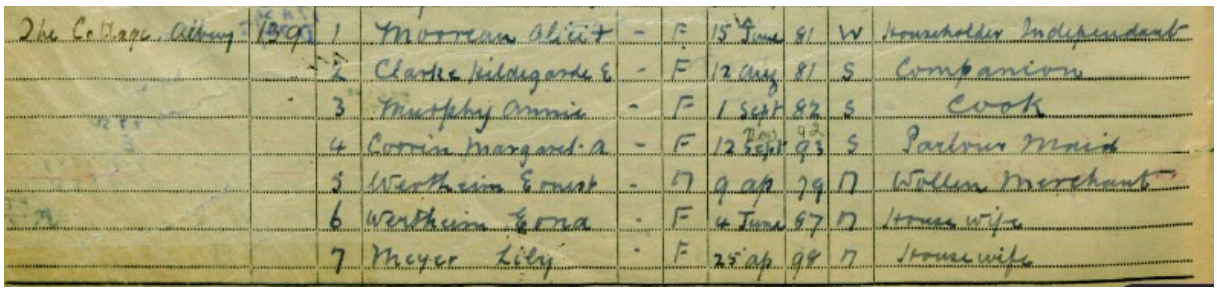
Residents at The Cottage, Albury in September 1939

In September 2026, the papers of the Dorking and District Refugee Committee, which supported refugees arriving in the Surrey town between 1938 and 1949, were digitised. One batch of papers included questionnaires completed by mainly German Jewish women prior to the tribunals which were held towards the end of 1939 to establish whether or not the refugees could be exempted from internment. One questionnaire was from a Lily Meyer, already living in Hampstead, but listing The Cottage, Albury as her previous address from September to October c/o Mrs Morreau. This led us to the September 1939 Register (census) which showed that Lily had been lodging with a widow called Alice F Morreau. Further research revealed that Lily's 2 daughters were also living there, and one of them became Ursula Bowyer, a celebrated post-war architect. So who was Alice F Morreau and why did she provide a refuge for the Meyers and the Wertheims at this critical time?



Extract from the September 1939 Register listing the adults living at The Cottage, Albury

ALICE F MORREAU 15June1881, widow, Householder Independent

Alice Morrreau was born Alice Frédérique Weinmann in 1880 (not 1881) in Calais, France. Her mother was Hélène (Ella) Rothschild, born in 1860 in Trier, then part of Prussia. Her father was JOSEPH WEINMANN (1847-1927), born in Frankfurt, also part of Prussia at that time. He seems to have come to England to seek his fortune at some point, because he became a British citizen in 1870 and in the census the following year was recorded as living in Nottingham as a commercial lace clerk. Hélène does not seem to have come to England: she had 3 further children with Joseph after Alice, born between 1882 and 1896 in Calais.

In May 1899 Alice married MARKUS (later MARCUS) MORREAU in Calais. He had been born in 1859 in Wörrstadt, then part of Hesse, western Germany. Since at least 1881 he had been living and working in Manchester as a merchant and in 1892 he became a British citizen. In around 1896 he formed the company Morreau, Spiegelberg and Co. with George Spiegelberg (1873-1961), another German-born businessman. The company became a prominent cotton textile merchant, converter and shipping firm based in Manchester.

In the 1901 census Alice was living with her husband Marcus, listed as a shipping merchant, and 2 servants in Didsbury, Manchester. By the 1911 census, the couple had 3 children born between 1902 and 1908. Marcus is listed as naturalised British subject and Alice is listed as British subject by parentage. Alice's father Joseph Weinmann, meanwhile, was in partnership with her husband until 1911 and appears on the electoral rolls of Greater Manchester from 1904 to 1915.

