the Blacksmith's to be shod and then he would call on me for a cup of tea. After all that Charlie used to regularly come for Sunday tea, we got engaged a year before we were married on 30 August 1922.

One day I remember too is when Mother went out the house, to the Institute I think, and I found the wardrobe and the drawers in her bedroom were unlocked and looking in them I found lots of baby clothes. I walked around the room for awhile thinking "somebody must be having a baby; it's not me!" Well it turned out that Mum was to have baby Nancy (she was born Annie Macdonald). On that day I was at a cricket match...again!

Something told me at about six o'clock I should go home. So off I went and I found Father pacing around the house at Manor Farm. Mother had started and he had rung for the Doctor and a Nurse who was going to be resident for three weeks. When he saw me he told me to get on a bike and go down the hill for the Doctor but when I got there he was coming out of the gate. So, there was Nancy, born at eight o'clock on the 23 August 1919.

At about this time Colebrooks told us they were selling up and since Charlie didn't want me to leave Finchampstead and go with Father to his next Farm (Sussex) we got married. We had a lovely wedding day, it poured with rain all day, but we had a nice reception in the big dining room at Manor Farm – the table was in a horseshoe and oh it was really good. We went to Hill Head for our honeymoon.

When we returned home we moved down to Eversley to live and farm at New Farm in Eversley Street, next to the White Hart pub. Charlie's father continued to farm the nearby Bakers Farm, and together we managed the little post office. We had all the family born in New Farm, despite what Charlie says, and we became part of village life in Eversley.

When Father left Manor Farm he went to Sussex for awhile but later he came back to the local area and worked as the Farm Bailiff at Aborfield Hall Farm - young Nancy was then a teenager – but she married in 1945, Father and Mother then retired and so came to live in Eversley at Bakers Farm Cottage".

Submitted 2012 by Geoffrey Bateman; nephew of Katie Leversuch, son of Nancy Wood.

CATHERINE ('KATIE') LEVERSUCH, née WOOD

Transcript of memories by CATHERINE (aka **Katie) MACDONALD WOOD born 28 May 1902 in Campsie, Stirlingshire and who lived at Manor Farm, Finchampstead 1917 to 1922 Her father was James Macmillan Wood (1880 – 1956) a Farm Bailiff. Her mother was Annie Macdonald (1877 – 1940) who left the Isle of Lewis at age 14 to seek work in Glasgow. Her 4 siblings were Robert, Agnes, Donald & Annie, the latter born at Manor Farm in 1919.**

Katie married on the 30 August 1922 in St Mary's Church Eversley to Charles Gordon Leversuch son of local Farmer Charles & Ellen Leversuch. They lived and worked both Bakers Farm and New Farm in Eversley as well as managing Eversley Street Post Office. Their 5 children, all born at New Farm Eversley were, Catherine (Kitty) b 1924*, Ethel b 1926*, Gordon b 1927*, Jean b 1936 and Ellen Jane b 1950. (*deceased)

"I remember I was fifteen when we arrived at Wokingham Station. After the long trip from Scotland we were hungry so we went to a little shop on the corner of the station and where we got a trap to take us out to Manor Farm Finchampstead. I remember I had never seen so many bicycles in my life; we had just one bicycle on the Rosneath Estate in Dunbartonshire but here every turn you went round there seemed to be a bicycle. Well we got there and we eventually started work to our allotted jobs.

I came down here (Manor Farm), as the dairy maid, I made the butter and milked the cows. My father James, known to everyone as "Jimmie", was the Farm Bailiff for a big firm of butchers, Colebrooks of Reading. It was hard work and I had my first heart turn, at age 18 - it was from the heavy lifting of the empty 17 gallon milk churns every day onto the steamer for cleaning – so heavy! The full milk churns used to have to be on the station at Wokingham at half past six in the morning to get the Reading train to London. The men took them; we had about six men under Dad plus two cowmen and us to girls, me and my sister Agnes.

We worked hard but we had time for fun and games and I met Charlie (Leversuch) at a fete and cricket match held at Eversley Cross. I went with Robert (my brother) who already knew Charlie and I remember my Dad saying "you be back before 10 o'clock". Well, at 11 o'clock Charlie and me were just strolling up the hill to Finchampstead and he was already half way down to meet us, shouting the odds! I got the fright of my life for I had thought that I was going to get it alright for he was a real stern man, a real hard Scotsman and a worker.

The next morning brother Robert explained everything to Father and calmed him down, but he wasn't pleased and I got extra duties. I did tell him though how I had met a nice young man and it was for the very first time and how everything in the garden was lovely. Well he (Father) was quite sweet to me then and said he would need to meet Charlie.

This was in the May, for my 18th birthday was about the same time, May 1919. After that Charlie wouldn't let me out of his sight, everyday it seemed he was bringing the horses up to

Mr. Offer (Chairman of Parish Council) presenting Lady Liddell with her 100th birthday scroll.

WINNIE WHITE PRIM PRINCE MIN HENDERS KATHLEEN SHAW

LETTER FROM LADY LIDDELL

Dear Neighbours and Friends,

Further to my letter in the March issue of the Finchampstead Parish Magazine, I am pleased to announce that the response in support of the Lady Liddell Centennial Fund to celebrate my 100th birthday on 20th April has been kind and generous; also, I have been asked to receive personally contributions at White Horse.

On the occasion of my birthday I will be At Home from 11 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. on 20th April to receive visitors and personally thank everyone concerned, and share with them a glass of champagne and a cake.

Mr. George Gaines, first Trustee of my Centennial Fund, or his representative, will be in attendance to receive contributions.

Yours sincerely,
Gladys Liddell.

REFLECTIONS ON ONE HUNDRED YEARS

A Conversation with Dame Helen Gladys Liddell M.B.E.

Lady Liddell was in fine fettle when I called to ask her for some reflections on reaching her hundredth year. The previous week she had kept indoors and even missed a Sunday at church because of a cold, but on the day I called, the window in the sitting room was wide open during a mild March morning.

Had she found a hundred years go by very quickly? On the contrary, she said, it seemed an incredibly long time. "It is extraordinary that all the people I have known intimately, not just one or two, but vast crowds are all gone now - but I hope to meet them again."

In some ways she felt she belonged to a different age, for she belonged to the silent age. It was always very quiet: horses were the only traffic on the roads. In houses there were no sounds but the voices. It was absolutely still and peaceful. But to us, an age of hardship: awfully cold. Houses were not heated as they are today. One would go from a cold room to a

April 1983

very hot one, but there were lots of people to do things: to light the bedroom fire and fill the hip bath. (Lady Liddell has not been spoiled by too much being waited on. It is only in her hundredth year that she is allowing herself the luxury of a downstairs bedroom and bathroom.)

Lady Liddell has led an active and outdoor life. She was as she said "popped on a pony" as soon as she could walk. Her earliest recollection was at the age of 6 being carried on the shoulders of Major Wheeble when her father stood as Member of Parliament for Reading and won. She remembers being terrified by the crowd. When the carriage reached Wokingham on the journey home, the crowd took the horses out of the shafts and the carriage was manhandled for a mile and a half to the family home at Buckhurst on the Ascot Road (now St.Anne's Hotel). Lady Liddell was so pleased when this childhood memory was confirmed a few years ago when a Mr. Wilson (now deceased) of la Broad Street Wokingham came into the White Horse garden and said "I remember as a boy helping to push the carriage from Wokingham to Buckhurst."

Having as its head a Member of Parliament, the whole household decanted to London twice a year, living in a house in Eccleston Square, where for daily exercise, Lady Liddell from the age of 7 to 15 years rode horses in Rotten Row. The family used to go to the French Riviera in the spring and to Scotland in the autumn. The winters in Berkshire must have been much colder than they are now because Lady Liddell remembers putting on skates for weeks at a time. Taking it all round she prefers the English climate.

Other early memories were of Queen Victoria. Of herself aged six and her sisters nine years older playing the violin accompanied by Queen Victoria's eldest daughter, Princess Christian, at Cumberland Lodge in Windsor Park. What imprinted then on Lady Liddell's mind was her mother's having to apologise to the Queen, dressed all in black, for the little girl of 6 who had forgotten to curtsey. "You must forgive her Ma'am, she is very young." Lady Liddell remembers going to Windsor with her German governess to see Queen Victoria's funeral. The Governess was most excited because the German Kaiser was riding next to the coffin. Later Lady Liddell knew Queen Mary quite well, meeting her as she visited various houses pursuing her great interest in

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH MAGAZINE
APRIL 1983

Lady Liddell

LADY LIDDELL

From a photograph specially taken by Mr. Ian Murray, of Eversley, and kindly presented to the Magazine.

100th BIRTHDAY.
LADY LIDDELL WITH
LORD LT. GORDON PALMER

antiques.

I asked how long Lady Liddell had known Finchampstead. She said that members of her family had settled in Finchampstead at the Manor House 68 years ago, but she had dined at the Manor House in the days of its first owner, Dr. Warr, retired Headmaster of Eton. He had extra rooms built on so that he could accommodate old Etonians visiting him on returning from abroad. They used to bring him seeds from all over the world. The walnut tree for instance was grown from seed brought back from Siberia. Lady Liddell's sister lived at the Manor House during the First World War, and Lady Liddell and her husband, General Sir William Liddell, during the Second War. Her present sitting room at White Horse was the coach house then and housed the carriages. The family were dog lovers (as Lady Liddell still is today) and kept Great Danes and mastiffs. There was stabling for horses and both she and her husband rode to hounds. The most exciting event of that kind was the annual Boxing Day meet at Wokingham Market Place.

Lady Liddell's religious upbringing seems to have been chancy, with Canon Sturges of All Saints Wokingham doing his best. His question "Do you know your Catechism?" seems to have been met with anxiety on the part of the young girl such that the Canon could only respond "it doesn't matter." Lady Liddell's mother refused to take the carriages out on Sundays and so it was a mile and a half's walk to church, and the same distance home again, which Lady Liddell recalls that she hated. The ordeal was relieved on one memorable day when she was stung by a wasp and had to return home. Her father was reproved by the Canon for organizing Sunday cricket. "Oh don't have cricket on a Sunday," said the Canon. "I jolly well am going to," said Father, "because it keeps the young men out of mischief."

Her mother was made of stern religious stuff, having one brother an explorer, John Speke, who discovered the Nile, and two others who were in the Church. So now I know how the influence of early years has borne fruit in Lady Liddell's happiness in her association with St.James's Church Finchampstead where she says the proximity and regularity of church life has deepened her religious senses. (There can be few who do not know what a remarkably generous benefactor Lady Liddell has been to

Finchampstead Church with her gifts of land and properties.)

Where, I wondered, did Lady Liddell get that great interest in people which she displays as she welcomes people to her garden and makes them feel at ease and refreshed in personality? To give an answer to this question Lady Liddell tells of the garden parties which were all the rage in her youth. People invited only their select friends who vied with each other as to who grew the best peaches and grapes. Lady Liddell recalls that it was John Walter of Bearwood, Lord of the Manor of Finchampstead and patron of the Benefice, who "stopped all that nonsense" and invited the whole neighbourhood to his garden parties. One person Lady Liddell met there was Tom Seward, the sweep of Peach Street Wokingham, the same Tom who years before Charles Kingsley of Eversley had taken as his model for the boy Tom in the Water Babies. White Horse garden parties have (thanks to Lady Liddell's generosity) now become a summer focus of fund raising for many charities.

How splendid it is that all these composite strands of love of people, love of the outdoors, associations in the circles of the royal Court and among politicians, and the strength and sturdiness of family in Victorian days, (all distilled through one hundred years of observation and interest) have been gathered together in Lady Liddell to give us the marvellous example of tranquility and graciousness, of generosity and purpose, that has touched so many people through her ministry of goodness and cheerfulness among us.

All her many, many friends and admirers, both near and far, will join in offering their best wishes and congratulations to Lady Liddell as she celebrates her centenary year.

D.T.C.

and has been an active supporter of the Church under four Rectors: The Rev. Dick Weller, the Rev. Woosnam Jones, the Rev. Darby Jones and the present Rector, the Rev. Dennis Crossley. While a member of the Council, I had the opportunity of enjoying the friendship of Lady Liddell and later had the privilege of serving as a Co-Church Warden with her.

It was a delightful experience to be associated with such a gracious and charming lady. Her generosity towards the Church and various charities was unbounded. Her steadfast and Christian views were ever to the forefront. She was always at home when she moved to the White Horse as a friend and confidant to anyone in the village who sought her advice. The care and thought that she gave to her lovely garden which she lent freely for parties in connection with many charities was an inspiration which will always be remembered with gratitude by all those institutions which she helped. Over the years she raised thousands of pounds for charity.

At the time of Finchampstead Pa'eant in 1956 she took an active part as a member of the cast as well as looking after the publicity and arranging for the Manor House lawns to be used for the production and a flat in the House for dressingrooms for the actors and actresses.

Her hundredth birthday celebrations last year, attended by Col. the Hon. Gordon Palmer, the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, were a fitting climax to a long life of kindness and service to all with whom she came in contact. Her reward of the M.B.E. was so very well deserved and must have pleased her as it did all her friends. Thus an era in the village has come to an end and we all mourn the passing of a very great lady.

G.T. Willoughby Cashell.

CROWTHORNE TIMES
JULY 5th, 1984

Village sad at death of Lady Liddell

ONE OF Finchampstead's best loved villagers, Lady Helen Liddell, died last week at the grand age of 101.

Lady Liddell passed peacefully away in the Battle Hospital on Thursday after a three month stay in the Reading hospital.

And as the sad news spread through her home village friends and neighbours told how the loss of Lady Liddell marked the end of an era for Finchampstead.

"An era in the village has come to an end with the loss of Lady Liddell," said chairman of Finchampstead Society Mr Sydney Paulden.

"She always gave the society and indeed the whole village so much support. She will be greatly missed."

Lady Liddell had lived in the village for more than 60 years at the White Horse close to the parish church of St James.

She frequently opened up the gardens of her home to a variety of groups and organisations for use in raising money for charity.

"Over the years she raised thousands and thousands of pounds for charity," said a close friend.

"She was always so quiet about it and never made any fuss or tried to push herself to the front. Very few people knew just how much she did for charity."

But in June, 1982, her hard work and dedication was recognised when she was awarded an MBE in the Queen's birthday honours list for "services to the community."

Rev Dennis Crossley of St James' Church said Lady Liddell took an interest in all charity work and in particular in the churchyard, which she ensured was always beautifully kept.

"At one time Lady Liddell was church warden," said Rev Crossley, "and it was through her inspiration that the churchyard was kept so perfectly.

"She always took a great interest in the church and it is here that she will be buried."

Lady Liddell's funeral will be today, Thursday, at 2pm, and it is thought that many friends from the village and surrounding areas will turn out to pay their last respects to the lady "they loved so very dearly."

Among the hymns which will be sung will be Lady Liddell's own personal favourite — "All people that on earth do dwell."

Finchampstead Church of England School will be represented at the funeral and headmistress Mrs Pauline Cowell said the children were hoping to send an arrangement of garden and wild flowers as a tribute.

LADY LIDDELL

Lady Liddell will be buried near her husband the late Major General Liddell. On Sunday bellringers at St James' rang a muffled peal in honour of the lady.

Lady Liddell has left her house — White Horse — in trust for the church where she worshipped for more than half a century and where she attended a service to mark her 100th birthday in April last year.

During her centenary celebrations she told the Times: "The reason I have lived for so long and stayed so healthy is because I have lived among such lovely people in Finchampstead."

She recited a line from the hymn "When you need a neighbour I am here."

"That is what the people are like here," she said. "They are wonderful neighbours to have."

Crow Times 5.7.84.

LADY LIDDELL

16th July 1984

College of Arms
Queen Victoria Street
London E.C.4.

If anything could have made the day of Lady Liddell's funeral a happy one, it was the undoubted love and support of all those who came to say goodbye to her, filling the church with their prayers and voices.

We chose the hymns because they were her favourites, the first was also that with which we ended one of the musical evenings in the village, which she so much enjoyed. The people of Finchampstead were so much part of her life, and she of theirs, that it will seem strange indeed without her.

The fact that she gave her property to the Diocese of Oxford, for the use of the P.C.C., will, I hope, mean that it can continue to be used, under the guardianship of a body with perpetual succession, for the benefit of her friends and all those who have visited the garden over many years.

I hope to be able to visit it myself and to call on the many friends, without whom I should have found the 5th July a very dismal day. Thank you all for loving her as you did.

Mary Rose Rogers.

Lady Gladys Liddell M.B.E., who died on June 24th, 1984, was born on April 20th, 1883. She was the daughter of Mr. C.T. Murdoch of Wokingham who was the M.P. for Reading in the 1890s. She married Brigadier-General John Tanner in 1916 who died in 1917, and she later married Major-General Sir William Liddell, in 1921. He died suddenly in 1949.

It was in 1947 when my family and I came to live in Finchampstead that we first became acquainted with Sir William and Lady Liddell, who then resided at the Manor House. They were a charming and delightful couple who interested themselves in the Church and the village. Lady Liddell served on the Parochial Church Council

Century celebration for Lady Liddell

ONE OF Finchampstead's best-loved residents Lady Helen Liddell, celebrated her 100th birthday with a champagne reception — and used the occasion to launch a special trust fund.

In a letter in the parish magazine, Lady Liddell announced her intention to set up the fund for "the preservation of the natural and man-made amenities of Finchampstead."

Chairman of Wokingham District Council Coun Harry Cooper called on Lady Liddell on her birthday yesterday and was one of the first to contrinute to the fund.

The Queen's traditional 100th birthday congratulations were delivered to Lady Liddell by the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire Colonel The Hon Gordon Palmer.

Lady Liddell's garden at White Horse, Finchampstead has become a focus for local charity events, and the help she has given the parish was recognised last June when she was wawarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

The award was for "service to the community" and at the time Lady Liddell said: "I feel it is a reflection on the people of the village. I am very devoted to Finchampstead."

Finchampstead can now look forward to more centenary celebrations in the summer when Miss Catherine Bramwell-Booth has her 100th birthday.

Mrs Bramwell-Booth is the granddaughter of General Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, and she stole the show when she appeared on television on the Russell Harty Show. Her birthday is on July 20.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Helen Margeson.
Steven Petty
Ben Evans.
Neil Paul
Tally O'Neill.
Matthew Gardener.
Robin Southwell
Paul Coggins
Philip Chapman
Martin Lewis
George Sale
Richard Pembroke
Marianne Baker
Lorraine Pinner
Nichola Robson
Victoria Jackson.
Angela Kirby.
Juliet Sale
Rachel Lloyd
Kevin Oakley
Beverley Davies
Gaynor Jerry
Susie Clarke
Kevin Pearcey
Tim Coggins
Chris Edwards
Claire Brown
Nicola Crooch.
Timothy Milward
Adam Thorne

Julie Butler
Anna Hood
Tamara Murdoch
Simon Bubb
Toby Philpott
Simon Milward
Toby Bickerdike
Timothy Jackson
Gail Turton
Malcolm Luxton.
James Lilford
Jayne Bathurst
Christy Tyler
Jo Frith
Duncan McCrum
Matthew Robinson
Darren Wynn
Steven Coggins.
Jennie Holley
Karen Hicks
Paul Brown
Matthew Thorne
James Robson
Scott Hancock
Timothy De Meyer
Sarah Allen
Damian Bubb
James Southall
Matthew Mahoney
Peter Napper
Sam Evans

Rachel Jackson
Helen Bathurst
Kirsten Oakley
Edward Napper
Rachel Allen
Leigh Thomas
Nicholas Hood
Robin Pearmain
Jonathan Robson
Ben Walch
Charlotte
Hayley Frith
Laura Vinn
Emma Stone
Tim Southall
Julie Wilcox
Kate Mahoney
Kathryn Wynne
Sarah Page
Wayne Brown
Louise Phillips
Daniel Coggins
Anthony
Louise Cranston
Steven Kensington
Hannah Robinson
Tristan Bubb
Rachel Edwards
Prunella Matthews
Karen Southwell
Simone Perrin
Jessica Sale
Karen Pembroke
Michelle Haly
Tom O'Neill
Ben Phillips

MEMORIES OF LADY LIDDELL.

