Park Empire

CRITICS of variety — those people who complain that variety bills, far too often, start off with a "sister" act and work steadily through a succession of unrelated (and often unimaginative) jugglers and hand-balancers to the inevitable comedian or recording star—are on a sticky wicket at the Empire this week. In other words, at least a couple of refreshing ideas are noted in the presentation —a teenage - package - show - in - miniature, for example; and a "combined forces" effort when the Avon Sisters are invited to sing a number with the top-of-the-bill Mudlarks. Let the good work continue!

Figure 35 *The Stage*, 19 February 1959.



BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 29th — 5.30 and 7.40 p.m.
"OH BOY! COMES TO TOWN"
HARRY ROBINSON with
LORD ROCKINGHAM'S XI
by arrangement with Jack Good, as featured in the A.B.C.'s TV production "OH BOY."

LORRAE DESMOND — Vivacious TV Star.
BILL FORBES — Beat Star from "Oh, Boy."
RED PRICE — Tenor Sax Star.
THE AVON SISTERS — Columbia Recording Stars.

Seats 1/6-7/6. Book Now—Box Office. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. MID. 2576-7.

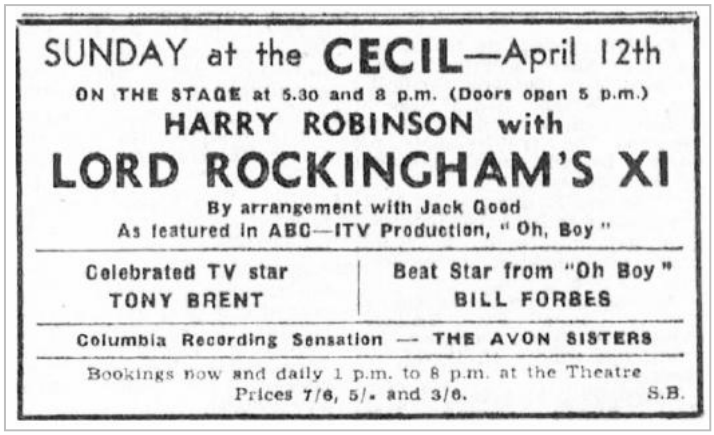
Figure 36 *The Birmingham Mail*, 23 March 1959.



Friday, April 3, Free Trade Hall
At 6.25 and 8.30
The Marty Wilde Show
featuring
Marty Wilde & The Wildcats
Vivacious TV Star
Lorrae Desmond
Fabulous Innovator of "Hand Jive"
Joe "Mr. Piano" Henderson
Columbia Recording Sensations
The Avon Sisters
Tickets now at popular prices from Hime & Addison, John Dalton Street; Lewis's, Ltd.; Record Rendezvous, Ducland, Oldham and Stalybridge.

Figure 37 *Manchester Evening News*, 21 March 1959.

After Manchester they moved on with Lord Rockingham's XI to Hull, appearing there at the Cecil Cinema on 12 April, then continued to Liverpool where they performed at the Empire Theatre on 19 April.



SUNDAY at the **CECIL**—April 12th
ON THE STAGE at 5.30 and 8 p.m. (Doors open 5 p.m.)
HARRY ROBINSON with
LORD ROCKINGHAM'S XI
By arrangement with Jack Good
As featured in ABC—ITV Production, "Oh, Boy"

Celebrated TV star	Beat Star from "Oh Boy"
TONY BRENT	BILL FORBES

Columbia Recording Sensation — THE AVON SISTERS

Bookings now and daily 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Theatre
Prices 7/6, 5/- and 3/6. S.B.

Figure 38 *The Daily Mail (Hull)*, 4 April 1959.

After this spell in the North they would leave England for a while on a summer seasons engagement, a step that would have a major impact upon both of them, personally and professionally.

A summer season in Jersey

In the spring of 1959 articles appeared in *The Stage* and other publications about the intentions of Nat (Nathaniel Charles) Gonella, a renowned jazz instrumentalist, vocalist and band leader. In 1934-35 he had formed a very successful band The Georgians. After serving in the Army during the second world war he reconstituted the band and toured extensively with it during the 1950s in variety shows.

By March it was known (Figure 39) that Nat's band, renamed The New Georgians, would go to Jersey for a 14-week summer season, this being confirmed a month later (Figure 40). These two articles do not clearly establish the performing start date, but Saturday 6 June appears the more likely.

NAT GONELLA RETURNS THIS MONTH

"NAT'S BACK" and the deep throated gurgle of "Georgia", teamed with the haunting quality of trumpeting in the mainstream-cum-modern-cum-dixie idiom of Nat Gonella, is the re-echo once again in the top ballrooms and theatres, with the backing of the re-formed Georgians, as it did until the break-up of the original line-up in 1953.



Nat Gonella

This man Gonella, of whom his friend Louis Armstrong said, "God bless you, Nat, and carry on with that horn—we have got to stay around to keep these youngsters happy—keep playing that music from the heart", is classed in the same grouping as Jack Payne, Henry Hall, Roy Fox, Lew Stone, Bert Ambrose.

Older obviously—but not showing it—more experienced, more forceful and "blowing better than ever" Nat is now in the final build-up stage of his new Georgians, with a line-up of trumpet, tenor sax, piano, electric guitar and bass, with an accent on youth. Already booked-in are drummer Kenny Harrison, who last year won the individual award in the Southern Championships, and guitarist Gerry Hart, and final auditions to complete the group are now in process.

March 28, marks the come-back date, when the residents of Herne Bay take in Nat's first "one-nighter" at the local King's Hall Ballroom; from then it is ballrooms and guestings, with a possible whirlwind trip to Holland and Ireland, until May 1, when he takes in the Central Pier, Morecambe. On June 6, the new Georgians move in to the Rainbow Room, New Era Ballroom, Jersey, for a 14-week period of residency, taking in cabaret and Sunday concert appearances in addition to playing for general dance sessions.

"Sweet Georgia Brown," "Stardust", "Basin Street Blues", "Nagasaki" and "Georgia" are all ready for a new lease of life, because "Nat's Back"...and back determined to stay.

Figure 39 *The Stage*, 19 March 1959.

UNDER the auspices of the local council, the Kings Ballroom, Herne Bay, was packed with patrons to give a good send-off to Nat Gonella and His New Georgians on Saturday, when they took in their first feature ballroom date. Bringing back all the old favourite "Gonella" tunes, with "Georgia" and "Sweet Georgia Brown" taking pride of place, Nat's trumpeting and "gravel-voiced" vocals left the jiving teenagers clamouring for more, especially when backed by feature guitarist Gerry Hart and youthful drumming artist Kenny Harrison, and a quick return date to this venue is scheduled.

On arrival at Herne Bay a special telegram awaited Nat Gonella, having been sent from France by his friend and armirer, Louis Armstrong, who was directly responsible for the re-formation of the Georgians . . . the text reading. "Send them cats, Nat, the same as you've always done me. You are my favourite horn man. Always your boy. — Louis 'Satchmo' Armstrong."

With the new Georgians launched, a series of one-nighters follow prior to the 14-week season at the Rainbow Room, Jersey, opening June 16, and on Monday last Nat took in a feature solo spot on Southern ITV.

Figure 40 *The Stage*, 9 April 1959.

The significance of this is that The Avons Sisters were signed up to appear on Nat's shows in Jersey, and advertisements for them in that role began appearing in *The Stage* from 11 June onwards.

JOHNNIE & HARVEY RISCOE AGENCY LTD.

JERSEY RAINBOW ROOM. — Nat Gonella and his New Georgians, Trio Bolonds, Avon Sisters, Terry Lomas, Jumpin Jax.

Figure 41 *The Stage*, 11 June 1959.



Figure 42 The New Era Cinema in Jersey with its upstairs Rainbow Room.

The New Era Cinema had opened in 1954 and was located on the Grève D'Azette in Georgetown, St Clement parish in the south-eastern outskirts of St Helier. Its upstairs held a large ballroom named the Rainbow Room, in which Nat Gonella staged his shows. The earliest mention we have found in the Press of The Avon Sisters performing there is that shown in Figure 44.

ROUND ABOUT

NAT GONELLA and His New Georgians, have now established themselves as a top resident attraction in Jersey. With their season's residency at the Rainbow Room, New Era, St. Helier taking in both cabaret and dancing session, Nat Gonella himself is host to the local Jazz Club outing thrice weekly, and he has been invited to make a guest appearance at the Beaulieu Jazz Festival on August 2.

Figure 43 *The Stage*, 23 July 1959.



Figure 45 Gonella; 22 February 1960.

RAINBOW ROOM

AT the Rainbow Room, St. Clements, the stars not only of the cabaret but of each entire evening are the musicians, headed by Nat Gonella. Under the name the New Georgians they have brought first class music to the Rainbow Room.

Another act in the cabaret finding great success is the Trio Botonds. The members, Hungarians, thrill and delight their audiences with their balancing, tumbling and general good-natured fun.

Important ingredients in the Jumpin' Jax's act are a trampoline and a handful of unsuspecting people. After a solo turn by one of the act who demonstrates the delights of the trampoline, volunteers are called for. This gives those of the audience who are safely sitting at their tables considerable amusement, and it is not until later that they realise that one of the volunteers is part of the act.

The Avon Sisters are two singers in the modern style, who blend well together.

Figure 44 *The Stage*, 27 August 1959.



Figure 46 The Avon Sisters on stage.

As the season in Jersey progressed, the duo made a new acquaintance. In Valerie's words:

'While we were on summer season in Jersey with Nat Gonella's band we decided we wanted a boy to join the group. On Sundays Nat Gonella would invite local boys to come up on stage and sing a song. We decided to go to a Sunday show, and were impressed by a local boy called Ray Adams, so we approached him about joining us, and he agreed.

Ray used to work for a butcher, delivering meat to all the local farms etc., so we girls used to sit in the front of the van with him, rehearsing harmonies and songs, as he delivered his meat, which resulted in a lot of surprised looks as we drove around. We were rehearsing for Bunny Lewis who was due to come over at the end of the season, to show him the new line-up with Ray.

On the last day of the season, Bunny came over and gave the go-ahead to "The Avons". Poor Ray had just one week to pack up, leave his job, say goodbye to his Mum and come to England, where he also stayed in the flat in Sisters Avenue. THE AVONS had arrived.'

Raymond Stanley Adams had been born on 19 July 1938 in Jersey's capital, St Helier. Details of his ancestry are given in Appendix I but, in brief, his parents were Walter Joseph and Olivia Matilda; he was the youngest of their several children.

The 1959 engagement in Jersey came to its end in about mid-September. Bunny Lewis wasted no time in arranging to have a 45rpm recording made of the new trio, The Avons, as Valerie recalls:

> 'Bunny rushed us into the studio with Norrie Paramor and we recorded *Seven Little Girls Sitting in the Back Seat* on Columbia Records, which became a hit.'

The song had been composed by American songwriters Lee Pockriss and Bob Hilliard. 'Norrie' was Norman William Paramor, an accomplished all-round British musician – pianist, composer, conductor, bandmaster and record producer. He had become the Recording Director for EMI's Columbia Records in 1952 and had produced records for many well-known artistes including Cliff Richard, Michael Holliday, Helen Shapiro, Frankie Vaughan and The Mudlarks. In 1959 he was living at 37, Menelik Road in Hampstead with his wife Joan.



Figure 47 Norrie Paramor; 1960.

On the disc's flip-side The Avons sang *Alone at Eight*, composed by Valerie.

The record quickly entered the 'Top Ten'. In the UK Singles Chart it reached No 3 and remained in that position for three months. It would turn out to be their greatest hit, earning them a Silver Disc after more than a quarter of a million copies had been sold.

The earliest Press mention of the *Seven Little Girls* hit found by us so far is that appearing in the *Daily Mirror* on 29 October, which simply commented 'Song to get you by the ears: "Seven Little Girls Sitting in the Back Seat" ... Here the Avons have a go.'

Meanwhile, The Avons had been performing at various venues, for instance on 5 October at the Birmingham Hippodrome, on 26 October with The Mudlarks at the Royalty Theatre in Chester and on 29 October at a charity concert staged by the National Hospital Broadcasting Committee of Great Britain, held at the Granada Theatre in Woolwich.

During a week in mid-November they performed at the Cabaret Club in Manchester's Oxford Street. On 15 December they were guests on *The Melody Dances* with Cyril Stapleton and his band televised by ITA London from the Majestic Ballroom in Finsbury Park.

The article of 23 December shown in Figure 48 notes their record and their being due to appear on ITV's *Bandstand* programme. It mistakenly assigns to Ray the surname 'Palmer', possibly arising from an anomaly in his family history, as explained in Appendix I.



'Sink duet' hits top

LITTLE more than a year ago Ellen and Valerie Murtagh (pictured left) were typists and Ray Palmer was selling steak in a butcher's.

TODAY, as The Avons, they have a record in the Top Ten—"Seven Little Girls"—which they sing in ITV's "Bandstand" (6.30).

