

104 Nancy Crick (née Annie Elizabeth Shurlock) at 100 with Sally Caton and Pauline, 59 minutes.
[http://www.alburyhistory.org.uk/Media/104%20%20Anne,%20Nancy%20Shurlock,%20Crick%20\(100\)%20with%20Sally%20Caton,%20October%202015,%2059min.mp3](http://www.alburyhistory.org.uk/Media/104%20%20Anne,%20Nancy%20Shurlock,%20Crick%20(100)%20with%20Sally%20Caton,%20October%202015,%2059min.mp3)
Recorded in Milford, October 2015 by Trevor Brook.

This is Nancy Crick talking about her life over the last 100 years.

Yes.

When were you born?

The date of birth?

Yes.

14th June 1915.

So you were a first World War baby?

Yes.

And where were you born?

Albury Heath.

Do you remember the name of the house?

No. Just Albury Heath, like many others.

Yes, I understand that. Did you live there for a long time?

We left Albury and came to Milford in 1952.

So you were there for a long time.

I've been in Milford ever since.

Were you in the same house on Albury Heath all that time?

No, No. We moved to Albury Park because my husband was the second of eight at Albury Park.

The second...

There were eight workers in...

Groundsmen...

Well, yes. There were the head gardener and then Leslie, my husband, was second. Then he moved from Albury Park to come to take a head gardener's job at Rake Manor and that was 1952.

Right, that's lovely. So, when you were in Albury Park, which house did you live in?

In the bungalow [Dedswell Cottage, later Farm Hill Cottage].

Which is past the old Laundry?

Past the Laundry on the hill. Little bungalow there with the gate that went through...

The terraces?

Yes, which had to be opened once a year because it was a public right of way.

That's interesting. Was that the public right of way through to Shere?

I take it to Shere. Yes, across it would come out near the Silent Pool, wouldn't it, that direction. But although you could turn right to go to Shere.

All right.

You have to turn right to go to Shere, but we used to go right over the field and down to pick up the road that was near the Silent Pool.

But not under the tunnel? Have you been along that tunnel?

Yes, years ago, but tunnels are not my liking.

So what are your earliest memories?

Well my earliest memories. I didn't know who he was but a young man in uniform came. My sister and I were ready for bed. I was about three, and I suppose she was about two, I don't know. He was in uniform and he came to see my mother but my father was a very late call up in the war years owing to age because my parents were elderly, what was considered elderly, when I was born, so my father was in his forties. And this was my cousin Matthew, who was on leave and he was going back. He came back to see my mother to say goodbye and then he went. He said he was going on to see an uncle and aunt who actually were Pauline's grandparents and he went there. Uncle Charlie to me, he was Uncle Charlie to me and he said, I dread going back, he said, It's awful out there. He was going back to France, and he sort of - I gather from speaking, this is not what I remember it is what I was told - that she said, You're a brave lad, she said, You'll be all right, sure you'll come back. But he was only out there a very short time and he was killed. Now his memory is in the Albury Church under Matthew James Sherlock, and that was my father's brother's child. Now that's my very first memory of a uniform, but I also remember my father being demobbed. They called it demobbed in those days and he walked from Gomshall Station to our home and I can see him, not his face, but I can see him in the uniform with a knapsack on his back, carrying the knapsack on his back, with all his gear in it and I ran across the common to meet him. My mother was carrying my little sister, Dorothy, with Dorothy. She picked up Dorothy off the ground and ran indoors she was so excited. Instead of going to meet my father, it was me, and so the words were in my father's memory. She ran to meet me as fast as her little legs could carry her. Now that's my very first memory of the war. I don't remember anything, other than the talking of people after the war, I was three and a half.

Yes, I just wondered if you remembered The Street in Albury being decorated?

Not for the war. I don't remember that.

All right, and what about your early memories of school?

Well, I remember we went off to school and there was several of us and we were going with a cousin who lived close by, and one or two others, and they took me to school, because when I got to the

infants' class I knew Mrs Browne the teacher because she was a friend of the family. I knew Mrs Browne.

Who was this Mrs Browne?

I've got a picture of Mrs Browne. Mrs Browne, she was Welsh, I think she was Welsh originally, and she married Mr Billy Browne, who was in Albury and he was a cricket captain for years.

Do you know where he lived in Albury?

Yes, it's the Lodge, you know [South Lodge]. Do you know Albury Heath?

Yes.