My memories of Lady Liddell

At Christmas the Choir boys Sang to Lady Liddell and we Sang Once in Royal Davids City and we sang lots of other hymns to her and she liked it very much.

Steven Coggins.

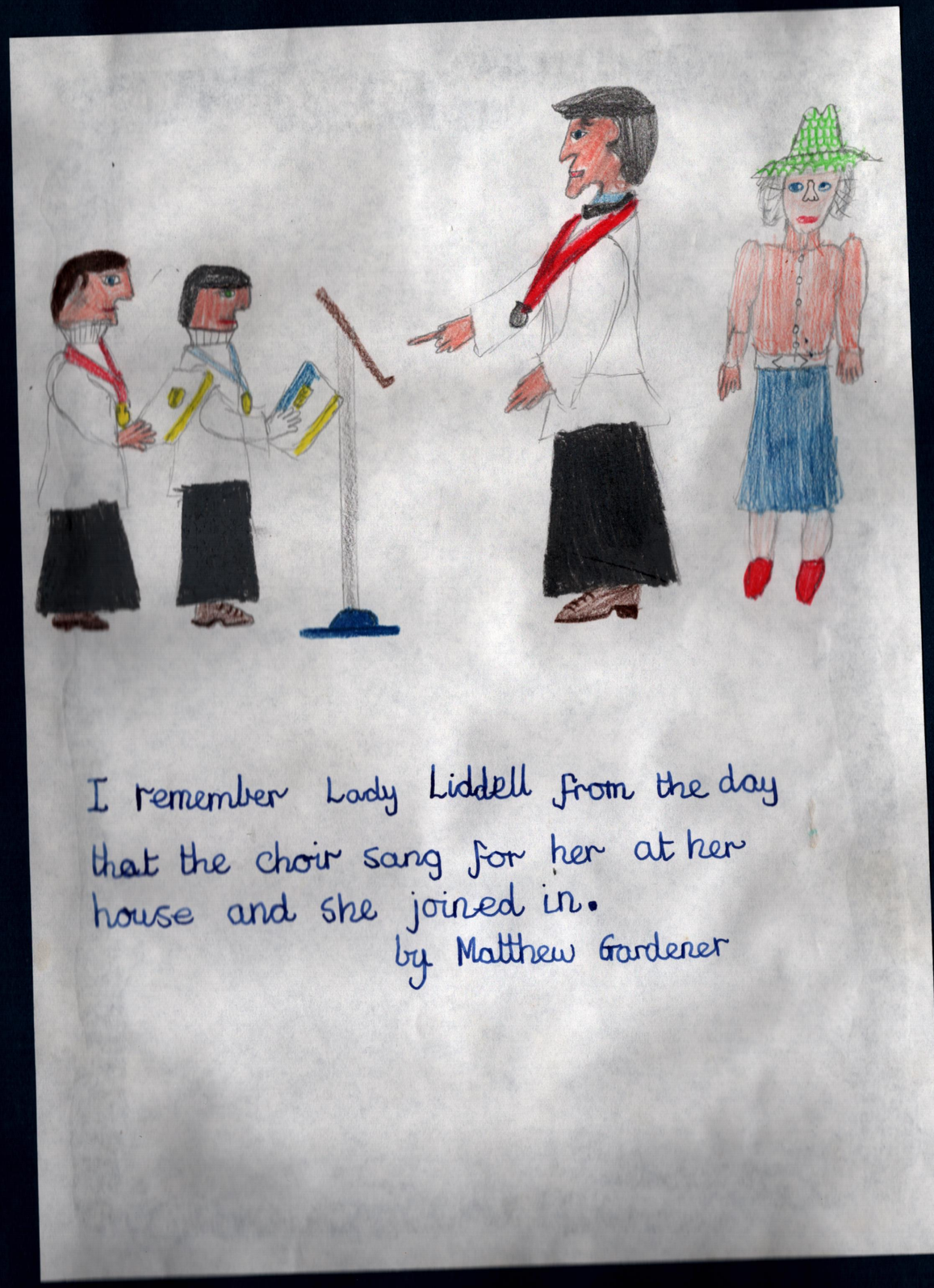
My Memories of lady Liddell

by Duncan

My memories of lady Liddell are that She was a very nice lady and she was very kind to the School last year when She bought the School a video lady Liddell was going to by us a fish aquarium She lets lots of people have Jumble sale's She has two big fish ponds as well.

My memories of Lady Liddell

Lady Liddell was very kind to me and when I went to School she would wave to me. Her dogs sat on her lap most of the time and she loved them very much and their names were Dorothy and Nice. [illegible]



I remember Lady Liddell from the day that the choir sang for her at her house and she joined in.

by Matthew Gardener

My Memory of Lady Liddell

My memory of Lady Liddell is seeing her on ITV on coast to coast in White Horse Gardens. I thought she was a very kind looking person

James Lilford

My memories of Lady Liddell

I met Lady Liddell when I was eight years old I went to her hundreth birthday. I had some photographs taken. She always used to says hello to people. Lady Liddell was very kind she died at an old age of a 101. She was a lovely lady. I hope she will be happy in heaven.

Julie Butler

Memories

Lady Liddell had her hundredth birthday about one year ago. I, and several others were picked to take her a birthday card with a picture of every person in the school. That night she was on the programme Coast to Coast and our school was shown on it.

Ben Evans

My memories of Lady Liddell

I met Lady Liddell when I was three. My gran Mrs Henderson took me up to see her. She was very nice to me. She always gave me some orange and a biscuit. Lady Liddell gave a garden party every month if it was nice. I think Lady Liddell was a very nice lady and it was a shame for her to die.

by Tamara Murdoch.

I liked Lady Liddell very much She always lets people have fetes in her garden and She lets people play in her garden as well I went to See her one day She was looking very well. Whenever we went up to see her in her garden She said "hello".

by Toby Bickerdike

Memories of Lady Liddell.

I will always remember Lady Liddell. She was very kind and she was always a good person. She had lovely gardens and she shared them because lots of people held fetes there. She will be missed very much.

Susie Clarke.

I Remember when lady liddell let me take home one of her fishes and keep it.

by

Robin Southwell

My Memory of Lady Liddell

I remember Lady Liddell when she offered me a Chocolate bar after I had been talking to her. At first I didn't think I shoud take it but incase I hurt her feelings I decided to take and I have always remembered that day.

Richard Pembroke

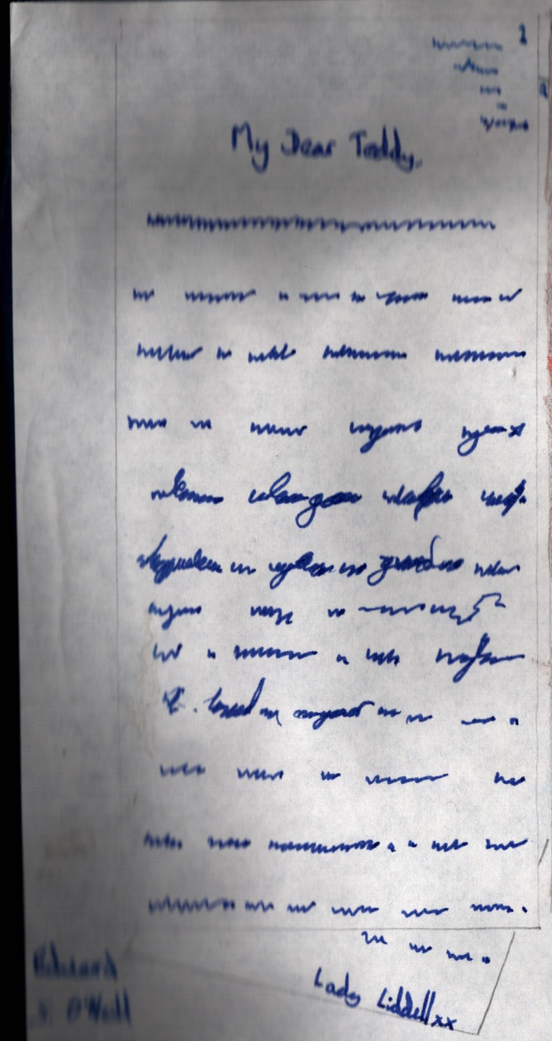
My mum told me that when I was just one after we had moved from Bristol Lady Liddell gave her a pound "for the children".

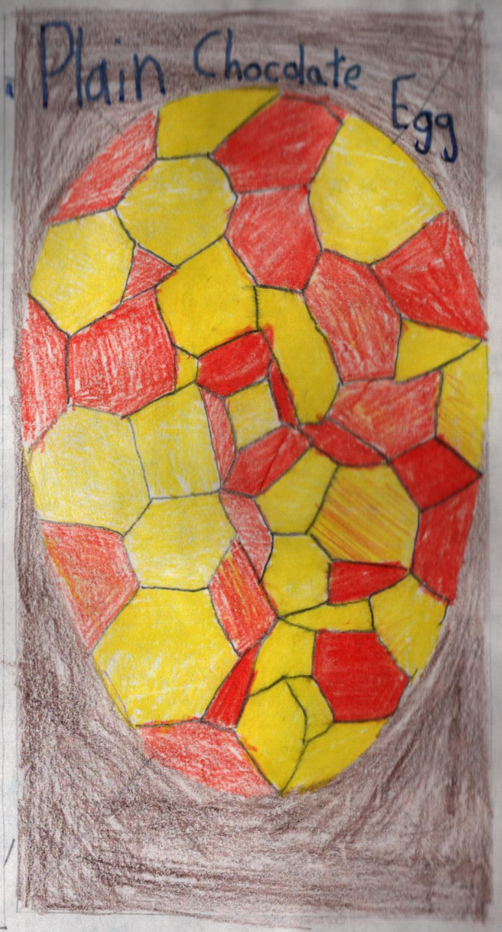
Paul Coggins

By Helen Marston.

Memories of Lady Liddell

2 years ago I went to a fête in White Horse Gardens where Lady Liddell Lived. When I had looked round I went to See her. She was sitting with her dogs next to her. She asked me my name and how old I was. Then She talked about her dogs. She was a very nice Lady and I will always remember her.





Richard
S. O'Neill

Lady Liddell was always very friendly to me. Last year She sent me a plain chocolate Easter Egg, the sort I like, and a letter addressed to "My Dear Teddy". I have still got the letter treasured at home, but the Easter Egg went rather quickly. Another time last year, I think I was on my way home from singing at Matins. I walked past White Horse, out of the gate rushed a little dog, which I picked up because there was a car coming. Then out of the gate walked Lady Liddell who thanked me considerably and said how kind I was. I said it was nothing and walked home.

My Memory of Lady Liddell

"LOADER" FAMILY TREE

William Loader m. Sarah Finch
b. 1801 Hampshire b. 1808 Finchampstead

George Loader m. Mary Ann Alloway
bc. 1836, Finchampstead bc. 1841, Finchampstead
d. 1902 d. 1934

- Alice b. 1861
- John bc. 1863 d. 1948 m. Caroline Fullbrook bc. 1863 Binfield d. 1947 F'hampstead
  - Bertha May b. 1896 F'hampstead d. 1988 " m. Jim Mason
    - SEE 'MASON' FAMILY TREE FOR OFFSPRING
  - Alice b. 1889 d. 1980
  - William b. 1891
  - Walter b. 1893
  - Annie b. 1895
  - Elsie b. 1899
  - George b. 1906 m. Muriel Jefferies d. 1988
- Annie b. 1865
- Elizabeth b. 1868
- Walter b. 1875
- Edward b. 1876
- Arthur b. 1879

All born in Finchampstead

George and Irene Loader's Diamond Wedding
1928-1988

DIAMOND WEDDING - 29th DECEMBER 1988
Muriel Irene Violet Jeffreys to George Edward Charles Loader

Mr. and Mrs. Loader celebrated their Diamond Wedding on 29th December 1988. They were married at Sandhurst Methodist Chapel by Rev. Ronald Ducker and they are still active members there. Irene and George made their first home at Beech Cottage, White Horse Lane, and later moved to The Village, Finchampstead. They have both had an active life in the Village. George was a Parish Councillor for 30 years, with a particular interest in Footpaths. He worked for 40 years delivering coal in the district for J. Mason & Sons. Irene was a member of the Women's Institute and the Mothers' Union, and served teas at the Infant Welfare Clinic for many years. They celebrated this special day with a party for family and friends.

Administrative County: Berkshire

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the

Civil Parish: Finchampstead (entire) | Ecclesiastical Parish: St James (entire) | ~~County Borough, Municipal Borough, or Urban District~~ of | ~~Ward of Municipal Borough or of Urban District~~ of | Rural District: Wokingham Part of | Parliamentary ~~Borough~~ or Division: East Berks | ~~Township~~ Village or Hamlet: Finchampstead

Cols. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES Inhabited	Uninhabited: Not in Occupation	Uninhabited: Not in Occupation	Building	Number of Rooms occupied if less than 5	Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	Condition as to Marriage	Age last Birthday of Males	Age last Birthday of Females	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own account	If Working at Home	WHERE BORN	If (1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lunatic (4) Imbecile, feeble-minded
110	Westwood	1					George Bennett	Head	M	45		Carter on Farm	Worker		Berks Kintbury Berks	
							Sarah A. Do	Wife	M		49				Hants Eversley Hants	✓
							Sarah Do	Daur			14				Hants Bramshill Hants	✓
							James Do	Son		12					Hants Do Hants	✓
							William J. Do	Son		10					Hants Do Hants	✓
							George Do	Son		8					Hants Do Hants	✓
							Rose E. Do	Daur			4				Hants Do Hants	✓
111		1					George Neville	Head	M	68		Labourer on Farm			Hants Eversley Hants	✓
							Sophia Do	Wife	M		71				Hants Heckfield Hants	✓
112		1					Thomas White	Head	M	23		Labourer on Farm			Hants Dogmersfield Hants	✓
							Jane Do	Wife	M		22				Hants Do Hants	✓
	Park Lane						William Thomas Do	Son		Born					Berks Finchampstead Berks	
113	West Court	1					George Sweetzer	Head	M	46		Gardener, Domestic			Hants Stratfield Saye Hants	✓
							Fanny Do	Wife	M		45				Surrey Bourne Lines	✓
							Charles Martin	Visitor	M	32					Cornwall London	✓
114		1					William B. Rigg	Head	M	66		Farmer	Employer		Berks Finchampstead	
							Mary Do	Wife	M		67				Hants Eversley Hants	✓
							Hezia Do	Visitor	Wid		63	Carpenter's Widow	Employer		Berks Wokingham Berks	
							Edith Murgess	Ser	S		20	Domestic Servant			Surrey Bedenham Surrey	✓
							Ellen M. Sykes	Ser	S		15	Do Dom			Berks Sunninghill Berks	
							George Loader	Ser	M	65		Farm Bailiff	Worker		Berks Finchampstead Berks	
							Mary Do	Ser	M		60				Berks Do Berks	
115		1					John Loader	Head	M	38		Hay binder & Rg Dismantlement			Berks Do Berks	
							Caroline Do	Wife	M		33				Berks Binfield Berks	
							Alice M. Do	Daur			12				Berks Finchampstead	
							William Do	Son		10					Berks Do Berks	
							Walter Do	Son		8					Berks Do Berks	
							Annie Do	Daur			6				Berks Do Berks	
*							Bertha Do	Daur			4					
							Elsie Do	Daur			2					
6	Total of Schedules of Houses and of Tenements with less than Five Rooms	6					Total of Males and of Females...			14	16					

NOTE—*Draw your pen through such words of the headings as are inapplicable.*

CM SCALE 1 2 3 4 5 6

Census 1901

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Number of Schedule 54
(To be filled up by the Enumerator after collection.)

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Servant, who (1) passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling and was alive at midnight, or (2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere. No one else must be included. (For order of entering names see Examples on back of Schedule.)	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family. State whether "Head," or "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," or other Relative, "Visitor," "Boarder," or "Servant."	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX. For Infants under one year state the age in months as "under one month," "one month," etc. Ages of Males.	Ages of Females.	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE. Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.	Stato, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of:— Completed years the present Marriage has lasted. If less than one year write "under one."	Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7). Total Children Born Alive.	Children still Living.	Children who have Died.	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards. Personal Occupation. The reply should show the precise branch of Profession, Trade, Manufacture, &c. If engaged in any Trade or Manufacture, the particular kind of work done, and the Article made or Material worked or dealt in should be clearly indicated. (See Instructions 1 to 8 and Examples on back of Schedule.)	Industry or Service with which worker is connected. This question should generally be answered by stating the business carried on by the employer. If this is clearly shown in Col. 10 the question need not be answered here. No entry needed for Domestic Servants in private employment. If employed by a public body (Government, Municipal, etc.) state what body. (See Instruction 9 and Examples on back of Schedule.)	Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on Own Account. Write opposite the name of each person engaged in any Trade or Industry. (1) "Employer" (that is employing persons other than domestic servants), or (2) "Worker" (that is working for an employer), or (3) "Own Account" (that is neither employing others nor working for a trade employer).	Whether Working at Home. Write the words "At Home" opposite the name of each person carrying on Trade or Industry at home.	BIRTHPLACE of every person. (1) If born in the United Kingdom, write the name of the County, and Town or Parish. (2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, write the name of the Dependency, Colony, etc., and of the Province or State. (3) If born in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country. (4) If born at sea, write "At Sea." NOTE.—In the case of persons born elsewhere than in England or Wales, state whether "Resident" or "Visitor" in this Country.	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country. State whether:— (1) "British subject by parentage," (2) "Naturalised British subject," giving year of naturalisation. Or (3) If of foreign nationality, state whether "French," "German," "Russian," etc.	INFIRMITY. If any person included in this Schedule is:— (1) "Totally Deaf," or "Deaf and Dumb," (2) "Totally Blind," (3) "Lunatic," (4) "Imbecile," or "Feeble-minded," state the infirmity opposite that person's name, and the age at which he or she became afflicted.
1	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.
1 John Loader	Head	48			23	8	7	X	Hay Binder Thatcher &c	Piecework farm	Own Acct		Berks Finchampstead		
2 Caroline Loader	Wife		44		23	8	7	1					Berks Binfield		
3 Walter George Loader	Son	18		Single					Gardener domestic		Worker		Berks Finchampstead		
4 Bertha Loader	Daughter		14										" do		
5 George Loader	Son	4		~~single~~									" do		
6 Mary Loader	Mother		70	Widow									" do		
7 Mary Loader	Sister		27	Single					Nurse domestic (Infants)		Worker		" do		
8 William Loader	Son	20	7	Single					Gardener domestic		"		" do		
9															
10															
11															
12															
13															
14															
15															

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

I certify that:—
(1.) All the ages on this Schedule are entered in the proper sex columns.
(2.) I have counted the males and females in Columns 3 and 4 separately, and have compared their sum with the total number of persons.
(3.) After making the necessary enquiries I have completed all entries on the Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.

Initials of Enumerator A.B.

Total. Males.	Females.	Persons.
4	4	8

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (House, Tenement, or Apartment). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count scullery, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom; nor warehouse, office, shop.

7

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature John Loader

Postal Address The Wiers Lands Finchampstead

CENSUS
OF
ENGLAND AND WALES,
1911.

SCHEDULE.

Prepared pursuant to the Census (Great Britain) Act, 1910.