The Avons began as a duet over the kitchen sink when nineteen-year-old Ellen's brother married Valerie and brought her home to Battersea to live. The "sink duet" went so well they tried it out in local talent competitions, then at the Radio Show.

Ray Palmer joined the act after the girls heard him singing in a jazz session.

Figure 48 *Daily Mirror*, 23 December 1959.

The group made several ITV appearances during the Christmas period of 1959, rounding off the year by performing on 31 December at the *Daily Mirror*'s Teenage Ball held at London's Waldorf Hotel.



Figure 49 Guests at the Teenage Ball; Waldorf Hotel 1959.



Figure 50 An early copy of the *Seven Little Girls* disc; 1959.



Figure 51 Sheet music for the *Seven Little Girls* song; 1959.

In this period sheet music for contemporary compositions sold well, being sought by performers at small local venues as well as by many teenagers keen to make music in their homes. The music sheet whose cover is shown in Figure 50 was printed in 1959, very soon after the record had been made. This image of the group became an iconic one, being used in many subsequent publications.

The record continued selling well after the Silver Disc award in 1960, its sales climbing to well over 350,000. Although The Avons produced further songs and performed widely to warm acclaim, their other records did not attain the same heights as this one had.

1960 – on tour and on the road

The 'Swinging Sixties' had just begun. The Avons' past few months had been busy but by comparison the new year unfolding would be, for them, almost manic. A generation of young people was hungry for change and especially for entertainment, as the gloomy and impoverished years in the aftermath of the war evaporated away and innovations in electronics and broadcasting made entertainment, whether in the home or out of it, widely accessible and affordable. Teenagers in particular asserted their own tastes in modern music and budding artistes like The Avons would readily meet the demand.



Figure 52 Bandmaster Ted Heath.

Early in the new year of 1960 they appeared on the *Bandstand* episode aired on ITA London television. *Bandstand* was a weekly variety show that had been launched a few months earlier; it would run until March 1960. The staple feature of the show was the prominent trombonist Ted Heath with his orchestra, other artistes such as Donna Hightower, Sylvia Sands and Maureen Evans appearing in various episodes. The Avons certainly performed on the show on 6, 13 and 20 January.


THE DISCSTAR SHOW, 1960
BIRMINGHAM TOWN HALL,
SATURDAY, 23rd JANUARY, at 6.30 and 8.35 p.m.
" What do you want to make those eyes at me for?"
IN PERSON FABULOUS
EMILE FORD EMILE FORD
and the CHECKMATES.
" Seven little girls sitting in the back seat."
IN PERSON — RECORDING SENSATIONS
THE AVONS THE AVONS
plus
WEE WILLIE HARRIS. THE BACHELORS. THE ROCKETS.
Tickets available — 7/6, 6/-, 4/-, 3/6
from TOWN HALL BOX OFFICE — Telephone: CENtral 2392.

Figure 53 *The Birmingham Post*, 8 January 1960.

On 23 January they were on *The 1960 Discstar Show* at Birmingham Town Hall and again on the next day at Newcastle City Hall, giving two performances on each night.

They appeared with Adam Faith, Emile Ford and The Checkmates on 6 February at the City Hall in Sheffield, on 11 February at the Odeon Cinema in Halifax and on 17 February (also with Mike Preston and John Barry) at the Palace Theatre in Burnley. The *Halifax Daily Courier and Guardian* commented on 12 February that The Avons 'demonstrated their versatility in a pleasing range of songs'.

By now they had produced a new Columbia record with two songs, *We Fell in Love* and *Pickin' Petals*, the latter offered to the British Sectional Competition of the Eurovision Song Contest. Reviews of the disc were mostly favourable, some very much so, whilst a few were less enthusiastic. In any case, 'their participation was cancelled due to a European Broadcasting Union rule that stated that trios could not compete' [*Wikipedia*].

The Avons appeared again with Emile Ford and The Checkmates on 25 February at the Granada in Greenford and the next night at the Granada in Grantham. Reviewing the former show, *The Stage* described The Avons as 'a well-balanced threesome [who] sang with pep'.


AN A.B.C. THEATRE
Telephone 75274 SAVOY – EXETER Manager: R. W. Parker
ON THE STAGE
ONE DAY ONLY—SUNDAY, March 13th, 5.15 & 7.45
★
CRAIG DOUGLAS
THE MUDLARKS THE AVONS
BILL FORBES ALAN FREEMAN
Compere
(Disc Jockey for Radio Luxembourg)
JOHNNY WILTSHIRE AND THE TREBLETONES
This great " ALL-STAR SHOW " is proving to be extremely popular. May we therefore respectfully suggest that you book your seat as soon as possible and avoid the disappointment that so many patrons suffered at the last show when they found that all seats had been sold?
Circle seats, 6/-, 5/-, 4/-. :: Stalls, 6/-, 5/-, 4/-
Booking Office open daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Don't delay ——— Book today

Figure 54 *Express & Echo*, 20 January 1960.

They now embarked upon a much heavier performance schedule, having signed up to be a fixture in a new whirlwind tour of Britain promoted by Bunny Lewis, the show given the title *Top Twenty Hit Parade*. Its central star was the extremely popular and accomplished singer Craig Douglas (real name Trevor Perkins), and so it was often referred to as simply 'the Craig Douglas Show'. Besides him and The Avons the artistes included The Mudlarks, The Trebletones, Roy Young and Bill Forbes, with Alan Freeman as compère. Over the course of March and April, in each of at least thirty different towns and cities, there would be two evening performances. Other than when the

performers were on stage they would be covering hundreds of miles in travel. It must have been punishingly difficult to have coped with everything involved – planning, rehearsing, costume work, make-up, hair-dressing and all the rest – in trying to give of their best in front of audiences of thousands night after night. Here are the dates and venues of the show's performances:

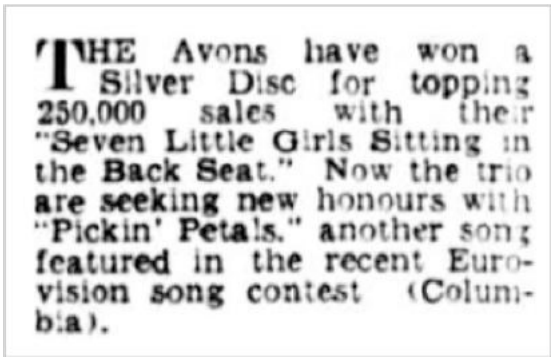
MARCH
2 - Tunbridge Wells (Essoldo)
3 - Loughborough (Essoldo)
4 - Scunthorpe (Essoldo)
5 - Norwich (Theatre Royal)
6 - St. Albans (Odeon)
8 - Canterbury (Odeon)
9 - Southend (Odeon)
10 - Guildford (Odeon)
11 - Salisbury (Gaumont)
12 - Trowbridge (Gaumont)
13 - Exeter (Savoy)
22 - Banbury (Essoldo)
23 - Quinton (Essoldo)
24 - Cannock (Danilo)
25 - Barrow (Colisseum)
26 - Stoke (Essoldo)
27 - Stockport (Essoldo)

APRIL
3 - Coventry (Gaumont)
7 - Taunton (Odeon)
9 - Worcester (Gaumont)
10 - Eastbourne (Winter Garden)
16 - Morecambe (Alhambra)
21 - Chester (Gaumont)
22 - Halifax (Odeon)
23 - Portsmouth (Guildhall)
24 - Colchester (Regal)
27 - Lincoln (Savoy)
28 - Cambridge (Regal)
29 - Bristol (Colston Hall)
30 - Plymouth (Odeon)



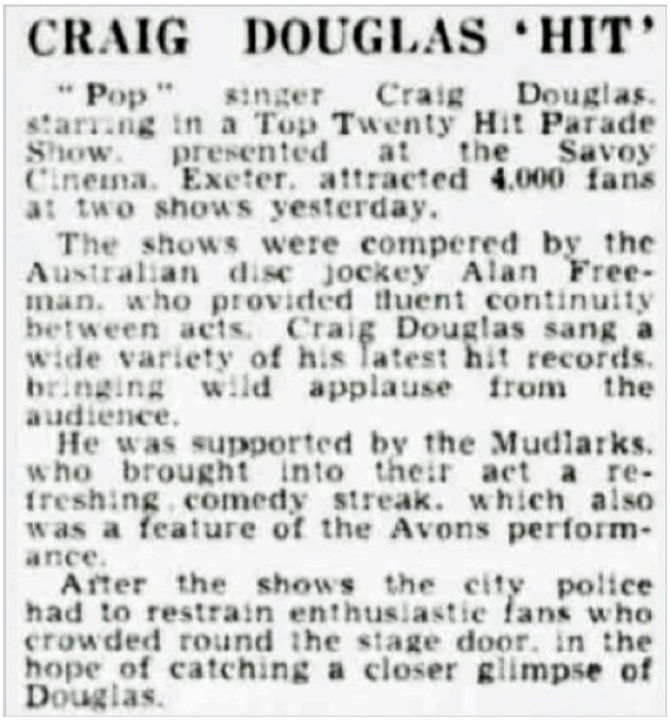
Figure 55 Programme and ticket for the show on 9 April at Worcester.

The Silver Disc award for *Seven Little Girls* was reported in early March (Figure 56). The Craig Douglas shows were meanwhile doing well. Figure 57 shows a review of the one given at Exeter, noting that the two performances there had been attended by 4,000 fans. During this period The Avons also managed to find time to perform at an All Star Charity Concert staged on 20 March at the Granada in Tooting.



THE Avons have won a Silver Disc for topping 250,000 sales with their "Seven Little Girls Sitting in the Back Seat." Now the trio are seeking new honours with "Pickin' Petals," another song featured in the recent Eurovision song contest (Columbia).

Figure 56 *Evening Express (Aberdeen)*, 5 March 1960.



CRAIG DOUGLAS 'HIT'

"Pop" singer Craig Douglas, starring in a Top Twenty Hit Parade Show, presented at the Savoy Cinema, Exeter, attracted 4,000 fans at two shows yesterday.

The shows were compered by the Australian disc jockey Alan Freeman, who provided fluent continuity between acts. Craig Douglas sang a wide variety of his latest hit records, bringing wild applause from the audience.

He was supported by the Mudlarks, who brought into their act a refreshing comedy streak, which also was a feature of the Avons performance.

After the shows the city police had to restrain enthusiastic fans who crowded round the stage door, in the hope of catching a closer glimpse of Douglas.

Figure 57 *Express & Echo*, 14 March 1960.

A review of the performance at Southend commented that 'The Avons, neatly dressed and freshfaced, also have comedy with melody, in "Home on the Range", "7 Little Girls" and "Pickin' Petals" ' [*The Stage*,

17 March 1960], whilst a review of the one at Trowbridge noted that they 'gave a lively and exhilarating performance' [*The Wiltshire Times*, 18 March 1960].



16

BOY MET GIRLS . . . AND IT WAS CUE FOR A SONG

"Seven Little Girls Sitting In The Back Seat" put The Avons right on top

TWO'S company . . . three's good business. That's the maxim of three of the newest stars in show business. Three youngsters who, under the group title of The Avons, have battled their way to the top of the tree.

They are the only star trio in Britain to use the combination of two girls and a boy. The girls are Valerie, aged twenty-three, and Elaine, nineteen. A couple of years ago they were secretaries in two London West End advertising agencies.

Then they decided to try their luck singing. Last summer they were singing in a club in Jersey, and one evening heard local boy Ray Adams.

The girls offered him a place in their act. He accepted.

Their lucky break came quickly. They were asked to record a U.S. hit number, "Seven Little Girls Sitting In The Back Seat." The record went high into the hit parade, beating the American version.

Now they are on a country-wide tour of one-night stands. And negotiations are already under way for a summer season at one of the big holiday resorts.

What is it like being the odd man out?

"Marvellous," says Ray. "The girls look after me wonderfully. I have never enjoyed myself so much as I have since I joined the act."

The group has invested some of its earnings into a £1,000 car, to use for travelling. Ray does the driving while the girls curl up on the back seat.

"We get on fine," says Ray. "We had our teething problems when we first started, but now we all know our places.

"If there's any argument between the girls, I just keep quiet. Then, sometimes they ask me my opinion.

"When we started, I used to get edgy if we were late setting off for a date. We have never been late yet, though, and now I don't worry at all.

Good Judgment

"The girls take such care with make-up, their clothes and their whole appearance. So now I have realized that if they are a bit late, there's a very good reason. The results are worth it. They often ask me what I think of their new clothes or hair styles. And they really do take notice of my opinion.

"On the other hand, I now rely on their good judgment with my clothes. After all, we are all dressing to please, so their opinions are very useful."

"The best thing we ever did was to ask Ray to join us," says Valerie.

"We didn't fancy becoming just another sister act. Invariably, they are too high-pitched to be really exciting. The addition of a male voice made all the difference to our harmony and tone.

