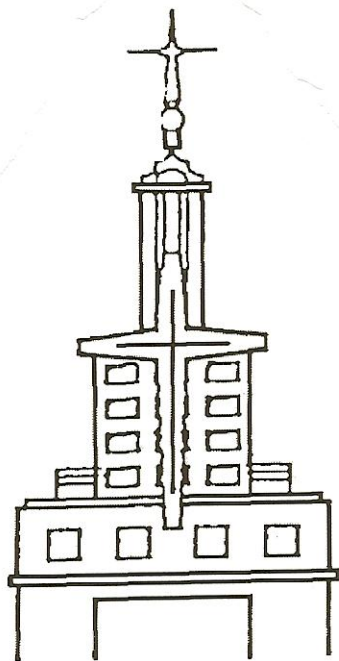


# CLARION RECALL



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**APRIL 2012**

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## FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends

I'm writing this in the week following Easter, buoyed not only by the numbers who followed the Holy Week and Easter Experience but also by the depth and range of the commitment shown across the John Keble community.

The Dean of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge joined us from Maundy Thursday through to Easter Day as our preacher. Most memorably he preached the Three Hours' devotion which was shaped around the seven last words and two Bach cello suites played live by a young student from Trinity College of Music south of the river.

From the intimate drama of the foot-washing on Maundy Thursday through the sauce-pan lids banged, trumpets played and all manner of these rattled as we greeted the moment of resurrection in the Easter Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter on Holy Saturday through to the sunshine of Easter morning, the hymns that lift our minds and hearts, and the Easter egg hunt (this time in the church as the sunshine was eclipsed by rain!), it was an experience that showed the community at its best: faithful, following, fun-filled, fruitful in the Gospel.

We are seeking to build from this long-nurtured spirit in a number of ways. The Bible in bits – a weekly bible study run in four or five week 'bursts' with a morning session attracting often 20 people, and an evening session growing towards 10 – is both a chance to grow spiritually and thrive socially. The shared experiences brought to bear on Jonah during Lent were rewarding for everyone. And we allowed this to spill over into a Lenten series of interactive sermons on this most elusive but successful of prophets! We were all surprised at how much could be mined from four chapters of biblical text!

We're going to follow a new Church of England course – jointly with our neighbours at St Michael's – called 'Everybody Welcome'. The aim is to improve our welcome and look at creative ways to ensure that the people who 'test us out' – roughly 35 in the last year or so – feel welcome, drawn in and keen to stay. Every church needs to work at this. We've identified it as a weakness for some time. We are actively addressing it in an upbeat way!

We're also looking to how fabric issues can better be addressed. The look of the church is a disincentive to stay for newcomers. It looks tired even though the community is far from that! And when water drips through the roof onto one of the church warden's seats this is emphasised further!

Hence the formation at the time of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Friends of John Keble Church to work on support for fabric maintenance and even enhancement!

Please consider joining and gift-aiding your contribution. It's £175 for life membership, £25 for annual membership, and £15 for OAPs, unwaged and under 18s. There are however discounted rates for anyone who is in receipt of Clarion and who replies to the offer by the end of May of £125, £20 and £12. Please email me on [chrischivers01@msn.com](mailto:chrischivers01@msn.com) (that's zero one!) or by post to 142 Deans Lane, Edgware HA8 9NT.

So far we've collected just under £4,000 towards our initial target of £10,000 and some work has begun on the Lady Chapel (for which we shout an extra Easter Alleluia!).

We're immensely grateful for your continued support of us and of one another in so many ways. It's an inspiration to us to keep the John Keble legacy strong. Please above all else pray for us as we build on what each one of you so lovingly contributed to make growth and development possible for this and for future generations.

With every good wish and blessing in this Eastertide.

*Yours, Chris Chivers, Vicar*

## Clarion Recall Website update from Alan Woodford

Many thanks to the ex JKCYC members and others who have supplied articles and photos as well as suggestions for site improvements. We have had nearly 30 'posts' or news items since starting the site last May, and nearly the same number of articles. But in Rex Walford's words from Clarion Recall 30, *'.....we need personal contributions to keep RECALL news-ey and interesting. Tell us what you are doing now (in as many or as few words as you like) or recall some 'magic moment' of the JK past in which you participated – and we'll be glad to share that with a wider audience.'* Of course Rex was talking about the newsletter, but it is even truer of our website, so keep us in mind and put pen to paper or finger(s) to keyboard when you have a spare minute. For the future we are going to be thinking about how to attract younger ex JK people to become Clarion Recall readers and contributors. By the way the JK website has had a dramatic upgrade - take a look at: <http://www.johnkeble.org.uk/>

Meanwhile, below is a listing of the news items and articles posted on the website so far.