This space to be filled up by the Enumerator.

Number of Registration District 122

Number of Registration Sub-District 1

Number of Enumeration District 8

Name of Head of Family or Separate Occupier. Mr Loader

Postal Address Sheffordlands, Finchampstead, Wokingham Berks

NOTICE.

This Schedule must be filled up and signed by, or on behalf of, the Head of the Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of the dwelling (house, tenement or apartment).

BERTHA MAY LOADER
(~~[illegible]~~'s
~~SARAH CLAYSON~~)
brothers

POSSIBLY WILLIAM & WALTER LOADER

Grumpy's dad
EDWARD JAMES MASON

EDWARD JAMES MASON
b. c. 1860.
FATHER OF JIM MASON

IN ST. JAMES CHURCHYARD. JIM WAS A BELLRINGER.

George Edward Charles Loader 1906-1998

George Edward Charles Loader was born at Sheppherdlands, Commonfield Lane Finchampstead on 3rd September 1906, he was the youngest of eight children. He attended the village school from 5 to 14 years and was reputedly a bright pupil. One of his memories of his time at school was teacher tapping him with a ruler for asking how to spell "smorning" (this morning) and "arter-i-bin" (after I have been). When he left school his first job was as a garden boy. George's memory of this was when completing a job asking "is that good enough?" he was told in no uncertain terms "that only the best will do".

Following this employment he moved to work in the gardens of the Sutton Family (Sutton's Seeds). After gardening he became a milkman for Mrs Clarke's Farm, Yateley and then moved to work at Over's Farm, Whitehorse Lane, Finchampstead with his father and uncle.

In 1938 he became a coalman delivering coal for his brother-in-law Jim Mason until he retired 40 years later. Because of his work as a coalman he became well known throughout a wide area. During this time the Second World War broke out and George joined the Home Guard as a despatch rider. Because the fire service needed a lorry he was transferred with his lorry to the fire service (AFS). One day when delivering coal near Longdown Road he helped to rescue an RAF airman from a blazing bomber which had crashed shortly after take-off from Blackbushe Airport.

In 1946 George was elected to Finchampstead Parish Council following his father John who had served for many years. George served for 30 years, much of this time being chairman of the Footpath Committee. This he enjoyed because he loved walking, the countryside and nature

George always had a very strong Christian faith, he went to chapel at New Mill three times each Sunday. When the family moved nearer to Over's Farm they attended Finchampstead Baptist Chapel.

George married Irene on the 29th December 1928 and was totally devoted to her. Sadly they missed celebrating 70 years of marriage by 8 days.

After their marriage George and Irene were regular worshipers at the Sandhurst Methodist Church until approximately two years ago.

George lived at his home in Finchampstead until the last six months of his life. He was very grateful for the support of his neighbours and the friends who visited him. George spent the last six months of his life with Irene in the Berkshire Nursing Home. In their 70 years of marriage they were only separated for about six months due to ill health.

Because he was well known in Finchampstead and district many of you will have memories of him.

Robin Loader

WOKINGHAM TIMES, JUNE 12, 2002

Dunkirk spirit will drive new council chairman

IN PROFILE

Muriel Long knows how to keep cool under pressure, escaping, as she did as a young girl with her parents, from the beaches of Dunkirk during the second World War. Reporter Catherine Evans talks to the newly-elected chairman of Wokingham District Council about her new appointment.

MURIEL Long calmly played table tennis with troops at Dunkirk as her trapped family waited with the retreating British army for the "little ships" that would carry them to safety.

Keeping a cool head under fire should keep the newly-elected chairman of Wokingham District Council in good stead.

Stormy council meetings under a new Conservative administration hold no terrors for Cllr Long, who has experience chairing planning meetings and was vice-chairman of the district council from 1998 to 2000.

Cllr Long, who represents Finchampstead South, was elected chairman last month.

She was brought up in Brussels by her Belgian mother and Australian father and was forced to flee in 1940 before the advancing German army.

She said: "We were just like the present-day refugees, coming across on the first few boats that got away from Dunkirk.

"We were on the ships with the soldiers on deck with machine guns and German planes dropping bombs.

"My parents must have been distraught but I thought it was all very exciting.

"I was just a teenager and I had been playing ping-pong with one of the soldiers while we were waiting."

Cllr Long — who has been a councillor for 22 years — was handed the chain of office by outgoing chairman Cllr David Swindells, and announced she intended to support youth projects during her year in office.

She has worked for many years with youth organisations and hopes to establish a fund that would support different schemes for young people.

She said: "I feel it is a great honour to be chosen as the chairman of Wokingham District Council and I look forward to this challenging role and a very busy year representing the council.

"It has been my experience that the good intentions of many youth organisations and their efforts to undertake specific projects often grind to a halt because they cannot raise enough money.

"Instead of choosing a specific charity to support during my year in office, I hope youth organisations can benefit from my fund-raising and get the top-up funding they need."

CLLR Long said many people in Wokingham district were worried about bad behaviour by groups of youngsters and she hoped to fund projects that would give them more to do.

Cllr Long is also keen to continue her support for the

Cllr Muriel Long, new chairman of Wokingham District Council, is welcomed by the outgoing chairman Cllr David Swindells.

elderly in the community.

She has been a voluntary helper at WADE — the Wokingham and district Association for the Elderly — for the past 20 years.

Her escort for the year will be her husband, Harry, a former member and chairman of Finchampstead Parish Council, whose job meant the family had to live in Hong Kong and Canada for a time.

Long-serving councillor Bob Wyatt was appointed Wokingham's new vice-chairman.

A councillor for Wescott ward, he is a former member of Wokingham Borough Council, Wokingham Town Council and a former town mayor.

Outgoing chairman Cllr Swindells thanked everyone who helped raise more than £4,000 for his chosen charity Hearing Dogs for Deaf during his year in office.

WOKINGHAM TIMES
SEPT. 14, 1992

ROY & RUBY MAY

Golden memories for Roy's Ruby

TO celebrate their golden wedding anniversary, Finchampstead couple, Roy and Ruby May, paid a special visit to the church where they got married.

The rector of St James's parish church of Finchampstead, Dennis Crossley, performed a short service for the couple.

Afterwards they looked over the register they had signed exactly 50 years ago.

"Its like going through all the vows again," said Ruby.

The register for Finchampstead church gives details of marriages as far back as the 19th century.

The records for 1945 reveal that Roy was a 25-year-old builder and that Ruby was 20.

They met in London through a mutual friend.It was a case of country boy meets cockney girl.

Amazingly, Roy has lived in Finchampstead - and pretty much in the same street - for his entire life.

Ruby was born in Mile End within the sound of the Bow bells, which qualifies her as a true cockney.

Roy has no doubt what the attraction was all those years ago.

"Ruby is always full of fun and likes to get involved in things.

The spirited couple try to do as much as they can to keep healthy in body and mind.

"I am interested in lots of things. One must keep oneself active," commented Ruby.

Roy, who ran a successful family building company, did not retire until he was 70 years of age.

To celebrate his retirement, they took a three-month cruise round the worldl.

Their gold wedding party took place in the more familiar surroundings at their home in Finchampstead.

"MASON" FAMILY TREE (BY SARAH REEVES - ANCESTRY.CO.UK)

John Mason
b. 1826, Fring, Norfolk

m. Ann Vincent
b. 1823, Stanhoe, Nfk.

John Clayson
b. 1831 Wellingboro', Northants
d. 1883

m. Martha
b. 1828 Wellingboro'
d. 1898

Edward J. Mason
b. 1860, Norfolk
d. ? Berkshire
(6th of 7 siblings)

m.

Sarah Clayson
b. 1859 Northants
(4th of 7 siblings)

- Lily Beatrice
  b.c. 1880
  Northants
- Daisy Florence
  b. 1885
  Berkshire
- Pansy Kate
  b. 1885
  Berkshire
  b. 1970
- Violet May
  b. 1889
  Berkshire
  d. 1979, Surrey
- May Annie
  b. 1891
  Berkshire
  d. 1958 Berks.
- Jim Mason
  b. 06.08.1899
  Lower Beeding, Sx.
  d. 03.12.1971
  Finchampstead
  (COAL MERCHANT)

NOTE; THERE WERE TWO COMPLETELY SEPARATE 'MASON' FAMILIES IN 19th/20th C. FINCHAMPSTEAD

* Jim Mason
b. 1899

m. 1922

Bertha May Loader

- Dennis Jim Clayson Mason
  b. 01.12.1925 m. Joyce M. Priest
  - Sally Ann
- Peter J.
  b. 1927
  m. Elsie Webb
- Michael W.
  b. 1930 m. Marjorie Lawrence
- John
  b. 1935

MASON family of FINCHAMPSTEAD

NB. There were two Mason families in Finchampstead, apparently unrelated)

1841 Census	Relation	Age	Employment	Born	Address
Edward Mason		55	Illegible		No address recorded
Ann Mason		50			
Elizabeth Mason		13			
Peter Mason		10			
William Mason		8			
Elmyra Millard		25			
James Millard		2			
John Millard		11 mths			
Thomas Mason		59	Ag. labourer		No address recorded
William Mason		32	"		
Stephen Mason		14	"		
John Mason		3			
Elizabeth Mason		26			
Elizabeth Mason		6 mths			
Jane Mason		58			

1841 Census	Relation	Age	Employment	Born	Address
Thomas Mason	Head	34	Gardener		No address recorded
Kezia Mason	Wife	27			
Agnes Mason	Daughter	2			

1851 Census					
Edward Mason	Head	66	Labourer	Finchampstead	Sandpit Lane, Finchampstead
Ann Mason	Wife	63		Bentley, Hants.	
William Mason	Son	19	Labourer		
Arthur Skeats	Grandson	14	"		
William Skeats	Grandson	12	"		
James ? Parker	Lodger	44	Miller		
John Smith	Lodger	40	"		

Thomas Mason	Widower	69	Parish Clerk	Eversley, Hants.	Moor Green area, Finchampstead
George Mason	Son	20	Farm labourer	Finchampstead	
Charlotte Mason	Daughter-in-law	24	Domestic	Barkham	
Mary Mason	Grandaughter	5 mths			

1851 Census	Relation	Age	Employment	Born	Address
George Mason	Head	30	Brickmaker	Finchampstead	Moor Green area, Finchampstead
Susanna Mason	Wife	29		Middlesex	
Jonathon ?Custon	Relative	6		Swallowfield	
Henry Mason	Son	1		Finchampstead	
William Mason	Head	42	Farm labourer	Finchampstead	Waldens Farm (Nr.Sandpit Lane)
Elizabeth Mason	Wife	36		"	
John Mason	Son	14	Labourer	"	
Elizabeth Mason	Daughter	10	Scholar	"	
Jane Mason	Daughter	8	"	"	
George Mason	Son	5	"	"	
Laura Mason	Daughter	2		"	
Stephen Mason	Lodger	24	Labourer	Finchampstead	With Mearing family,Sandpit Lane
Peter Mason	Head	21	Labourer	Finchampstead	Nr. Westwood Farm, Finchampstead
Kezia Mason	Wife	23		Goring,Oxon	

1861 Census	Relation	Age	Employment	Born	Address
Ann Mason	Head	74		Bentley, Hants	?
David Long	Boarder	28	Ag. labourer	Tadley, Hants	
William Mason	Head	53	Ag. labourer	? Walton-on-Thames	New Road, nr.Sandhurst Road
Elizabeth Mason	Wife	47		Finchampstead	
Elizabeth Mason	Daughter	20		"	
George Mason	Son	15	Ag. labourer	"	
Laura Mason	Daughter	11	Scholar	"	
Mary Mason	Daughter	8	"	"	
William Mason	Son	5	"	"	
Eliza N.	Daughter	2		"	
John Mason	Head	23	Ag. labourer	Finchampstead	Next to above, Sandhurst Road
Mary Mason	Wife	22		Swallowfield	
Charles D.	Son	1		Finchampstead	

1861 Census	Relation	Age	Employment	Born	Address
George Mason	Head	36	Ag. lab.(Parish Clerk)	Finchampstead	No address. Possibly The Barracks,
Charlotte Mason	Wife	34		Bookham, Surrey	Dell Road
George T.	Son	6	Scholar	Finchampstead	
Arthur Mason	Son	3	"	"	
Henry Mason	Son	1		"	

George Mason	Head	41	Ag. labourer	Finchampstead	No address. Possibly The Barracks
Susanna Mason	Wife	40		Middx.	Dell Road
Henry Mason	Son	11		Finchampstead	
Sarah Mason	Daughter	9		"	
George Mason	Son	6		"	
Mary Ann Mason	Daughter	4		"	
Edward W. Mason	Son	1		"	
Infant	Son	4 days		"	
Elizabeth Johnson	Visitor	25	Nurse	Swallowfield	
Lucy Johnson	Daughter	4 mths		"	

1861 Census	Relation	Age	Employment	Born	Address
Ann ? Kimpton		72	Housekeeper	Amersham, Bucks	East Court
Jane Mason		18	Servant	Finchampstead	
George Townsend		15	Servant	"	

1871 Census					
George Mason	Boarder	24	Labourer		Living with White family
John Mason	Head	32	Labourer	Finchampstead	Moor Green Farm
Mary Mason	Wife	33		Swallowfield	
Jane Mason	Daughter	9	Scholar	Finchampstead	
George Mason	Son	7	"	Eversley, Hants.	
James Mason	Son	5	"	"	
William Mason	Son	3	"	"	
Alfred Webb	Boarder	18	Labourer	Kingsclere	

1871 Census	Relation	Age	Employment	Born	Address
George Mason	Head	49	Labourer	Finchampstead	Probably Cricket Hill area
Susanna Mason	Wife	48		Harrow, Mddx.	
George Mason	Son	16	Ag.labourer	Finchampstead	(Mentally disabled)
Mary Ann Mason	Daughter	14	Scholar	"	
Edward Mason	Son	11	"	"	
Charles Mason	Son	7	"	"	(Mentally disabled)
Albert W. Mason	Son	6	"	"	
Susan F. Mason	Daughter	3		"	
William Mason	Head	62	Labourer	Walton-on-Thames	Probably in The Village
Elizabeth Mason	Wife	56		Finchampstead	
Eliza Mason	Daughter	12	Scholar	"	
Joseph Sparvell	Boarder	70	Labourer	Eversley, Hants.	

1881 Census	Relation	Age	Employment	Born	Address
George Mason	Head	60	General labourer	Finchampstead	The Barracks, Dell Road
Susanna Mason	Wife	58		Harrow, Mddxx.	
George Mason	Son	26	"	Finchampstead	
Charles Mason	Son	18	"	"	
Albert W. Mason	Son	16	"	"	
Susannah F. Mason	Daughter	13	Scholar	"	
William Mason	Head	72	Ag. labourer	Walton-on-Thames	The Village
Elizabeth Mason	Wife	66		Finchampstead	
George Mason	Son	36	"	"	
William Mason	Son	25	"	"	
Charlotte Mason	Widow	54		Barkham	The Village, nr. Royal Oak
George Mason	Son	26	Gardener	Finchampstead	
Henry H. Mason	Son	21	Ag. labourer	"	
James Mason	Son	18	"	"	
William J.Mason	Son	13	"	"	

1881 Census	Relation	Age	Employment	Born	Address
John Mason	Head	48	Labourer	Finchampstead	Probably New Inn Area
Mary Mason	Wife	48		Swallowfield	
William Mason	Son	14	"	Eversley, Hants	
Eliza Mason	Daughter	11	Scholar	Finchampstead	
Kate A. Mason	Daughter	9	"	"	
Harry Mason	Son	7	"	"	
Thomas V.Mason	Son	5	"	"	
Helen C. Mason	Daughter	3		"	
Hannah Davies	Mother-in-law	70		Shinfield	

1891 Census	Relation	Age	Employment	Born	Address
Susannah Mason	Widow	67		Harrow, Mddx.	The Barracks, Dell Road
George Mason	Son	38	None	Finchampstead	(Mentally disabled)
Charles Mason	Son	27	None	"	(Mentally disabled)

1891 Census	Relation	Age	Employment	Born	Address
George Mason	Boarder	44	General labourer	Finchampstead	Living with Naish family
George T. Mason	Head	36	Garden labourer	Finchampstead	Cricket Hill Cottage
Charlotte Mason	Wife	33		Wallingford, Oxon.	
George H. Mason	Son	7	Scholar	Finchampstead	
Charlotte S. Mason	Daughter	6	"	"	
Walter Mason	Son	4		"	
Hetty Mason	Daughter	1		"	
William Mason	Head	24	Ag. labourer	Eversley, Hants	Sparvells Farm
Alice H. Mason	Wife	26		Sandhurst	
Alice M. Mason	Daughter	2		Finchampstead	
Patience M. Mason	Daughter	1		"	

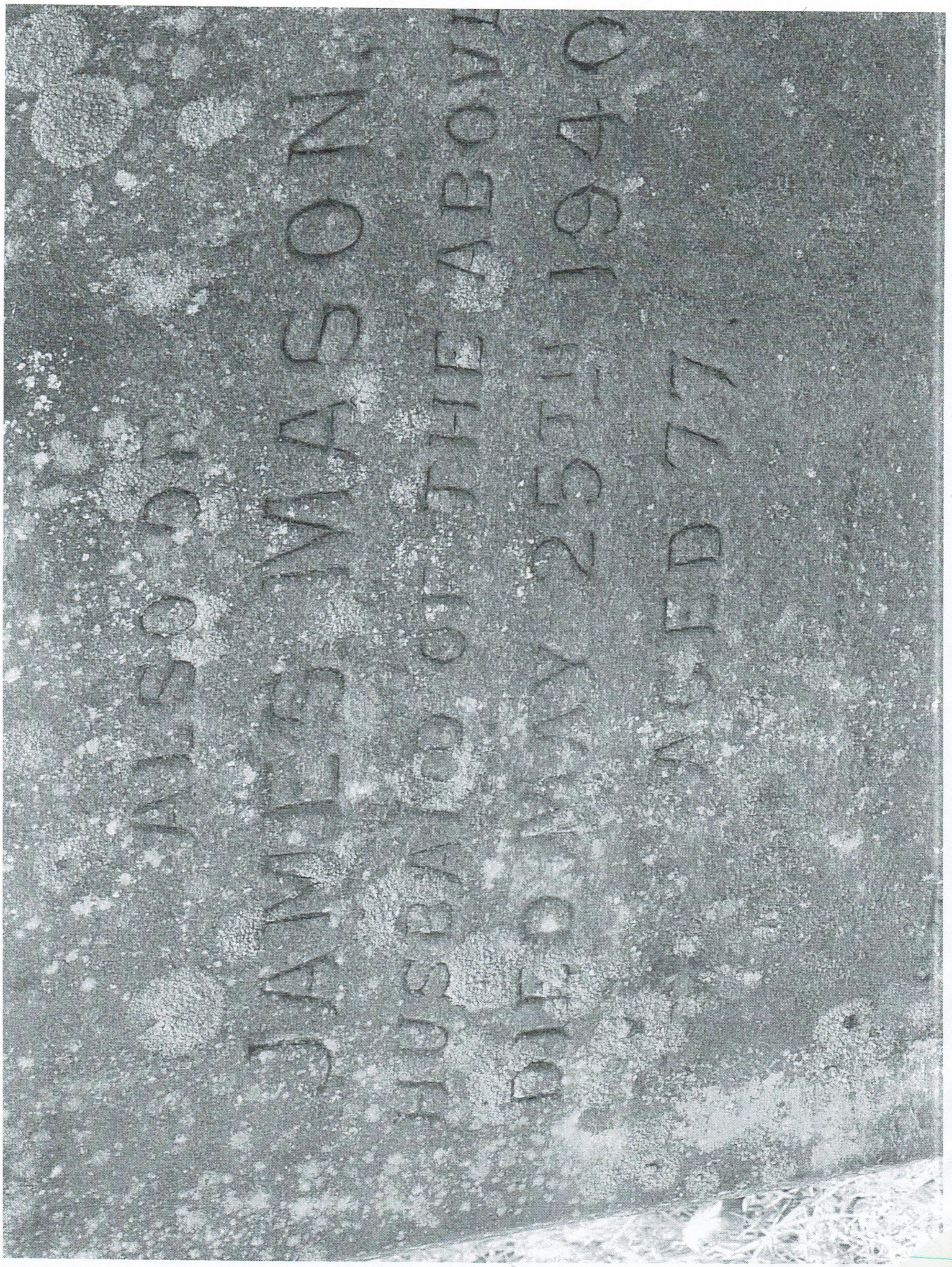
1901 Census	Relation	Age	Employment	Born	Address
James Mason	Head	38	Ag. labourer	Finchampstead	? Nr. Goose Green
Bessie Mason	Wife	34		?	
Cecil E. Mason	Son	10		Hampshire	
William J. Mason	Son	8		Sandhurst	
Albert H. Mason	Son	7		"	
Edith B. Mason	Daughter	5		Finchampstead	
Frank A. Mason	Son	2		"	
Charlotte Mason	Widow	74		Barkham	
John Mason	Head (Widower)	61	Ag. labourer	Finchampstead	Sandhurst Road
Herbert G. Mason	Son	15	"	"	
Kate Rutt	Daughter	27		"	
Cyrus Rutt	Grandson	6		Mapledurham	
Florence Rutt	Grandaughter	4		Finchampstead	

1911 Census	Relation	Age	Employment	Born	Address
Rose Amelia Mason	Head	44	Laundress	Sandhurst	The Laundry, Park Lane
Ann E. Mason	Visitor	23		Dorchester, Oxon	
James Mason	Head	48	Estate woodsman	Finchampstead	Radical Cottage, F' hampstead Rd.
Bessie Mason	Wife	44			
William James Mason	Son	18	Cowman	Sandhurst	
Albert Henry Mason	Son	17	Jobbing gardener	"	
Frank Arthur	Son	12	Scholar	Finchampstead	
George T. Mason					
Charlotte Mason					Now living in Guildford
and family					

BESSIE MASON.
WHO PASSED AWAY
JANUARY 30TH 1921.
AGED 55.