Well, when you come off the Heath you come down the hill, down Park Palings we called it, past the houses and it's the one Lodge at the top of where Shere Park is. You know the Albury Estate, there was a park that went down into Shere, well that Lodge there. I think it's been rebuilt, but that's the Lodge where Mrs Browne and her husband, Billy Browne, and his mother lived because I went there to tea. Well, Mrs Browne knew me when I went to school as Nancy and of course in the register; Nancy Sherlock. That lasted until I was 12 and I can prove that by some documents I've got.

And where was the school?

Albury Heath.

Yes, where it was the school until 1974.

Yes, That's right, it closed down.

Just as we came to live in Albury. But I'm interested in the Brownes, was there an e on the end of their name? Was it Browne with an e on the end?

I can tell you [consults document]. Yes, it does have an e. I wasn't quite sure when you spoke because I've got a relative with an e.

What about other people in the village and when you were growing up?

I left school at 14 and, oddly, I've never applied for a job. I've always been recommended.

That's a very good record.

So the master, Mr Kilby, our master at school. I remember Mr Dyson was at school when I first went there but he retired. His wife stayed on. But then there was Mr Greenhalgh, I knew him and then there was Mr Kilby.

Were they all head teachers?

Head teachers they were. Head teachers. Mrs Dyson was just the second, she took the second grade down. There were about 100 pupils when I went to school. I remember school days, I was very happy in my school days. I loved them.

So when you left school you were recommended to different jobs?

Mr Kilby must have said there was a job, the local shop, Mr Ford's local shop. Anybody know Mr Ford's? No? Mr Ford's local shop. Well it used to be a post office, a house; Mr Ford. Well I was there

for seven years in Mr Ford's shop. I used to do work there, and on a Thursday and a Saturday, the busiest days, I would come to Godalming and help in the Godalming shop.

So mainly, this was a post office and shop?

No, no. A post office, a house between and then the shop. Three houses and this was the shop. I was with Mr Ford. He had a stroke. I've got all the...

Show us those later.

Mr Ford had a stroke and quickly I realized he was ill. The shop was ground level. The living accommodations go down and they were downstairs. So he had the stroke on the stairs going down. Well, Mrs Ford and I helped him down onto sitting on a sofa it was and he died there at about half past nine at night and I was with him the whole of the time. The first time I'd ever experienced someone dying to be with them. I'd got lots of old relatives dying, two a penny in those days.

He wasn't so old?

He was 55, from memory.

Now, are those the houses that are, can you remember back, that are right on the front of the road which we now call Not the Old Post Office and then... are they Victorian houses?

They're lovely houses quite tall, tall with the chimneys that's their pride and joy, the chimneys, in Albury. In Albury Park.

Not in Albury Park, in the Street.

In the Street. Yes, but I know the Park well.

Can you remember any of the other shops in the street?

Oh, yes. Kings the Bakers, going around with a horse and cart delivering and Jack Miles the butcher. Butcher Jack Miles was a friend, I should say, Mr Miles in those days, of course, but he was a friend of my father's. Then there was the Coopers. Mr Cooper; menswear things.

Was he the tailor?

Tailor, that's it, tailor. Barter, the blacksmiths. Barter's, remember the blacksmith?

Barker.

Well, Alan Barter was my enemy at school, because we, because we were, difficult to say this but I'm going to be honest, we were top of the class, boy or girl, and it was a competition and Alan Barter, I just managed to pip him to the first prize. I only pipped him by one mark one year and I've never forgotten. I think that I've got the books here, but that was Alan Barter, Elena Barter, Girlie, Barter and the name wasn't Barker.

The tailor's shop I remember became a visiting surgery for one of the doctors, a GP Doctor, and he showed me where the tailor's iron went and things like that on the stove. That was 40 years ago.

Yes, because I go back further than that don't I?

Much further! Were there any other shops, what about the pub?

The Drummond Arms? Well, to be honest, no. I've had lunch there since. But it was never a point to us because William IVth was the local for us, you see, and I've been over there a couple years ago, was it last year wasn't it, and we had lunch there and they were very interested my story. So I've supplied them a little bit of a few pictures, which they were thrilled about. And I used to be friendly with the lady, Frieda Bedell, that was there. That was quite interesting and Charlie Bedell, who went to Cranleigh and his sons now, or grandson it could be I think, in business in Cranleigh, the Bedell family. Mr Greenhalgh was in the house of the night that Mr Bedell died from cancer. My father helped him out.

So what about the farms? Do you remember anything about the farms?