### Monthly Postings (News Items or Blogs) on [www.clarionrecall.org](http://www.clarionrecall.org)

Date posted	Description	Click to view
May 26/2011	Design the Clarion Recall Banner	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?p=57">http://clarionrecall.org/?p=57</a>
May 27/2011	Welcome to the Clarion Recall website	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?p=1">http://clarionrecall.org/?p=1</a>
May 30/2011	2011 JKCYC Reunion in Cuckfield on-track	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?p=91">http://clarionrecall.org/?p=91</a>
June 12/2011	Wendy Walford directs Cell Talk	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?p=106">http://clarionrecall.org/?p=106</a>
June 25/2011	Tony Carter passes on	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?p=116">http://clarionrecall.org/?p=116</a>
July 11/2011	2004 Paignton Reunion photos	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?p=185">http://clarionrecall.org/?p=185</a>
July 22/2011	2011 Reunion – Cuckfield	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?p=232">http://clarionrecall.org/?p=232</a>
Aug 29/2011	Heads Up! – 2012 Clarion Recall Reunion in Suffolk	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?p=309">http://clarionrecall.org/?p=309</a>
Sept 28/2011	'Slim Slips Up' DVD available!	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?p=333">http://clarionrecall.org/?p=333</a>
Sept 28/2011	Photo collection handling	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?p=343">http://clarionrecall.org/?p=343</a>
Sept 30/2011	Mary and Angela Pack & the Deansbrook History	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?p=348">http://clarionrecall.org/?p=348</a>
Oct 13/2011	JK's Upcoming 75th Anniversary	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?p=376">http://clarionrecall.org/?p=376</a>
Oct 29/2011	Clarion Recall 32 Hot off the Press	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?p=412">http://clarionrecall.org/?p=412</a>
Nov 09/2011	Deansbrook History – Chapter VI On-line	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?p=468">http://clarionrecall.org/?p=468</a>
Nov 11/2011	Richard Whitfield and author David Bick	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?p=478">http://clarionrecall.org/?p=478</a>
Nov 12/2011	The bombs that missed us?	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?p=483">http://clarionrecall.org/?p=483</a>
Nov 20/2011	Trevor Johns elected Chairman of WBA	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?p=533">http://clarionrecall.org/?p=533</a>
Nov 20/2011	One for JK Railway Buffs	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?p=536">http://clarionrecall.org/?p=536</a>
Nov 20/2011	Alan Sims and JK Scout Group 1947	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?p=541">http://clarionrecall.org/?p=541</a>
Nov 23/2011	Marion Jeremy to be laid to rest at Instow North Devon	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?p=564">http://clarionrecall.org/?p=564</a>
Nov 24/2011	Funeral Arrangements for Marion Jeremy	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?p=569">http://clarionrecall.org/?p=569</a>
Nov 27/2011	Wendy attends Rex Walford Award Presentation in London	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?p=573">http://clarionrecall.org/?p=573</a>
Nov 29/2011	Marion Jeremy – funeral details confirmed	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?p=594">http://clarionrecall.org/?p=594</a>
Dec 23/2011	Muriel remembers her Youth Club days	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?p=598">http://clarionrecall.org/?p=598</a>
Dec 25/2011	Christmas and New Year Greetings	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?p=605">http://clarionrecall.org/?p=605</a>
Dec 31/2011	Robin Gray 1941-2011	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?p=609">http://clarionrecall.org/?p=609</a>
Jan 05/2011	New Deansbrook History Chapter posted	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?p=627">http://clarionrecall.org/?p=627</a>
Jan 05/2011	The Pack Family in NZ	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?p=633">http://clarionrecall.org/?p=633</a>
Feb 15/2011	Deansbrook History 'Reminiscences' Chapter	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?p=654">http://clarionrecall.org/?p=654</a>

## Articles and Photo Galleries on [www.clarionrecall.org](http://www.clarionrecall.org)

Description	Click to view
About Clarion Recall	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=427">http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=427</a>
Clarion Recall Newsletters	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=179">http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=179</a>
- Clarion Recall 30	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=149">http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=149</a>
- Clarion Recall 31	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=2">http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=2</a>
- Clarion Recall 32	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=398">http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=398</a>
Deansbrook History	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=88">http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=88</a>
Front page	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=247">http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=247</a>
Table of Contents	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=253">http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=253</a>
Introduction	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=267">http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=267</a>
- Chapter I - A Short History Of Mill Hill Area	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=272">http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=272</a>
- Chapter II - The Changing Scenes 1919-1934	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=282">http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=282</a>
- Chapter III - The Separate Schools 1934-1939	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=354">http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=354</a>
- Chapter IV - Deansbrook In Wartime	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=361">http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=361</a>
- Chapter V - The Post War Years	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=363">http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=363</a>
- Chapter VI - Exploration And Adventure	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=450">http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=450</a>
- Chapter VII - The New Look	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=612">http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=612</a>
- Chapter VIII - Reminiscences	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=657">http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=657</a>
Deansbrook Recall	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=206">http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=206</a>
- Slate-on-Head Race c1949	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=208">http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=208</a>
- Muriel Olin (nee West) at Deansbrook c1948-1955	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=584">http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=584</a>
Obituaries	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=66">http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=66</a>
Peter Michael Fisher 1936 – 2010	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=68">http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=68</a>
George Thomas Noble Oliver 1931 – 2010	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=72">http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=72</a>
Mary Bower Pack (nee Creighton) 1912-2010	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=387">http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=387</a>
Photo Galleries	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=520">http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=520</a>
- Reunion 2011 – Cuckfield	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=523">http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=523</a>
- Reunion 2004 – Paignton	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=528">http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=528</a>
- 1940-1949	<a href="http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=551">http://clarionrecall.org/?page_id=551</a>

If anyone would like a copy of the ‘Slim Slips up’ DVD contact Paul Fernberg

Email [pfernberg@onetel.com](mailto:pfernberg@onetel.com) Tel: 01753 899378

**Does anyone know the whereabouts of the other stars of the film made by Roy Wright?**

**Rev. Reg. Ames, Vic Walker, Brian Lord and Robin Saunders. We would like to hear from them!**

**Richard Whitfield** emailed 10/11/11 ‘Just to let you know that I was one of those getting 23 copies of your circulation’ (sorry Richard!) ‘So I am aware of the next JKCYC event at JK, next month on Dec 11<sup>th</sup>.

It’s not yet clear if I can make this, largely due to my close to one month’s hospitalisation shortly after Rex’s memoriam in Ely Cathedral. All that, which did not fortunately involve an operative procedure as conventionally understood, was literally an ‘out-of-my-mind’ crazy time from which recovery of confidence in the everyday has been very slow, but I live to tell an essentially spiritual and indeed Christian story with a few important differences.