"Also, Ray has a good effect on audiences. We had noticed that on one-night stands where the audience was mainly girls, our act didn't go all that well. With Ray to keep the girls interested, now we seem to go over great."

Their manager, star-maker Bunny Lewis, predicts a great future for this personality-packed trio. "The sky's the limit for them," he says.

This is definitely a case of two's company . . . three's business. There's no romantic attachment within the group. Valerie is married and Elaine recently became engaged. Ray doesn't even get time for any courting. "Looking after the girls keeps me much too busy," he says.

Figure 58 The Avons reviewed in *Picturegoer*, 2 April 1960.

Gaumont Show Was a Hit

—

Teenagers Storm Stage Door

HAVING seen the two previous Gaumont 'package' shows, I thought it might be fairer to both public and artistes, if I heard the performers' point of view. So, after the first house of the 'Top Twenty Hit Parade,' at the Gaumont on Thursday evening, I went backstage.

All the artistes agreed that this Taunton audience was one of the kindest encountered during their tour. This was a better balanced show, and more likely to appeal to all ages, than the two previous ones.

Top-of-the-bill, Craig Douglas was extremely polished. Not for him the hip-wiggling and flamboyant dress. Wearing a dark dinner jacket, and appearing very relaxed, he still managed to extract ecstatic screams from his audience. Backed by The Hunters, who accompanied all the acts excellently, he sang no rock 'n' roll at all, but stuck to the more subdued 'pop' songs such as 'Only 16,' 'Pretty Blue Eyes,' 'Battle of Jericho' and 'Delaware,' which he sang with the whole company.

In the absence of the Mudlarks, who could not appear due to illness, The Avons, two girls and a boy, took 'second billing'. They have been in show business only a short time, but were quite competent. Their timing was brilliant, and renderings of 'Seven Little Girls,' 'Picking Petals' and 'Be My Guest,' drew tremendous applause from the audience.

Had the Girls Screaming

Roy Young, the only 'beat' singer on the bill, had the girls screaming, shouting and clapping frenziedly to his presentations of 'Tutti Frutti,' 'Oh, My Soul' and 'Hey Little Girl.' Bill Forbes, from Ceylon, equally was well received for his ballads 'Apple Blossom Time,' 'What do you want to make those eyes at me for' and 'Woman from Liberia.'

Comedy was supplied by compere Alan Freeman, who handled the audience remarkably well and was obviously a great hit with them, and Smoothey and Layton, a crazy pair—who had the difficult chore of replacing the Mudlarks. They were marvellous, getting their act over with great success, and rounded off a very pleasing show.

Noisy Teenagers

Though the frenzied receptions and agitating of late shows had gone, Thursday evening did not go without incident. After the start of the second performance, several groups of youths waited in the foyer demanding tickets. Some even got into the back stalls, stood there for some time before they were persuaded to leave. Others remained in the foyer for about half an hour before threats to call the police dispersed them. Teenagers once more stormed the stage door, waiting for autographs of their idols, and shouted and bumped the door almost incessantly throughout the last house.—E.C.

Figure 59 *Somerset County Herald*, 9 April 1959.

Avons trio

The most professional performance came from The Avons trio, who rose to fame with their disc "Seven Little Girls Sitting in the Back Seat." They blended similar harmony with humour in their other numbers.

Figure 60 *Eastbourne Gazette*, 13 April 1959.

Finale Saturday Debut Tuesday

JUST one hour before the curtain went up on the Top Twenty Hit Parade stage show at Coventry last Sunday, **Mary Mudd** of the **Mudlarks** collapsed and was rushed to hospital. Within an hour she was in the operating theatre for an emergency appendicitis operation.

The next performance of the show was at the Savoy, Hayes, on Tuesday evening and show manager, **Mrs. Bunny Lewis** began making arrangements for a replacement. She tried many artists but was unable to find any stars available. Eventually at 5 a.m. on Tuesday morning she contacted **Tom Layton** of the **Smoothey** and **Layton** comedy act in Leeds.

Mrs. Lewis told him that he must be in Hayes by mid-day so he grabbed some costumes and sped down the A1 and arrived there just in time for a rehearsal. Meanwhile his other half, Don Smoothey, of Richmond, had been contacted and he also arrived.

They then told Mrs. Lewis that on the previous Saturday they had decided to quit the business because they felt that there was not much of a future for their type of act as so many variety halls were closing down. They even refused a summer season at Pwllheli in Wales.

However, they agreed to assist and with the help of **Ray Adams** of the **Avons** vocal group, the act was put together. Smoothey and Layton will remain with the bill until the Mudlarks are fit and fighting again. When the series has finished the two will return to their home towns to start businesses of their own.

They have just returned from a six-week concert tour for troops in Nairobi, Kenya and Cyprus. The act which features Tom welcoming Don as a new recruit to the Army and "Prof" Layton giving a musical lecture to his student, Don, has played at all main theatres in the country and they have appeared with Craig Douglas, Bert Weedon and others in one-night package shows.

Figure 61 *The Stage*, 13 April 1959.

At the Eastbourne show The Avons were commended for giving the most professional performance of the night (Figure 60).

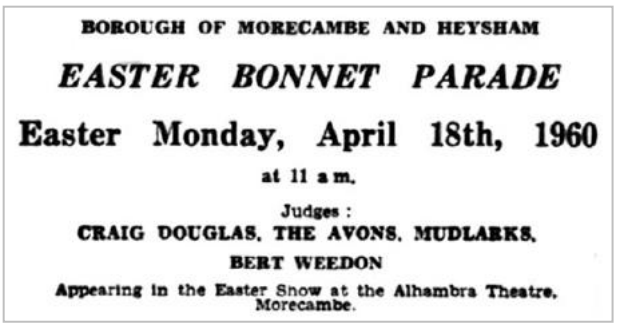
With such a long series of shows it is not surprising that occasionally things did not go well. The account in Figure 59 of the happenings in Taunton tells of the problems arising from unruliness among some of the teenagers. At many of the Craig Douglas shows the artistes leaving the venue at the end of the evening had to deal as well as they could with lingering fans clamouring for autographs or other kinds of engagement.

Other things could go wrong, as demonstrated by the article in Figure 61 concerning the Coventry event. Mary Mudd of the Mudlarks had to be rushed just before the show to hospital, suffering from acute appendicitis. Bunny's wife, who was managing the show, and The Avons had to make quick arrangements to deal with Mary's absence and 'keep the show on the road'.

Audiences could require careful handling too. The Lincoln show 'had teenage bobby-soxers swooning and screaming in their seats at the Savoy Cinema ...' [*Lincolnshire Echo*, 28 April 1960]. As a popular compère, Alan Freeman presided successfully over these challenges.

During Easter of 1960 The Avons made time to serve, with others from the Craig Douglas show, as judges in Morecambe's Easter Bonnet Parade. This took place on Easter Monday; two days previously they had given two evening performances at Morecambe's Alhambra Theatre.

By the end of April the two-month tour had concluded. The performers must all have been exhausted. There appear to be very few mentions of the Avons during May – they were probably glad to return home and recuperate. During that month, however, their next single record with Columbia was released, having *I Keep Dreaming* on one side and *We're Only Young Once* on the other. As so often the case in the arts world, reviews were mixed.



BOROUGH OF MORECAMBE AND HEYSHAM

EASTER BONNET PARADE

Easter Monday, April 18th, 1960

at 11 a.m.

Judges :

CRAIG DOUGLAS, THE AVONS, MUDLARKS,

BERT WEEDON

Appearing in the Easter Show at the Alhambra Theatre, Morecambe.

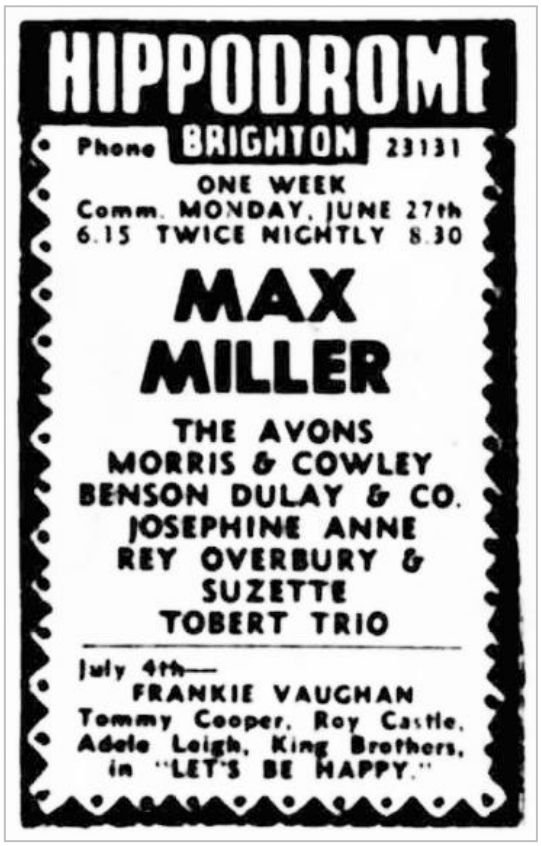
Figure 62 *The Morecambe Guardian*, 14 April 1960.



Other new E.M.I. singles which have been welcome around my turntables this week include **THE AVONS** singing their own composition "I Keep Dreaming" coupled with "We're Only Young Once" (Columbia).

Figure 63 *The Liverpool Echo*, 21 May 1960.

On 27 June The Avons appeared on the *Max Miller Show* at the Brighton Hippodrome (Figure 66). It ran there for a week, twice nightly.



HIPPODROME

Phone BRIGHTON 23131

ONE WEEK

Comm. MONDAY, JUNE 27th

6.15 TWICE NIGHTLY 8.30

MAX MILLER

THE AVONS

MORRIS & COWLEY

BENSON DULAY & CO.

JOSEPHINE ANNE

REY OVERBURY &

SUZETTE

TOBERT TRIO

July 4th—

FRANKIE VAUGHAN

Tommy Cooper, Roy Castle, Adele Leigh, King Brothers, in "LET'S BE HAPPY."

Figure 66 *Worthing Herald*, 24 June 1960.

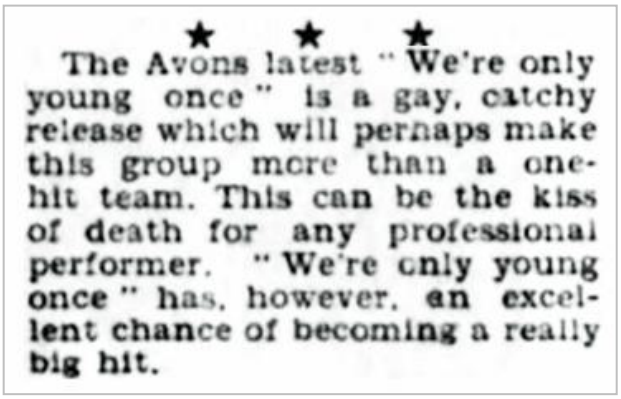


ON RECORDS

WE THINK

THAT—"We're Only Young Once" by The Avons tends to pall after a while. The girls in the background get rather monotonous. "I Keep Dreaming" on the flip is a very attractive beat number.

Figure 64 *Leicester Mercury*, 1 June 1960.



★ ★ ★

The Avons latest "We're only young once" is a gay, catchy release which will perhaps make this group more than a one-hit team. This can be the kiss of death for any professional performer. "We're only young once" has, however, an excellent chance of becoming a really big hit.

Figure 65 *South Western Star*, 17 June 1960.

They also featured on London ITV's programme *The Variety Show* on 13 July and on BBC Radio's Light Progamme broadcast live from HMS Collingwood in Fareham on 29 July.

On 1 August The Avons appeared on BBC's television programme *Holiday Pops*. Almost a week later, on 7 August, they performed with Nicholas Parsons and others on Wellington Pier in Yarmouth.

The 1960 Radio Show at Earl's Court opened on 24 August. At 7pm each night BBC television presented from there the *Seven O'Clock Show* in which numerous high-profile guests were invited to appear on various nights, these including The Avons.

On 28 August The Avons were among several performers on a show given by Edna Savage and Mike Preston at the Odeon in Llandudno.

They were featured in *Saturday Club* on the radio Light Programme on 3 September and performed on *Workers' Playtime*, broadcast from the Kodak Factory in Harrow, in mid-September; at this latter event they sang *Be My Guest*.

In early October Craig Douglas gave another of his shows, this time with the highly talented guitarist 'Bert' (Herbert Maurice William) Weedon, together with singer 'Garry' (Gary) Mills, Alan Freeman and The Avons. Two performances were given on one day only, 2 October, at the Forum Cinema in Bath.



Figure 67 *The Wiltshire Times*, 2 September 1960.



Figure 68 Craig Douglas.



Figure 69 Valerie (at left) and Elaine with Garry Mills (nephew of Nat Gonella); 1961.

By now the trio had recorded another disc, again with Columbia. This featured the Pockriss–Vance composition *Four Little Heels* together with a song composed by themselves, *This Was Meant to Be*. Brief reviews are shown in Figures 70 and 71.