PERFECT IDEA

b. Oct. 1862 - Finchampstead, Wokingham



My Descendant Chart

– Julie Symonds.
via Frederick John Mason
& Violet A.M. Marquedge

John Mason
b. 1833, Finchampstead Berkshire
d. 1909, Hartley Wintney Hampshire
& Mary Davis
b. 1833, Swallowfield Hampshire
d. 1899, Wokingham Berkshire
m. 1857, Reading Berkshire

- Elizabeth Jane Mason
  b. 1862, Finchampstead Berkshire
  & Charles Yeoman
  m. 1884, Wokingham Berkshire
  - Sarah Yeoman
    b. 1888
- George Mason
  b. 1864, Eversley Hampshire
- James Mason
  b. 1866, Eversley Hampshire
  - m. Deborah Charlotte 1895
- William John Mason
  b. 1867, Eversley Hampshire
- Eliza Mason
  b. 1871, Finchampstead berkshire
- Ann Kate Mason
  b. 1872, Finchampstead berkshire
  & Daniel Rutt
  m. 1892, Wokingham Berkshire
  - Cyrus Rutt
    b. 1895
  - Floreine Rutt
    b. 1897
- Harry Mason
  b. 1874, Finchampstead berkshire

Thomas Vickerage Mason
b. 1877, Finchampstead berkshire
d. 1956, Surrey North Western
& Eliza Emily Horne
b. 1877, Henley Oxfordshire
d. 1975, Croydon Surrey
m. 1906, Wokingham Berkshire

- Edith Jane Mason
  b. 1907, Farnham Surrey
  & Cecil W Cooper
  m. 1930, Farnham Surrey
- Ruth Eileen Annie Mason
  b. 1908, Farnham Surrey
- Nora Mary Mason
  b. 1910, Farnham Surrey
- Richard Thomas K Mason
  b. 1911, Farnham Surrey
- Frederick John Mason
  b. 1913, Farnham Surrey
  & Violet Annie May Langridge
  b. 19 Aug 1911
  d. Mar 2005
  m. 27 Oct 1934, Finchampstead Berkshire
  - Cynthia Mason
    b. 17 Apr 1935
    d. Sep 1999
    & David J Long
    m. 1959, Petersfield Hampshire
    - Duncan Long
  - Brian Mason
  - Gorden Mason
  - Edward Mason
- Robert J Mason
  b. 1915, Farnham Surrey
- Grace N Mason
  b. 1918, Farnham Surrey

Millie Caroline Mason
b. 1879, Finchampstead berkshire
& Charles Waldren
d. 1968, Aldershot Hampshire
m. 1899, HartleyWintney

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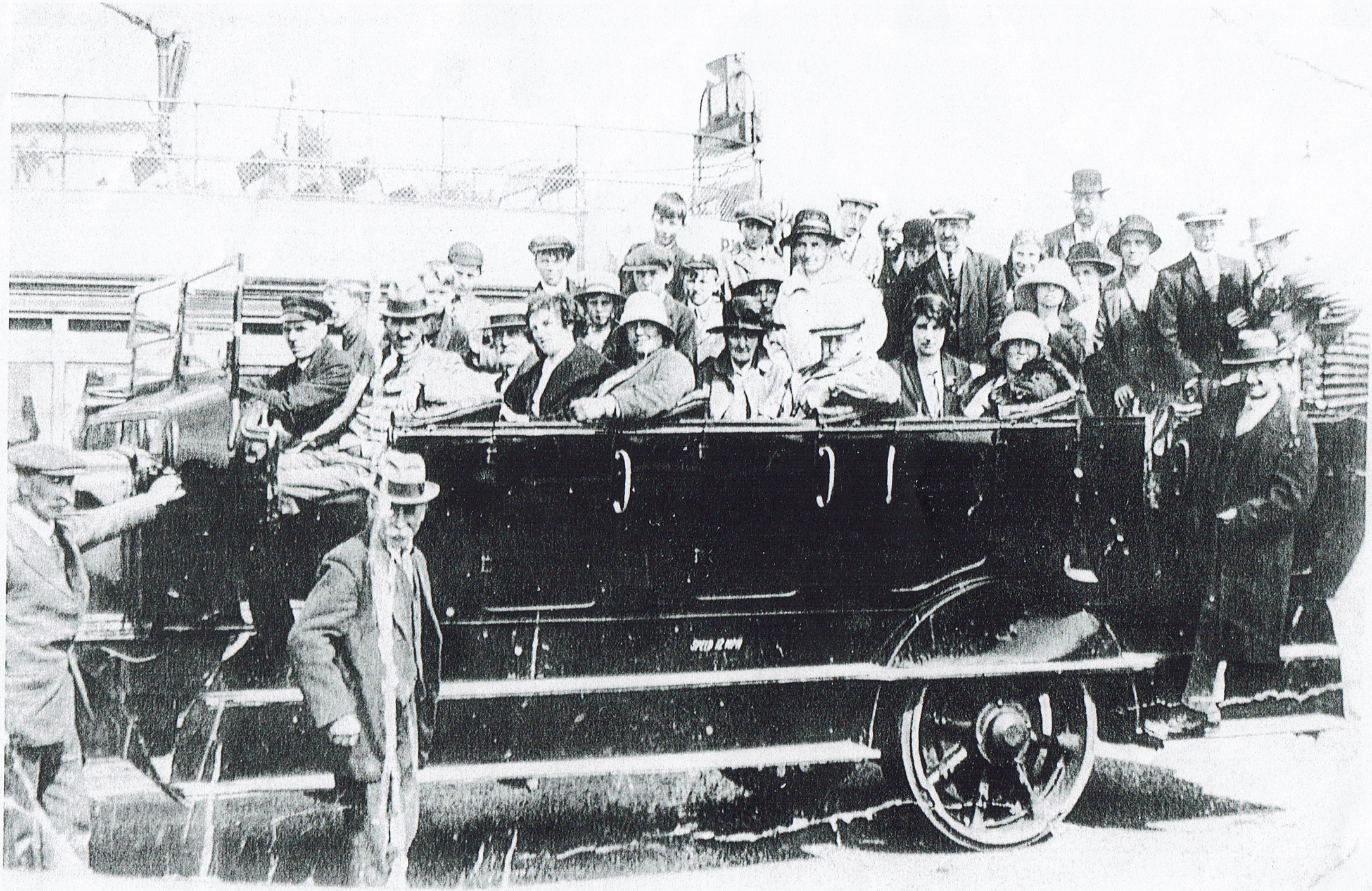
A Village Childhood in Finchampstead

By Gus McHugh

1916 - 2006



1924 - CHURCH CHOIR OUTING TO SOUTHSEA (SEE ACCOUNT LEFT)

'OLD RECTORY COTTAGE'
HOME OF THE McHUGH FAMILY
FROM 1918.

THE MEARING FAMILY

Thomas = Sarah
B. 1773. B. 1776.

- Ann 1799
- George = Eliza LUNN. B 1807.
  George: B 1802, M. 1829, D. 1873
- John = Elizabeth PAICE
  John: B. 1805, M. 1832; Elizabeth: B 1801.
- Frances.

John = Elizabeth:
- James. B 1838
- Ann
- Elizabeth B. 1841.
- Frances B. 1844.
- William B 1847.
- Henry B. 1852

George = Eliza:
- Sarah = Thomas MERRITT.
  Sarah: B. 1829, M 1854
- Charles. B. 1831
- Henry = Lydia.
  Henry: B. 1834, D. 1886
- Richard = Anna Maria
  Richard: B. 1844, M. 1883; Anna Maria: B. 1852.

Henry = Lydia:
- Reuben B 1868.
- Janet B. 1871
- Lydia B. 1873
- Eliza B. 1875
- Harriet. b. 187-
- Thomas. B. 188-

Richard = Anna Maria:
- Richard Robert. = Jessie BAKER
  Richard Robert: B. 1886, M. 1921, D. 1986; Jessie: B 1882. D. 1949.
  - Margaret Jessie. b. 1922 d. 2017

The MEARING FAMILY in FINCHAMPSTEAD 1851 From CENSUS

Thomas MEARING born at Yateley 1773. shown on 1851 census as living near New Inn now The Tally Ho. described as labourer.

George MEARING son of Thomas. baptised 1805 at Finchampstead Church appears on 1851 census living at Sandpit Lane (now Jubilee Rd) described as thatcher died 1873.

John MEARING son of Thomas baptised 1805 at Finchampstead 1851 census married described as thatcher.

Ann MEARING daughter of ~~Thomas~~ John baptised 1838 at Finchampstead. Living as servant at Bannisters 1851 census.

Richard MEARING son of George. born 1844 Finchampstead. married Ann Maria HOWARD 1883. described as gardener. Lived in one of seven cottages named as, "The Barracks", Barrack Lane, now Dell Rd. Five of the cottages have been pulled down and and replaced by three detached houses.

The two remaing – one of which was rented by the MEARINGS ~~is st~~ is now Warren Cottage.

Richard Robert MEARING son of Richard born 1886 in Finchampstead. married Jessie BAKER in 1921. ~~Died 1~~986.

Lengthman for Berkshire County Council until 1957. Died 1986

Margaret Jessie MEARING daughter of Richard Robert living in Dell Road.

THE FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH MAGAZINE
MAY 1986

May 1986

A Tribute to the late BOB MEARING from Councillor J.G. Offer

Bob Mearing was true character of real country life, having been born in Finchampstead. Since I arrived in Finchampstead in 1948, I found him to be a man of exceptional knowledge, especially local history, and conversation on everyday events. To me it was a great pleasure of deep satisfaction.

In his daily work, as a County Council lengthman, he attended to the upkeep of roads and verges in the village. As a result, he lived with nature to the full. I was always fascinated to watch him scything the grass verges, the precision of his arms was like a machine. But may I say with sadness, since his retirement several years ago, the roads and grass verges have never been so clean and tidy in the village.

His knowledge and love of gardening was his joy and pleasure. Bob was a man of remarkable memory of the last generation, and with me he has left lasting memories and happy reflections of a Finchampstead village of the past. I am sure these memories will be shared by all the older parishioners of the village who had the pleasure of knowing Bob.

Finally, let us not forget the loving and tender care given to him during his life by his devoted daughter Margaret.

G.J. Offer

CHURCH LANE - 1927

J. MAY, ROY MAY, T. LOADER (STOOPING) & 'BOB' MEARING (FAR RIGHT)

MEET a couple of "roaders." Mr. Bob Mearing, aged 70, of Fernlea, Dell Road, Finchampstead, who has just retired as a roadman, and Conkie, owned by Dr. Billing of Finchampstead, who has been Mr. Mearing's great pal for seven years.

With the exception of six years, Mr. Mearing has been a council roadman since July 1909 which, to quote him, was a time when "you could go from Ridge Cottage over the Ridges to the roundabout before you saw another house, or from the junction of Barkham Ride with the Wokingham road (a good mile) without a house until you got to Barkham Square."

He tells the Times: "I drew my first old age pension last week and with some superannuation from Berks County Council, my present employers, plus a little gardening for my figure's sake, I hope to pass the rest of my time in peace and quietness."

Best wishes, Mr. Mearing.

Snow Drift Jan 1927 Church lane, Finchampstead

JAN. 1927 — MEMBERS OF THE MAY FAMILY WITH BOB MEARING (FAR RIGHT)

(1)

Place'. Servants, grooms, etc. were housed in the Victorian semi–detached red-brick houses in Barracks Lane. Workers for North Court were housed in, what is now, 'Poor Ridge Cottage'.

Mr. Mearing wanted to have his own house built and Mr. F.Milam, who owned 'Box Cottage' and 'Ivy Cottage' further up the hill, gave him the chance to buy both, but Mrs.Mearing's father had been a shepherd and they had always lived in old tied cottages. She wanted a more modern house! Mr. Milam also owned a field at the bottom of the road, where 'Woodend' now stands, and he sold this to Richard Mearing, but, unfortunately, the authorities said that only a dwelling of a certain size could be built there as this would have been too big for the family. Mr. Milam then offered Mr. Mearing part of the garden of 'Box Cottage' and, in 1926, Margaret and her parents moved into'Fernlea'. In those days all the local fields had names – Bonny Overs, Seymours, Stony Pightle etc. – and Mr. Mearing wanted to call the bungalow 'Seymours' after the field behind but his wife chose 'Fernlea' and had the final word! At first they had oil lamps, then gas and, in 1951, electricity came to the road. Margaret still lives in 'Fernlea' today having spent all her life in Dell Road.

By 1970 only five cottages remained in the old Barracks plus 'Warren ~~Lodge~~ Cottage' which had been converted into one house. The cottages were condemned and pulled down in 1973 to be replaced by three modern detached homes.

Wendy Graham, 2004

Note

(1) 'New Place' was demolished in 2009 and replaced by 'Dell House'.

Memories of Finchampstead

Miss Margaret Mearing

Margaret and her father, Richard Mearing were both born in the Barracks Cottages in Barrack Lane. Finchampstead. This lane has more recently been re-named Dell Road. Barracks was the old name for a row of cottages.

Margaret's grandparents were living in the Barracks Cottages in the 1800's. They lived in half of the cottage now known as 'Warren ~~Lodge~~ Cottage'. Her grandfather was a local man, a thatcher and labourer by trade, and his wife came from Norfolk. Margaret's father, Richard Mearing, was the only surviving baby of their family, and, although he was a weak child, he lived to his 100th year. Before 1906 Richard worked for a time as a dormitory man at Wellington College, then later as a footman at a school in Banstead. His mother was then a widow and he returned to work in Finchampstead as a labourer.

In 1921 Richard Mearing married Margaret's mother, Jessie Baker from Sandhurst, at Finchampstead Church in. He worked for a while at the gravel pits and then for the local Council as a lengthsman on the roads. In the 1930's there was a poultry farm at the bottom of Barrack Lane and Mr. Mearing worked there for a while as the wages were very good, but the job did not last and he returned to the Council.

Margaret was born in 1922 and attended the village school in Finchampstead Village. A troupe of children would walk from The Barracks, the older ones looking after the little ones. Sometimes they would walk back along the Lower Sandhurst Road and pick blackberries. Many people took in washing and the children would carry it back to the bigger houses in laundry baskets, sometimes getting a biscuit as a reward.

Lower Sandhurst Road and Barrack Lane were gravelled and very dusty. The bottom end of Barrack Lane was lined with wild rose trees forming a pretty canopy, but when the hedges were dug out the roses went also.
At one time The Barracks consisted of eleven cottages. There was a cement-lined brick tank fed by a spring through pipes laid under the Mearing's house. The water was suspected when a number of children in The Barracks died – five in one household – but the source of infection was discovered to be in the drains of one of the houses. Two of the cottages were pulled down and the landlord ordered a well to be dug on the land opposite, where 'Russetts' now stands. Unfortunately the project had to be abandoned when the workmen found London Clay 40 feet down. The water found there was foul and undrinkable, so the residents continued to use the old well as before. The Water Company installed a mains supply in 1947.

On the left,near to the sharp twist at the top end of Barracks Lane, there were two more old cottages, now long gone. At the top on the right was Ridge Cottage which has been extensively extended and is now called 'New

Memories of Mr Arthur Murrell 1998. Revised in 2000. recorded 27/11/00

A.J.Owen Goddard.

Bought area from last bungalow on the right, near Rhododendron Corner to Dell Road. (I havn't seen any reference to him being connected with Ridge Cottage). Was an asbestos colonial house. Arthur's father helped pull it down.

He changed the name from Barrack Road in the 1930's, to Dell Road.

He had the pond opposite school filled in.

During the 1930's , the Old Rectory was demolished, and Finchampstead House built.
A.J.O.G. was the architect for Major Edwards. (Mrs. Edwards was a beautiful lady, with long golden hair and drove a Bentley Continental car.)
Mr Arthur Murrell's father helped in the rebuilding. The garage is partly underneath.

Mrs. Goddard was formerly a Miss Liddiard from Wokingham. She ran a little private school in The Verge.
They had an office extension on the school side of the Verge.
They had three daughters, Rose, Mary and Ethel, who died.
Rose was a schoolteacher and married Reg. Allison a schoolteacher at The Holt school. He was the first Secretary/Treasurer/Booking Officer of the Memorial Hall.

The Verge was the Post Office at the beginning of the century, then it went over the road to The Little Orchard (joined onto the blacksmiths shop). It returned back over the road to Rosemary Cottage, where Mrs Slyfield served customers in her back room (now the kitchen of the present owners, Ian and Sue Cridland). At present it is at the Park Motors (27/11/00) but the Post Office Counters are threatening closure unless Ian Admans has converted to computer by 7th Dec.

Mrs Slyfield (Miss Crane)? gave land for the children's playground.

In the 1930's Mr Murrell and Jack Thorne moved the hedge opposite the Council houses in line with Red Cottage (Mrs Powell, next to the Memorial Hall).

Mr Cartiledge won the Irish Sweepstake, £20,000, with which he bought the now California Country Park. Arthur's grandfather was a friend of his, he had a fish shop in Twickenham and Teddington. In 1920 he bought Shepperlands. He returned to London leaving Arthur's mother behind

MARGARET MEARING.