Flashbacks included experience at JK in my teens and early 20’s, echoes from the past associated with what I have over the months come to understand as ‘the healing of pain-laden memories’, not least involving elements of vocation then, thereafter, and now. And, as I believe some of your readers know, my unusual educational values-driven career pattern has involved 4 conscientious resignations from worldly senior experience.

There is a well-commended newly published book by my longstanding and very wise friend Revd David Bick, *Let Your Faith Grow*, O-Books, released in late August 2011, for which I spent much of last year editing and preparing for publication at his request that bears all key issues for the spiritually inclined who have anything to do, past or present, with church. Hence I have no hesitation in commending this text (see Amazon) to your readers at this time. Every blessing.

*Richard*

## **MY GARDEN RAILWAY - PART 2 NOVEMBER 2011**

I am not sure where the time has gone since 1998, however, two lift-out bridges were built before the millennium at evening classes at the West Suffolk College. These were made from aluminium, much of it from scrap acquired with permission from a double-glazing firm. They were then painted with red oxide paint and lift out for mowing purposes. The track laying was completed and the points made to work for access to a steaming bay and for rolling stock storage. Many happy hours have been spent 'playing trains' with other Gauge One friends on the line bringing their own locos, coaches and wagons.

The millennium project of running into the garage got delayed until 2009, not from inertia! Peggy had a mini-stroke in 1998 and has been in hospital twice, once in France when I was chaplain at St. Bartholomew's, Dinard. Both times it was very serious. I did eight chaplaincies in Dinard and have been much employed here in Suffolk helping in vacancies at the local crematorium (which is in this Benefice), as well as helping in the local parishes. I am also one of the Cathedral chaplains. At the same time, I have been getting my moneys-worth out of the NHS, e.g. two knee replacements and an operation on my spine.

At last the hole was made in the wall of the garage and two of the concrete posts, which have waited since the 1990's railway building, were put in the ground. The bases for the storage lines were made in the garage. 2011 the line was effectively laid in the garage. I wasn't rushing things!

I now have four steam locos, the first built before I retired; made from a kit I bought at an auction sale. The last one, scratch built, was started at evening classes in Barnet in 1990 and finished in 2011! I got stuck on this twice, not being an engineer, but was helped by some GI friends to overcome the difficulties (you can't rush these things!). I also have four radio controlled battery locos which helps with my present handicap. In the meantime, there is always track maintenance to do and I have made some coaches and goods wagons.

The Gauge One Model Railway Association is an international organization. At one time we had a member in Addis Ababa, he is now in Blighty. It is a friendly association and we have many local groups in this country and around the world. A group in Switzerland make regular trips to the UK. We have a strong group in East Anglia. I have helped build two portable tracks for use at exhibitions by our East Anglia group. The first one we eventually sold to a group in France. The second one called 'Anglia Roads' has been built on a modular basis and has scenic effects. This all fits into a trailer weighing two tons when full and it goes to exhibitions and shows, recently helping to raise over £1,000 for charity in one day. During the last week in October 2011 the Association had a track at the National Railway Museum; different groups running for a day, the East Anglia group were there on the Friday. The Yorkshire Group ran the whole show. I did not go to this as I was in hospital that week.

We are all tending to be rather older gents in the UK who are thought to be quite mad, but we do have great fun. In 2007 we had our Diamond Jubilee and published a DVD of the event. The photo published in CR 32 was at St Edmundsbury Cathedral that year. The Canon Pastor at the time was a keen railway buff (he is one of the editors of the Great Eastern Railway Journal) and he co-operated. We had our 'Anglia Roads' in the old Corn Exchange and our members and their families were given guided tours of the Cathedral and had meals in the Refectory. It was truly a Diamond Jubilee.

**Here's to the next steam-up!**

MALCOLM CHERRY (JK 1954 -1957)

# **A Reunion on Wednesday July 18<sup>th</sup> 2012 at Bury St Edmunds**

**hosted by Rev.Malcolm & Peggy Cherry**

We are planning a one or two night stay in Bury St Edmunds. It is a lovely, historic town and there is plenty to do.

Arrangements have been made for us to meet at the Cathedral at 11 am for a tour of the Cathedral. Malcolm has obtained a reduced rate for the guided tour at £2 each and we have a private room at the Cathedral for lunch after the tour.

Lunch menu is:           Vegetable Quiche or Cold Sliced Ham  
                                  Hot New Potatoes  
                                  Tomato and Cucumber, mixed lettuce leaves  
                                  Coleslaw  
                                  Green Bean Salad  
And to follow:           Fruit Cheesecake  
                                  Tea or Coffee                               £14.50 per person

All day parking is available at Rams Meadow.

**In the afternoon we will be able to visit Malcolm's garden railway! Real steam! Not to be missed!**

We stayed at the Angel Hotel, Bury for a weekend recently. It is very central, within walking distance of the beautiful Abbey Gardens which are opposite the hotel. There are lovely walks through the gardens and historic building remains. We walked from the gardens to St Edmundsbury Cathedral, cathedral shop and the Refectory next to the cathedral.

At the Theatre Royal, the oldest working Georgian theatre in the country, we saw a very good performance of 'As You Like It'. The only seats left price £13.50 were in the gallery and it was very hot and cramped but we enjoyed it. Stalls and boxes, early booking advisable, were £24. I will find out what is on in July.

The Greene King Visitor Centre with shop and museum are on the same side a little further on. A tour of the Greene King brewery costing £8 was very interesting and the view from the roof made the stair climbing worthwhile. Very generous samples of their famous ales in the bar followed the tour, now we know why Malcolm chose to live in Bury! We were also able to buy ale and gifts in the shop.

Local shops and restaurants and the tourist office are all within walking distance.