Alice was widowed in March 1920 when Marcus died at a hotel in Colwyn Bay, Wales:

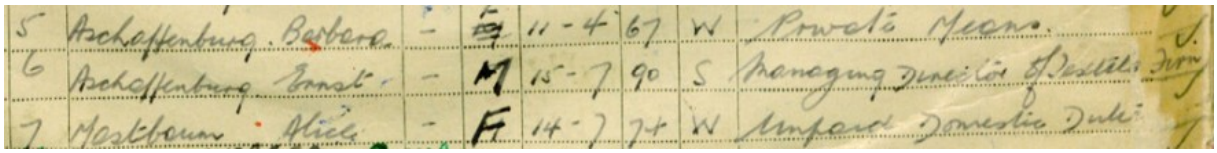
738 **MORREAU** Marcus of Highfield Didsbury **Manchester** died 6 March 1920 at the Rhos Abbey Hotel Llandrillo yn Ros Colwyn Bay Denbighshire Probate **London** 29 October to Alice Frédérique Morreau widow Adolf Frischmann banker and Harold Porter Mellor solicitor. Effects £107564 15s. 11d.

In the 1921 census the following year, Alice was still living in Didsbury, now head of the household with 2 of her children, a governess, 3 servants and a visitor (Francis Spiegleberg, the son of her husband's business partner).

At some point after April 1938 Alice moved to Albury, Surrey, perhaps to be near her younger son CECIL JOSEPH MORREAU, who was living at Hawksview, The Fairway, Merrow with his wife and 3 young children. Cecil was an architect who had been living in Watford, Hertfordshire before moving to Hawksview in 1938. Tragically he died in Guildford in March 1939, aged only 33:

MORREAU Cecil Joseph of Hawksview Fairway Merrow **Guildford** died 2 March 1939 at Mount Alvernia Nursing Home Guildford Administration **London** 7 June to Cicely Josephine Morreau widow and Lewis Dean miller. Effects £25605 2s. 8d.

Alice's daughter-in-law soon moved away with her children, so that different people were living at Hawksview at the time of the September 1939 Register. They included Marcus Morrreau's two widowed sisters who had escaped Nazi Germany in the 1930s: Barbara (formerly Bertha) Aschaffenburg (1867-1939) with her son Ernst (1890-1943) and Alice Mostbaum (1874-1947):



ERNST ASCHAFFENBURG, Alice's nephew by marriage, was a director of Gerber Textiles in London. He was as far as I know the only member of the family who was interned as an enemy alien: he was deported to Canada in July 1940 before being released and returned in January 1941.

At some point after 1941, Alice moved not too far away from Albury to Little Croft, Pit Farm Road, Guildford where she died in October 1971 age 91:

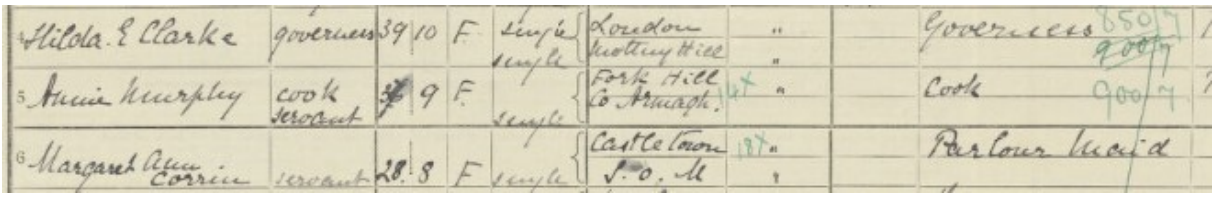
MORREAU Alice Frederique of Little Croft Pit Farm Rd Guildford
died 24 October 1971 Probate London 28 January. £20111.

Surviving Alice were her older son RENE LEOPOLD MORREAU (1905-1982) and her daughter MADELEINE ROSALIND NATHAN (1908-1996) along with 5 grandchildren.

With thanks and credit to Amy B. Cohen and Brotmanblog for additional information about the Morreau family: https://brotmanblog.com/2019/09/06/the-family-of-marcus-morreau-and-alice-weinmann/

COMPANION, COOK, PARLOUR MAID

Alice Morreau brought 3 members of her household with her from Didsbury to Albury. They were recorded in the 1921 census:



4 Hilda. E Clarke	governess	39	10	F	single	London Notting Hill	"		Governess
5 Annie Murphy	cook Servant	3[illegible]	9	F	single	Fork Hill Co Armagh.	"		Cook
6 Margaret Alice Corrin	servant	28	8	F	single	Castletown I.O.M.	"		Parlour Maid