Competition between bright-eyed **Brian Hyland** and Columbia's singing threesome **The Avons**; Brian's London version of "Four Little Heels" carries the better accompaniment but The Avons make the neater job on their vocal.

Figure 70 *The Liverpool Echo and Evening Express*, 8 October 1960.

Look out for the Avons to re-appear in the charts with "Four Little Heels," another cute ditty from the American team Pockriss and Vance, composers of their first hit, "Seven Little Girls." It has the ingredients for another winner for Ray, Valerie and Ellen. Coupling, "This Was Meant To Be" is a joint composition by the trio.

Figure 71 *Porthcawl Guardian*, 28 October 1960.

On 7 November a twice-nightly show led by the comedic band Syd Millward and the Nitwits, and also starring The Avons and the comedienne Hylda Baker, opened at the Theatre Royal in Hanley, Staffordshire; it may have run for a week.

Theatre Royal HANLEY

Booking Office Open 10 a.m. to 8.45 p.m. Tel.: Stoke-on-Trent 25251

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7th. Twice nightly 6.20 and 8.35

Laughs, Music and Thrills in plenty

with

England's Premier Comedy Band **SYD MILLWARD AND THE NIT-WITS**

"She know's ya' know" Britain's Queen of Comedy **HYLDA BAKER**

The Famous Vocal Harmony Group **THE AVONS**

THE EDORICS JUDY MOXON

AN EVENING OF FIRST RATE LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

USUAL TWICE NIGHTLY PRICES, 5/- to 2/-

MON., NOV. 14th, Evenings at 7.30—FRED EMNEY in "BLUE FOR A BOY." COMING NOV. 28th, EMILE FORD and the Checkmates. NOW BOOKING for EMILE LITTLER'S "MOTHER GOOSE," starring KEN PLATT, TERRY SCOTT, THE BARBOUR BROS., BILLY BURDEN, ANN HARRIMAN

Figure 72 *Evening Sentinel*, 5 November 1960.



Figure 73 Hylda Baker.

Theatre Royal

Music in the mixed-up manner is featured at the Theatre Royal, Hanley, next week when Sid Millward and his Nitwits top the bill.

The band was formed in 1937 as a jazz group with light incidental comedy. After the war the present band was formed around some characters who were in the army together. The band is going on to the Lido, Paris, for a year's engagement and then to Las Vegas.

The strong supporting cast includes the Avons, Hylda Baker, Judy Moxon and the Three Edorics.

Figure 74 *Stafford Newsletter*, 5 November 1960.



Figure 75 Syd Millward and the Nitwits.

Later in November The Avons and others appeared in a twice-nightly show with singer and actor Gary Miller (not to be confused with Garry Mills) at the Empire in Glasgow. In the record shops, *Four Little Heels* was, according to Press reports, selling well.

As 1960 drew to a close, a few newspapers mentioned in December that two new recordings had been made by The Avons, of the songs *Poor Little You* and *Tell Tommy I Miss Him*, neither of them their own compositions. The group appeared at the Roof Top Room in Belfast and also – with Craig Douglas – at the Empire Theatre in Liverpool. The latter event seems to have been somewhat under par, but was rescued to an extent by The Avons (see Figure 76).

On 17 December they joined comedian Leslie Crowther in entertaining at the Sankey Ballroom in Hadley, Shropshire. On Boxing Day they were with Craig Douglas again, this time on his home territory the Isle of Wight, where they performed at the Commodore in Ryde.

Altogether 1960 had been been a year of great challenge and opportunity for the group, in which they earned much popularity and acclaim. From this point on their Press mentions would decline significantly, as they began turning their attention more towards creative songwriting and less towards touring and stage appearances.

EMPIRE.—Rock star Craig Douglas tops the variety bill here this week. His voice is pleasant enough and he has the usual swinging sense of rhythm, but he lacks the personality to really "send" the audience. With him are the Avons, a bright trio of vocalists who give a much-needed fillip to the show; Reg Dixon and Joe Church. Reg Dixon's "Confidental" routine seemed a little tired. The brightest spot of the evening is provided by ventriloquist Arthur Worsley whose doll, "Charlie Brown" is as near live as makes no difference. He also provided a very funny line in sarcastic patter.

Figure 76 *The Liverpool Echo and Evening Express*, 6 December 1960.

Later achievements

Further singles were recorded by The Avons during the early Sixties: *Rubber Ball / This Was Meant to Be* and *Skin Divin' / Little Bo Peep* in 1961; *Tonight I Cannot Sleep / Gotta Go* and *A Wonderful Dream / Tonight You Belong to Me* in 1962; *Hey Paula / I Wanna Do It* / and *Love Should Be True / All About You* in 1963; *I am the Girl / Once Upon a Summer's Day* in 1964.

Ray also ventured into solo recording, making a single *Venus in Blue Jeans / He's Got My Sympathy* with the German 'Karusell' label in 1962.

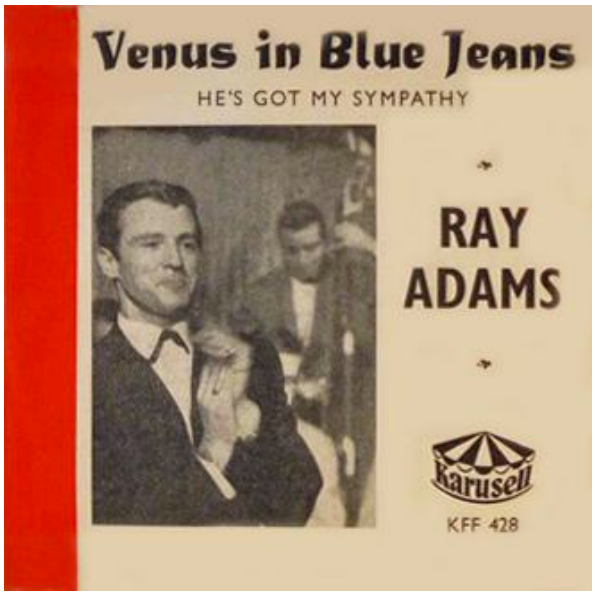


Figure 77 Cover of Ray's *Venus in Blue Jeans* disc.

WITH "Venus in Blue Jeans" (Decca F 11507) Ray Adams, of the Avons vocal group, makes his solo debut.

Ray tells me he will continue to appear with the Avons even though he is also striking out on his own. "As a solo artist I will miss the girls on either side of me," he said. "They give you a lot of confidence."

Ray, who is 24, was born in Jersey. Before he became a singer he was a chef, butcher, labourer and roof-tiler. And all the time he was singing non-professionally with a beat group during his off-duty hours.

His big chance came in the summer of 1959. Nat Gonella, appearing in Jersey for the season, was persuaded to let Ray sing with him. The Avon Sisters—then a double act—were watching, and they were so impressed that they asked Ray to join them. Three weeks later they made the hit record of "Seven Little Girls."

Figure 78 *Manchester Evening News*, 14 September 1962.

During 1962 The Avons composed the instrumental piece *Dance On* and on 21 December a disc was recorded, for Columbia at the EMI Studios in London, on which the work was performed by The Shadows; on the flip side they played another instrumental work *All Day*, written by Bruce Welch and

Hank Marvin. The disc was released on 7 December. *Dance On* rapidly became a hit for The Shadows, moving to No 1 in the UK Singles Chart. A year later a vocal version of it was recorded by the singer Kathy Kirby; this rose to No 11 in Britain in September 1963 and to No 1 in Australia.

In March 1964 The Avons received an Ivor Novello award as the songwriters behind the *Dance On* disc in the category of 'Most Broadcast Work of the Year'.

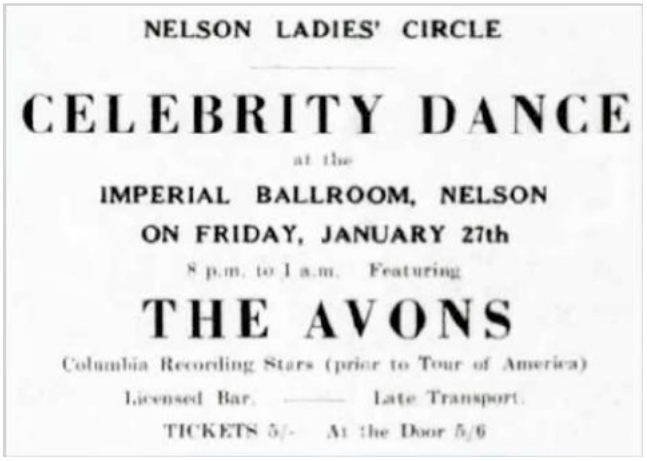
Meanwhile, during 1961 the group had continued to make stage appearances around the country. In January they had featured at a celebrity dance at the Imperial Ballroom in Nelson, Lancashire, although had been unable to complete their performance owing to difficulties over accompaniment. Further north still, they sang at the Reid Hall, Forfar, Scotland on 1 April.

From March to October 1961 they made several appearances on the Jimmy Clitheroe show, including the following; at the Regal Cinema, Wells in mid-March; at the South Parade Pier in Southsea, twice-nightly for two weeks commencing 19 June; at the Empire in West Hartlepool on 27 September and at the Essoldo in Banbury on 29 September.

Below are some images relating to them in the 1960s.



Figure 79 The Shadows' *Dance On* disc.


NELSON LADIES' CIRCLE

CELEBRITY DANCE

at the

IMPERIAL BALLROOM, NELSON

ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 27th

8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Featuring

THE AVONS

Columbia Recording Stars (prior to Tour of America)

Licensed Bar. —— Late Transport.

TICKETS 5/- At the Door 5/6

Figure 80 *Barnoldswick & Earby Times*, 20 January 1961.


ANGUS PUBLICITY

present

Top T.V. and Recording Stars

The Avons

Famous

Eurovision Song Contest Team

and

Hit Recorders of "Rubber Ball", etc.

supported by

The Erle Blue Stars

REID HALL, FORFAR

SATURDAY FIRST

Dancing 8 to 11-30 p.m.

Admission 5/-

Figure 81 *The Forfar Dispatch*, 9 March 1961.


SOUTH PARADE PIER

Box Office Open Daily 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. —— Tel. 32289

IN THE THEATRE ALL THIS WEEK & NEXT WEEK

6.00 p.m. —— Twice Nightly —— 8.30 p.m.

COMPLETE CHANGE OF PROGRAMME NEXT MONDAY

RICHARD STONE presents

JIMMY CLITHEROE

in the 1961 Edition of

"IT'S A GRAND NIGHT"

Produced by Bill Roberton. Choreography by Erica Jeans

THE AVONS ★ FELIX BOWNESS

JULIUS NEHRING ★ RONJY

JOHN McIVOR ★ BILLY WINDSOR

12 KING DANCERS

and

SALLY BARNES

Reserved 5/- 4/- 3/- Unreserved: 2/6

Figure 82 *Portsmouth Evening News*, 15 June 1961.


EMPIRE - West Hartlepool

ON THE STAGE — WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

ONE NIGHT ONLY—6-20, 8-30

JIMMY CLITHEROE

'The Jimmy Clitheroe Show'

THE AVONS ★ FELIX BOWNESS

THE AMAZING ZODIAS

The March Hares ★ Joanne Michelle

Price of Admission — 7/6, 5/6, 3/6

Book at Essoldo, West Hartlepool for the Empire.

Open Daily 2-0—8-30

Figure 83 *Northern Daily Mail*, 23 September 1961.

THE AVONS
Tonight I Cannot Sleep ; Gotta Go
(Columbia DB 4820) * * * *

I like this release by The Avons. They blend smoothly for **Tonight I Cannot Sleep**. The path is a lilting one along Latin lines and Harry Robinson directs the orchestra ... bringing out a compulsive sway to the whole side.



Figure 84 *Disc* magazine (facsimile), 14 April 1962.

TEENAGERS' RECORD ROUND-UP

The Avons—now only two—have more scope

The Avons first became popular a few years back with their recording of 'Seven little girls' when there were three of them. Now there are only two and they bow in with 'Hey Paula.'

The tune is a slow one, and has the two singing solos, with replies from the other. It is very big in the States and it could provide the Avons with a new hit here.

Although they have not been in the charts as singers for a long time, they were at the top of the British hit parade recently as songwriters with their tune 'Dance on,' which provided the Shadows with another hit.

They said that at first they were a little nervous at losing the third member, but now they find they can perform a lot more varied work, for example country and western and modern jazz.

Flipside of their new one is a beat number entitled 'I wanna do it.'

Figure 85 *Sussex Express & County Herald*, 8 February 1963.



ONCE they were three, and they were successful with hit discs like "Seven Little Girls." Now they are two, and they should be successful with hit discs like "Hey Paula."

The Avons were at the top of the British hit parade recently, not as singers but as songwriters via their tune "Dance On," which they wrote over two years ago. Now they could make it vocally with their power packed recording of "Hey Paula."