Ickworth House, Park and Gardens, a magnificent Georgian Palace set in an idyllic English landscape, a National Trust property, is another place to visit.

Local hotels include The Angel Hotel, Best Western Priory Hotel, Abbey Hotel, Ramada Hotel, Suffolk Hotel Golf & Leisure Club and The Fox Inn. There are also a range of guest houses varying in price from £28 per night including breakfast. The date has now been fixed for Wednesday 18th July. If you have internet access you can view and book the various hotels and guest houses in the area, otherwise contact the tourist office, 6 Angel Hill, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1UZ Tel: 01284 764667 for a visitor guide.

Malcolm has to let the Cathedral caterers know how many are coming as soon as possible. You can email Malcolm [mandpcherry@waitrose.com](mailto:mandpcherry@waitrose.com) or telephone: 01284 810269. Please contact me if you have any queries, preferences or want me to book accommodation for you. [shirley.collman@ntlworld.com](mailto:shirley.collman@ntlworld.com) or telephone: 01462 647234.



## Rex's legacy- Wendy attends Rex Walford Award Presentation in London

Readers will remember this award was set up in memory of Rex, following a donation of £5,200 supported by many Clarion Recall readers, reflecting his passion for training new geography teachers.

On 18<sup>th</sup> November Wendy attended the annual prize giving of the Royal Geographical Society where the Rex Walford Award was presented for the first time to newly qualified teacher Imogen Riley. The awards were presented by Michael Palin (the present president of the RGS) and Wendy introduced the Rex Walford award for the best teaching plan from a Newly Qualified Teacher.

Wendy writes "It was a lovely day and students, their families and teachers came from all over the country to the RGS's headquarters next to the Albert Hall. Michael Palin was quite charming and gave an informative and amusing speech about how he came to be an ambassador for geography having started out in life as a student of History and English at Oxford.



**Photograph below showing Wendy, Imogen Riley and Michael Palin**



There are links to the RGS on the web site if you go to [www.clarionrecall.org](http://www.clarionrecall.org).

## OBITUARIES:

**Robin Gray** passed away 29th December at his home in Puerto Lumbreras, Spain.



Robin attended Deansbrook from 1947 to 1953 and was on the first School Journey to Shipham Somerset. His school journey project was 'Alfred and Wessex' with David Lafford. Although he was in the A-Class he was one of the few from that class that failed the 11+ examination. He went to Goldbeaters School where he excelled at sports, as he did at Deansbrook, becoming a London Area Junior ABA Boxing Champion. He subsequently passed the 13+ examination and went to Willesden Technical College where he took a Civil Engineering based vocational technical course. He left there after 'O' levels and worked for a contracting company in Harrow that specialized in large scale process plant painting (refinery plants piping, etc.). Later he started up his own contracting company.

He joined the JK Church Choir after Deansbrook eventually becoming Head Chorister. On leaving the choir he joined the Youth Club. Robin and Dawn Butler partnered at the Youth Club, and later married at John Keble. As his company prospered they moved to Chesham, Bucks, bought a villa in Nerja, Spain and had a part ownership in a hotel in Barbados.

Robin and Dawn had three children – one son Andrew and two daughters, Dionne and Lucy. Andrew took over the company when Robin and Dawn retired and moved to Spain. Andrew continued running the company while battling recurrent brain cancer. Andrew died two years ago.

About 10-years ago Robin and Dawn sold their Nerja villa and moved inland where they rebuilt an abandoned farmhouse in a 10-acre olive grove in Puerto Lambreras, Murcia.

Two years ago, after completing his farm renovation, Robin contracted a cancer that resulted in a major operation. He survived this and subsequent treatment and was given a clean-bill-of-health early in 2010. He was due to go to England to visit his family last June but developed what was thought to be a chest infection. Robin fought a valiant battle with recurrent cancer for the rest of the year before passing away peacefully in December.

Robin and his infectious smile will be remembered with great affection by all at JK who knew him and his family. Our thoughts are with Dawn, Dionne and Lucy and their families.



**Keith Rippengal** – Cousin of Sonia Norton (nee Rippengal) who wrote to notify us of his sad death. He died in St George's Hospital London shortly after admission early in October 2011 with pneumonia. Keith is on the right in the picture also showing Janet Saffery, Jill South and Ron South at the July reunion at Cuckfield.



**Sonia writes** "Keith very much enjoyed attending the JK reunions and other special events.

He played the organ at Christ Church Teddington, but also visited JK Church from time to time. When visiting me in the Lake District he would burst into song every now and again and sing some of Rex Walford's songs – his favourite being, 'There's a tap that's dripping in the kitchen' printed in Keith's memories of Rex in the February 2011 Clarion Recall".

Keith was an only child and did not marry or have any children. Sonia's sister Pauline, Sonia and one other cousin were his only relatives. He had a form of Leukaemia which was controlled by medication. We were shocked to learn of his death so soon after the reunion to which he had travelled by train and walked to Brian & Jose's from the station.

### **Marion Evelyn Jeremy 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1936 – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

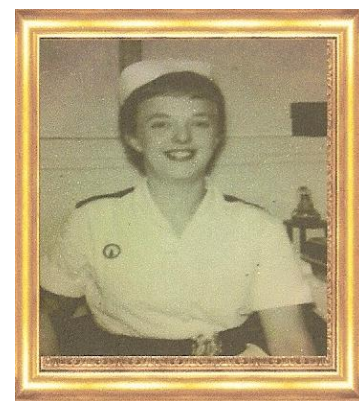
Marion had been in hospital since the 6<sup>th</sup> September as a result of an ulcer. She fought a brave battle until the dice were stacked too high. She went peacefully in the presence of David, Alison and Louise. Marion and David celebrated their 52<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary on 29<sup>th</sup> August at home "before the Gestapo came and took her away (it seemed like that anyway)" writes David, who was always known as Jerry (like his father) Marion was the first one to call him David.