LAND ARMY
1940-41

WITH FRIEND AT
WELLINGTON COLLEGE
JULY, 2000

Grave of

Dame Charlotte Helen Ommanney

in St. James' Churchyard,

Finchampstead

Dame Charlotte Helen Ommanney

Dame Charlotte and her husband, **Sir Montagu Frederick Ommanney, GCMG, KCB,ISO,** were residents of the Old Rectory, Finchampstead for only a few years before **Charlotte** died. She was buried in St. James' Church graveyard in March 1913. **Montagu** died in Cuckfield, Sussex, in 1925. They had seven children. The Old Rectory was replaced by Finchampstead House in the 1930's.

Charlotte, herself, was one of the seven children of Octavius and Helen Ommanney. She was born in 1845 in Westminster and married her first cousin, **Montagu Ommanney**, in 1867. **Montagu** was the son of Francis and Julia Ommanney and Octavius and Francis were brothers. Their parents were Sir Francis Molyneux Ommanney and Georgiana Frances Ommanney who had twelve children. The Ommanneys were a distinguished family with many holding high-ranking naval positions.

Caitlyn Crook, a descendant of the Ommanney family, has supplied the following additional information:-

I've been doing more research on the Ommanneys and found they are a *very* large family! I looked into Charlotte's and Montagu's parents (Francis & Octavius) and then looked into *their* parents.
Their father was called Sir Francis Molyneux Ommanney, born in 1774 and died in 1840 (age 66).
Their mother was Georgiana Francis Ommanney. Together they had 13 children, hence a large family connection. The names of their children were Elizabeth Ackworth Beachcroft Ommanney, Frederick Woods Ommanney, Edward Aislabie Ommanney and Edward Aislabie Ommanney (I do believe they had two children of the same name), Walter Stirling Ommanney, Francis Ommanney, John Orde Ommanney, Manaton Collingwood Ommanney, Admiral Sir Erasmus Ommanney, Agnes Ommanney, Octavius
Ommanney and George Druce Wynne Ommanney.

I also researched into Admiral Sir Erasmus Ommanney. He joined the Royal Navy at the age of 12 in 1826. In 1838, he went on an Arctic expedition in search of missing whales. During the Crimean War of 1854-56 he commanded the Naval force in the White Sea at the Gulf of Riga.
He became an Admiral 1877 and was knighted in the same year.

Finally, I researched into the parents of Francis Molyneux Ommanney: Rear Admiral Cornthwaite Ommanney, born 1736, died 26th March 1801 (aged 65) and their mother was Martha Manaton, born 1748 and died 1813 (Aged 65).

Cornthwaite was commissioned lieutenant on 22nd August 1758 and promoted commander on the 20th June 1765. He commanded the Zephyr 10 from 1766 until the end of the following year and in February 1768 he commissioned the New Otter 14, serving on the Newfoundland station for each of the following two summers and retaining her until the end of 1769. He was posted Captain on the 22nd of February 1772 and commanded the Panther 60 with the broad pennant of the Commodore Molyneux Shuldham at Newfoundland for the following two summers.
On January 19th 1773 he married Martha Manaton and together they had 6 sons and 1 daughter. He became a rear admiral in 1794 and died on the 26th March 1801. His son, Lieutenant Montagu Ommanney of the Royal Artillery, died in the West Indies in 1796. He lived in Millbank Row in Westminster.

Montagu was born on the 22nd August 1779 and died on November 17th 1796 at the age of 17.

Dame Charlotte Omminney (centre)
with her husband, Montague Frederick Omminney (on her right)
and various family members.

■ Doris and her son John plant the tree, watched by Harry Long

Tribute to village bobby

LONG-SERVING Finchampstead councillor Gilbert Offer was fondly remembered when a tree was planted in his honour.

Some months ago Finchampstead Parish Council voted unanimously to find a fitting memorial for Mr Offer. And as he was a keen gardener, his widow Doris suggested planting his favourite tree, a copper beech.

At Saturday's planting ceremony at Finchampstead Memorial Hall, collegues and friends told of their great esteem for Mr Offer, who died in July 1989 after serving 19 years on the parish council, five as its chairman.

Mr Offer, who lived in Finchampstead for 42 years, was the village policeman and a governor of Gorse Ride and Nine Mile Ride schools.

Current chairman Harry Long helped Mrs Offer and her son John, a university lecturer who had come over from Northern Ireland for the ceremony, to plant the tree.

A brass plaque will be put up near the tree dedicating it to the memory of Mr Offer by the parish council.

Mr Long said: "I am sure Gilbert would have approved of planting a tree. By coincidence, the date happens to have fallen during national tree planting week."

Mrs Offer said her husband greatly enjoyed his council work as he knew everyone in the village from his days as the local policeman touring the area on his bicycle.

The Rev Ken Humphreys remembered Mr Offer as a very well respected member of his congregation.

"He was always a very reliable friend and was well used by people consulting him on parish history or current difficulties," he said.

Finchampstead ward Coun Muriel Long represented the district council at the ceremony.

P.C. Gilbert J. Offer
Our "Bobby on the Beat" for 17 years.

THE FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH MAGAZINE
AUG. 1989

Aug 1989

Mr. GILBERT OFFER

We are sad to record the death of Mr. Offer on Sunday 16th July at the Sue Ryder Home, Nettlebed. He was a kind and gentle man, with a deep and sincere interest in the welfare of the community. We shall miss him, and we extend our heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Doris Offer and their son, John.

Publishers

Mr. GILBERT OFFER

Many of the older residents of Finchampstead will remember Mr. Gilbert Offer as being our last true Village Policeman. Cycling his beat, passing the time of day with those he met, and standing in the dark by the telephone box outside the old post office, waiting to ring in to the Station. No 'walkie talkies' then! There was not much happening that escaped his sharp eyes and even the young rebels of the day had a healthy respect for "Copper Offer", as he was affectionately known.

Gilbert Offer was a native of Bath and had been a chorister in Bath Abbey. He served in the Police Force at Hungerford and came to Finchampstead in 1948. A keen gardener, he specialised in dahlias and always had a fine show of blooms in the garden of the Police House at Spring Gardens.

On his retirement he and Mrs. Offer moved to their very pleasant bungalow in Nine Mile Ride, but he did not retire from public service. Always having the welfare of the village at heart, he was elected to the Parish Council, on which he served for 18 years, some of the time as Chairman.

He was a well respected and public spirited member of our community who will be sadly missed

M.J.M.

TRIBUTE TO GILBERT OFFER

When Gilbert died last week we all lost a very loyal friend and counsellor. His knowledge of the parish over many years was of enormous value and many parishioners came to him with their problems. Gilbert was a Parish Councillor from 1969 to 1987 when failing health prevented him from standing for Local Council elections. Nevertheless he was always available to advise on matters of parish concern. During his term of office with the Council he was Chairman several times.

His knowledge of the Parish began long before his election to the Council as he was the village 'bobby' for twenty years and the wealth of stories he could tell about events was boundless. During his police service he was awarded the Queen's Medal - a rare distinction.

Gilbert had a great love of music and a fine collection of records to which he was always adding a new favourite.

M.Harle

SYDNEY PAULDEN

TIMESPEOPLE

By Jackie Roberts

MOST parents have at some time or another had to go through the daily chore of reading their young children a bed-time story before they will even consider settling down to go to sleep.

But for how many has this task developed into the lucrative business of writing children's books?

Sidney Paulden of The Ridges, Finchampstead, discovered that the quicket method of settling his three sons down at night was to turn the light off while telling them a story. It was this that led him to improvising them rather than reading out loud from a book.

"I used to find something they had been playing with during the day and revolve the story around it. For instance, I found a pencil with a rubber on the end and started telling them a story about a little boy called Yen who used this magic pencil to draw things that immediately came toi life," he said.

Book

But the story of Yen and his magic pencil continued night after night and Mr Paulden realised that he had a potential story book on his hands.

"After several 'episodes' I switched on a tape recorder as I told the children the stories, and I soon found that they were inviting their friends round to hear the tapes. But it was my wife who finally persuaded me to send the story to some publishers. It took me ages to type it all out but eventually I finished it all and posted it off to the first three publishing houses on the list," he explained.

Two publishers turned the manuscript down immediately and it was seven months before the third bothered to reply.

"A lot of people get discouraged and give up writing after a first refusal, but I always advise them to keep on going. You never know what is going to happen," he claimed.

It was the third publisher that finally accepted the story of Yen although a few amendments had to be made to the first chapters.

So it was in December, 1975, that Sidney Paulden's first story about Yen appeared on the book shelves.

Mr Paulden approached the BBC television programme Jackanory with his book and in June, 1976, Paul Jones of Manfred Mann read the story of Yen to millions of viewers in five episodes.

"I really got a thrill out of listening to the programme. Paul Jones did it very well — putting on all the voices. I think it came across very well — my writing is extremely visual, you see," he said.

SIDNEY PAULDEN

Since then two more stories about Yen have appeared on the market although Mr Paulden has decided that his adventures will end with a fourth book still in the pipeline. Soon to be published is Little Cowboy, another story based on one of his children's toys.

Very hard

"It is very hard to write children's books. A story goes through the hands of so many adults before being seen by a child. My youngest son, Jan, 13, always reads the stories and criticises where he thinks fit. He's very useful you know," he explained.

"I always have a very pholospical theme running through my stories. I don't think that the children realise this but they hopefully absorb it all unconsciously. One theme is indignation against injustice. I think it is good for kids to understand that people should get their just deserts because really and truly that's why we entered World War Two," he claimed.

At present Mr Paulden is working on another book, The Disco, aimed at older children.

"It is all about the children from The Forest Grammar School at Winnersh and the girls of Holt School, Wokingham, although all names will obviously be changed.

Jan goes to The Forest School and I often give the kids lifts when both schools get together for a disco.

Funny

It is really funny listening to them discussing who was there, who likes who and so on. So that is going to be the theme of my new book. I think it will come off quite qell," he said.

However, Mr Paulden's literary talents are not restricted to children's stories, for he is also a specialist writer on international trades, industrial finance and selling techniques.

"I have written several of the BBC industrial publications and am also an advisor for The Money Programme and Panorama. I also wrote five BBC television programmes about the Common Market prior to us entering," he explained.

His work for the United Nations plus industrial books requires a considerable amount of research and travel.

"One of my books, 'Joint Export Marketing Groups', was about how small production units can get together in any one country and sell internationally. The research for this involved seven weeks of solid travel around the world looking out all the small industries I could find," he said.

Labour

Another book, 'Whatever Happened at Fairfields', about the Glasgow shipyard taken over by the employees after being closed down as a result of bankruptcy, mainly deals with labour relations.

"That involved quite a lot of work and I also had to smuggle myself into a shipyard for the launching of a new ship. The cover of that book actually was designed by Sean Connery who feels very strongly about this sort of thing," he explained.

Despite the recognition he has achieved in this particular field of work, Sidney Paulden derives far more pleasure in writing stories for children.

"I think that fairy stories will always remain firm favourites with youngsters but it is very hard to break into the market.

"My main problem, really, is finding time to write the stories — I have so many other dead — lines to meet.

Blockbuster

"I usually try to do this writing at the weekends but once I get started I hate having to stop and get on with something else. This last book about Yen is a real blockbuster and will round off his adventures really well. It is called Yen and The Power of the Wizards," he explained.

THE FINCHAMPSTEAD MAGAZINE
APRIL 1991

April 1991

LIONEL GEORGE SCHOFIELD

Mr. Schofield was born on 15th February 1915 and we regret to inform our readers that he died on 7th March 1991, aged 76. His father, George Schofield, of Coggleshill, Nine Mile Ride, was Cowman of Wheatlands Farm, and his mother, Beatrice Mary Preston, of Clerkenwell Tavern, S.E. London, was a Landlady. Lionel, their only son, was born at Beech Cottages, White Horse Lane, then moved to 1 Wheatlands Cotts, White Horse Lane. He frequented Finchampstead C. of E. School. When he left school he worked at Pine Farm, Finchampstead, for Captain Washington. Lionel started his own poultry business from home.

When the War came, he joined the Royal Artillery, working with searchlights and the anti-aircraft battery at Barnard Castle, Lincolnshire, then went to North Africa and progressed through Italy into Germany. He was a despatch rider in the desert and had many a hairy moment, was wounded and was awarded seven medals. In 1945 he was invalided out and sent home on a Hospital Ship. He spent a long time in the Royal Berks. Hospital and on his recovery he returned to Poultry Farming.

At this time he rode an old Sunbeam motorcycle and later bought Edgington's Vanguard van. Lionel had a friend in Germany so after the War he used to drive in his Vanguard to visit the family in Germany up until about 1971, and would tour the Continent in his old car and once even drove up the side of Mount Vesuvius. He visited many other famous places as well.

Later on, Lionel began taxi work for Station Car Hire in Wokingham. His father, George, died in 1954 and is buried in Finchampstead Churchyard. Lionel then looked after his ageing mother till she was 91 - she died in about 1963. He took on gardening duties at the Churchyard and at various houses in the vicinity for 25 years.

Many people will best remember seeing him in the new Range Rover that he purchased in 1971. He will always be remembered for his conscientious work and spent much time enjoying the warm summer days mowing the lawns. Some summer evenings he could be seen mowing the lawn at the War Memorial. He always had time to spend for an interesting chat about gardening, or the weather, or how things had changed in his 76 years in Finchampstead. His house was knocked down and rebuilt in 1985-87 and he lived there until moved into Hospital in July 1990. He spent the last months of his life in hospital due to a series of falls and declining health.

Mark Denton

Mercury, July 1979

Brian Shone

One man's fight for highway

FINCHAMPSTEAD folk call him "The Devil's Advocate," and, in a way, that is an apt description of their newly-elected parish councillor, Major Brian Shone.

Two weeks ago at the council's most recent meeting Major Shone tried, unsuccessfully, to force a debate on the public right of way along The Devil's Highway.

He claimed that a fence and a hedgerow are encroaching on a portion of this historic Roman road thus preventing the public from using its full width.

His concern is that if The Devil's Highway is not protected, landowners adjacent to this 1,600-yard strip of bridlepath will be able to apply for squatter's rights over substantial portions.

The issue is as simple as that. Yet it provoked the stormiest meeting in years of the Finchampstead Parish Council and resulted in the major receiving a verbal lambasting second to none.

Now, when the major conducts a campaign, he uses every possible means to attain his objective, as his fellow councillors have been quick to discover. He bombards everyone—from the highest to the lowliest—with an avalanche of paper bearing lengthy printed arguments and neatly reproduced multi-coloured maps. Given half a chance, he will launch into verbal explanations which may stretch over several hours.

For instance, when I arrived at his home in Longwater Lane, Major Shone was very busy collating the numerous pages of his latest epistle directed at the Finchampstead Society and the History and Heritage Group with copies to . . . you name it, and they're listed somewhere on the title page! He intended to hand-deliver these on his bicycle later in the evening.

The man behind this "devil of a row," is a silver-haired, blue-eyed 67-year-old retired BBC engineer.

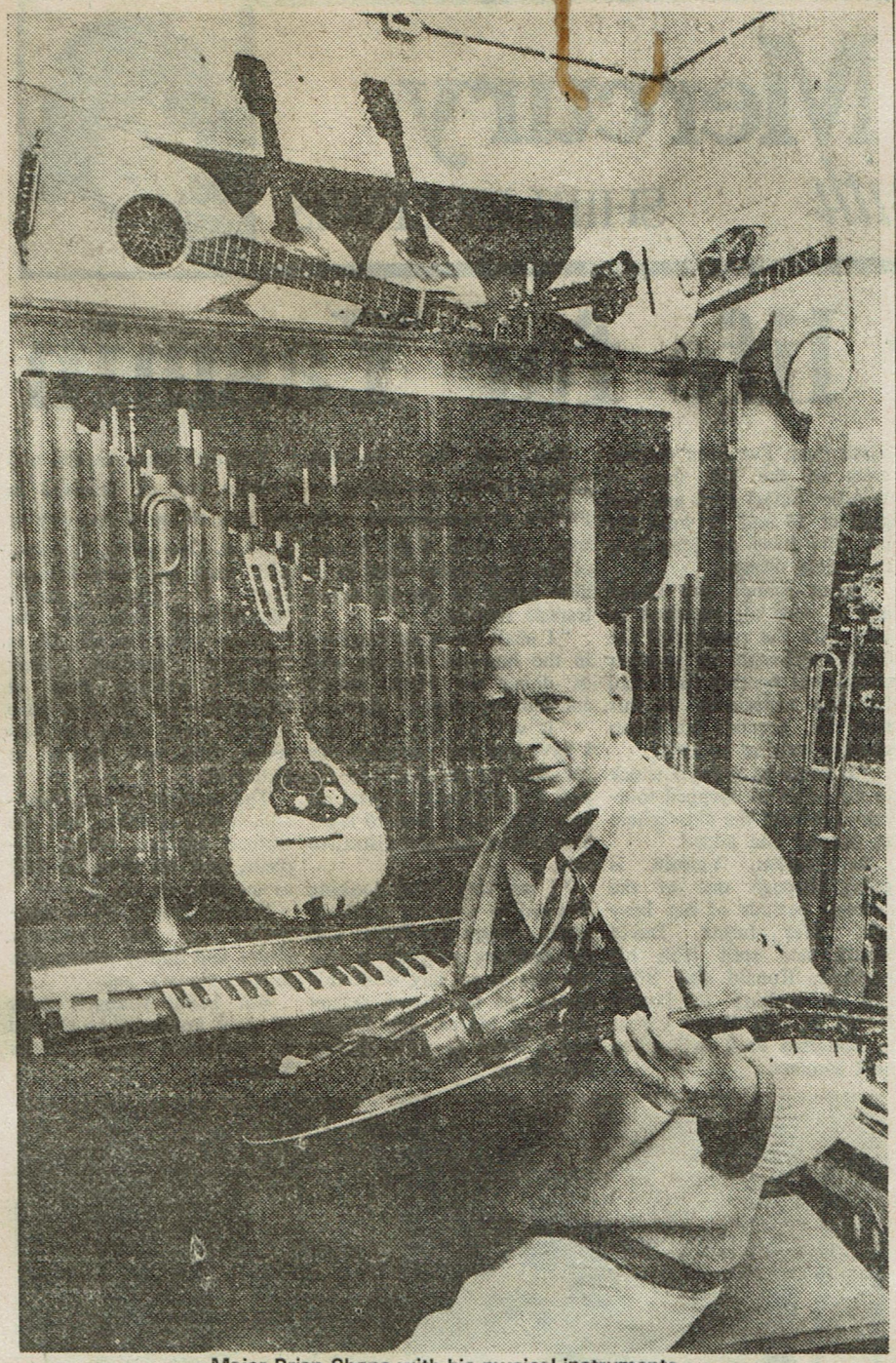
He lives in a house which was built around stables—or, to be more precise, he employed an architect 25 years ago to build accommodation for his horses and coaches, and, almost as an afterthought, a flat for his own use on top of the stables.

This approach to his own living quarters is understandable because Major Shone is one of those rare people who is a member—along with the Duke of Edinburgh and the Prince of Wales—of the Coaching Club. It is not surprising, therefore, to learn that he was one of the amateur "whips" who took part in the Coronation procession, driving the Prime Minister of Ceylon, but this is only one of the many distinctions which he has achieved in a lifetime jam-packed with incident. In 1970 he received the Geoffrey Parr Award from the previous year's recipients, moonwalkers Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin.

Television engineers will quickly understand the technical significance of his contribution. Very simply, he developed a method whereby numerous television programmes can be transmitted through one aerial. It brought with it advantages not only to the BBC, but to the set-owner as well.

The "Galloping Major" didn't only confine his interests to horses and engineering—he founded the Berkshire Boy Choristers and makes a point of travelling abroad on their concert tours.

They practise in the coach-house-cum-stables, long since vacated by his coaches and horses, surrounded by three fanfare trumpets for the Agincourt Battle Song, Cors de Chasse, for the hunting songs, two lute guitars and four gittens for the Elizabethan songs, a set of eight bells for the Vicar of Bray, a set of six bells for "Sumer is icumen in" and a portable organ —all purchased by Major Shone for those very special instrumental accompaniments.