The Avons used to consisted of Elaine and Val Murtagh and Ray Adams. Now Val Murtagh, who is married, has decided to settle down in London.

"At first we were a bit nervous at losing the third member," say the two remaining Avons. "We went into hibernation for a month, practising new routines and working out a new vocal approach. Now we find we can perform a lot more varied work, for example C. and W. and even modern jazz."

Figure 86 *Highland News and Football Times*, 8 February 1963.



The Avons (Ellien Murtagh and Ray Adams), the popular singing twosome who can be seen each Thursday in Granada's "It's Young Again". (See story on page 12.)

Figure 87 *The Stage and Television Today*, 4 July 1963.

7.30 ★★IT'S YOUNG AGAIN. New comedy series with Alan Young. The Avons and Alyn Ainsworth and his Orchestra.

Figure 88 *The Evening News and Star*, 4 July 1963.

Alan Young show from Granada

TONIGHT a new series from Granada (on full ITV network) begins called "It's Young Again" starring British-born comedian Alan Young. Well known on American television, Young came to Britain soon after the start of independent television to star in Granada's "Personal Appearance".

Figure 89 *The Stage and Television Today*, 4 July 1963.



NORMAN VAUGHAN

SOMETIMES it's a bit dodgy for Eastbourne bookmaker Ben Vaughan to get away to see his son, Norman, working. But tomorrow he has only to go to the Congress Theatre where this famous compere of "Sunday Night at the London Palladium" will be giving two shows.

On the bill with Norman will be the Avons, whose real names are Ellien Murtagh and Ray Adams. This was previously a three-handed act and achieved a number of record hits, but the original third member retired from show business when she married. The Avons now record for Decca/Ritz and their latest disc is "Love Should Be True."

Figure 90 *Herald Chronicle*, 27 July 1963.

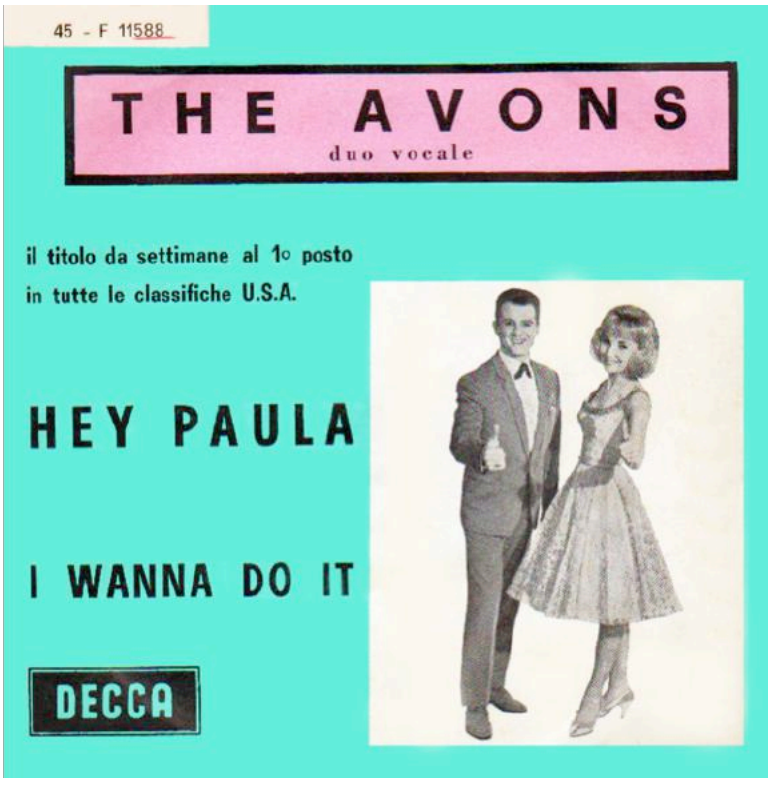


Figure 91 Cover for the *Hey Paula* disc; 1963.

Moving to Effingham

In 1962 The Avons left the urban landscape of Battersea and came to live in leafy Effingham. One of Bill's sisters and her husband had bought a newly-built house in the area. Its relative tranquillity appealed to Bill despite meaning a daily commute of at least an hour for him into Brixton where he worked as the director of a furniture shop. So in August 1962 he and Valerie purchased a detached house in Effingham near the north-western end of Strathcona Avenue. It was No 94 and they named it *Avonsville*. It would mean over an hour's commute for Valerie too, travelling regularly to London. In periods when she would be away on tour with Ray and Elaine, Bill's mother would stay in *Avonsville* to keep him company.

According to the Land Registry the transfer of title to Bill was made on 15 August, the vendor being Frederick Arthur Oak, the builder of the main south-east-to-north-west stretch of Strathcona Avenue on land which had for a long period been in the ownership of Effingham solicitor Sidney Alfred Williamson, until sold by him to A J Wait & Co Ltd in November 1958. That stretch of road was in the very early 1960s named not Strathcona Avenue but Norwood Gardens Estate – it was only a little later in the decade that it came to share the name Strathcona Avenue with the much earlier and shorter section of road branching off from Woodlands Road.



Figure 92 *Avonsville* in Strathcona Avenue, Effingham.

Ray and Elaine came to live at *Avonsville* too. On 4 January 1964 they married, at Effingham's Catholic church Our Lady of Sorrows, the ceremony officiated by Father Loader [GRO Ref: Surrey SW 5d 1821, 1964 (Q1)]. In the marriage register they each gave their occupation as professional entertainer and their address as 94, Strathcona Avenue. Elaine's first forename was entered as 'Ellien', presumably in order to be

consistent with her birth certificate. Ray's father was named as Walter 'Frederick' Adams, deceased army pensioner and Elaine's father as William Murtagh, deceased commercial traveller. Bill was one of the witnesses. As explained in Appendix I, Ray's father's second forename was not Frederick but Joseph.



ELLEN and RAY, the AVONS, recording duo, were married on Saturday at Effingham, Surrey. They wrote "Dance On," a hit for the Shadows and Kathy Kirby.

Figure 93 *New Musical Express*, 10 January 1964.

Valerie has fond memories of Effingham:

'I remember, after living in Effingham for a couple of years, I went back to Battersea to visit my brother and I went into a food shop to do some shopping. I realised just how relaxed I had become since living in Effingham when the assistant and some of the customers started tutting because I was taking too long, ordering and chatting to the assistant. In Effingham my life had become far more relaxed than it had been in the hurry and scurry of Battersea.

Another first for me in Effingham was one winter when Bill and I came home from work on the train to Effingham Junction. It had been snowing heavily and we couldn't believe our eyes when one man got out a pair of skis and put them on and skied away.

Our first Christmas in Effingham had a heavy snowfall. Strathcona Avenue was a parade of new houses. Everyone was joining in clearing each other's drives so that they could get their cars out. Again, this kind of thing was not usually practised when living in Battersea.

For my business I put together a number of professional vocal groups and we used to rehearse at Strathcona Avenue, always in the daytime so that it didn't disturb the neighbours too much. They were a nice, friendly group of people in Strathcona Avenue, but as my business began to grow we knew we would have to move to a larger house, which was when we moved to Pachesham Park in Leatherhead. I lived there until the death of Bill, in 1997.

I loved my time and my friends in Effingham and Leatherhead, but once my husband had died I needed to get away, which was why I moved. Although it's been a long time since I lived in Strathcona Avenue, it will always hold a place in my happy memories.'

The later years

As indicated in Figures 85-91, The Avons had reconfigured themselves by early 1963. Valerie began making a separate career of her own in composing and artist management.

Meanwhile Ray and Elaine cast themselves as 'The Avons' up to early 1964; after this they renamed themselves 'Ray and Ellien' and in 1965 recorded *You'll Never Find a Love Like Mine* on the Fontana label. They recorded also with Decca but never had a major hit. For many years they performed on tour in Britain – for instance, at the Cabaret Room, Formby in May 1971 – and abroad as seen in Figure 94.



Figure 94 *The Stage and Television Today*, 5 July 1973.



Figure 95 Cover of the LP *The Best of The Avons*, released in 1978.

In 1978 Ray and Elaine recorded their one and only LP record *The Best of the Avons*, in collaboration with the Rama III Orchestra of Poland led by Jan Rejnowicz. It was produced by SRT Productions Ltd. The track list was as follows:

1 Gentle On My Mind
2 You Light Up My Life
3 Don't
4 Isn't She Lovely
5 Annie's Song
6 The Way We Were
7 You Are The Sunshine Of My Life
8 Love And Imagination
9 Mexican Whistler
10 Neil Sedaka Medley
11 The Last Farewell

In the later 1970s they began cruising, which was very successful. They worked as entertainers under the title 'The Avons' for the Royal Viking Line from 1977. In 1980 Ray was made Cruise Director for RVL whilst Elaine became a successful agent supplying acts for the ships. The *Sea* and the *Sky* were among the RVL ships he worked on. Changes in the company led Ray to leave in 1994, taking up the position of Cruise Director with Crystal Cruises, joining the team on the ship *Crystal Symphony*. (These details are taken from his former *Facebook* page and from exchanges he had with former cruise staff on the website *https://cruiseoctopus.com*.)

Sadly, Ray and Elaine eventually divorced, after which Ray remarried to a wealthy American lady. He retired to the beautiful city of Rancho Mirage in California, using the surname Avon-Adams. In about 2020 it was found that he had cancer for which he was operated on several times. His last *Facebook* posting was on 15 September 2022. He died soon afterwards on 31 October, his second wife having not long predeceased him.



Figure 96 Ray's picture on *Facebook*, up to 2022.

Meanwhile Valerie pursued her own interests, firstly promoting new records on behalf of Pye Records and then putting together several successful vocal groups. She continued writing and had a successful career as a songwriter, manager and producer. Under her professional name Valerie Avon she co-wrote with her songwriting partner Harold Spiro the song *Long Live Love* which represented Britain in the 1974 *Eurovision Song Contest*. The performing of the song by Olivia Newton-John was staged by the BBC at the Dome in Brighton on 6 April. In the overall contest it achieved a commendable 4th place with 14 points, the winners being ABBA for their song *Waterloo*.





Figure 97a, b Olivia Newton-John at Brighton singing *Long Live Love* for Britain's Eurovision entry; 6 June 1974.

Many of the groups and solo artists developed by Valerie went on to have very successful careers. One such group was Stutz Bear Cats (singing in the style of Manhattan Transfer) who went on to have their own TV show. Another group Cover Girls (singing in the style of The Pointer Sisters) was at one time the most requested girl group in Britain. When Cover Girls split, one of the members Maddi Cryer went on to perform as an excellent impressionist, singer and actress in many top television shows such as *The Little and*

Large Show, *The Bobby Davro Show*, *You've Gotta Be Jokin'*, the *Children's Royal Performance*, *Dr Who* and many others. Maddi is still represented to this day by Valerie.

Bill was in partnership with an estate agent and opened a furniture shop in Brixton, which was very successful until the Brixton Riots of 10-12 April 1981, when the shop was burnt to the ground. By this time he and Valerie were living in Pachesham Park, Leatherhead.

Following all the worry over Bill's business, he had a heart attack, followed by a stroke. He lost the use of his left arm and leg and when he returned home (which backed on to the Leatherhead Golf Course) the members had clubbed together to get him a golfing trolley and, as he was the Captain, they had a number plate 'WILLY 1' put on it. This was a great gift, as it enabled him to drive around the course and see his friends.

In late December 1981 Valerie and Elaine (and perhaps Ray too) were interviewed by *The Sun* as shown in Figure 98.

Valerie continued to live many years in Surrey but eventually left the county and today lives in Sussex. Elaine died in Surrey in January 2026.



NOW: Still happy, Ellien, Ray and Valerie

THE AVONS

We never had lots of money

For the last 20 years, Ellien Avon has been nudged in the ribs by jokers cracking: "Ding, dong, Avon calling."

The joker always creases up – but Ellien doesn't mind a bit.

Nor do the other original Avons – her husband Ray and sister-in-law Valerie.

Ellien, 40, says: "You'd be surprised how many people still recognise us. We're always being asked to sing Seven Little Girls."

And more often than not, they are able to oblige.

For though the Avons are no longer still together as a group, all three are involved in showbusiness.

Valerie, 44, left the group in 1963 to spend more time with husband Bill. She has managed Tina Charles and Mac and Katie Kissoon. Now she looks after the Stutz Bear Cats who appeared on this year's Miss United Kingdom Show.

Ray, 43, and Ellien, who married in 1964, now work as entertainments directors on a cruise line.

Ray and Ellien live in Kent, Valerie and Bill live in Surrey.

Valerie says: "We never had lots of money because we split everything three ways. But Ellien and I splashed out on musquash coats. They were £100 which seemed like a fortune then. But I wouldn't have done any of it differently. I had never planned on being in showbusiness. It was more of an accident. We've all lived charmed lives."

Figure 98 *The Sun* (facsimile), 21 December 1981.