Well, our farm was the Charman's farm at Brook. And Birmingham Farm is another one where the Mant family lived and all the Mants lived up there, Hilda Mant and Frank Mant and Cyril Mant and the children.

What about the farm in Water Lane?

Coes.

Was it Coe?

Coes had the watercress beds. When we were children, we would walk on Saturday mornings to the watercress beds and buy watercress. They say it's good for you. Well we had it like rabbits in those days and, I'm not quite sure, but I think it was only threepence a bunch and a big bunch. I'm not absolutely sure of the price but I think it was threepence and we used to buy a large bunch for my mother, one for my grandmother and one from Mrs Bullen down the road, three bunches. We'd go off Saturday morning and buy this...

Do you know if the Coes lived in Ford Farm?

Yes. They lived in the farm at Albury...

Ford Farm, the white building with the beds. In the white house near the watercress beds?

No, no, they didn't live there. They didn't live there. They lived in Albury didn't they, the Coes, they lived in Albury. That was the name of the watercress people wasn't it and they had place at Abinger, the brother had a place at Avenger. No, Coes lived, you know as you come into Albury round the bend, up the hill from Chilworth, up a hill in the bendy road then as you come into the house on the right, that stands up. That was where Coes lived. Mr and Mrs Coe lived at Weston or Weston Farm. That was it and they had the farm there. Oh, yes, I knew Mrs Coe, she was lively.

Was there garage in Albury?

Yes. Parfree's the garage. Yes, it was a very cold day and Mr Ford was rather a bit mean on heating in the shop. All the heating was the gas light, winter and summer, a little gas light that lit the gas and I used to keep my coat on and I went down to Mr Parfree's one day, with some message of something or the other, and he said, I'll get that for you said, go and sit down Nancy he said, sit yourself, sit yourself on the fire put your feet up and make yourself at home. That was Mr Parfree. Then the son took the business on after that.

That's right. I'm not sure it was the son's daughter that was called Enid. Peter Parfree.

Peter Parfree that is right. And then he had a son, didn't he? And the son, let me think, which was the one that married Nicholas's at the shop?

I don't know.

Nicholas, Peggy Nicholas married Peter Parfree.

Right. Okay.

Peggy Nicholas from the grocery shop, married Peter Parfree and then they had a family.

Did you know anybody living in Church Lane?

The Brownes because she, Katie Browne, she taught my two sisters music. Piano. I wasn't interested.

We live in that cottage now. [Rose Cottage]

Do you?

We've lived there for 40 years. We followed the Brownes on.

Katie Browne, yes.

Practically every person I've met has been taught the piano by Katie Brown.

Yes, both my sisters had piano lessons there. But I had left school, and I wasn't interested in that at all. My mother said, we must give you something. I said, well, I'd like a sewing machine. It's upstairs still. Table model sewing machine when I was 19, they couldn't afford it until I was 19.

Tell me, what kind of entertainment did you have as you grew up?

Wonderful. Whist drives and dances in Albury Village Hall. Absolutely wonderful. That was the main thing because I did play a little tennis, but I couldn't afford it you see. You had to pay out and we used to go to the Lido in Guildford, but there again you had expenses and there wasn't the money so we'd go without those sort of things.

You walked to Guildford?

No, cycled. I cycled to work. I cycled to work for years in Guildford because I worked in Guildford after I left Albury Park. Mr Fraud, I worked. I cycled every day.

Where did you work in Guildford?

Guildford. I worked at Caudron's. the small business at the bottom of the High Street. Mr Caudron had a small business that was later the Fifty Shilling Tailor's [later John Collier 79/80 renumbered 25/27 High Street]. Do you remember that? Well Mr Caudron's business, when I went there, they changed it from there across the road opposite and they went a bit up-market there and I was a buyer for the hosiery and neckwear department, because it was departmental, and what he did was he made the biggest mistake out. He crossed the road and lost all his trade because the people that got off the trains to come to Guildford shopping, which they did, and people came from miles to shop in Guildford, he lost his trade because they didn't, they came off the trains that way and not across the road. Wouldn't cross the road and gradually, I was there for two years, but the second year I wasn't a bit happy. I realised something was wrong in the business and I thought, this isn't, this is working somehow and we had a difference of opinion over buying, actually, and he said, well, they used to buy in stock in those days for sales. Still do, I suppose. But they bought in, he bought a lot of a dozen scarves, silk scarves, and they sold at a shilling each, about four different designs, all these scarves. So because they went like hot cakes, they were really cheap. Then he bought a second lot. Well, he said he thought we would buy a second lot. I said, well, I said, we don't want so many. Any