Jerry writes: 'My Grandfather, David Jeremy, lived at 11 Sefton Avenue from (at least) 1934 until his death in 1938.

My father was living there at the time of his marriage to my mother in 1934. My parents moved into 13 Derwent Avenue next to my mother's sister at no 11. I was born (there) in 1936. We later moved to 8 Langley Crescent just before the war.

Grandfather owned the Wool shop in Mill Hill Broadway and my Grandmother moved to live over the shop until just after the war. My father had followed his father into the Wool Business with Carter & Parker (Wendy Wools), as a commercial traveller. This he continued until his death in 1979 at 76.

Previously he had spent 8 years in the Merchant Navy. During the war, he served in LDV defending Scratchwoods sidings, before joining the AFS/NFS at Edgware and Mill Hill Fire Stations (with others linked to JKCYC!). Some hairy times at the height of the blitz, due to his knowledge of Inner London and the City, later at Borehamwood at the Home Office Transport Depot. All this part-time with his Woolly travels. Age and eyesight precluded any other wartime activity though he was trained in the Norfolk Yeomanry when his father had a Drapers shop in Downham Market in WW1 too young to participate in further travels.



Marion's father, similar age and limitations, worked in the City and served as an ARP Warden in the City through the whole war, also part-time.

Footnote: Bombing in Mill Hill: Mill Hill Library was very badly damaged (opposite the Fire Station). I recall the worst damage was to the children's library!

I started school at St Georges in Flower Lane, next, to Ravensfield College between Mill Hill East and Golders Green. I left there when Hasmonian Jewish School bought it to cope with the influx of Jewish refugees after war. Then to Highwood Prep in Lawrence Street near the Old Forge, from whence I moved to Christ's College Finchley.

Out of school, I had joined the Crusaders at Mill Hill (Flower Lane again!) with Ron Smith (Mount Grove).

Later I joined the 13th Hendon Sea Scouts (with Ron), wherein continued until joining the Army. At the same time (!) at Christ's College Finchley I joined the Army Cadets (with Arthur Banham and Les Walker). This led me to JK Youth Club and my first contact with girls, hockey and table -tennis! So back to Sefton Avenue!

I cannot think how I did all this as well as Stamp Collecting, Model Soldiers and Jazz at 100 Oxford Street, before joining the Army.

Listen up, now. Who remembers getting a lift home from Humph's and the resultant hurried return by me to Sandhurst in the Green Ford Bomber only to be late back and incur an Extra Drill on Saturday morning? My efforts to get someone to go to the Sandhurst Ball!

Lucky escapes all round until I met Marion in December 1956! That, as they say, is another story.

David J.

## **MEMORIES OF DEANSBROOK SCHOOL by Muriel Olin (nee West)**

Being born in September 1943, I started in the Infants in 1948. As time spent there was short, there are very few memories – a large reception classroom with a limited selection of educational toys and a sand tray and then I progressed to a somewhat more conventional classroom where I can remember a long working bench at the rear of the class covered with all manner of activity materials including an abacus. In no time at all it was over to the Junior School.

I lived in Hale Drive (No.165, opposite Marian Gandy) and so the school was just minutes away. The grounds of both schools seemed well-kept, manicured grass and tiny pink roses on the trellises along one main pathway. Huge poplars along the side that ran parallel to Hale Drive and what seemed to me to be a very large playing field with several air raid shelters. Like many buildings of that time, there were various shades of green used for the paintwork. I well remember outside toilets, a draughty quadrangle and ice-cold milk in the winter. Summer brought the wearing of our summer uniform, and in my time, these were dresses, often made by our mothers, of sky blue cotton with little white daisies – quite pretty and very different from the usual designs of stripes or checks.

My memories of Deansbrook schooldays have been kept somewhat sharper because we participated in two quite large projects which were both recorded in great detail and the pupils' contributions were bound together in a personally decorated folder (stencilling with a potato, paint and paste) which I still have. Endless hours were spent running off the pages on the Banda machine, we all took our turn – there were some 200 pages in all. Here we remember that in our/my time there were often over fifty children in a class – my surname began with W for West and so I was something like number 51 or 52. I can't recollect us ever being unruly, just as well as how would the teachers have ever coped! The teachers I remember were the Headmaster, Mr. Downing, Miss Hughes, Mr. Webb and Mr. Lewis (who threw chalk or the blackboard rubber at you). We were divided into teams – "Hale" (blue), "Marsh" (green) - mine, "Nichol" (red) and "Page" (yellow).

The first project was "The River's Tale - Summer 1954", which mainly related to history and trade along the Thames, we each had a subject to research - from the production of cork (my subject) to the Houses of Parliament or Windsor Castle, and many places were visited including the London Docks with all their warehouses.

The second project included a school journey to Derbyshire - "Peakkrill's Progress" – 1955 Losehill Hall, Castleton. The previous year the pupils had journeyed to Somerset. Obviously this was a welcome treat after taking the 11+. Again we were all given a subject to research – these covered Geography, History and Nature (my subject this time was wildflowers). So much extra time must have been put in by all our teachers to collect, collate and eventually print the school journal, together with providing numerous questionnaire papers to complete whilst visiting various places – from the Blue John Mines, well dressing at Bakewell and a silver factory.

There were two parties of about 45+ pupils (I still have lists of all who went on these two trips and a photograph of four teachers and the Headmaster who accompanied us which is shown below. For me it was a very memorable event.