Major Brian Shone with his musical instruments.

The stairway to Major Shone's flat is lined by pipes for an organ he salvaged from the Staines Methodist Church and the console is hemmed in by the apper the major accumulates in writing not only letters, but books, which he binds himself and which he turns out as regularly and as prolifically as an Erle Stanley Gardner.

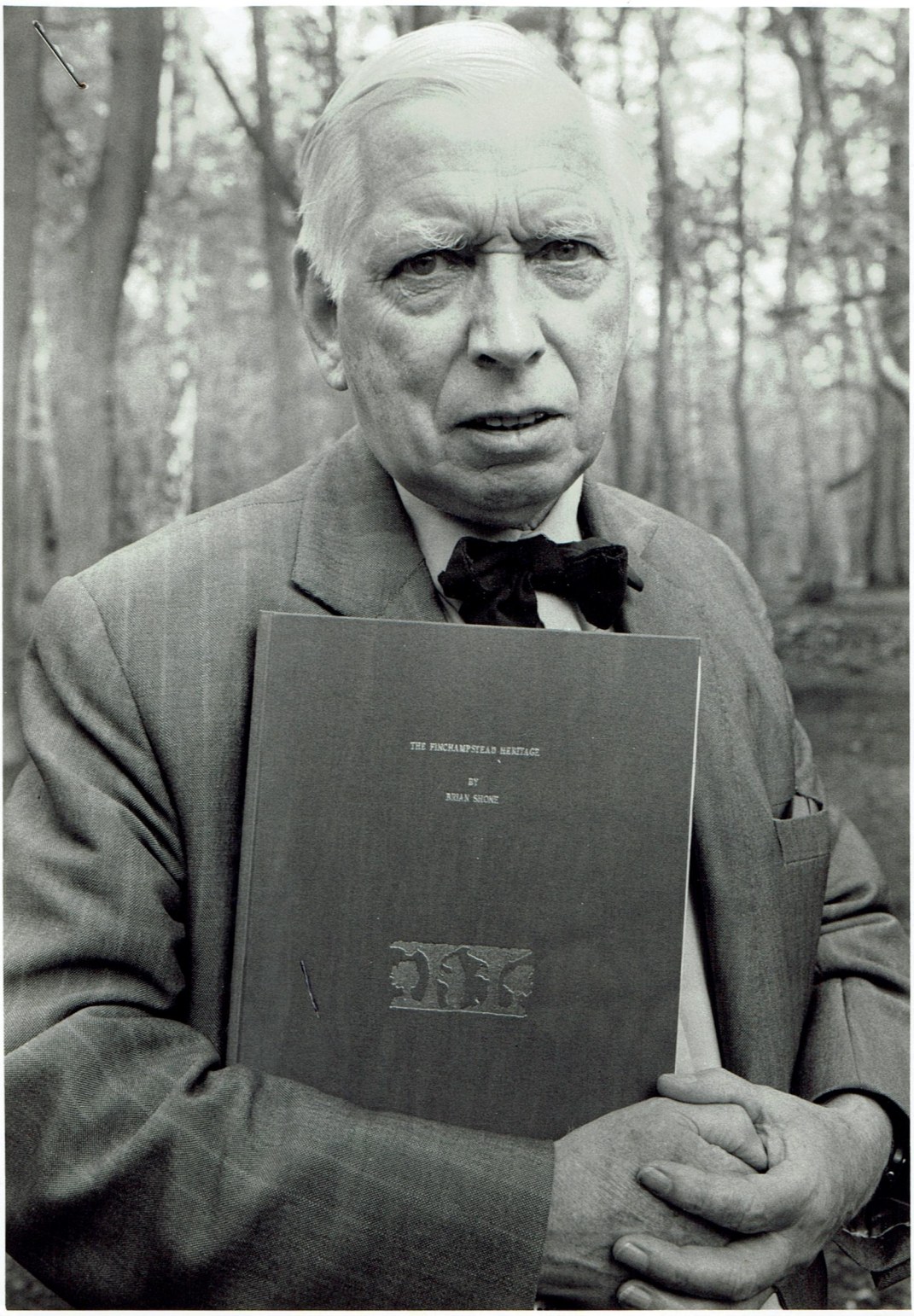
The result is that his flat is what can only be described as a "chaos of paper." It would not be unkind to describe him as untidy, but he apologises profusely for the "mess" which includes numerous of his own paintings.

He is a "tenth-rate" (his own description of his musical skills) organist, pianist and player of the viola.

As if this is not enough to keep most people occupied for life, he is a governor of the Blue Coat School at Christ's Hospital, a life member of the Reading Ramblers' Club and a life member of the National Trust.

Throw in the fact that he founded the Finchampstead Society ("to protect our parish") and the Bearwood Estate Residents Association ("to defend our ancient rights of way") and you have only a sketchy outline of his multitude of interests.

Thus has the major galloped through life. Now he has dug in his spurs and is racing headlong towards ultimate protection of Finchampstead's 26-mile network of footpaths and bridlepaths; and, whether or not the Finchampstead Parish Council like it, the major intends to put his case forcibly—and the devil take the hindmost!



BRIAN SHONE - 1988

WOKINGHAM TIMES, JUNE 6, 1996

June 6 1996

Councillor is found hanged

Sad end for Devil's Highway campaigner

By Charles Nelson

VETERAN political campaigner Major Brian Shone has been found hanged at his Finchampstead home just weeks after failing in another election attempt.

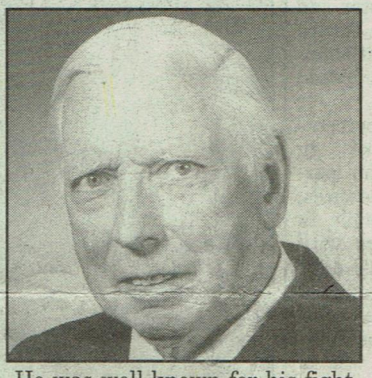
The body of Major Shone, aged 84, an eccentric and controversial figure, was discovered by his sister, Ruth, last Friday morning at his house in Vermont Woods.

A note was also found at the scene and police confirmed there were no suspicious circumstances.

Prior to the Wokingham District Council elections in May, Major Shone confessed to the *TIMES* that he would "carry on campaigning until the bitter end" as a matter of pride.

But, as in past elections, he made little impact on the electorate in Finchampstead South ward and the seat was held by Tory councillor Muriel Long, prompting him to seek a judicial review.

Major Shone, who lived alone, was elected to Finchampstead Parish Council.



He was well-known for his fight to get the Devil's Highway, an Anglo-Saxon pilgrim road in Finchampstead, reinstated as a public right of way - a dream that was never realised.

He was an outspoken critic of Freemasonry and obsessively fought to expose Masons who he was convinced had taken over local and national government.

He stood unsuccessfully several times for seats on Wokingham District and Berkshire County Councils and in two general elections.

He dedicated much of his time to promoting his unorthodox political views under the banner of his own Christian Heritage, History and Reform party.

He wrote several books, at least one of which was outlawed for containing defamatory statements. Major Shone got round this by giving the book away.

Nearly a decade ago he had to sell his home in Longwater Lane and move into a smaller house after losing £76,000 in a libel case.

He was a prolific letter writer and even sent correspondence to members of the Royal family and politicians of the day such as Margaret Thatcher.

Finchampstead district councillor Celia May said: "He was very much an individual, an eccentric and latterly rather a lonely old man. It is a tragedy for this to happen."

Major Shone was once a skilled carriage driver, leading the Celonese Prime Ministers coach during the Queen's Coronation procession in 1953.

Major Shone's body was found suspended from a rope hanging from a pole over his attic doorway. Police say he may have been dead for as long as 18 hours.

A post mortem was due to carried out on Tuesday (June 4).

WOKINGHAM TIMES, JULY 11, 1996

July 11 1996

Major hanged himself after campaign loss

By Chris Watson

THE last moments of Finchampstead parish councillor Major Brian Shone's life were relived at a coroner's court last week when part of his suicide note was read out.

And after the inquest a Wokingham district councillor dramatically revealed a possible motive for the tragedy.

Major Shone hanged himself at his home in Vermont Woods, aged 84, just weeks after failing in another Wokingham District Council election bid.

He had been well known for his fight to get the Devil's Highway, an Anglo-Saxon pilgrim road in Finchampstead, reinstated as a public right of way.

He was also strongly opposed to Freemasonry and sought to expose Masons in public life.

The body of Major Shone, who had worked for the BBC, was found on May 31 suspended from a rope hanging from a pole over his attic doorway by his sister, Ruth.

In a suicide note, Major Shone wrote: "To my family and executors, please forgive the awful thing I must do."

Coroner Robert Wilson recorded a verdict of suicide, on July 4, after reading statements from Major Shone's sister and from Wokingham district councillor Steve Bacon.

Was Lib-Dem's letter the final straw?

His sister stated she had last seen Major Shone on April 7 (Easter Sunday), which was his birthday, and had spent the day with him.

Major Shone was said to be in good health and his sister had arranged with him to attend their brother Kenneth's birthday celebrations.

Ruth went to his home on May 31 and used a key she had been given to let herself in.

She took milk and letters from the door-step and checked to see if his kitchen stove was hot, knowing that he made a pot of coffee in the morning.

Ruth found a handwritten note on a chair and then discovered her brother's body upstairs.

Recording his verdict, Coroner Robert Wilson said: "Isn't it a shame when a man of his calibre, who has led such a full life, takes his own life.

"He may have had arguments or disagreements about local government but don't we all."

Speaking after the inquest, Cllr Bacon speculated that a letter he sent to Major Shone just prior to his death may have contributed to the parish councillor's state of mind.

Cllr Bacon said the Major had hoped that the change of administration on the district council following the May local elections would provide a speedy solution to his Devil's Highway campaign.

But in the letter, found on a table in Major Shone's house and referred to in his note, Cllr Bacon stated that the new Lib-Dem run district council could not act immediately to re-open the pilgrim road.

Cllr Bacon said: "He was expecting the Lib-Dems to come in and change everything and deal with his single issue - the bridleway - as a matter of urgency.

"I wrote to him the week before he died - I wasn't encouraging. He expected something to happen within days or weeks whereas I didn't think it would happen anywhere as near as that. This didn't give him anything like the encouragement he expected.

"In the scheme of things it is not as important as other matters such as the housing of the homeless."

Major Shone is also believed to have been upset about the prospects of seeking a judicial review following his defeat in the district council elections.

Up to 1972, Major Brian Shone could be seen driving round the Parish on a Sporting Omnibus, pulled by a Unicorn Team of 3 horses. The coach had gun dog boxes for going out hunting.

BRIAN SHONE - IN MEMORIAM

I recall Brian Shone as a member of the St James's Church choir when I arrived as Rector in 1962. He had settled in Longwater Lane in 1952, needing paddock and coach house space not too far from Windsor to enable him to make his coach and horses available for shows and royal occasions. Being something of a high flyer in his London days, he was not immediately accepted by the Finchampstead "old guard" of the middle years of the century. One respected elder in describing Brian to me commented that he was very much a newcomer, adding "he has only been here ten years".

By his insistent defence of village amenities, including footpaths, the old village green, the largest iron-age bell barrow in Berkshire, and St Oswald's well, he surely earned at last village status. He worshipped at St James's from time to time; one of the last occasions being on his 84th birthday on Easter Sunday this year.

Brian Shone was a colourful character who accomplished many things in his life: war-time organiser of top secret training of 20,000 radar operators, engineer in charge of aerials and transmitters for radio and early television at Alexandra Palace and Crystal Palace, radio engineer responsible for the technical aspects of the broadcast of the Abdication speech in 1936, driver of coach and horses in the Coronation procession in 1952, leader of visits of singing boys from Berkshire to Venice, Rome, Luxembourg, Washington and New York, producer of opera in Wokingham Town Hall, organiser of a broadcast service of Berkshire Boys singing from Eton College chapel with the Roman Catholic Bishop Derek Warlock and Cabinet Minister Selwyn Lloyd.

A penchant for litigation and a fearless determination to contend for what he saw as the right, inspired Brian to spend a quarter of a century and more of his retirement beavering away in courts at every level (including the European court), often representing himself without legal assistance. His main concern was to try to obtain the opening of the Devil's Highway, which in the early 1950's had not been included in the definitive map of public footpaths. He died without achieving this goal.

The range and scope of his prolific correspondence was wide and all-embracing. He was an inveterate copier of letters to all and sundry. Recipients included royalty, judges, (from the Lord Chancellor downwards), politicians, local government officers and councillors, bishops and clergy of many denominations. He served various terms of office on the Parish Council and was a member of the Council at the time of his death. His energy seemed boundless. Having given up his car in recent years, he walked everywhere and was often to be seen doggedly delivering election manifestos in his many attempts to be elected to Wokingham District Council.

With pride in his military associations as a Territorial Army major, Brian liked to retain his military rank in civilian life. Year by year on Remembrance Sunday he would attend the service at the War Memorial, sporting his bowler hat and medals. Military history and church music were abiding interests, which he was always ready to share. Independent, and idiosyncratic, Brian could be charming and irritating in equal measure. He was a good-hearted and honourable man, whose passing leaves the Village a more monochrome place.

Arthur Brian Shone's funeral service took place at Easthampstead Park Crematorium on 13th June. His ashes are to be interred in Finchampstead Churchyard at noon on Monday 8th July.

Dennis Crossley.

RONALD SIBTHORPE

WINNER OF THE CHAPMAN ROSE BOWL FOR DAFFODILS

CALIFORNIA FLOWER SHOW 1989.

ERNEST SIMS
CABINET MAKER.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY—*continued.*	Saleable Value	Annual Value	
Brought forward.....		149	10
Farms and Lands called Banisters Wettes and part of Felthams containing together 281. 2. 3 held by Samuel Cantery on Lease from Michaelmas 1874 for a term of 21 years determinable at the end of the first 7 or 14 years on a 2 years notice at a rent of £340 per ann for first 3 years and at a rent of £363 for the residue of the term Average yearly rental - rack rent.		359	10
A Farm and lands called the Heet containing 79. 0. 19 held by James George Grove as Tenant by the year at a rent of		110	
Part of a Farm and lands called Felthams containing 60. 0. 2 held by John Head at a yearly rent of		70	
A Corn Mill called "Heo Mill" with 30. 1. 1 in the occupation of Thomas Manley Westcott at a rent of		40	
A Blacksmiths' Shop House Garden and 7. 3. 0 of land occupied by William Barber as Tenant by the year at a rent of		20	
House Garden & Land containing 3. 2. 17 held by Charles Johnson as Tenant by the year at a Rent of		20	
TOTAL....£		769	– –

If the space be not sufficient for all the Property comprised in the Succession, a Schedule should be annexed and the Totals inserted in this Account.

The Revd. Edward Henry Ellis St. JOHN

W Salter 18.11.85

This Form is for Property chargeable under the Succession Duty Act.
A separate Form is supplied for Property chargeable under the Legacy Duty Acts.

No. 6.

INLAND REVENUE.

SUCCESSION DUTY ON REAL PROPERTY, which includes all Freehold, Copyhold, Customary, Leasehold, and other Hereditaments, whether corporeal, or incorporeal.

This Account to be delivered in Duplicate.

REGISTER S of the Year 1874. Folio 344

An Account of the SUCCESSION to REAL PROPERTY of Edward Henry Ellis St. John of Finchampstead in the County of Berks upon the Death of John St. John who died on the 9th day of April 1874, derived from the said John St. John the Predecessor under* his Will dated 24th December 1873

* Here state the Title, whether under Settlement, Will, Intestacy, or by Descent, and if under any Deed or other Document, the date thereof, and the names of the parties thereto.

delivered by †the Revd. Edward St. John of the Rectory Finchampstead aforesaid Clerk in Holy Orders John Napper of Ifield Horsham Sussex Esquire and the Revd. Paulet St. John Rector of Mottisfont in the County of Hants Clerk in Holy Orders Trustees

† Here state whether Trustee, &c., or Successor.

The mode in which the Annual Value is ascertained should be stated in the Account. DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY	Saleable Value	Annual Value		
		£	s	d
A Dwelling house land and Garden called Banisters in the occupation of the Testator's Widow		45	10	
The Heet Copse and other Copses containing 116. 1. 20 In hand		89		
Waste and Rough lands containing 75 Acres (also in hand)		15		
The above are assessed to the Poor rate at the gross sums mentioned. There are no separate assessments of the above to the Property tax.				
Carried forward....		149	10	

G 12,000 7|00

DEDUCTIONS	Capital	Annual Payments		
Land tax unredeemed		45	13	9
Fire Insurance		5	11	10
Repairs 8% on gross rental		70	8	
Annuity to Cecilia Ilton otherwise Singleton born on the — day of March 1812 for her life granted by Henry St. John Esq. the elder Brother & predecessor in title of the said John St. John		49	-	
Annuity to Testators Widow born 16th March 1743 bequeathed by Testator		200		
Interest at 4% on legacies charged on real estate £4500		180		
Total ....£		550	13	7

If the space be not sufficient for all the Deductions claimed, a Schedule should be annexed and the Totals inserted in this Account.

Total Gross Annual Value .....£	880	16	
Total Annual Value of Deductions .£	550	13	7
Net Annual Value .....£	330	2	5

We declare that this is a just and true Account of all the Succession in Real and Leasehold Property of Edward Henry Ellis St. John upon the Death of the before-named John St. John and that the said Edward Henry Ellis St. John was born on the 2nd day of July 1869, and is a lineal heir of the said John St. John the Predecessor from whom the said Property is derived.

Dated this 19th day of Jany 1876

(Here sign the Account.)

Description of Property continued	Subject to Value	Gross rack rental or annual value		
Brought forward		769	-	-
Lands called the Lea & others late in the occupation of the Testator and now of the Revd Edward St. John containing 59 Acres or thereabouts at a yearly rent of		55		
Close of Meadow Land called Brooklands containing 21 Acres held by Daniel Marshall at a yearly rent of		24		
A Close of Arable land lately held by Thomas Deo and now by the said Daniel Marshall at a yearly rent of		6		
A Cottage and Garden occupied by John Mooring at a yearly rent of (Jas. Potter)		5		
The like by Edward Mutam at rent of		4	4	
The like by A Smith at rent of (and two [illegible])		4		
The like by E Bridgman at rent of (Bailey)		4		
The like by Bargent at rent of		4		
The like by Thomas Townsend at rent of		3		
The like by Edward Hoall at rent of		2	12	
All the above Farms Lands Cottages & premises are of Freehold tenure and are situate in the Parish of Finchampstead in the County of Berks		880	16	

ASSESSMENT.

The value of an Annuity of £ 330. 2 . 5 for a Life aged 4 is £ ~~63. 13. 5~~ 367. 8. 2, and the Duty on this Sum at the rate of One per Cent. is assessed at £63. 13. 5

By the Commissioners [illegible]

19 May 1876

£63. 13. 5
Discount 1. 13. 5.
£62. 0. 0

RECEIPT FOR DUTY.

RECEIVED the 19th day of [illegible] 1876, the Sum of Sixty two pounds

being the ~~first Instalment of the~~ Duty above-mentioned, less discount

£ 62. 0. 0

Registered: [illegible] Comptroller. [illegible]

RATES OF DUTY.

Lineal Issue or Lineal Ancestor of the Predecessor	£1	per Cent.
Brothers and Sisters of the Predecessor and their Descendants	£3	do.
Brothers and Sisters of the Father or Mother of the Predecessor and their Descendants	£5	do.
Brothers and Sisters of a Grandfather or Grandmother of the Predecessor and their Descendants	£6	do.
Any other Person	£10	do.