rate, he did buy rather as many again, I don't know if it was a gross probably, and of course they hung fire a bit. And he was a little bit iffy about it, but like I said to you, they are overdone I said, the people that buy them give them as a present, they can't keep doing that. So we had a difference of opinion of it, and I got a bit tired of him, the boss. So I was recommended, one of the ladies was leaving. Her friend was leaving, she was getting married and she said, there's a job going she said at Pandora in Guildford [157/158 renumbered 196 High Street]. Just right for me that was because I loved knitting and I loved needlework, my pride and joy. So I thought, I haven't done that before but anyway, she said, Well why don't you go for an interview, we've said you might be interested. So I went up to Miss Tossell in Pandora, they had a partnership. Well it was '39 and the war broke out, so the partner wanted to dissolve the partnership because she thought the war years they'd lose their business; Pandora. But she told me in confidence, Miss Tossell did, because I was a chief, I could do the clerical work the others couldn't. She said, I tell you in confidence, she said, She's given notice to break up the partnership, she said, and I want to keep going. But she said, I can't unless I've got someone that I can rely on from the clerical side of the work. Will you promise to stay with me? So I said, Oh yes, of course I will, but don't tell the others. So we didn't tell the others that this other maiden lady was leaving, which she did. So I stayed on with Miss Tossell, and then the war broke out. My father died in '41 and my mother was left a widow. But I'd got call up papers before then because I was single. So I had to go to join up you see, we're all single. So I had an interview in Guildford and I signed up for the R A F, but I'll go in the R A F if I don't know what I'm going to do. Signed up for that. Well, when the second interview came, they wanted to know whether my circumstances were the same. And I said, Well, no, I said, not exactly the same, mine are but my father died a few months ago, so I'm still living at home, that was at the address still living at home with my mother. So they said they gave me a six months exemption because I was considered the breadwinner. That was the exact wording, considered the breadwinner. I think I paid my mother about ten shillings a week because my father had died. In the meantime, '41, when my father died. 1942 I stayed with Miss Tossell. 1940s we had a wonderful trade, absolutely made money hand over fist. We couldn't get enough of anything.

Well, I remember people knitting socks for the servicemen and things like that.

They did. You see, everybody wanted to knit, everybody wanted make mittens and it was wonderful. Anyway, the police force started, women police in Guildford. They started in 1942, January '42 and I was approached by, um, the infant school teacher at Albury school, Francis Roberts, who I'd remained friendly with, and she had married a policeman, Tom Roberts.

Wheels within wheels.

They said, why don't you come for an interview? He said about women going into Surrey Police as there were no women in Surrey Police. He said, Well I don't want people that have got a university degree and know nothing, he said, I want someone with common sense. He thought I might do all right with what I'd done. So I went for an interview, passed the exam and I spent 3½ years as a Surrey auxiliary police woman during the war years.

Did you leave at the end of the war?

I left to have my first baby because they were all having babies and I hadn't got any. So I left to have Robert, my first son, and they gave me when I left, I've still got the letter, they gave me a perambulator. They, seven members of Crime Bureau, because I did criminal statistics when I was in the office. Criminal statistics. They said that they hoped it would do good service. When I went to pay for it at Pascalls, they'd notified the policemen and Miss Ercott the inspector came later to say that the pram was there and would I like to go to collect it. Well they'd got two prams there and my

mother was with me and the pram I had ordered was lighter weight than the other one. So my mother had more sense than I did, she said, well, if I were you, she said, I'd have that heavier pram because it'd be better for the country roads. So I chose the heavier one, which had been paid more than the other one, much to my disgust afterwards. But I still have the letter that they gave me. There was a letter waiting for me when I went to pay for it, handed to me, and it was from the seven members of police crime bureau had contributed it and gave me that. But I had had a lot of worry before then because my husband was discharged from the R A F from Belfast Military Hospital as unfit for R A F duties, but suitable for civilian life, or words to that effect, all right for a civilian employment, but not the R A F. Tossed out like a lot of people. When he came home, my husband was very ill and I had to get the doctor to him and he didn't do any work for 11 months and it was a battle to live and also the way we were treated from the R A F. But the Army, Air Force and Navy Association, or the other way round, they worked hard and they got me a small pension. So in the end, he did get a pension. But he was just tossed out. He was so ill, he had sinus trouble.