### **Teachers on the second trip to Derbyshire**



**Mr AAS Downing, Mr J Hobson, Mr D Webb, Miss D T Hughes, Mr J Brentnall**

Of course, there was also Hendon Sports Day and I have included a photograph of the Deansbrook team that won the shield that year (1952?) – Readers may recognise one or two – I can only name – Pam Smith, Harold Aldridge (Sylvia's brother sitting to the right of the shield) and Peter Kenwright next to him (I am sitting behind the shield on the left).

### **The Deansbrook team that won the Hendon Sports Shield 1952?**



And in September 1955 I started at Copthall County and then Hendon Technical College five years later on the usual secretarial course.

Just before I finish on the subject of Deansbrook, I also enclose a photograph taken in May 1945 of the Children's "V" Party – whilst I never usually take centre stage there I am in the middle in a light- coloured dress.

### **MAY 1945 CHILDREN'S 'V' PARTY**





## PEEPS FROM THE PAST: Memories of JKYC by Muriel Olin (nee West)

I joined the youth club in 1958 and was a member until nearly 1962. The fellow members I particularly remember are Sheila Peacock (with whom I am still in touch) and Keith Brown, Brian Lord (whom I went out with), John Lord, Vic Walker and Val Griffiths and sister Jacky, Trevor Johns, Dawn and Robin Gray, Frank and Gerry Bedall, Liz, and Brian Covelly, and, of course, the then current Curate, Reg Ames, often joined us.

Of course there were other members I can recall but not names (or at least just first names but not surnames) and, as I may have mentioned before many of the members a few years ahead of me were familiar by name because many of our parents were members of Deansbrook Social Club (who met in the school hall) and an old thyme dancing club (who met in the church hall).

Brian Lord, Keith Brown and Vic Walker bought a car between them and amicably shared the use of it – I do believe it is the same vehicle that appears in the film “Slim Slips Up”.

Probably the get-togethers were much the same as many readers will also remember. We met Friday evenings in the small hall for general socialising and table tennis, the same for Sunday afternoons but in the main hall, unless there was a summer outing/ramble, and Sunday evenings, when the time was more structured – a barn dance, a pyjama party (how risqué), a talk or a quiz and, of course, dancing to records. There was also a music circle when members would meet in each others’ houses to drink coffee and listen to pop music; some members would meet up at a jazz club-cum-coffee shop in Edgware and there were also jazz evenings at Kingsbury swimming pool. There were Sunday summer evening walks up to The Rising Sun. There was a holiday to the Isle of Wight, but my parents did not allow me to participate – too young! And, my very first outing with the Youth Club was a coach trip to see the illuminations at Southend. All simple pleasures and we never did get bored.

If I sit any longer at my laptop I shall come up with yet more memories and enough is enough – it has been quite self indulgent but I feel very fortunate to have such happy memories of my youth.

**Sonia Rippengal** writes in November & December 2011. “Unfortunately I am still unable to get Broadband in the wilds of the Lake District where I live, near to the small village of Boot at the foot of Scafell and Hardknott Pass. I should be most grateful, therefore, if you would continue to send me copies of the Clarion Recall. I enclose a contribution towards the cost of printing and postage.

My father, Sidney Rippengal, was assistant organist at JK in the days of “Harmonics”, Mo Motley and Peter Thorburn. I can’t believe that Peter is now 94. Michael Daker was Head Chorister at that time and I remember Chorister tea parties at our house when my father’s favourite competition and challenge was to offer a prize to the chorister who could eat a whole jam doughnut without licking his lips! – Try it!!

Highlights of my own memories of JK Youth Club were the Shanklin Upper Chine holidays. For several years, Janet Rook, Joan Warland and I extended our stay by working on the “Staff” for the rest of the summer holiday, - finishing our work as quickly as we could every day in order to spend the maximum amount of time playing tennis or swimming in the pool! The weather always seemed to be wonderful in Shanklin and the sun shone every day!! A concert was organised on the final evening each week, performed on the stage in the main hall and of course Rex always ensured that the JK contribution was hilarious. Best wishes to everyone, Sonia Norton (nee Rippengal)”.

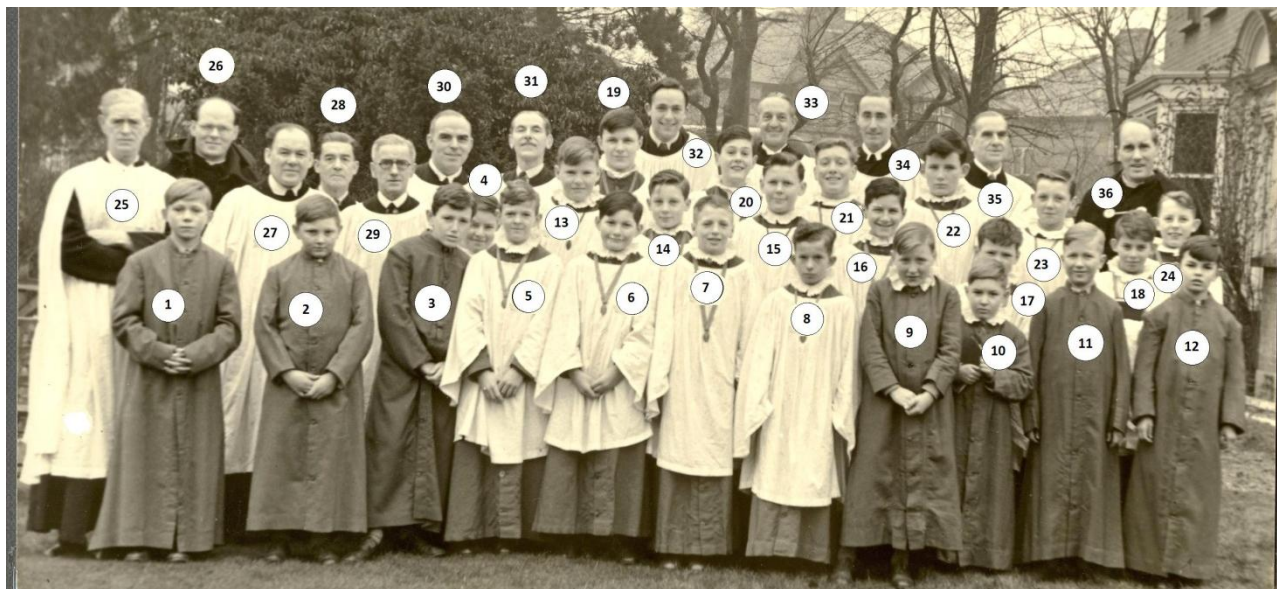
### *July 1950 Cricket News from Geoff Owen*