Figure 99 Valerie on her birthday, 2025.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figures 1, 2, 4: from *https://www.irishgenealogy.ie*
Figure 3: from *https://www.buildingsofireland.ie* [Survey Data Reg No 50070048]
Figure 5: from Glasnevin Heritage (Facebook): *https://www.facebook.com/profile/100064451661581/search/?q=annamoe*
Figure 6: London Picture Archive Record No 51804, photo from 1978; LCC Photograph Library Catalogue No SC_PHL_01_032_N14102
Figures 7, 14, 27, 31, 34, 50, 51, 55, 69, 91, 95: ephemera advertised on *eBay*
Figure 8: adapted by Christopher John Hogger from the *Geographer's A-Z London Atlas*, Edition 9, 1991
Figure 9: from *https://visitclaphamjunction.com/about/the-junction-history*
Figure 10: from *https://davecurran.blogspot.com/2009/04/rip-caius-house-battersea.html*
Figures 11-13, 15, 17, 19, 20, 58, 65, 67, 71: rightsholder unknown: image courtesy of The British Library Board
Figure 16: Trinity Mirror / *Mirrorpix* photo January 1957 (detail)
Figure 18: geograph.org.uk image 1446009.jpg dated 16 August 2009: Mike Faherty/Theatre Peckham/CC BY-SA 2.0
Figure 21: from *Wireless World*, *publ* Iliffe & Sons Ltd, 1958
Figure 22: *Supplement on the 1958 Radio Show*, in *The Times*, 28 August 1958
Figure 23: *David Jacobs: A Celebration*, BBC archives, *https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01rr3h4/p01rr33d*
Figure 24: *History of the BBC*, BBC archives, *https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p022kvkt*
Figures 25, 48, 88: image © Daily Mail & General Trust: image courtesy of The British Library Board
Figures 26, 32, 33, 60, 62, 66, 80-83, 85, 90: image © National World Publishing Ltd: image courtesy of The British Library Board
Figures 28, 30, 36-38, 48, 53, 54, 57, 59, 63, 64, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78: by kind permission of Reach plc / *Mirrorpix*
Figure 29: from *http://www.ohboy.org.uk/the-mudlarks*
Figures 35, 39-41, 43, 44, 61, 87, 89, 94: from the British Newspaper Archive: image © The Stage Media Company Ltd
Figure 42: from *https://www.jerripedia.org/wiki/File:USA15NewEra60s.jpg*
Figure 45: from *https://www.bigredbook.info/nat_gonella.html* on *This Is Your Life*
Figure 46: from *https://www.discogs.com/artist/4663918-The-Avon-Sisters*
Figure 47: from *Wikipedia* licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Netherlands licence
Figures 49, 52: from the internet, unattributed
Figure 56: image © D C Thomson & Co Ltd (Newspapers): image courtesy of The British Library Board
Figure 68: from BBC archives, *https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p09n637c*
Figure 73: from *https://televisionheaven.co.uk/biographies/hylda-baker*
Figure 75: from *https://www.r2ok.co.uk/genarder.htm* (detail)
Figure 77: from *https://www.goldenoldies.se*
Figure 79: from *Wikipedia*
Figure 84: from *Disc* magazine, 14 April 1962
Figure 86: image © Highland News & Media Ltd: image courtesy of The British Library Board
Figure 92: from Christopher John Hogger
Figure 93: from *https://www.worldradiohistory.com/UK/New-Musical-Express/1964/NME-1964-01-10-S-OCR.pdf*
Figure 96: from *https://www.facebook.com/raymond.avonadams*
Figure 97: from *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1eOMLWh0YIE&list=RD1eOMLWh0YIE&start_radio=1*
Figures 98, 99, 105-113: from Valerie Murtagh
Figures 100-104: from *Ancestry* public tree *https://www.ancestry.co.uk/family-tree/person/tree/28455353/person/150087449509/facts*

RECORDINGS

Many of the songs mentioned in this article can be listened to on the internet. Examples include:

Seven Little Girls	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DDYpr99FgEk*
Which Which Doctor	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L2N9Ew223tk*
My Grandfather's Clock	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXs7ozP_P6s*
Alone at Eight	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fAuYrEFBqhM*
Four Little Heels	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8mZzk62ldmI*
This was meant to be	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wib8mBjn9GI*
Long Live Love	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1eOMLWh0YIE*

APPENDIX I

Ray's family background



Figure 100 Ray as a baby.

As noted earler, Ray was born in St Helier on 19 July 1938. His mother Olivia Matilda (née Anquetil) had been born in Jersey on 3 October 1894 and baptised in St Ouen parish on 11 November 1894. Her father Edmund Andrew Anquetil was at that time a postman and her mother was named Isabella (née Fauvel). Ray's father Walter Joseph Parle was also born in 1894, in Devon [GRO Ref: Exeter 5b 89, 1894 (Q3)]. Walter Joseph's father, also named Walter Joseph (senior), was occupied as a builder's storekeeper at the time of the 1901 Census when the family was living in Colchester, Essex at 79, Northgate Street. Walter Joseph's mother Matilda (née Richer), then a tailoress, had been born in Colchester; she may have married Walter Joseph (senior) in Ireland, as their first child (also named Matilda) had been born in Cork; another of their children, Helena Emily, had been born in Alexandria, Egypt.

Ray's father Walter Joseph seems not to have made a good start in his early life as in 1906, at age 12, he and another boy were convicted at Colchester Police Court of cruelty, having deliberately injured 32 cows with heavy sticks. The newspaper report of this incident makes difficult reading. His youth had probably been an unhappy one. By the time of the 1911 Census his parents had split: his father, still occupied as a builder's storekeeper and described as separated and an Army pensioner, was living at 8, Hospital Lane in Colchester with a likewise separated woman Edith King and her children; however, Matilda and some of her children (but not Walter Joseph) were boarding in the household of an unmarried iron moulder at 122, Harwick Road in Colchester.

Walter Joseph had meanwhile joined the Army and in the 1911 Census was shown ranked as 'Boy' with the 1st Devon Regiment in the Lucknow Barracks at North Tidworth near Andover, Hampshire. By early 1915, while still in the Army, he had begun a relationship with his future wife Olivia Matilda. Their first child Olivia Beatrice was born in Colchester in late 1915. They married a year later [GRO Ref: Reading 2c 830, 1916 (Q4)]. Their marriage certificate describes him as a Private in the Army Service Corps serving as a munition worker. His father Walter Joseph (senior) was described as a Sergeant Major also in the Army Service Corps. Olivia's father Edmund Andrew was now a cycle engineer. The marriage took place on 16 December 1916 at the Register Office in Reading, where they were living at 10, Vachel Road. Walter Joseph (senior) was indeed holding the rank described on the certificate: he had enlisted in London on 9 September 1916 for service in the Royal Defence Corps, while still living in Colchester, having already served 22 years in the Army in the previous century, 20 years with the 1st Devons and then 2 years with the Royal Garrison Regiment. His Service Record in The National Archives notes that at the time of his 1916 enlistment his next of kin was recorded as 'Unmarried wife Mrs Edith E King, 8 Hospital Lane, Colchester'.

On 6 August 1917 Walter Joseph, ranked as Private, retired from the Army, discharged owing to being medically unfit. Only a few details of his military service are known, these drawn from his WW1 medal cards (of which there are two, in The National Archives), and these are not straightforward. It appears that he served as Walter Joseph Parle with the 1st Devons having Service Number 9108, entering the 'theatre of war' on 22 August 1914, and was duly awarded the usual WW1 medals (Victory, British and Star). However, one card's initial entries for these awards were struck out and the remark 'Forfeits: Desertion' added alongside. But then further entries on that same card indicate that the awards had been restored, these having the remark 'Found serving as No 36779 as W J Adams in the Somerset Light

Infantry'. It is not clear what to make of all this, but the transition to a new regiment having adopted a new surname may have created confusions in the Army's bureaucracy – rather than a 'desertion' there may have been only an irregularity in the way these transitions were implemented. An additional remark on one of the medal cards states that Walter Joseph later re-enlisted on 8 February 1920 with the Royal Engineers.

In September 1917, shortly after leaving the Army, Walter Joseph was working as a horse dealer. This is known from a lengthy newspaper article [*The Chronicle* (Reading), 21 September 1917] reporting a case before the Reading Magistrates in which Walter Joseph was accused of having fraudulently obtained financial aid payments from the office of the Reading War Pensions Committee without having divulged to the staff there that he was already in receipt of war gratuity money. He disputed the accusation but was convicted and fined £2-10s with the alternative of 21 days' imprisonment.

The 1921 Census finds Walter Joseph, Olivia and their three children back in Colchester, living at 41, Vineyard Street. His occupation was given as soldier, consistent with the observation above that he had re-enlisted in 1920. On the Census form he incorrectly entered 'St Helier, Jersey' as his birthplace.

The family's movements and activities throughout the rest of the Twenties and most of the Thirties are unknown to us, except that by 1938 they must have been living in Jersey, where Ray was born. Olivia would have been aged nearly 44 when she gave birth to Ray, and he would have been 23 years younger than his earliest sibling Olivia Beatrice. His mother was old enough to have been his grandmother.

In July 1940 the forces of Nazi Germany occupied Jersey and instituted the 'Registration and Identification of Persons (Jersey) Order' whereby every person residing there had to possess and carry an Identity Card.



Figure 101 The Identity Cards issued to Walter Joseph and Olivia Matilda in 1941.

Walter Joseph registered for his card on 8 January 1941 using his adopted Adams surname and giving his address as 11 Seale Street in St Helier; he gave his birth date incorrectly as 7 June 1891. Olivia registered on the same day, giving her birth date incorrectly as 5 October 1896; she further declared (as was required) that she had with her a child Raymond Stanley Adams born at 2 Coie Cottage on 19 July 1938. She gave her address as 9 Coie Cottage, St Saviour's Road in St Helier, indicating that she and Walter Joseph were now living apart.

Walter Joseph died in Hautville, St John's Road, St Helier on 3 February 1953 and was buried on 9 February at Mont à L'Abbé cemetery 'in the poor ground', according to the cemetery's burial register (which gives his age incorrectly as 68 instead of 58).

This, then, is currently all we know of Ray's rather complex and possibly turbulent family background.



Figure 102 Ray with his mother Olivia Matilda.



Figure 103 Ray with his mother Olivia Matilda.



Figure 104 Olivia Matilda with the wife Alice of Ray's brother Ronald Albert.

APPENDIX II

Additional Avons photographs



Figure 105 Wedding of Elaine and Ray at Our Lady of Sorrows, 4 July 1964;.
at far left is Valerie whose husband Bill is to the right of Elaine (her arm holding his).



Figure 106 The Avons – Elaine, Ray and Valerie.

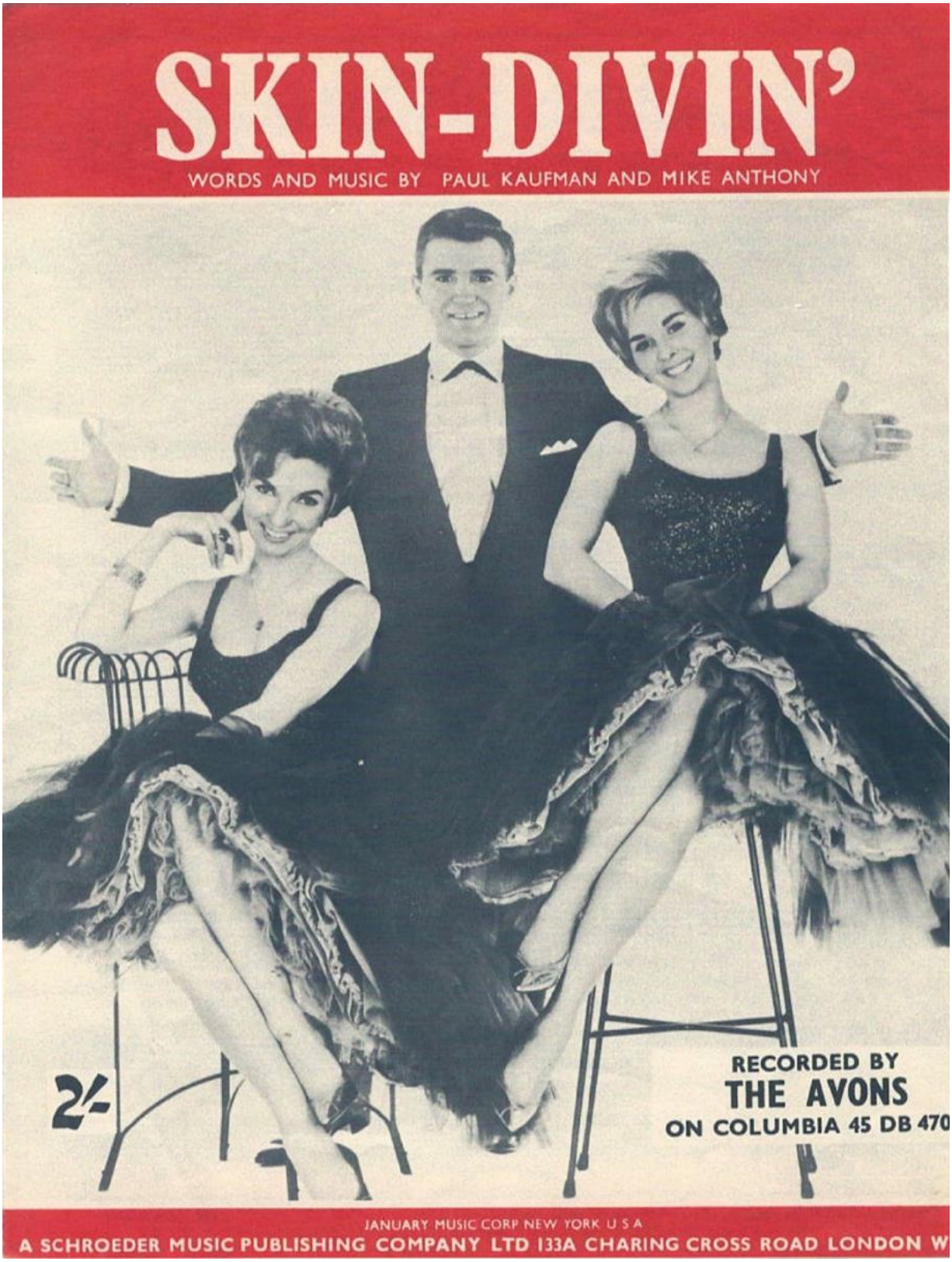


Figure 107 Sheet music for *Skin-Divin'*, a song recorded as a Columbia single by The Avons in 1961.