Was he in aeroplanes, was he flying, did he fly?

No, no. He was on air sea rescue service in Ireland and on the boats in Ireland. He went all round the coast and he did go in Grade two because he was slight diabetic. But you see, being in the Air Force they didn't study whether you're diabetic or not, you had what was put in front of you or nothing. They didn't say are you diabetic? You'll get so and so. They probably do today as everybody is spoon fed.

My husband went into the R A F in the war and they didn't want to have him because he had flat feet and he very much wanted to go into the R A F because his brother was a navigator. And so he said, Well, you don't walk very far in an aeroplane and the chap gave him a rather old fashioned look and said, Okay then. He did become a navigator.

Yes. But my husband, he did say when he was so ill, that I'm nothing to what some of the poor lads were that were sent out. He always thought someone was worse. He had an operation in Guildford. I sat by his bedside and I was expecting Robert, you see. So it was a tough period in life, but we got over it.

How many children did you have?

I had three. I was 30 when I had Robert and then I had little Janice who's on the bureau. Little Janice. 2½ years later and then I had Diane. When I had Diane, my mother said, she said, You've got a boy and a girl, what do you want another baby for? I've never forgotten it. I said, Well, it's happened, so I'm having another baby. That was in 1950 but Little Janice died from leukaemia when she was five and she was absolutely beautiful. She went to Milford School for one month and she died from leukaemia. When she died people didn't know what leukaemia was in those days; whatever's that? The doctor came in and told us what it was. She wasn't very well. She had leukemia, so we sat with her until she died.

There wasn't any treatment either.

That was it. But then after the war I had my mother living with me for seven years because she was ill. And after that Miss Tossell approached me because I did a lot of needlework and tapestry work, my own embroidery and that, and she said, Why don't you come back, she said, I could do with someone part time. So I went back part time. I don't know, I'd been out of it for a long time.

Do you remember what year you're thinking about?

Yes, that would be, my mother [died], '63, 1963. So she said go home and talk it over to Leslie, because she had been to our marriage. She had been because I was friendly with her you see. She employed me, but we became great friends. Anyway, so she said, Go home and talk it over to Leslie, she said. He said, Why don't you go, he said, It'll do you good. I said, What about Diane coming home from school and Rob. I'm always here, they'll be all right, he said. So I went for two half days a week. So I stayed with Miss Tossell and in '65 my husband died. Two years later after my mother. My husband died in '65. So then I was with Miss Tossell for a short time, but my old job of crime reporting, Home Office statistics, was vacant and I was approached to apply for the job. They knew that my husband had died, not the people, not my friend who got me there, but other members of the staff. So I went back to Guildford Police Station that was then at Mount Browne. It had moved from Woodbridge Road to Mount Browne So I went back to that job. So I went back to two different jobs in my time.

And did you, how long did you stay?

With Mount Browne? 13½ years. So I was with Mount Brown for 13½ years until I retired. And then Cathy Tossell phoned me up one day, When are you coming to have tea with me? So I said, Well, when would you like me to come? She said, I know you've only got weekends free. I said no, I said, I'm retired now. Ooh, she was thrilled to bits. So she said, Why don't you come back? And she said, Why don't you come back and do a bit with me? she said, I'm a bit short staffed and I went back, I went back until the shop was closed because she cancer, she had cancer and I stayed with her until the shop was closed. And that was 1982.

And then it re opened again. The Pandora.

Pandora. And now it's closed again. But the people wanted me to work for them when she sold the business but they only wanted full time. And I said, No way. I said, No, I don't want full time employment. I had retired and I don't want full time employment. I'm quite happy without it. So I went to jobs that I'd done and back again all those times.

I'm not surprised.

And so I've made the best of life.

Well, that's lovely. Anything else that you could think of?

Albury; does anybody remember the evening that the Duchess of Northumberland gave to her tenants in Albury Park?

The evening?

Well, I think I know I may be wrong here, but I think it was termed an At Home and she gave an evening meal which I take it wasn't a dinner as such for the tenants because she was mistress of the robes to Queen Elizabeth.

Which Duchess of Northumberland?

Helen. Duchess of Northumberland. No, not the present queen. Her mother, Queen Elizabeth and King George the sixth. I've seen George the fifth, George the sixth, Edward the eighth and I've seen four realms. Helen, Duchess of Northumberland was mistress of the robes to Queen Elizabeth.

I see.