Only just over 60 years have elapsed since my latest happening in the history of John Keble cricket. The date was 30<sup>th</sup> July 1950 and the opponents at Mill Hill Park were the Deansbrook Social Club. One must assume from the performances of the individuals that the match was played on a strip of grass which was a sporting wicket to put it mildly. Deansbrook won the toss and batted first against the lethal pace of Keith Avery who took 4 wickets for just five and the consistent Michael Day who with 5 wickets for 17 saw Deansbrook back in the pavilion (if there had been one !) for just 25. David Allen (brother of George) scored 2 of these and Brian Wright (surplus to requirements for JKCYC) almost top scored with an unbeaten 5. JK scored with ease by comparison after openers Brian Fisher (2) and Michael Day (1) had been dismissed early. Roy Streatfield (16), John Streatfield (15) and Keith Avery (13) enabled JK to DECLARE at 54 for 5. David Allen then showed his ability in the second innings and his score of 40 was by far the top score of the day. Fortunately no one else reached double figures and JK were set 50 to win. Mysteriously JK only batted with ten as Michael Day had disappeared. For JK, your scribe and Brian Fisher notched a breathtaking 15 each but Henry Tuppen, Roy Wright, Rex Walford and Donald Wright scored 6 between them and JK lost by 5 runs.



## Foundations for a musical journey: The JK Legacy

Alan Woodford recently remarked how he remembered my father (Horace Hack) composing some music for the choir. His mass setting and an evening anthem were in regular use for some years. I dug out an old photo of the choir, dating from the winter of 1951-52. Some of *Clarion's* readers might be able to put names to faces? I am the little one at the front right. I joined the choir at a very early age, as I could go to the later adult practices with my father, and there is no doubt that the experience has left a huge mark. Remembering the influence of people like Rex, and at a time when JK is very much in the news again (see for example Chris Chivers' article in the *Church Times* recently) it seemed appropriate to describe the tradition – with the added proviso that tradition is, in my view, not just something from the past, fondly remembered, but something that carries forward into the future.



The most important influences came from the regular discipline of singing Eucharist and Evensong every week, but particularly from the view of the importance of the worship: this was not singing for singing's sake, but to lead the congregation in a meaningful act of worship. Words therefore assumed considerable importance. I well remember Edward Motley banning the hymn *Come ye thankful people come* one year because the harvest was not "safely in" – there had been a period of bad weather. David Norman placed great emphasis on singing the psalms and plainsong melodies to bring out the clarity and poetry of the words, in contrast to many other choirs which kept (and still keep) to a more purist approach. A few years later, in the student choir of Great St Mary's Cambridge, it was no surprise to me that during a service for Christian unity Hugh Montefiore required us to keep silent in the line "Yet one all over the earth" in *The Church's one foundation*, as we quite clearly were not one. (No stranger to controversy, he had recently objected to one of the 39 Articles on account of his Jewish roots.) I expect we sang the following verse "By schisms rent asunder" with even more gusto!

Rex Walford and Barry Wise had been experimenting with a new approach to music – Rex through drama, and Barry as an assistant organist. Some may remember his rendition on the organ of *Bright the vision that delighted* to the tune of *Midnight in Moscow*. It was a time, too, of liturgical change, and JK was in the forefront of experiments in new forms of worship, particularly the modernisation of language. Richard Buck organised a number of experimental services at which new approaches could be tried out. When I went to Cambridge, I joined the Twentieth Century Church Light Music Group. David Norman took up a few of their new tunes, and I recall he harmonised *Camberwell* [At the name of Jesus] so the choir could join in. However, this was a time of ferment – *Honest to God* and all that - and we soon felt that old words expressing the old theology (in style not so new) to tunes were insufficient, despite the evident infectiousness of people like Geoffrey Beaumont. Consequently, and perhaps under the inspiration of, for example, Sydney Carter, who was expressing a new approach to theology in simple but challenging songs, we transformed ourselves into a rock-based group and members started to write their own material under the name "Reflection". This group lasted for several years after we had all left university and several records, productions and worship workshops were undertaken.

One of the last outputs of the group was a project for the Methodist Missionary Society on the theme of Salvation Today for which Patricia and I made a list of appropriate hymns (some time before the more comprehensive listings that RSCM and others do today). Fred Pratt Green contributed a masterly hymn summarising the meaning of salvation to the folk tune of *Job* [aka *Dives and Lazarus*] and it is a great pity that it does not appear in full in either his published collections or any hymnbook. (*Salvation! There's no better word for what Christ does for me.*)

So began a lifetime of interest in hymns. Over the last fifty years, very many have been produced that meet the implied request of the Choristers' prayer that we should "sing with our lips what we believe in our hearts" (rather than things we do not believe any longer). Collections now include hymns from Fred Kaan, John Bell and Marty Haughan amongst many others. Composers like John Barnard have contributed tunes and edited collections.

I'm still involved with trying out new material, through a Guildford diocesan clergy-led music group, trying to bring a wider selection of hymns and songs to general consciousness, and (just as we did many years ago) trying to bridge the gap between the "worship group" approach and the traditional choir.