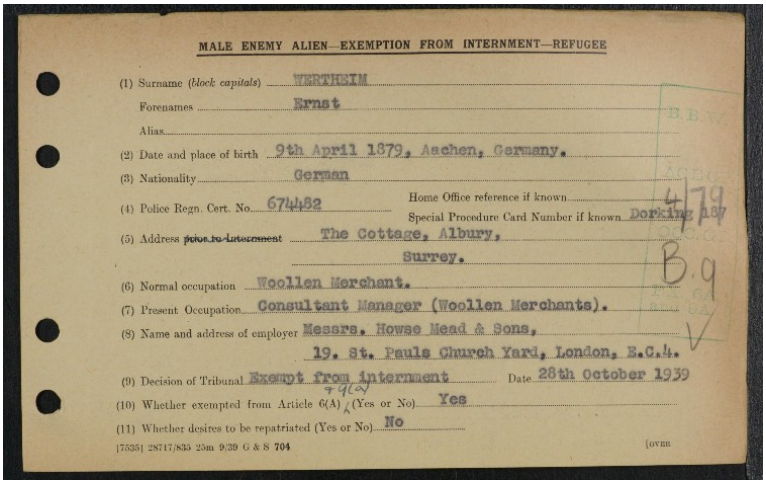
HILDA E CLARKE had been a governess in 1921 (presumably for Alice's 12-year-old daughter Madeleine) and was a British subject born in London Notting Hill. The nearest record I can find is of an Emma Hildagarde Clarke born in 1881 in Kensington. In the 1891 and 1901 censuses Emma H Clarke is recorded as living with her family in Hammersmith. I can find no record of her in the 1911 census. Hildegarde E Clarke died in 1959 in Surrey SW (the Guildford area).

ANNIE MURPHY had been a cook in 1921, born in Fork Hill, Co Armagh, Ireland. With such a common name, I have not been able to find out what happened to her after September 1939.

MARGARET ALICE CORRIN had been a parlourmaid in 1921, born in Castletown, Isle of Man. Alice Morreau in the 1901 census had a cook named Sarah Corrin, born in 1874 in Castletown, Isle of Man. There are many Corrins from the Isle of Man so I have not been able to confirm what relationship if any there was between the cook Sarah and the parlour maid Margaret Alice. A Margaret Corrin died in June 1994 in Richmond, Surrey.

ERNST AND ERNA WERTHEIM 9April1879 and 4June1877

Ernst Wertheim had been born in Aachen, Germany and Erna in Cologne). On 28th October 1939 they were both exempted from internment while living at The Cottage in Albury, when Ernst's occupation was recorded as a Consultant Manager (Woollen Merchants) for a firm in London:



MALE ENEMY ALIEN—EXEMPTION FROM INTERNMENT—REFUGEE

(1) Surname (*block capitals*) WERTHEIM
Forenames Ernst
Alias
(2) Date and place of birth 9th April 1879, Aachen, Germany.
(3) Nationality German
(4) Police Regn. Cert. No. 674182 Home Office reference if known
Special Procedure Card Number if known Dorking 187
(5) Address ~~prior to Internment~~ The Cottage, Albury,
Surrey.
(6) Normal occupation Woollen Merchant.
(7) Present Occupation Consultant Manager (Woollen Merchants).
(8) Name and address of employer Messrs. Howse Mead & Sons,
19. St. Pauls Church Yard, London, E.C.4.
(9) Decision of Tribunal Exempt from internment Date 28th October 1939
(10) Whether exempted from Article 6(A) (Yes or No) Yes
(11) Whether desires to be repatriated (Yes or No) No

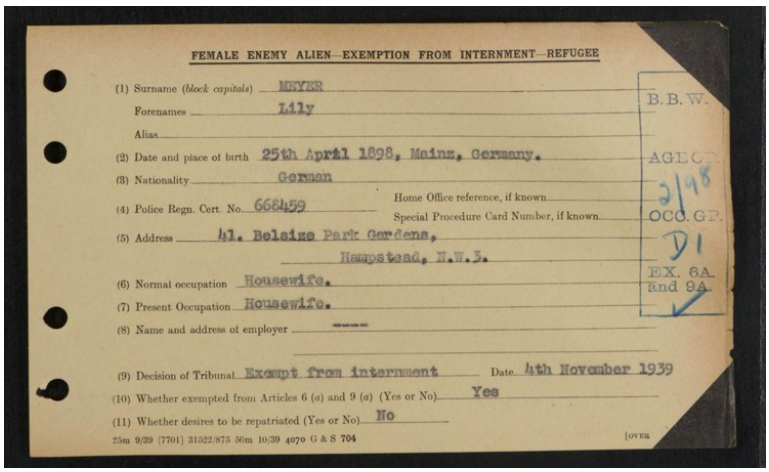
[7535] 28717/835 25m 9/39 G & S 704 [over