So she gave this At Home and there was dancing in the evening. But when they found that the older tenants were not enough people to dance they invited a few of the regular people that went to the whist drives and dances and their children. Because my parents were tenants so I had an invitation to go and it was a wonderful evening. I've never forgotten it. The Duchess of Northumberland is something that is not in my world. When she came, she came into the dance hall, one of the rooms must have been cleared for it and all the tenants sat around the dance hall and she had a most beautiful dress on and it was pink and blue shot silver, satin or something with silver shoes and long white gloves. And she took the first dance with the Dr Stent at Shere. Took the floor to the first dance and I've never forgot. It was not my world at all and it was wonderful.

Do you know which year this is?

Well, that would be, let me get this right, '36, '37, wouldn't it, 1937. Because Edward the eighth, 1936 wasn't it when he abdicated?

Yes. I was interested to hear you say Dr Stent because I knew Dr Stent when he was much older but I'm I'm reading a book by a woman called Mrs Miles who lived in Shere [Mrs Miles's Diary]. But I don't think she was related to the butcher's family and she wrote diaries about the war which are recognised by the Imperial War Museum now and in there she referred, she says, Doctor S came to see whoever it was. So presumably that was Dr Stent.

Dr Stent was my doctor

Right?

He was my doctor because when I took Robert there, he had been to school, five years old, and he'd got some little complaint. I took him to the doctor and said, He must have got it at school. Dr Stent said, He was too young to go to school. I said, What, he's five now? He said, Good gracious me, he said, Six years ought to be the starting point, not five, Dr. Stent said that; Dr Stent. And then he stitched my thumb one Sunday morning and in these days when you can't get a doctor, I'd nearly kicked the bucket here at the weekends, except for a paramedic who stitched my head up. Dr Stent stitched my thumb in surgery, I had a cut. I was drying a glass at my grandmother's and I must have, it was a thin glass, and I must have cracked the glass. The glass went into my thumb and it bled like anything so they couldn't stop the bleeding, Sunday morning, so my father walked me to Shere, from Albury, to Dr Stent.

Was that into their house in Spinning Walk?

Yes, thought nothing of it. Walked me to Shere and stitched it. My father nearly fainted in the surgery watching. He laughed. He said, I don't want two patients, but any rate, he said I'll run you home. He ran us home in his car. That was Dr Stent for you. I had a scar for years and years, but you can't see it now, there, one stitch there. But Dr Stent, he was my doctor until we moved and the children's doctor.

He married somebody called Peggy, Peggy somebody, I can't remember.

In the end, in the end, when I had my first son, I had all three of them in the Jarvis, but the first of all, it was not National Health so they arranged to go to the Jarvis, and Dr Stent hadn't been to the Jarvis nursing home but as I'd had so much worry with my husband he was determined to see the birth. So he came and he brought the specialist doctor from Guildford Hospital with him because he was dining with him that night. So they both came for when I had Robert.

That's lovely.

Yeah, he did. And he was very nice because Robert was eventually born. I mean, all I remember about Robert's birth was saying, All we've got to do, We've got to save this baby. We've got to save this baby and he saw me through my pregnancy and then he said, Would you like me to call in and tell your mother, call and tell your mother, which was out of his way. I said, Oh, no, she'll be all right, not this time of night. It was late at night, twenty to 12. But that Dr Stent was a good doctor to me.

Yes, he was a good, man.

Yeah. Good, and Dr Davidson before him of course

I don't remember Dr Davidson.

Albury. Now, that was one thing in Albury that probably does anybody else know about that lovely evening we had dancing.

I don't remember hearing about it but I do remember that Helen, Duchess of Northumberland, was a very benevolent woman in the sense that she was very kind.

She was a lovely nature.

Yes. She went into the house next door to the Browne's house, the cottage and there was a tenant called Arthur Saunders.

Arthur Saunders, one of the workmen?

Yes.

I remember him

But he was still alive when we were there so he told us lots of things and he said that she had said to him, Where's your bathroom my man? He said, I don't have a bathroom. Would you like a bathroom? Yes, I would. So a bathroom was built. That was what she was like, I gather she was very good to tenants.