The Husband or Wife of the Predecessor is not chargeable with Duty, and the Husband or Wife of a Successor is chargeable with the rate of Consanguinity.

☞ OBSERVE.—The Duty is payable by eight equal half-yearly Instalments, the first to be paid Twelve Months after the Successor shall have been entitled in possession, and the seven following Instalments at half-yearly intervals of Six Months each; and if there be any delay in payment, Penalties will be incurred.

PAT SUTTON
WHEATLANDS MANOR
1988

THE FINCHAMPSTEAD MAGAZINE FEB. 1991

Miss ANN TAYLOR and Miss AYLMER TRAVERS

Feb 1991

We learnt with regret recently of the deaths of two very remarkable ladies, Miss Ann Taylor and Miss Aylmer Travers. Both will be remembered in their own rights for their good works in many fields, but I think they will both be remembered in Finchampstead for their pioneering youth work within the Girl Guide Movement, particularly during the period between 1930 and 1957.

Ann Taylor, known as Nan or Nancy, died suddenly at her home at Worplesdon, Surrey, on 28th December 1990. She spent the early part of her life in Finchampstead, first living at South Court Cottage (now Constant Springs) in the 1920s, where her father was gardener for Colonel Cadell of South Court. By the late 1930s the family had moved to Tiger Cottage, Fleet Lane, where she and her mother lived until 1957. During her lifetime in Finchampstead she was a Brownie, Guide, and Ranger, and continued into adult Guiding, not only as the well loved 1st Finchampstead Guide Captain in the 1950s but also played a major role in Berkshire County activities, particularly in the outdoor pursuits. Her love and devotion to youth was not only reflected in her Guiding, but also in her teaching career. She trained at Salisbury Teachers Training College, becoming first a pupil teacher at Crowthorne and then a teacher at Frimley Primary School, Surrey. In 1957 she gained a Headship's position at West Clandon Primary School. During the 1950s, Nan was very involved with village and Church life. She was an active member of St. James's Church and was an advocate of the Elizabeth Blighe brass being removed from the Church floor and placed on the south wall where it is today. In 1955/56 the whole village was involved in the Pageant, "Chronicles of Finchampstead", written by Rev. W.E. Woosnam Jones and produced by Dr. Cashell. Nan, in her typical dedicated way, became the right hand person to the producer, carrying out all the secretarial duties necessary for the smooth running of the huge cast and production. After leaving Finchampstead she continued her work in education and Church work, and was very active in this field right up until her death. She was a School Governor and was involved in the Guildford Diocesan work in the field of education for children.

Aylmer Travers died on 4th January 1991 at Drimoleague Nursing Home, where she spent the last few years of her long life. She became involved in Finchampstead Guiding in about the 1920s with Miss Sylvia Kemm, who started the 1st Finchampstead Guide Company. During the 1930s Aylmer started a Sea Ranger unit in the village, which was a huge success. These girls, including Nancy Taylor, enjoyed a whole new range of activities including boating, travelling and camping in such places as Northern Ireland, Scotland and Switzerland. They had to return to Finchampstead from Switzerland rather hastily due to the outbreak of war. These trips were all made possible due to Aylmer's great enthusiasm and leadership. During the 1940s Aylmer was involved in the war effort, having a degree in engineering. She was at this time living at Hartley Wintney. Later she moved to Bradfield but still continued to run Finchampstead Guides. These girls enjoyed having the leadership of both Aylmer and Nancy and spent many happy times camping with them in Cornwall, Devon and Wales, not to mention the many weekend activities at Bradfield. Aylmer became well known for her leadership in the Guide Movement and became a leading authority and adviser for the County.

There are plans to plant some trees at the new Guide House called Thirtover at Coldash, Newbury, in recognition of the outstanding work these two ladies did for Guiding in Berkshire. They both gave so much of their lives to the service of others that they will be remembered with love and gratitude by all who knew them.

O. Butchart

THE FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH MAGAZINE
AUG. 1988

Aug 1988

MISS HELEN M. TAYLOR

Many will have memories of Helen - for some they are too precious to share. I have been amazed by the number of people who have said to me, "If it hadn't been for Helen...". She endeared herself to this village in her retirement and participated fully in its life, giving of her many talents wherever and whenever she felt she could make a worthwhile contribution.

I was invited to fill a vacancy at one of her weekend training sessions when she was Principal of The Abbey School for Speakers. It was for Young Farmers, and Maud Travers and Helen were just as skilful with, and interested in, these young men as they were with the Midwife Teachers at the Royal College of Midwives, some of whom remained Helen's friends and continued to visit her at Hawthorns. A number of Members of Parliament, too, benefited (and so have we) from her excellent tuition, sense of humour and warm personality. Her knowledge and expertise as a gardener were well known - the garden at Warren Lodge, where she died, will reflect her skills and give enjoyment to others for years to come.

Helen had a wonderful ability of showing interest in any subject one might wish to discuss, be it travel, current affairs, religion, the past, present, or future - or whatever. Her perception and wise counsel were valued by many. It was a joy and a privilege to have known her and to listen to snippets of her full and interesting life.

Armorel Billing

HELEN TAYLOR 1896-1988

When I first came to live in Finchampstead in 1971, the first person I met was Helen Taylor - she always welcomed newcomers with morning coffee at her house, a typical friendly village person, who, as a vicar's daughter, was brought up in a country parish.

Helen did not suffer fools gladly, but had the keenest sense of humour, and loved life up to the end. Helen founded, and was Principal of, The Abbey School for Speakers, and told many anecdotes of her pupils, carefully never mentioning names.

During the War she drove an ambulance during the blitz, and when she finally retired came to live in Finchampstead to be near her good friend, Maud Travers, and together they founded the parish magazine.

Helen started the Helen Taylor Churchyard Trust Fund, something very close to her heart, for which she worked tirelessly - a true memorial to a great Lady, who will be sadly missed by all who had the privilege to know her.

S.J.C.

Aug 1988

H.M.T.

How many of our readers have been delighted over the years by articles in the Magazine appearing over these initials, which everyone knew stood for Miss Helen Taylor, who died on 1st May 1988, in her 92nd year.

When the Church Magazine ceased publication, it was she who said, "We can't run this Parish without a Magazine!" and together with her friend and colleague, Miss Maud Travers, persuaded Commander Edgar Grace to produce a Civil Parish Magazine. The first issue was in October 1967.

So we regard Helen Taylor as the true founder of this Magazine. We record her passing with great sadness and extend our sympathy to her many friends. We shall miss her wise counsel. She was always so ready to listen to other people's problems and arrive at the right answers. She was fearlessly outspoken, never afraid to stand up and be counted for what she knew to be right, or cross swords with anyone she thought was in the wrong. She had the courage of her convictions but if she found she was mistaken, she never hesitated to admit it.

A truly great and lovable character, who will ever be in our hearts - no wonder she was the winner of the V.C. Jones Trophy last year - she certainly deserved it. The Publishers

MISS HELEN TAYLOR

The Churchyard Helen Taylor Trust Committee mourns the death of its founder and enthusiastic supporter. Lady Liddell used to give the proceeds of her garden to the Church but about 1968 it was suggested they should go to help with Mr. Schofield's wages. Up to that time many local people had voluntarily sent their gardeners to help Mr. Schofield and tidy the churchyard. For various reasons, this help ceased and the Parochial Church Council had to undertake the responsibility. Lady Liddell and Miss Taylor organised a fund to meet the cost. The money from Lady Liddell's garden was insufficient so a committee was formed to raise funds. Miss Taylor contacted all the families who had graves in the churchyard that she could trace. The money she thus raised formed the start of the fund. In 1976 Lady Liddell no longer wished to continue as Chairman and Miss Taylor took over the task. This post she relinquished three years ago when she in turn wished to retire, and handed over to Mrs. Barbara Dunn. In 1973 it was decided to form a legal Trust to be sure the money raised would be secured for the purpose for which it was intended and by general wish, the Trust was given Miss Taylor's name in recognition of all her hard work.

The Trust is held by the Diocesan Trustees (Oxford) Ltd. and the P.C.C. is the administrative Trustee with the Churchyard Committee carrying on the work. This is now too much for Mr. Schofield alone and the grass has to be cut by local contractors.

Miss Taylor was made a Life Member of the Committee on her retirement and maintained her interest to the last - she was discussing business on the Friday before she died. We have lost a marvellous friend. Although this tribute is written with a heavy heart, one can only be glad that Miss Taylor was doing what she enjoyed to the last and did not suffer a long illness which she dreaded. The Churchyard Committee members salute a wonderful lady who will be sadly missed as a kind and helpful friend.

Eileen Burt

JOHN TYRELL

John's final journey is a stylish affair

Laid to rest in coffin made from felled oak

BY SARAH DAVE
Wokingham Times

FOND tributes were made at the funeral last Wednesday of a Wokingham dental technician who helped to create one of the largest dental laboratories in Europe.

Friends and family spilled out of the crammed St James' Church in Finchampstead for the funeral of John Tyrrell, "a shining light", who died, aged 67, on February 3.

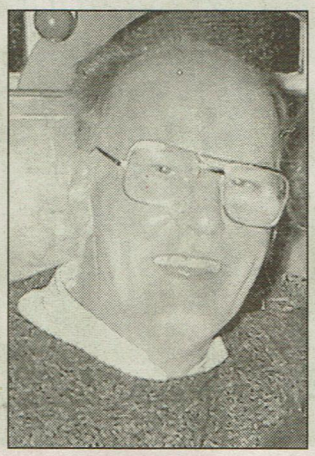
Mr Tyrrell's coffin — made from the wood of an oak tree he recovered from the great storm of 1987 — was borne on the back of a tractor-pulled trailer as it wound its way to the 12th century church.

Readings and musical tributes were presented at the service of thanksgiving for Mr Tyrrell, who lived in Jubilee Road, Finchampstead.

Led by The Rev Sheila Nunn, the service included touching tributes from Mr Tyrrell's granddaughter Jessica, 15, who read WH Auden's *Stop All The Clocks.*

Jessica's sister Emily, 13, and cousin Hannah, 10, filled the church with the sound of the Beatles' song *Yellow Submarine* played on the clarinet.

Mr Tyrrell's sister Dorothy Cochrane said: "John died peacefully in his sleep — he was a shining light and the light has gone out.



▲ John Tyrrell.

"He could go into a room full of strangers and leave it as a room full of friends.

"He lived life in the fast lane and was always doing something.

"He was a Jack-of-all-trades and was never puffed-up or mean — he thought nothing of unblocking someone's drains.

"He loved to watch the birds in the garden, picking at the nuts he had put there for them."

Mr Tyrrell's coffin is the first to be made from English oak in 30 years. Similar coffins are usually made from Japanese or Canadian oak.

Son Richard Tyrrell explained: "In the 1987 storms, a couple of big oak trees were blown down in the grounds of St James' Church and my father offered to clear it up.

"He chopped it all up and kept it in the dry and that wood is what his coffin was made from as it was one of his requests.

"We took him to church in the back of a tractor because it is what he would have wanted — he was a bit different, a character."

He added: "He liked helping people and fixing things and by combining the two, he helped a lot of people.

"If something was broken he would look to see if he could fix it — he liked a challenge."

One of six siblings, Mr Tyrrell was born in Watton, Norfolk, on November 16, 1934, and moved to Ely in Cambridgeshire, aged one.

He came to Warfield in the late 1950s after marrying first wife, Myra, in 1954, and remarried in 1973 to second wife Freda, 66.

He had eight children and 10 grandchildren, with another granddaughter, Ella, born just two days after his death.

Dental technician Mr Tyrrell built up an impressive dental laboratory business, providing the dental profession with items including dentures, crowns, bridges and braces. In 1961, he opened Bracknell Dental Laboratory in Market Street, Bracknell, before merging with Broughton and Hackwill in 1979 to form Broughton and Tyrrell in Newbury, where he worked until his death.

Broughton and Tyrrell became one of the largest dental labs in Europe.

Mr Tyrrell's retirement 15 years ago, prompted by a heart attack, did not last long when he returned to work for Lodge Dental Laboratory in Oxford Road, Wokingham — an independent business formerly part of Broughton and Tyrrell.

Business partner John Broughton remembers Mr Tyrell as "a brilliant technician and a gifted engineer".

He said: "We went to Switzerland each year on a week-long business course and he was great fun to be with.

"He was a very clever man and could turn his hand to anything. He knew how to live and enjoyed everything he did."

After the service, organist Nigel Wallington played *As The Saints Go Marching In* as Mr Tyrrell's coffin was taken by tractor for burial in the churchyard.

Mr Tyrrell's family would like to thank Dave Williams, Quintin Scott and Adam Miles for their exceptional efforts to make the day so special.

WOKINGHAM TIMES, FEB. 20, 2002

▲ **Mourners follow Mr Tyrell's coffin as it makes its way on a trailer towed by a tractor to St James' Church in Finchampstead.** W020151c.

Mr. van Hoboken had been a pioneer motorist and Iris started driving in 1926. She describes it as a very pleasant experience in those days. There were no driving tests and the roads in the area were of two sorts – the main ones were tarred and the side roads were gravel.

During the second World War Iris van Hoboken helped to make camouflage netting, worked on the land and milked cows. A group of evacuees from Coventry arrived at Crowthorne and the family took in a young woman with a small boy. This evacuee still keeps in touch and writes a letter every Christmas.

By 1946 both of Iris's parents had died and a local girl, Margaret Mearing, was looking for a new position. She joined the employ of Miss van Hoboken at 'Groves' and has been with her ever since.

When asked about the arrival of the first television sets, Miss van Hoboken describes how, in the early 1950's, she and a friend were on their way to London by car and stopped at the post office in Crowthorne. The friend wondered why Iris was such a long time. She had gone in to post a letter and came out having bought a 9-inch television set! A magnifying glass was added to the front but, in order to see the picture properly, you practically had to sit on each other's laps.

Iris van Hoboken continued living at 'Groves' until she had a fall in which she broke her leg. In 2001,aged 99 years, she moved into Warren Lodge, a residential home in Finchampstead. She died on 6th Jan. 2007.

Plucky Iris has 102 reasons to celebrate

A WOMAN who has lived in Finchampstead since the end of the First World War has celebrated her 102nd birthday.

Around 20 guests gathered at the Warren Lodge Nursing Home last Friday to offer their best wishes to Iris Van Hoboken.

Miss Van Hoboken said: "It's wonderful to be 102 and everybody has gone beyond kindness and I'd like to thank them for giving me such a lovely birthday."

She was born in Epsom, Surrey, and moved with her parents to North Court, in Finchampstead, in 1918.

In 1924 the family built Groves, a thatched cottage on the North Court estate, that would become her home for the next 77 years.

She worked on a farm during World War II as a milk-maid and later joined her mother in helping with child welfare for 50 years.

Throughout her life in Finchampstead Miss Van Hoboken has worked for many voluntary organisations including Wokingham Blind Club, and been secretary to local branches of the Women's Institute and the National Trust.

Following an accident in September 2000 she was forced to sell Groves and move into Warren Lodge.

Angela Lim, proprietor of Warren Lodge, said: "She is a marvellous lady and very independent.

"She goes out every day and even entertains in the conservatory in her room.

"She's absolutely incredible for her age and uses this place more like a hotel than a resident.

"I hope she has enjoyed her birthday."

Friends and staff gather at Warren Lodge to wish Iris Van Hoboken a happy 102nd birthday. *W040508a. Picture: Stewart Turkington.*

Memories of Finchampstead

Miss Iris van Hoboken

Iris van Hoboken ~~has~~ lived in Finchampstead since 1919. She was born in 1902 and celebrated her 102nd birthday on 16th April 2004.

As a young girl, Iris lived in Epsom, Surrey and was educated at Parsons Mead, Ashtead in Surrey. During the First World War she and her parents moved to Scotland. They stayed there for about three weeks and it rained constantly. Miss van Hoboken says that her father 'was allergic to rain' and they returned south, living for a year in the Wellington Hotel, Crowthorne, which now no longer exists. Iris was one of the first in Great Britain to catch Spanish 'flu and, as no-one understood the disease there was no knowledge of how to treat it. Eventually she recovered and returned to join her parents at the Wellington Hotel and was there when the Armistice was signed in 1918.

Mr. van Hoboken bought North Court, Finchampstead, in 1919 for £7000. The purchase included a small farm and several cottages on about 60 acres of land. The house was in a poor state and it was difficult to get refurbishment work done at that time. It took two years to make the property habitable. Mr. van Hoboken became ill but he didn't want to sell North Court so he had another house built for the family on part of the estate. It was called 'Groves' and is situated near to 'Rhododendron Corner' at the end of The Ridges. The family moved into the new house in 1924 and North Court was sold.

'Groves' was only the second house in the village to have a hard tennis court, but the official 'opening' was a disaster! Guests were invited and a tea was laid on in the 'outdoor room' but during the first match a girl hurt her knee badly so that was the end of the tennis party.

There were no child clinics in Finchampstead, so, in 1923, Mrs. van Hoboken started the Infant Welfare. It was her 'brainchild' and was held at the WI hut to the west side of the present Memorial Hall. Iris helped by dishing out malt and cod liver oil and weighing the babies. Miss Hoboken describes each meeting as a little 'party'. There was a standing order with the baker for fourty halfpenny buns and sponge fingers for the children 'if they were good'! Birthdays were celebrated and the meetings were enjoyable social occasions.

In the 1920's there were no council houses in Finchampstead village and no houses along The Ridges. The farmer at Manor Farm was Mr. Whittle. It was a mixed farm at that time. The influential village residents lived at South, East and West Courts and Col. Jones, VC, lived at Ridge Cottage at the top of Dell Road. (Now 'New Place')(1)
The Old Club Room in Finchampstead was used for social activities, there was a post office next to the site of the old school and a village shop. Iris van Hoboken remembers attending tea dances at the Wellington Hotel where the glass extension was nicknamed 'The Monkey House'.

Note
(1) Now 'Dell House'.

Tributes to Iris, 104, who lived in town since WWI

A popular lady at nursing home

By Victoria Corbett

A 104-YEAR-OLD charity volunteer who had lived in Finchampstead since the end of the First World War has died.

Iris Van Hoboken was three months away from celebrating her 105th birthday when she died in her sleep at the Warren Lodge Nursing Home, where she had lived since 2000, on Saturday, January 6.

Miss Van Hoboken had never married and had no children, but she carried on enjoying a fulfilling social life until her death.

Born in 1902 on April 16, Miss Van Hoboken arrived in the district in 1918 with her parents.

The family built Groves, a thatched cottage in Finchampstead, in 1924 where Miss Van Hoboken lived for 77 years before poor health forced her to move to the nursing home.

While living in Finchampstead, Miss Van Hoboken had worked for various voluntary groups, including helping the blind with Wokingham Blind Club and caring for children.

She had also been secretary to local branches of the Women's Institute and the National Trust.

During the Second World War she milked cows while working the land in the village.

After moving in to her room at the nursing home in Finchampstead she was pleased to get a room on the side of the building, where she could build a conservatory.

She also kept a garden outside the conservatory. She would entertain visitors in her room on most days.

Several of Miss Van Hoboken's birthday celebrations had featured in *The Wokingham Times*.

Last year, Miss Van Hoboken celebrated her 104th birthday on Easter Sunday with a lunch out with friends.

She told *The Wokingham Times* there was no secret to her long life, and all people were as nature intended them to be.

On her 100th birthday Miss Van Hoboken was sent a letter from The Queen, congratulating her on the special occasion.

And on her 103rd birthday in 2005, Miss Van Hoboken's party at the nursing home featured a cake with 103 candles.

Sharon Williams, from the nursing home, said: "She was a very active lady and a lady who lunched.

"She had a very short illness and it is a great loss for the whole community. She was a very popular lady."