Ernst and Erna became British citizens in October 1946, by which time they were living in Brook Lodge, Brent Bridge, London NW11 (a residential apartment and mansion block located on the North Circular Road. Ironically Brook Lodge was the name of one of the holiday camps in Albury where Sudeten German refugees from Czechoslovakia like my parents were living in 1939.) They were still at this London address when they both died: Ernst in July 1951 and Erna in August 1956.

WERTHEIM Ernest of 18 Brook Lodge Brent Bridge **London N.W.11** died 3 July 1951 Probate **London** 11 September to Erna Wertheim widow. Effects £8750 17s. 1d.

LILY MEYER 25April1898, married, housewife

By November 1939 Lily had already moved from Albury to 41 Belsize Park Gardens, Hampstead as can be seen from her Exemption from Internment card which also shows that she was born in Mainz, Germany:

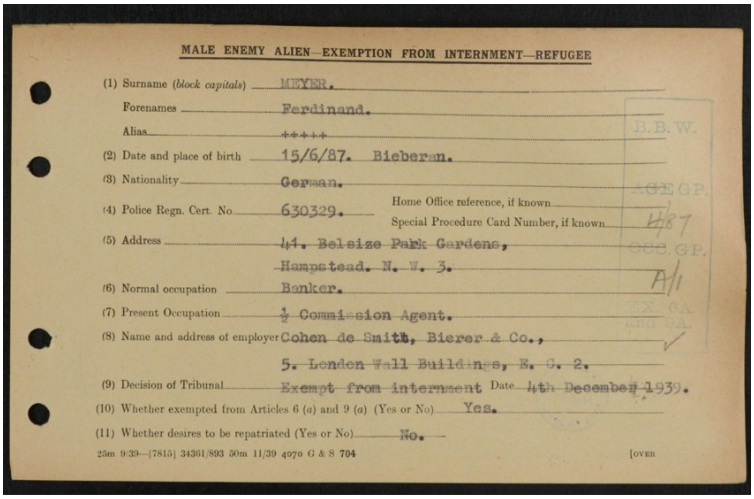


FEMALE ENEMY ALIEN—EXEMPTION FROM INTERNMENT—REFUGEE

(1) Surname (*block capitals*) MEYER
Forenames Lily
Alias
(2) Date and place of birth 25th April 1898, Mainz, Germany.
(3) Nationality German
(4) Police Regn. Cert. No. 668459 Home Office reference, if known
Special Procedure Card Number, if known
(5) Address 41. Belsize Park Gardens,
Hampstead, N.W.3.
(6) Normal occupation Housewife.
(7) Present Occupation Housewife.
(8) Name and address of employer ——
(9) Decision of Tribunal Exempt from internment Date 4th November 1939
(10) Whether exempted from Articles 6 (*a*) and 9 (*a*) (Yes or No) Yes
(11) Whether desires to be repatriated (Yes or No) No

25m 9/39 (7701) 31522/875 50m 10/39 4070 G & S 704 [over

She had joined her husband FERDINAND MEYER, a prominent German-Jewish banker/stockbroker who is recorded as living at 41 Belsize Park Gardens in the September 1939 Register. His Exemption from Internment Card is dated 4th December 1939:



MALE ENEMY ALIEN—EXEMPTION FROM INTERNMENT—REFUGEE

(1) Surname (*block capitals*) MEYER.
Forenames Ferdinand.
Alias +++++
(2) Date and place of birth 15/6/87. Bieberan.
(3) Nationality German.
(4) Police Regn. Cert. No. 630329. Home Office reference, if known
Special Procedure Card Number, if known H87
(5) Address 41. Belsize Park Gardens, Hampstead. N. W. 3.
(6) Normal occupation Banker.
(7) Present Occupation ½ Commission Agent.
(8) Name and address of employer Cohen de Smith, Bierer & Co., 5. London Wall Buildings, E. C. 2.
(9) Decision of Tribunal Exempt from internment Date 4th December 1939.
(10) Whether exempted from Articles 6 (a) and 9 (a) (Yes or No) Yes.
(11) Whether desires to be repatriated (Yes or No) No.