Yeah. She tried to keep my husband on the estate when he applied for, what he did was he applied for a job through the Gardener's Chronicle. I think it was each week. He applied for this job and little did we know it but it was at Alresford, Hampshire, and it was the Duchess of Northumberland's cousin. You can get caught out in life! She came and approached him, we lived on the estate in their little bungalow and she came to see us and she said to him, Are you not happy? Because they'd had a bathroom put on for us when we when we moved there beforehand, they built on the kitchen and the bathroom, you see, Are you not happy here because you've applied, I hear from my cousin that you have applied for a position there? It was a head gardener's job. Why are you leaving? Well, we've got two children and the boy and a girl and there's not enough room with the two bedrooms with the baby you see. She tried hard, she wanted us to go to the Laundry because the Laundry was quiet. I said, Well, that would be bigger, that would be for us to live down there and I said I couldn't go there because it's too near the stream. I was terrified of the stream at the bottom running through the grounds with children, you see, So I said no, we couldn't do that. And also across the road, there was a house going across at Sherborne. Would we like one of those houses? She would do anything to keep him because she knew from the head gardener that they didn't want him to leave. He did greenhouse work, not in the garden but the greenhouse, all the greenhouse work. In any case, so when he moved, we eventually did move to Milford, Mr Gilbert, the head gardener, was so upset when he visited us because the money up there at Milford was a lot more than the Duchess of Northumberland was paying. Great fun that was.

Anybody else that you can remember, anybody else?

Another thing, I'm wondering if anybody remembers this? In church when we were young we used to go to Milford to Sunday School in the hall, the village hall. We went to Sunday School with a little book each week, and on some occasions we would go to the church. Not every Sunday that we would go onto the church at 11 o'clock service, probably Easter and different occasions in summertime. Well, one morning there was two young men, different, we didn't know, I was twelve I think, these two young men were going to church. Well, youngsters, not me so much as the old girls: Who were they? We didn't know who these two strangers were. In the service the banns of marriage were called for a man called Knight, who was the milkman at Charman's and the cook who lived next door to my grandmother. She was a cook in the big house next door to my grandmother's cottage. So we knew the woman and the banns of marriage were called for these two people and I don't know whether it was the second or third time of asking, I'm not sure on that, but one of these young lads stood up and he said, I forbid the banns, because anybody in church for hereby say just cause why these people cannot be married speak now or forever... and it was the son of the woman and she would have committed bigamy. Anybody told you that, in Albury? I'm sure it was 1926. Not sure, '26 or '27, but that was when it was and so of course we knew this woman next door, I don't know her name but the cook next door, because my grandmother's cottage was next door and she knew this cook.

Where was your grandmother's cottage?

Well, it was at Holland Cottage.

Weston Yard.

You know the White House or it's called the White House now at Albury Heath, the White House. It was called Holland House in my grandmother's cottage next to it is Holland Cottage. Holland Cottage still stands good today, but the other is called the White House isn't it?

I didn't know it had been changed. I know it as Holland House.

I'm sure it's changed to the White House, but I wondered if anybody remembered that. I can see this young fellow in a suit. Sunday, best suit, dark suit, navy blue, standing up and saying, I forbid the banns and course there was a hush.

That's interesting isn't it?

She would have committed bigamy. That was the end of that, and he didn't get married.

Not then anyway.

That's another little thing in Albury.

When did you actually get married and did you get married in Albury?

Albury Church, 25th of April 1942. Only lasted 23 years. My husband came from Suffolk and when the banns were called in Albury Church, Annie Elizabeth Shurlock, whoever was that? Annie Elizabeth Shurlock clatter went round with different people and they didn't know Leslie being a Suffolk boy. They didn't know him as a local you see. Annie Elizabeth and they were so puzzled.

Where did he come from?

He came from, well, his parents, his father was a farm bailiff, and they lived on a big farm in Acton, Suffolk, when I went there. But they had moved and they lived in another place as well, but Suffolk and he moved to different places about two years to get good experience and he came to Albury Park as second in the greenhouses, greenhouse work.

That was quite skilled.

And then he came to Rake and we had a wonderful garden there, absolutely.

And a twin marriage with your sister.

Oh, yes, we did. Thank you, Pauline. When we were married, yes, me, my sister and I were married at the same time. I think I'd forgotten that and that was unusual. I don't know whether anyone else has been a twin marriage in Albury registry.

I don't know that either. I've heard of it with other people.

My sister and I, because we were getting married and then they said, Well, we may as well get married at the same time because it saved, wartime, it saved the same relations travelling from a long way away, which suited everybody and it also helped my mother because not so much losing my state of home. Dorothy moved out, she lived in Dorking, but having it all together, one do financially, so we had a double wedding. I was bridesmaid for another double wedding, they were twins, they were. She's just passed away this year, 104, 103 but she would have been 104 in six weeks' time and she passed away in December. Double weddings, that's Albury. I remember the lovely evenings that we had dancing in the hall and the whist drives were everything, were our life. They were really good.