Figure 108 The Avons – Elaine, Ray and Valerie.



Figure 109 The Avons – Elaine, Ray and Valerie.



Figure 110 Award by *Disc* magazine to The Avons for *Seven Little Girls*.



Figure 111 The Silver Disc award for more than 250,000 copies sold of *Seven Little Girls*, early 1964.

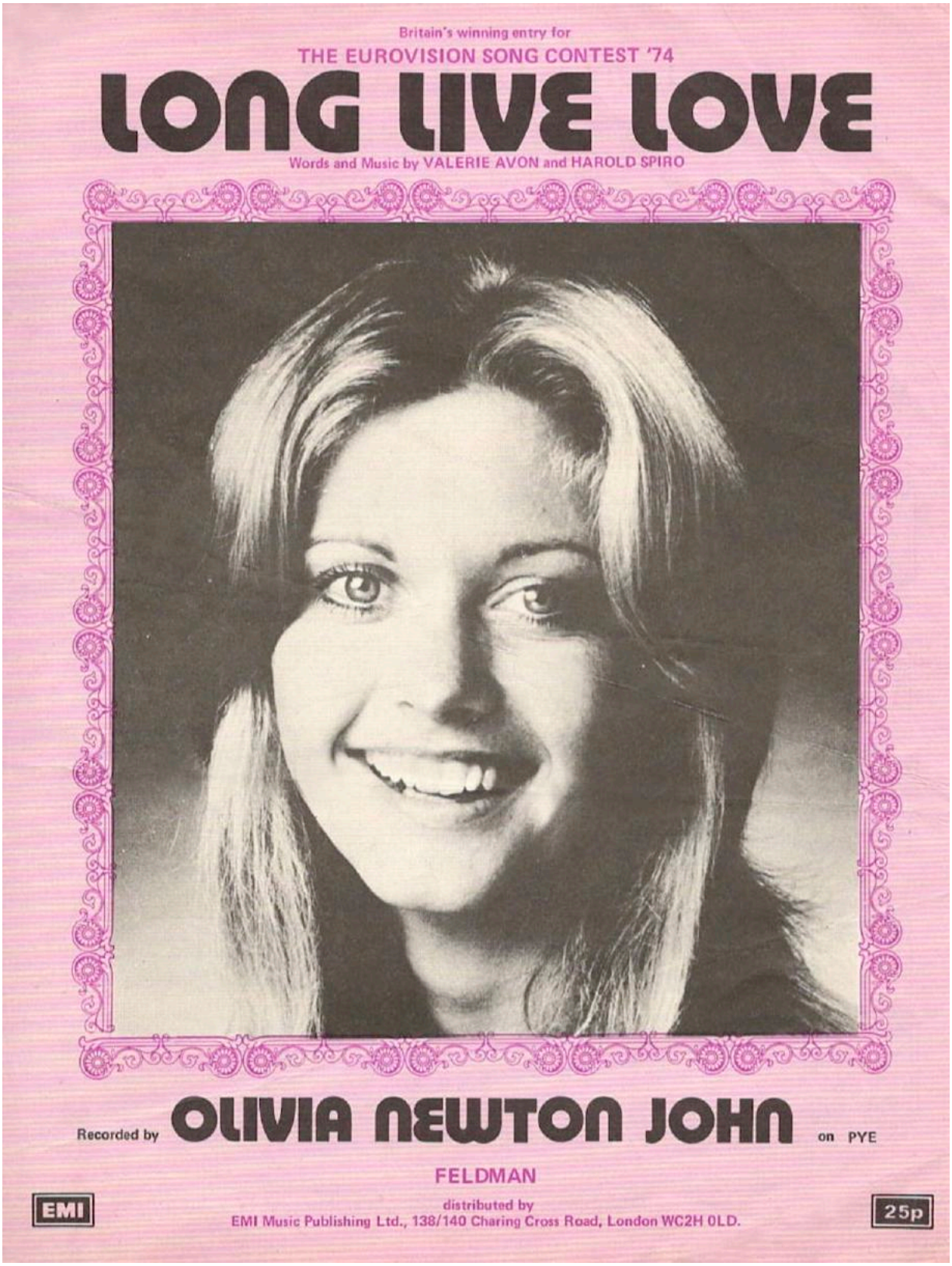


Figure 112 Sheet music for the song *Long Live Love* composed by Valerie and Harold Spiro, performed by Olivia Newton John as Britain's entry in the 1974 Eurovision Song Contest.



Figure 113 Medal, bearing the BBC's motto 'Nation shall speak unto nation', awarded for Britain's entry in the 1974 Eurovision Song Contest.





Oral History – Laura Annie (née Cox) Essam – Supplement

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

This supplementary article clarifies the mention of a surname in the primary article.

Introduction

The primary article [*Studies in the History of Effingham*, Vol **8**, Article 65, 2026] presented a transcript of the oral history interview conducted with Mrs Laura Annie (née Cox) Essam in 1970.

In the interview Mrs Essam mentioned the proprietor of The Prince Blücher inn at the Effingham crossroads, giving his surname as Chandler. In both the transcript and the commentary following it this surname is questioned, as at the time the article was written we had not encountered this surname in the course of studying Effingham's history; the possibility was raised there that she had intended the surname Challis.

However, it is now known that Mrs Essam had been correct. Joseph Chandler, baptised in Buckland, Surrey on 22 April 1849, had come to Effingham with his wife Elizabeth Jane (née Edney) around the mid-1880s to take up the position of publican at the Blücher. Electoral Registers list him there from 1886 up to 1892 although by early 1891 (as the 1891 Census shows) he had by then moved on to Stoke D'Abernon to become the publican of The Plough inn there. He stayed there for at least two decades until moving again, this time to Cobham where he became the publican of the White Lion Inn. He died in 1925.

INDEX

For each term, the index gives the page number(s) of only the first occurrence(s) of that term within the article(s).

Adams, Joseph Stewart 1, 9, 204
Adams, Raymond Stanley 255
Adams, Walter Joseph 256
Agmondesham, John 223
Andrews, (Reverend) Joshua 224
Anquetil, Edmund Andrew 276
Anquetil, Olivia Matilda 256
Arbuthnot, Andrew Carmichael 62
Arbuthnot, Harold Denison 54
Arnaud, Yvonne 11, 103
Arnold, Ernest 6
Ashby, John 43
Ashby, Susan 43
Ashplat Wood 60
Ashtead Polo Club 49
Ashwell, Lena 100
Aster Homes Ltd 152
Avon Sisters, The 240
Avons, The 237
Avonsville (Strathcona Avenue) 270

Bad Sulza (prison camp) 134
Bader, Douglas Robert Steuart 134
Baker, Hylda 265
Ballet Russes 111
Bandstand 259
Baronova, Irina 111
Bayly, (Reverend) Ernest Frederic 54
Beech Avenue 29, 55, 206
Belgian refugees 62, 99
Bell, Jane 117
Bergman, Peter 161
Best, Sigismund Payne 153
Big High Grove 63
Birch House 5
Blacksmith's Arms, The 205
Blackwell, Ada Margaret 15
Blackwell, Alfred Abraham 15
Blackwell, Elizabeth Teresa 15
Blackwell, Lillian Mary 15
Blackwell, Patricia Josephine 15
Blaney, Norah 99
Blaxland, William 55
Blücher Hotel, The 8, 55
Blue Hungarian Band, The 55
Bolingbroke Grove (Battersea) 46
Bolingbroke House (Battersea) 46
Borrie, David Anderson 139
Bretherton, Dora Emily (née Beesley) 26
Brickfield Cottage 12
Brind, Wilfred Charles, John 146
Bristol, George 55
Brook, John 145
Brooker, Allen 45
Brooker, Ann 44
Brooker, John 45
Brown, Alan 33
Brown, George (Foreign Secretary) 153
Brown, Sheila 9
Brown's Field 53
Browns 230
Bunce, John Thomas 203
Burlington Club 145
Bushell, Roger 134
Butler, Charles 43
Butler, Daniel 43
Byers, Charles Cecil 145
Byers, Florence Marion 145
Byers, Frank 145

Caius Club (Battersea) 240
Calburn, Robert Reitmeyer 7, 40
Canadian soldiers in Effingham 11
Cannon Grove (Fetcham) 58
Cantara (West Horsley) 18
Carn Pit Field 205
Carten, Audrey 110
Carter, Alfred William 203
Cassell, Brian 151
Catholic Boys' Brigade 199
Central School, Effingham 10
Cesareo, Mary Ann 139
Chalk, Rowena Joan 147
Chandler, Joseph 289
Chapin, Sydney Herbert 119
Chertsey Abbey 222
Church Cottages 8
Church Road (Bookham) 5
Church Street 205, 230
Churchill, John Malcolm Thorpe Fleming ('Mad Jack') 138
Churchill, Peter 138
Clitheroe, Jimmy 267
Cobham Way (East Horsley) 147
Cochran, Charles Blake 105
Cockle, Anthony 147
Coffee Rooms (Effingham) 55
Colets Piling Ltd 55, 147
Collett, Peter 33
Commoners' Day, 2010 161
Commoners' Rights 161
Compton, (Sir) Edmund Gerald 153

Cook, William 140
Cook, William George 140
Cooke, (Reverend) Samuel 221
Cooke, Henry 226
Cooper, Edward 110
Cordwell, Norah Mignon 99
Coronation Celebrations, 1937 63, 201
Cox, James 62
Cox, Laura Annie 289
Crackers Club 145
Crane, June 29
Cranmore House (West Horsley) 55
Crouch, Charles Edward William 198
Crowther, Leslie 266
Cryer, Maddi 273
Currie, William 219
Curtis, Charles John 5, 10
Curtis, William Thomas 5
Czarnikow, Julius Caesar 49

Dachau (concentration camp) 138
Dalehurst (Orestan Lane) 150
Daniels, Maxine 250
Day, Harry Melville Arbuthnot 137
De Nys, Anne 110
Diamantidi, Anthony Nicholas 2, 108
Diamond Jubilee, 1897 53
Dibdin, Aubrey 206
Dignon, Edward 11
Dixon, Philip 33
Doodlebug, in Effingham, 1944 6
Douglas, Craig 259
Dowse, Alan 157
Dowse, Gerald Robert 119
Dowse, Jane Margretta 117
Dowse, Patricia Mary 119
Dowse, Robert 117
Dowse, Ronald Gordon McGregor 119
Dowse, Sydney Hastings 117
Dowse, William Robert 117
Drew, Peter 32
Durham, Philip Barron Bruce 100

East Surrey Regiment 62
Eastwick Park 51
Edney, Elizabeth Jane 289
Effingham Common 1, 9, 39, 50, 113, 161
Effingham Common Road 9, 50, 104
Effingham Council School 204
Effingham Cricket Club 12, 49, 170
Effingham Developments Ltd 150
Effingham Drum and Fife Band 205
Effingham Golf Club 208
Effingham Hill House 49
Effingham House 48
Effingham House Stables 58
Effingham Junction 2, 9
Effingham Manor Golf Club 63, 108
Effingham Parish Council 50, 146, 161, 203
Effingham Playing Fields Committee 63, 206
Effingham Residents and Ratepayers Association 146
Effingham Scout Group (1st Effingham) 207
Effingham Working Men's Club 57
Elms, The (Battersea) 46
Elms, The (Leewood Way) 146
Elms, The (Orestan Lane) 146, 205
Elwes, Gervase 99
Elwes, Richard 100
Estler, Adrian George 4, 13, 39
Estler, Mervyn James Paul 39
Ethelwulf, King 220
Eurovision Song Contest, 1974 273
Evans, Rex 110