A funeral for Miss Van Hoboken was held at Easthampstead Park Crematorium on Monday.

Iris Van Hoboken on her 104th birthday in April 2006.

A MUTINY V.C.

DEATH OF SIR JOHN WATSON.

General Sir John Watson, V.C., G.C.B., died at Finchampstead on January 23, in his 90th year.

1919

He obtained a commission in the Bombay Army at the age of 19, and in the same year he took part in the campaign in the Punjab, and was present at the siege of Mooltan, the battle of Goojerat, and the pursuit to Peshawar. He also accompanied the Bozdar Expedition, and was at the forcing of the Kahn Bund Pass under Brigadier-General Chamberlain in 1857. In the Indian Mutiny he was present at the siege of Delhi, the second relief and siege of Lucknow, the battles of Agra and Cawnpore, and many other engagements of that period. The following extract from a dispatch written by Major-General Sir James Hope Grant shows in detail the circumstances under which he was awarded the Victoria Cross:—

"Lieutenant Watson, on the 14th November, 1857, with his own squadron (of the 1st Punjab Cavalry), and that under Lieutenant Probyn, came upon a body of the rebel cavalry. The ressaldar in command of them—a fine specimen of the Hindustani Musulman—backed up by some half-dozen equally brave men, rode out to the front. Lieutenant Watson singled out this fine-looking fellow and attacked him. The ressaldar presented his pistol at Lieutenant Watson's breast at a yard's distance and fired, but most providentially without effect; the ball must, by accident, have previously fallen out. Lieutenant Watson ran the man through with his sword and dismounted him; but the native officer, nothing daunted, drew his tulwar and, with his sowars, renewed his attack upon Lieutenant Watson, who bravely defended himself until his own men joined in the *mêlée*, and utterly routed the party. In this *rencontre* Lieutenant Watson received a blow on the head from a tulwar, another on the left arm, which severed his chain gauntlet glove, a tulwar cut on his right arm, which fortunately only divided the sleeve of the jacket, but disabled the arm for some time; a bullet also passed through his coat, and he received a blow on his leg, which lamed him for some days afterwards."

He was altogether wounded on three occasions during the Mutiny campaign, and, in addition to the V.C. and the medal with three clasps, received as a reward for his services the C.B. and brevet promotion. In 1858 Lieutenant Watson, together with Lieutenant H. C. Cattley, raised the 4th Regiment of Sikh Irregular Horse at Lahore, which became three years later the 13th Bengal Cavalry. On February 18, 1861, he was promoted to captain, his brevet majority, awarded for his gallantry during the Mutiny, being dated from the following day. At the end of 1863 he served during the expedition against hill tribes on the North-West Frontier under General Chamberlain, and afterwards under General Garvock. In 1870 he became a brevet colonel, and an Aide-de-Camp to Queen Victoria, which appointment he held for 11 years.

From September, 1871, to April, 1877, he was in command of the two regiments of Central India Horse, and during that period was also Political Agent for Western Malwa. He was then appointed Resident and Agent to the Governor-General at Gwalior, and he also acted as Agent for Central India. In April, 1878, he was given the command of the cavalry brigade of the Malta Expeditionary Force. The troops returned to India in the autumn, and he then commanded the Punjab Chiefs' Contingent in the first part of the Afghan War, 1878-79. During the second phase of this campaign he had political charge of the district of Kuram, and commanded the Kuram Field Force, being mentioned in dispatches, and awarded the medal, and, with his brother officers who took part in the campaign, thanked by both Houses of Parliament. In July, 1881, he was promoted to major-general, and in the following January he became Resident and Agent to the Governor-General, Baroda.

In March, 1886, General Watson left the Foreign Department of the Government of India, and two months later, on the celebration of Queen Victoria's birthday, he was made a K.C.B. In the following July he was placed on the Unemployed Supernumerary List, becoming a lieutenant-general in January, 1887, and a general in March, 1891. At King Edward's Coronation in 1902 Sir John was promoted G.C.B., and two years later he was appointed to the colonelcy of his old regiment, which had been renamed the 13th Duke of Connaught's Lancers (Watson's Horse).

General Watson married, in 1860, Eliza Jesser, daughter of the late Mr John Davies, of Cranbrook Park, Essex; she died in 1902. He leaves two sons, Major-General William Arthur Watson, C.B., C.M.G., C.I.E., and Brigadier-General Harry Davis Watson, C.M.G., C.I.E., M.V.O.

OBITUARY.

GENERAL SIR J. WATSON, V.C.

General Sir John Watson, V.C., G.C.B., who has died in his 90th year, entered the Bombay Army in 1848, and, during the Second Sikh War, took part in the siege of Mooltan, the Battle of Goojerat, and the pursuit to Peshawur. He served in the Bozdar Expedition of 1857, and during the Mutiny he was present at the siege of Delhi, at the second relief of Lucknow, the Battles of Agra and Cawnpore, and other engagements, being wounded on three occasions. The gallantry which won for him the award of the Victoria Cross was described by Major-General Sir James Hope Grant:

"Lieutenant Watson, on Nov. 14, 1857, with his own squadron (of the 1st Punjab Cavalry), and that under Lieutenant Probyn, came upon a body of the rebel cavalry. The ressaldar in command of them—a fine specimen of the Hindustani Musulman—backed up by some half-dozen equally brave men, rode out to the front. Lieutenant Watson singled out this fine-looking fellow and attacked him. The ressaldar presented his pistol at Lieutenant Watson's breast at a yard's distance and fired, but most providentially without effect; the ball must by accident have previously fallen out. Lieutenant Watson ran the man through with his sword and dismounted him, but the native officer, nothing daunted, drew his tulwar, and with his sowars renewed the attack upon Lieutenant Watson, who bravely defended himself until his own men joined in the mêlée and utterly routed the party. In this rencontre Lieutenant Watson received a blow on the head from a tulwar, another on the left arm, which severed his chain gauntlet glove, a tulwar cut on his right arm, which fortunately only divided the sleeve of the jacket, but disabled the arm for some time; a bullet also passed through his coat, and he received a blow on his leg, which lamed him for some days afterwards."

In 1858 Lieutenant Watson and Lieutenant Cattley raised Watson's Horse, which was afterwards renamed the 13th Duke of Connaught's Lancers, and of which, in 1904, Sir John was appointed colonel. In 1870 he was promoted brevet-colonel and A.D.C. to Queen Victoria, and for six years commanded the two regiments of Central India Horse. During the Afghan War he at first commanded the Punjab Chiefs' Contingent, and then the Kuram Field Force, being mentioned in dispatches, and with his brother officers thanked by Parliament for his services. For seven years he acted as Resident and Governor-General's Agent at Baroda, and in 1886 was placed on the unemployed supernumerary list. Sir John, who received the K.C.B. in 1886, and the G.C.B. in 1902, married, in 1860, a daughter of the late Mr John Davies, of Cranbrook Park, Essex, and leaves two sons, Major-General W. A. Watson, C.B., C.M.G., C.I.E., and Brigadier-General H. D. Watson, C.M.G., C.I.E., M.V.O.

HILTON.—On March 16, 1945, at 18A, Elsham Road, DORA ELIZABETH, widow of COL. M. V. HILTON, Worcestershire Regt., eldest daughter of the late General Sir John Watson, V.C., G.C.B. Funeral, Finchampstead Parish Church, Tuesday, 3 p.m. No flowers.

MAJ.-GEN. W. A. WATSON

Major-General William Arthur Watson, C.B., C.M.G., C.I.E., who died at Lewes on Tuesday at the age of 83, followed in the footsteps of his famous father, General Sir John Watson of Watson's Horse, who, as a subaltern, won the Victoria Cross by his prowess in a fierce cavalry *mêlée* during the Indian Mutiny.

The son was born at Delhi on September 25, 1860, and was educated at Charterhouse. He was gazetted sub-lieutenant in the 29th Foot (1st Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment) in 1880, and got his first step in July of the following year. He was posted to the 2nd Regiment of the Central India Horse in 1882 and, as adjutant of the Camel Corps, he went through the Suakin campaign. After serving in India in various appointments as A.D.C., in 1896 he took up the duties of Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General for Instruction Lahore district. It was in 1897 that he married Marguerite Audrey, daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel Alfred Stowell-Jones, another Victoria Cross hero of the Mutiny and also a cavalryman. In 1901, when Lord Curzon instituted the Imperial Cadet Corps, Major Watson (as he then was) became first commandant. He held the appointment for five years and then returned to command his old regiment, now the 39th Central India Horse. He reached the rank of colonel in 1907. In 1912 he was appointed commandant of the Cavalry School at Saugor.

After the outbreak of the last war, he was given command of an Imperial Service cavalry brigade which was sent to Egypt and formed part of the force for the defence of the Suez Canal. After the Turkish attack had been repulsed at the beginning of February, 1915, he moved out with a mixed column and gathered in some prisoners and camels. He also brought to action a Turkish detachment which approached the Canal in April. Promoted major-general in September, 1915, he was sent to Cairo to command the Delta district, and from October, 1916, he commanded the forces on the western frontier of Egypt, conducting the final operations against the Senussi. General Watson became honorary colonel of the 39th Central India Horse in 1918, and retired from the service in 1919.

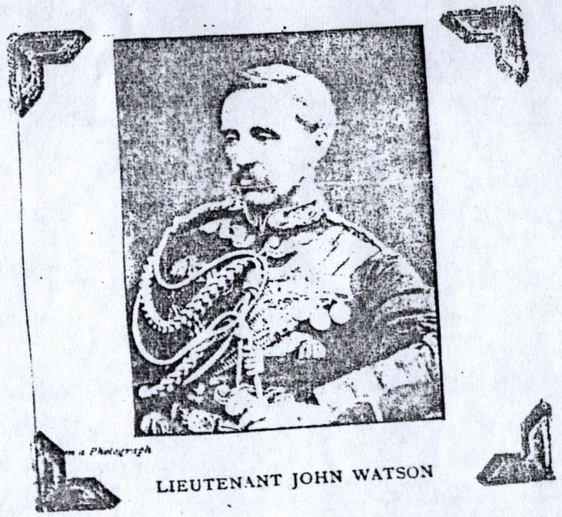
In 1930 was published his history of the Central India Horse, which is of much more than regimental interest.

THE TIMES

THURSDAY JUNE 29 1944

WATSON.—On June 27, 1944, at North Corner, Lewes, MAJOR-GENERAL ARTHUR WATSON, C.B., C.M.G., C.I.E., Hon. Colonel, Central India Horse, eldest son of General Sir John Watson, V.C., G.C.B., and dear husband of Audrey Watson, in his 84th year. Cremation private. Please, no letters.

In this recontre Lieutenant Watson received a blow on the head from a tulwar, another on the left arm, which severed his chain gauntlet glove, a tulwar cut on his right arm, which fortunately only divided the sleeve of his jacket but disabled the arm for some time; a bullet also passed through his coat and he received a blow on the leg which lamed him for some days afterwards".
(Despatch from Major-General James Hope Grant, K.C.B., dated 10th January, 1858).



LIEUTENANT JOHN WATSON

LIEUTENANT JOHN WATSON
1st (PRINCE ALBERT VICTOR'S OWN) LIGHT CAVALRY, INDIAN ARMY

Born at Chigwell Row, Essex on September 4th, 1829. He entered the Bombay Army in 1848 and shortly afterwards was posted to the Bombay Fusiliers (2nd Battalion The Royal Dublin Fusiliers) and served in the Punjab Campaign with that unit. After this campaign he transferred to the 28th Bombay Infantry and then to the 1st Baluchis, Indian Army and then joined the 1st Punjab Cavalry. He became Captain in 1861, Major in 1864, Lieutenant-Colonel in 1869, Colonel in 1873, Major-General in 1881, Lieutenant-General in 1887 and General in 1891.
He served in the Punjab Campaign 1848-1849 (Siege of Multan, Battle of Gujerat), the Bozdar Campaign 1857, Indian Mutiny, Eusofzai Field Force 1863, commanded a Cavalry Brigade which formed part of the force that occupied Cyprus 1878, and the Afghan War 1879-1880. In 1863 he was awarded the C.B., the K.C.B. in 1886 and the G.C.B. in 1902. He died at North Court, Finchampstead, Berkshire on January 23rd, 1919 and was buried at Finchampstead.

V.C., November 14th, 1857, India. London Gazette, June 18th, 1858.

He was decorated with the V.C. by H.M. Queen Victoria at Buckingham Palace on June 8th, 1859. His V.C. is now in the National Army Musem, Sandhurst, in the Indian Room.

CITATION

"Lieutenant Watson on the 14th November, with his own squadron and that under Captain (then Lieutenant) Probyn, came upon a bosy of the rebel cavalry. The Ressaidar in command of them - fine specimen of Hindustan Mussulman - backed up by some hafl-dozen equally brave men, rode out to the front. Lieutenant Watson singled out this fine-looking fellow and attacked him. The Ressaidar presented his pistol at Lieutenant Watson's breast, at a yards' distance and fired, but, most providentially, without effect. The ball must, by accident, have previously fallen out. Lieutenant Watson ran the man through with his sword and dismounted him, but the native officer, nothing daunted, drew his tulwar and with his Sowars renewed his attack upon Lieutenant Watson who bravely defended himself until his own men joined in the melee and utterly routed the party.

THE WHITE FAMILY

John Adam White=Mary Ann Burrett
(alias Baker)
1850 living in Sandy Pitt Lane

- William White
  b 1830
  went to London 1851
  - Great Grandaughter
    Linda
- John White=Eliza
  - William Fields=Jane White
    b1874, m 1915
  - Elizabeth White
  - James White=Sarah Elizabeth Keys
    b 1889
    Stone Cottage Warren Lane, Cricket Hill, Spring Gardens(1920s)
    - Gladys White
    - Reginald White =Cecily ~~[illegible]~~ EDMUND
      Cecil
      - Peter Stuart White
        b 1 June 1944
    - Albert White=Winnie Sutcliffe
- Seven other children

28th AUGUST, 1937.

MARRIAGE OF REGINALD WHITE &
CECILY EDMUND.

MR. WESTALL ; WORKER AT MANOR FARM

? MR. SCHOFIELD

MR. WESTALL

WOKINGHAM TIMES, SEPT. 6, 2006.

Tributes to Kim, 'an inspiration to us all'

Founding member of Wokingham Save The Children dies

By Victoria Corbett

A STALWART charity chairman who founded the Wokingham branch of Save The Children and earned an MBE for her dedication has died.

Kim Young, founding member and chairman of Save The Children's Wokingham branch, passed away on Sunday aged 69 following a battle with cancer.

Mrs Young – real name Maureen but known popularly as Kim – of Wick Hill Lane in Finchampstead, had spent 29 years working for local branches of the national charity, dedication that earned her an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2003.

She helped form the Wokingham and District branch of the charity 22 years ago, but had already been a member of the Reading branch since 1977, which she joined by chance helping her son with a project.

Last year Princess Anne, president of Save The Children, honoured Mrs Young with a long service award.

Joan Danks, area representative for Save The Children, said: "Kim was not only passionate about Save The Children and its work, but also cared deeply that the volunteers were all fully supported and encouraged to achieve their full potential in their fundraising.

"Never one to shirk hard work and always seeking new opportunities, Kim's lively mind, dedication and sense of purpose in all that she undertook were an inspiration to us all."

In addition to her long-standing charity work, Mrs Young was a governor at Edgbarrow School in Crowthorne, a position she took up after retiring as head of English there in 1997.

She had first joined the school as a part-time teacher in 1977.

A statement from Edgbarrow School said: "Kim was an outstanding teacher whose positive and enthusiastic approach to teaching English inspired so many pupils.

"As a senior member of staff Kim was an excellent role model especially in the manner in which she worked with colleagues and students.

"Not only a great teacher, Kim gave her heart and soul to the life of the school."

Mrs Young was also devoted to her family. She met her husband Jim at school and they were married in 1961.

Kim Young, who has died aged 69.

The couple had three children, Helen, Steve (who now live in Australia) and Mark, and four grandchildren.

In recent years the couple have enjoyed visiting family in Australia and taking part in fundraising activities for Save The Children.

Mr Young said: "People always tell you how popular she was, pleasant, always very helpful, always looking for a positive solution to things and she was exactly like that in the home as well."

Val Linington, secretary of the Wokingham branch and friend of Mrs Young, said: "I met Kim some years ago when I volunteered to help her with Save The Children Wokingham branch.

"Kim was involved with Save The Children for well over 20 years and was instrumental in forming 'Speak Out' for Save The Children.

"The idea of this was to train volunteer speakers to go into schools, groups and other places to inform them of the work Save The Children does in the UK and all over the world.

"Over recent years she faced the rollercoaster of her illness with quiet determination and dignity that was characteristic of all she did.

"I have lost a wonderful friend and well miss her terribly.

"The thoughts of the Save The Children committee are with her husband and family at this very sad time."

A funeral service for Mrs Young will take place at St James' Church in Finchampstead on Monday at 11am.

There will be a private service for the family at Easthampstead Crematorium after this and then a gathering at the Young house in the afternoon.

● KIM YOUNG MBE, 69, Wokingham Save the Children

THE life of charity stalwart Kim Young (pictured, inset) was remembered in her own words and those from family, friends and co-workers.

About 150 packed out St James' Church in Finchampstead and later Easthampstead Park crematorium in Bracknell for the funeral of dedicated Save The Children volunteer Mrs Young on Monday.

Mourners were moved by words of remembrance from Mrs Young's sons Mark and Stephen, her charity co-worker Christine Field and Bob Elsey, headteacher of Edgbarrow School in Crowthorne, where Mrs Young was a teacher and later a valued governor.

Her husband Jim gave a reading from Revelations and her daughter Helen Galindo read *Shall I Compare Thee to a Summers Day?* by William Shakespeare.

Mrs Young, who died on Sunday, September 3, aged 69 following a long battle with cancer, had already set out how she wanted her funeral to be before she passed away.

She had even written words to be read out at Easthampstead Crematorium.

The Reverend Richard Warden, who conducted the service, read Mrs Young's own words, which encouraged people to celebrate her life.

He read: "I know this service is supposed to be grieving and mourning and sadness, and that is right, however I want this service to be one of celebration of a very rich and fulfilled life.

"I do not want to be sentimental and when I look back I am filled with rejoicing."

In the piece, Mrs Young also wrote of how proud she was of her three children, Mark, Helen and Stephen, and her four grandchildren and how their successes made her content.

The Rev Warden read: "These children are my stake in the future; how could I not be happy."

Mrs Young was well known throughout the community for her tireless work for Save The Children's Wokingham branch, which she helped form in 1984.

Her selfless efforts earned her an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2003 and in 2005 she was awarded the highest recognition for long service from Princess Anne, president of Save The Children.

The congregation at St James' Church also heard how Mrs Young had first joined Edgbarrow School in 1977 as a part-time teacher.

She rose through the ranks to become head of the English department and even when she retired in 1997, she remained dedicated to helping the school thrive as a governor.

Mr Elsey said Mrs Young had made a positive contribution to the school, influencing colleagues and pupils around her.

These sentiments were echoed by Mrs Field, who praised Mrs Young's inspirational work for Save The Children.

She said the children in Darfur had always held a particularly special place in Mrs Young's heart.

She added a collection on the day before Mrs Young died at The Meadows in Sandhurst had raised £1,127 for the charity.

She said: "This must be a very gratifying tribute to Kim."

Laughter filled the church in Finchampstead as Stephen and Mark read a loving tribute to their mother, remembering humorous family stories and the qualities that made Mrs Young special.

Stephen said: "Mum loved people, she loved being with people, listening to people and always looked for the best in people."

NELLIE VASS

FINCHAMPSTEAD VILLAGE SCHOOL TEACHER