I think village life was very good.

Actually, it was good. Very live. The Guides, I liked the Girl Guides and Miss Helen Browne. Um, happily married, yes, everything I've done I've enjoyed.

You enjoyed your life in Albury?

Oh, yeah. Oh, yes, because I was happy. I was happy all the time, quite happy. I liked Albury and the different friends and always on the go. You look forward to the whist drives and dances in Albury and then go to the pictures in Guildford, travel up to London.

Did you cycle to the pictures in Guildford or did you go on a bus?

I remember Tillingbourne Valley buses starting, but no you'd go after, after you've worked often. Guildford; we used to go Saturday night and go to the pictures either Godalming or Guildford. My parents used to go on the bus and when my parents died, when my father retired before he died, they would go in the bus to Guildford, dad would take mother to the football. They'd go and have tea and go to the pictures.

Lovely. Margaret's wondering if you could enlarge upon your husband's work at Albury Park?

The peaches, the peaches we had and all the good stuff and the decorations. He used to do the floral decorations long before the ladies did. His references showed how when he lived at Sutton Park he lived, he worked there and he got a high commendation for there. The duchess was so proud. If he's arranging all the flowers in the park, in the house. So then he came from there to Albury Park.

I see. So that's where he was first of all.

So he was good at that and he taught, he taught me a lot. So did Constance Spry. I went to one of her last lectures. I used to do a lot of flower arranging in those days but the Albury Flower Shows were the highlight. Once a year, they were the highlight of the young people all those years ago, you look forward to it. Roundabouts and the swing and the big tent because it was three villages: Albury, Peaslake and Shere that showed in those days.

Yes. We still have the show and the flower arrangements really are very beautiful. Of course it's moved down generations but this is a very big day on the Heath and it is one of one of the largest village shows of its kind I suppose.

It was very good in those days. I loved it.

Things change slightly and what we do now is on the Sunday they have a church service in the big tent which includes the other villages, Shere and Peaslake as well. But I don't know how much some people show, but I'm not sure.

It was quite competitive in those day. Going on to the sports, you see, that was lovely. Flat racing, hundred yards sprint. I had a few prizes for that. Skipping race, flat race and relay. You didn't do anything else. Mr. Kilby was wonderful. I did that. I raced up there until I was, that's 18 and under 18 and won a clock. Then after that, finished. Legs won't go now - they did then! I could be wrong...

Some people have told me that when they were coming home from school, they used to watch Alan, the father, working on the horses and things like that. So that's the sort of thing they did.

Albury school, my word.

It's used now. Some friends of mine use it and own it and use it and for a long time they kept animals there, domestic animals and they re-homed animals and they kept some wild animals and bred from them and they did a lot of photography and now that their son has taken that over and he works in the school part and the father still lives in the schoolhouse, so it's still in good care. You know who've got it Nancy? The Taylors, the Taylors that used to live in Brook in the Mu.

I don't remember the Taylors.

They lived a bit further down from where I was born in Brook. She was on the same side, Mrs Taylor, her hair was always white, and we always used to say she looked like a dandy lion that's gone to seed. She was the first woman vet in the country.

Oh, yes, I remember. If she was the vet I remember the lady vet. I remember taking a cat down there. We didn't know what we took it for, but we took a cat down there and we took a shilling, a shilling for this cat that the lady would see to the cat. We had to give her a shilling. We gave this lady, that's it, I didn't remember the name at the vet's, it was a lady because we handed the cat over in a basket. Dorothy and I, my sister and I between us, that's it. And we paid the shilling and took the cat home and the cat was all right. That's all I know. Until I got older.

Her husband was a vet too, but I don't think he worked as a hands-on vet, he lectured.

So that's another thing, because there used to be an old laundry at Brook didn't there?

I don't know, I remember Holt's. Holt's Stores.

I saw Mr Holt just before he was 100 age, outside the old antiques shop. He died a few days later, if not the next day. But he was 100. And that was wonderful because there was nobody else was ever 100 in our area then. And that was old Mr Holt.

I think Albury was quite a good place to live, you know.

Yes, Mr Holt. I remember a lot of them. I should never sleep until I know I've got Alan Barter right. Funny isn't it how the brain sticks: Alan Barter.