25m 9/39—[7815] 34361/893 50m 11/39 4070 G & S 704 [OVER

The couple became British citizens in April 1948, still living at 41 Belsize Park Gardens, his occupation recorded as Stockbroker's Attaché. Lily's name is recorded as FRANZISKA KAROLINE MEYER.

Ferdinand died in October 1954:

MEYER Ferdinand of 41 Belsize Park Gardens **London N.W.3** died 9 October 1954 Administration **London** 27 November to Franziska Caroline Meyer widow and Anna Fuchs married woman. Effects £10173 11s. 6d.

Lily Franziska Caroline Meyer died in November 1978, now living in Watford:

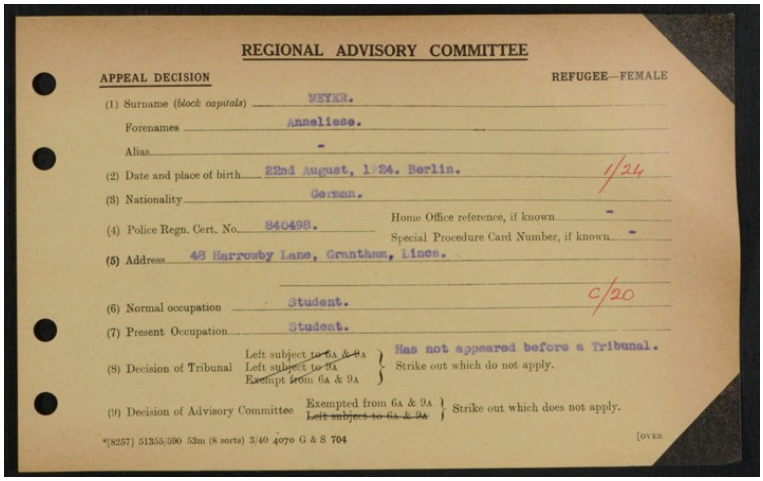
MEYER, Franziska Caroline otherwise Lily Franziska Caroline of 9 Kenilworth Ct Hampstead Rd Watford died 18 November 1978 Probate Ipswich 2 March £69430
79100196 1M

Lily and Ferdinand's daughters in the September1939 Register:



ANNELIES (ANNE L) MEYER -> FUCHS 22Aug1924, at school

Annelies/e (later Anna)'s Enemy Aliens Card shows she was born in Berlin, and was a student living in Grantham, Lincs. (evacuated to a Builder & Contractor's household):



REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

APPEAL DECISION — REFUGEE—FEMALE

(1) Surname (*block capitals*) MEYER.
Forenames Anneliese.
Alias -
(2) Date and place of birth 22nd August, 1924. Berlin. 1/24
(3) Nationality German.
(4) Police Regn. Cert. No. 840498. Home Office reference, if known -
Special Procedure Card Number, if known -
(5) Address 48 Harrowby Lane, Grantham, Lincs.
C/20
(6) Normal occupation Student.
(7) Present Occupation Student.
(8) Decision of Tribunal Left subject to ~~6A & 9A~~ / Left subject to 9A / Exempted from 6A & 9A } Has not appeared before a Tribunal. Strike out which do not apply.
(9) Decision of Advisory Committee Exempted from 6A & 9A / ~~Left subject to 6A & 9A~~ } Strike out which does not apply.