Fair View (Beech Avenue) 206
Fairbrother, Catherine P 9
Fairclough, Florence May 145
Faith, Adam 259
Farley, (Reverend) William 234
Farrar, (Sir) George Herbert 99
Farrar, Gwendoline ('Gwen') 99
Fauvel, Isabella 276
Fetcham Park Polo Club 50
Finden, Richard 226
Fitznell Farm (Ewell) 62
Fletcher, Florence Ellen 239
Fletcher, Rosaline Violet 239
Fletcher, Thomas Frederick 239
Forest Road 23
Forge House 205
Francis Muir 50
Frankenberg, Adolphus 118
Frankenberg, Gerald Baptist 118
Frankenberg, Maurice Gordon 118
Frankenberg, Patricia Emmeline 117
Frankenberg, Reginald Hastings 118
Frankenberg, Rhoda Janetta 118
Frankenberg, Ronald Evelyn 118
Frankenberg, Rudolph 118
Fraser, Rosaline 239
Freeman, Alan 262
Friends of Effingham Common 161
Fuller, Walter Ernest 15
Fyfield Manor (Andover) 157

Galloway, Austin Edgar 62
Gammage, Emily 1
Garnett, Claude 12
Gates, Ernest Everard 107
Gates, Ernest Henry 107
Gerard, Teddie 104
Gillespie, Ivor Mitchell 39
Glen Lynn 5
Godfrey, (Reverend) Joseph 224
Gonella, Nathaniel Charles 253
Gordon, Elizabeth Emily Frances 237
Gordon, Henry Edward 237

Great Escape, The 138
Greville, Mrs (Polesden Lacey) 104
Grove Paddock 107
Guildford Borough Council 152, 161
Guildford Road 55, 207
Guileshill Farm 2
Gunn, Alastair ('Sandy') 131

Hall, Kenneth McCrae 146
Hall, Thomas Farmer 48
Halt, The 23
Hammond, William 223
Hanley, Jimmy Douglas 31
Hardement, Annie Wyllie Millar (née Boyd) 10
Haverthorn 5
Hawkey, John 33
Heath, Ted 259
Heathview (East Horsley) 40
Heathway 26
Hebeler, Roland Stuart Scott 115
Hemus, Doreen Emily 1, 39
Hemus, Frederick William 1
Hendry, Brian 161
Hewitt, Percy John 10
High Barn Cottages 205
High Barn Farm 63
High Barn Road 205
Hodgson, Christiana 118
Holgate, (Reverend) John 223
Hollies, The 63, 209
Holmes, Margaret 154
Home Farm 207, 231
Hooke Common 40
Hooke Copse 40
Hooke Farm 39
Hooke Road (East Horsley) 39
Horsley Towers 12
Howard of Effingham School 150
Howard, The Lord (public house) 23
Hughes, Basil 101
Hull, Alan 33
Hurn, Robert E 60
Hurstpierpoint College 121
Hut Hotel (Wisley) 104

Illesley, Marjorie Jean 106
Indian Farm 6, 26, 219
Irvine, John 32
Ivor Novello (award to The Avons) 267

Jacobs, David 247
James, Bertram Arthur ('Jimmy') 138
Jenkins, David Thomas 239
Jenkins, Garry A 239
Jenkins, Patricia Valerie 237
Jenkins, Sidney Maurice 239
Jones, Cecil Bramall 67
Jones, Keith 33
Jubilee Celebration Committee 203
Juke Box Jury 247

Kander (Leewood Way) 147
Keeling, Lena 115, 204
Kelsey, Sarah 43
Kerrigan, Agnes 237
Killick, Arthur John 50, 148
Killick, Ernest Arthur 148
Killick, John 148
King Brothers, The 250
King George V Playing Fields 63, 148, 163
King George's Field and Hall 146
Kingham, William Griffith 5
Kirke, Anne Elizabeth 117
Krol, Stanislaw 134

Lamb, Reginald Cecil 205
Lambert & Butler Ltd 43
Lambert, Adria Elsa 47
Lambert, Allen 43
Lambert, Annie Grace 47
Lambert, Charles (I) 43
Lambert, Charles (II) 43
Lambert, Charles Edward 43
Lambert, Charles Edward Winterton 47
Lambert, Edith Portia Mary 48
Lambert, Ethel Constance 48
Lambert, Hilda Emma Charlotte 47
Lambert, Jessie Evelyn 47
Lambert, Louisa 47
Lambert, Nina 43, 208
Lambert, Robert 44
Lambert, Susanna Sarah 44
Lancey, Oliver de 219
Land Girls 4
Larner, (Reverend) Henry Meredith 49
Lazy L (Effingham Common) 41
Leatherhead Football Club 58
Leatherhead Horse Show 58
Leaver, John David Almond 150
Leebrooke 40
Leebrooke Farm 39
Leewood Farm 40
Leewood Way 117
Lemon, Clara Isabella 62
Levy, Benn Wolfe 108
Lewin, Audrey Hale 103
Lewis, Bridges George McGibbon 247
Lewis, Carroll 243
Leyton, John 156
Lightfoot, Helen Constance 59
Little Lodge (at The Lodge) 203
Little Thatch 29
Loader, Herbert William 16, 270
Lodge, The 7, 10, 50, 148, 203
Lord, Elizabeth Emily 237
Lower Farm 5, 104
Lower Road 59, 205
Loxley, Ernest Albert 207

Loxley, Peter Edward 207
Lucas, Alfred 205
Lyne, Albert Charles 99

MacNair, James Alexander Hill 56
Madge's Field 205
Malandrinos, Andrea Basil 25
Mallaby-Deeley, (Sir) Harry 6, 12
Mallaby-Deeley, Guy Meyrick Mallaby 12
Malthus, (Reverend) Henry 234
Manor Barn Cottages 230
Manor Barn House 230
Manor Farm (Browns) 230
Manor of East Horsley 219
Manor of Effingham East Court 219
Marrington, Donalda 147
Martyr, Thomas 227
Mascall, Edward 226
Maunders, George 58
McEvoy, Jane 118
McLellan, Hugh 11
Memorial Hall (Effingham Junction) 11
Merton Priory 222
Mickleham Hall 56
Middle Farm 41
Miliam, Eric 40
Miller, (Reverend) John 224
Mills, Ethel Almena 207
Mooney, Lilian Olivia (née Lukin) 62
Morland, Peter 153
Mudlarks, The 248
Murtagh, Ellien Patricia Mary 237
Murtagh, John 237
Murtagh, William Gordon 238
Murtagh, William Patrick 237

National School (Effingham) 3
Neave, Airey Middleton Sheffield 153
New Georgians, The 253
New Marsh Farm 2
Newton-John, Olivia 273
Nicholls, Margaret Mary 206
Nicholls, Peter James Patrick 207
Nichols, Beverley 112
North, Isabel Ann 154
Norwood Farm 1, 11, 113, 230
Norwood Gardens Estate 270
Nyce Court 219

O'Connor, Monica Mercy 224, 289
Oak, Frederick Arthur 270
Oaken Wood 63
Oflag VI-B (prison camp) 134
Old Lane 9
Old Lane Gardens 3
Old Village Hall, The 55
Omewego (Effingham Junction) 25
Orchard Cottage 41, 104
Orestan Developments Ltd 150
Orestan Lane 8, 146, 205
Oughton, Annie Winifred 11
Our Lady of Sorrows 7, 11, 207, 270
Owen, Adam 161

Page, Antony Donald 67, 151
Paget, Caroline 110
Paget, Charles 110
Parker, Christina Sarah Charlotte Hartley 10
Parle, Olivia Beatrice 276
Parle, Walter Joseph 276
Patten, Frank John 205
Pauling, George Craig Saunders 7, 54, 199
Payne, Herbert Arthur 8
Peace Celebrations, 1919 205
Pearman Smith, Joseph 106
Pease, John Henry 56
Penfold, 'Nobby' 14
Perkins, Trevor 259
Petitt, Lloyd Cyril Garnish 12
Photographic Reconnaissance 125
Pick of the Pops 247
Pindar, Arnold George 161
Plough Cottages 205
Plough Inn, The 8
Poland, Edward Philip 207
Pole, Frank 205
Pollock, Hugo McDowell 154
Ponsford, James 9
Poupart, Jane Frances 17
Price, Helen Maude 9
Price, Philip Aubrey 62
Primrose League, The 53
Prince Blücher, The 49, 289
Provatoroff, Vladimir 111

Railway Cottages 6, 9
Rainbow Room (Jersey) 254
Ranger, George 199
Red House, The 59
Richer, Matilda 276
Rose, Maxwell 50
Rosenius, Karin 157
Ross, Effie Jane 209
Ross, James Aitchison 235
Rowbarns Manor (East Horsley) 223
Rowland, Roland ('Tiny') 154
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve 122

Sachsenhausen (concentration camp) 138
Saddleton, Brian 33
Sale, Alfred 6
Sawyer, Henry 205
Searle, Frederick George 23
Sheppard, William George 13
Silver Disc (award to The Avons) 258
Silver Jubilee Celebrations, 1935 63, 201
Simmon(d)s, Rita 9
Sir Douglas Haig Hotel, The 8, 9, 107

Six-Five Show 248
Skelton, George Felix 157
Skelton, Margot Cecilia 157
Skelton, Penelope Alexandra 157
Skinner, Peter 40
Slaters Oak 7, 12, 41
Snow, Edward Winterton 47
Snow, Emma Anne 47
Soldiers' and Sailors' Association 54
Sonderlager A (prison camp) 138
Sopwith, (Sir) Thomas Octave Murdoch 13
Souchon, Hippolyte Louis Wiehe du Coudray 63
Sparling, Frank 33
Spiro, Harold 273
St Lawrence Church 49, 220
St Lawrence School 9, 150, 164
Stalag Luft III (prison camp) 117
Station Cottages 9
Still, Ernest Robert 60
Stores, The (Woodlands Road) 203
Stovell, Arthur Archibald 8, 205
Strand School 11
Strathcona Avenue 270
Street, Ralph Edgar 57, 205
Street, The 55, 147, 209
Surrey (Princess of Wales) Yeomanry 56
Surrey Agricultural Association 62
Surrey Gardens 2, 11
Surrey Union Foxhounds 48
Sutton, Charles Thomas 12, 151

Talton Lodge (Newbold on Stour) 107
Tester, Sydney Desmond 11
Thanks (Effingham Junction) 25
Thornet Wood 63
Tithe Barn (Effingham) 219
Tithe Map for Effingham 233
Tithes 220
Topper, Michael 32
Topper, Peter 32
Townsend, John 154
Trish, Robert Harry 14
Tunnicliff, John Levi 40
Turner, Joan Thora Andrea 39
Tyrrell, Edward 207
Tyrrell, Edward Henry John 207

Upper Farm 230

Valenta, Arnošt 136
Vass, William 58
Vernon, (Sir) William Michael 157
Vicarage, The Old 234
Victory Cottages 207
Village Day (Summer Fête), 2010 163

Walenn, Herbert 99
Walker, (Reverend) William 224
Wallace, Ralph Frank 57
Waller, Jesse 9
Waller, Maurice 18
Waller, Michael Stanley 9
Wallis, (Sir) Barnes Neville 27, 146, 206
Warland, Charles, George 12
Warland, Jack 12
Warren Farm 230
Waterhouse, (Sir) Nicholas Edwin 11
Waylen, Ella 99
West Lane Farm 146
West, Thomas William Plowright 203
White Room Club 145
Wilby, Fred 243
Wilde, Oscar 114
Williamson, Sidney Alfred 270
Willock-Pollen, Henry Court 59
Wilson, Harold (Prime Minister) 153
Windy Ridge 5
Winterborn, Madeline 146
Wise Folly 199
Women's Voluntary Service 11
Woodlands Road 59, 203, 270
Wrenne, William 222
Wright, John 151
Wynne, Wish 100

Yew Tree Cottages 16
Yew Tree House 43, 208

CONTENTS

Oral History – Doreen Emily (née) Hemus 1

Oral History – Michael Stanley Waller 9

Oral History – Ivor Mitchell Gillespie 39

Charles Edward Lambert – Tobacco Magnate of Effingham House 43

Gwen Farrar and the Effingham Theatrical Colony 99

Sydney Hastings Dowse – RAF Pilot and Great Escape Survivor 117

Effingham Common – Commoners' Day in 2010 161

Effingham Celebrations – the Coronation of George VI in 1937 201

The Effingham Tithe Barn 219

The Avons – Popular Music Group of the 1950s and 1960s 237

SUPPLEMENTS

Oral History – Laura Annie (née Cox) Essam – Supplement 289

Index 291