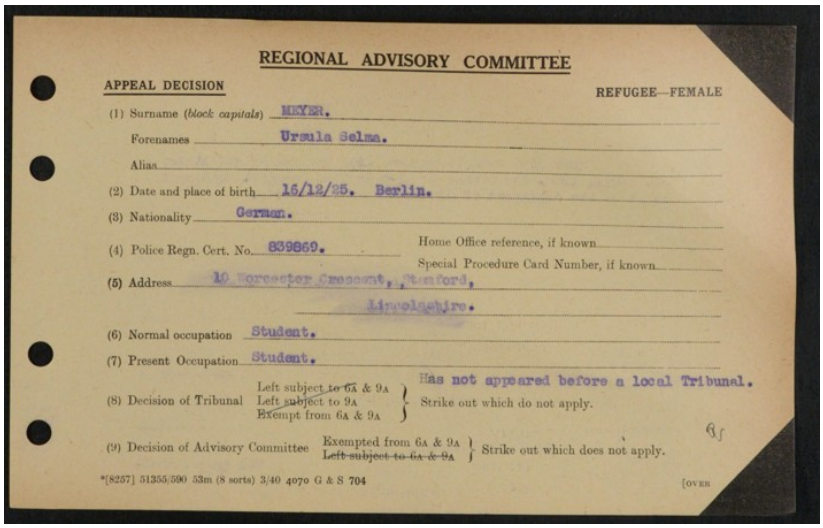
*[8257] 51355/590 53m (8 sorts) 3/40 4070 G & S 704 [OVER

Anneliese became a British citizen in October 1937, resident at 41 Belsize Park Gardens, occupation Language Typist.

In 1949 she married JIRI L FUCHS in Hampstead. He was from Czechoslovakia and was also known at GEORGE LUDVIK FUCHS. He is not on the list of refugees supported by the Czech Refugee Trust Fund. He did however register with the Czechoslovak Military in the UK in March 1943. His record shows that he was born on 21 April 1909 in Pilsen, was a PhD Engineer (Ing.Dr.), and had a rank of ‘novice’ which indicates that he may have seen active service. Jiri aka George Ludvik Fuchs became a British citizen in February 1950, resident in Watford Hertfordshire, occupation Research Chemist. The couple had 2 children born 1951 in Hammersmith and 1953 in Watford. George died in September 1999 in Watford. His widow ANNA FUCHS nee MEYER died in in 2005, also in Watford.

URSULA MEYER -> BOWYER 16 Dec 1925, at school

Ursula Selma Meyer’s Enemy Alien Card shows she was born in Berlin, and was a student living in Stamford, Lincs. (evacuated to a Building Contractors Foreman household):



REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

APPEAL DECISION — REFUGEE—FEMALE

(1) Surname (*block capitals*) MEYER.
Forenames Ursula Selma.
Alias
(2) Date and place of birth 16/12/25. Berlin.
(3) Nationality German.
(4) Police Regn. Cert. No. 839869. Home Office reference, if known
Special Procedure Card Number, if known
(5) Address 16 Worcester Crescent, Stamford, Lincolnshire.
(6) Normal occupation Student.
(7) Present Occupation Student.
(8) Decision of Tribunal Left subject to ~~6A~~ & 9A / Left subject to 9A / Exempted from 6A & 9A } Has not appeared before a local Tribunal. Strike out which do not apply.
(9) Decision of Advisory Committee Exempted from 6A & 9A / ~~Left subject to 6A & 9A~~ } Strike out which does not apply.

*[8257] 51355/590 53m (8 sorts) 3/40 4070 G & S 704 [OVER

The following information is from https://www.lyonandturnbull.com/stories/ursula-gordon-bowyer-collection :

“She was born in Berlin into a Jewish family with no conception of being anything other than German. However, her family were slowly isolated and disenfranchised by the succession of race laws passed by the Nazis in the mid-1930s. . .Ursula’s parents were lucky enough to have the opportunity to leave and so they did, sending her over to England on a ferry in 1938 and yet, like so many families who did manage to get out, they still lost large parts of their extended family to the Holocaust.”

https://www.bdonline.co.uk/briefing/ursula-bowyer-1925-2025-from-emigre-to-architect-and-campaigner-in-postwar-london/5136704.article

“Ursula was born in 1925 and brought up in Berlin. Her well-to-do family left in 1938 to escape the Nazi regime and settled in Hampstead. Ursula and her older sister Anna attended Camden School for Girls and, during the Blitz, were evacuated to Grantham, Lincolnshire. The local school there had to adjust its schedule to accommodate the sudden influx of evacuees: local children attended in the morning, evacuees in the afternoon. The Meyer family survived the war in London.”

“At a party for German émigrés in the early 1940s, architect Peter Moro met Lily Meyer, the wife of the German-Jewish banker Ferdinand Meyer. Meyer told Moro that her daughter Ursula, then 16, was interested in architecture. Moro, a tutor at Regent Street Polytechnic, encouraged her to apply.”

Ursula Selma Meyer became a British citizen in April 1948, resident at 41 Belsize Park Gardens, occupation Architect.

She married GORDON A BOWYER (1923-2019) in 1950 in Hampstead

“They married in 1950 and, later that year, they moved to a large Georgian house on Maze Hill that overlooked Greenwich Park where Ursula lived for 75 years.”

“Ursula set up practice with Gordon around the time they were both invited to take part in the Festival of Britain of 1951, for which they designed the Sport Pavilion (a commission initially allocated to Fry & Drew). The Bowyers were a good team from the start: Gordon the more reserved and quiet personality, Ursula more sociable and outgoing. They had two children, Caroline, born in 1951, and Martin in 1952.”

“Ursula’s notable works with the practice include Greenacres, Bolton Lane, Grantham (1956), a house for Ralph and Kate Foster, who had billeted Ursula and her sister during the war.”

Ursula and Gordon retired from their firm of architects in July 1992 but remained as consultants:

DISSOLUTIONS

Notice is hereby given that Gordon Bowyer and Ursula Bowyer, retired from BOWYER LANGLANDS BATCHELOR, Chartered Architects, on 5th July 1992. The practice will continue under the same name. Gordon Bowyer and Ursula Bowyer remain as consultants to the firm.

G. Bowyer
U. Bowyer
S. Batchelor
I. Langlands

(302)

Wikipedia:

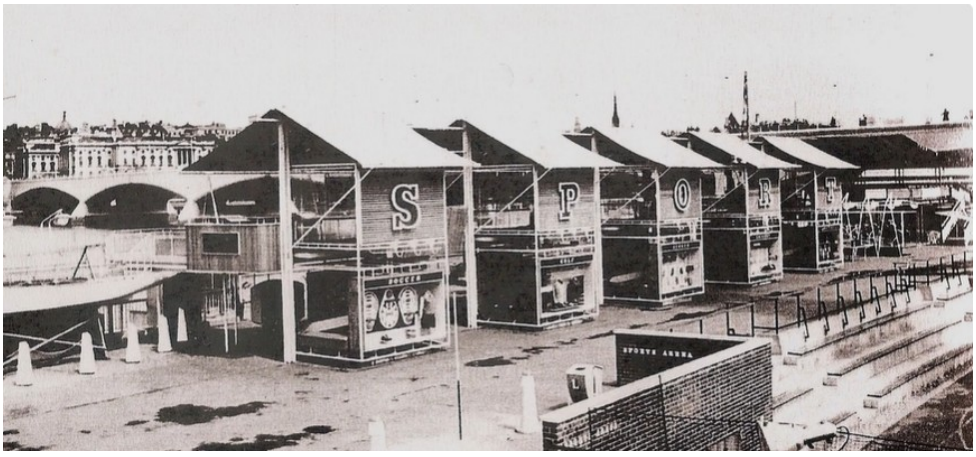
Ursula Bowyer (née Meyer, 16 December 1925 – 15 January 2025) was a German-born British architect who played a prominent role in shaping modern domestic design in postwar Britain. Known particularly for her interiors and kitchens, she combined Bauhaus-influenced modernism with a strong sense of domestic function. She was also a key collector of modern British art.

Gordon Arthur Bowyer (21 March 1923 – 11 October 2019) was a British architect known for his role in postwar modernism. Active for more than four decades, he helped design numerous projects ranging from private houses to commercial interiors and public galleries. He is also remembered as a significant collector of modern British art.

Obituary: Ursula Bowyer (1925-2025), trailblazer for postwar modernism:

https://www.ribaj.com/intelligence/obituary-ursula-bowyer-1925-2025/

“The German émigré architect designed the Sports Pavilion for the Festival of Britain in her twenties, ran a successful practice with her husband and championed good design in Greenwich and Blackheath.”



OTHER SOURCES:

Find My Past, Geni.com, The National Archives (Discovery website), The London Gazette

Sylvia Daintrey
November 2026