David Norman had taken a sensitive approach to combining words and music, which led to memorable combinations. I still associate *Lord enthroned with heavenly splendour* with *Ad perennis vitae fontem* (the set tune in the old *Songs of Praise* – *St Helen* is too triumphant by comparison), *Lucis Creator* ("modern" tune) to *Creator of the stars of night* as well as *O blest creator of the light*; *Liebster Immanuel* to *Brightest and best*, and *Kings Weston* to *From the eastern mountains*. The old *English Hymnal* was revolutionary in its time – an Archbishop of Canterbury had objected to its use – and contained a huge number of tunes based on folk songs as well as newly composed material and introductions from a wide variety of European sources. The RVW Society has recently published a new comprehensive list of folk song sources of all the hymns and carols used by Vaughan Williams. Coupled with the extensive use of Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century tunes it was probably inevitable that the musical grounding obtained at JK would lead to a lifetime's interest in English music. Grounded on the (old) *English Hymnal* and the (original) *Oxford Book of Carols*, and reinforced at school by the (again former) *Songs of Praise*, the modal harmonies also provide a complete contrast with the largely Victorian heritage of many churches. Arriving in Surrey and attempting some years later to join a church choir, I frequently had cause to agree with the scathing opinion of Vaughan Williams (in the preface of the *English Hymnal*) of "the miasma of the languishing and sentimental hymn tunes which so often disfigure our services". Many the time that I got home after a choir practice, turned to the record player and put on LOUDLY either the opening bars of Vaughan Williams' piano concerto or Jimi Hendrix's version of *Along the Watchtower* as an antidote. [I will leave it to musical experts to analyse the similarity of these two.] It has always been a sadness to me that the *New English Hymnal* returned to a more *Ancient and Modern* style and theologically became dreadfully reactionary.

For one or two of my school years, I was in the Westminster Abbey Special Choir, which undertook the *St. Matthew Passion* at Westminster and *Messiah* at St Pauls. On the way home – young people felt quite safe on the tubes in those days – I would call in on my father at Abbey Wood studios, where he produced the master tapes for records. At the time, he was working on *The Planets* and symphonies by Tchaikovsky and Vaughan Williams. So I heard selections of these whilst waiting (usually the bits where he had to physically cut out blips from the tape in those pre-digital days). He used to bring sample copies of recordings home to listen on domestic equipment. In addition to the symphonies, two records in particular remain particularly vivid – a collection of Vaughan Williams' folk song arrangements and his Christmas cantata *Hodie*. Music is subjective, but the sense of the spiritual in some of these works is overwhelming. Even something as simple as *Our Saviour's Love* is essentially timeless and makes an effective Passiontide carol. (A number of the songs have recently been re-issued and re-recorded as part of the growing interest in his music, extending well beyond *The Lark Ascending*.) I have been very fortunate in Woking over the years in having had the opportunity to sing most of Vaughan Williams' major works, as well as a fair selection of pieces by Elgar, Finzi, Parry and others. We were also very fortunate to have been able to experience Richard Hickok's last conducting as part of the anniversary symphony cycle a few years ago, as well as a rare staged performance of *The Pilgrim's Progress*.

*John Hack, January 2012*

**Alan Woodford**, Brother **Tony Woodford** and **Richard Whitfield** have identified most of the choir members in the photo. Probationers wear a collarless cassock without the white surplice:

**1** Michael Bird (Deansbrook c1947-53 Athlete) **2** Ken Smith (Deansbrook c1947-53 then Christ's College, sang in the choir all his life) **3** David Farmer (lived in Mount Grove, had three older sisters, twins Margaret & Kathleen & Joy in JKYC) **4** Unknown **5** Ian Fraser (went to UCS) **6** Christopher Alexander (younger brother of Michael Alexander, Deansbrook c1947-53) **7** Robin Gray (Deansbrook 1947-53, athlete, later ABA boxer) **8** Paul Watson (Deansbrook C1947-53) **9** Brian Coverley **10** John Hack **11** Unknown **12** Peter Dixon (Deansbrook c1947-53) **13** Vic Walker **14** Tony Woodford (Deansbrook, Haberdashers) **15** Keith Brown **16** Michael Ford **17** Chris Motley son of the vicar **18** Martin Bull (Deansbrook, UCS) or Peter Prince? **19** Foster? **20** Michael Daker (Head Chorister, UCS, became an Alto in the men's choir) **21** Michael Davis (went to UCS, brother of Daphne) **22** David Soulsby went to UCS, later head Choirboy **23** Brian Lowry, a still later head choirboy from Friern Barnet, Richard Whitfield was later his deputy. Richard and Brian made a private 78-rpm recording of some church music with Mrs Whitfield accompanying... in the HMV Studios in Oxford Street. **24** Richard Whitfield (Deansbrook, UCS. **25** Mr F A Martin-Smith ('Master of the Music') 'Harmonics' - remarkable initial choirmaster first Hon Treasurer of RSCM, whose brother was (pre WW2) the architect who designed and master minded the building of JK Church. **26** Rev. Dallas Le Page (the first of several fine chaps in my time in the choir and later ("the first of several fine chaps in my time in the choir and later Youth Club"- Richard Whitfield) **27** Dick Nunan (who gave me his cricket pads which I used faithfully in the JK Cricket Club and still own, though not used for a decade – Richard Whitfield) **28** Unknown **29** Unknown **30** Mr Norman Senior **31** Horace Hack "wrote music for a communion service-often sung by the choir" ATW **32** David Norman (went to UCS and later taught music there. Became Choir Master taking over from Martin-Smith) **33** Bill Holden, Derek & Michael's father. **34** Bill Keevil "...bowled well as a veteran for JKCC" **35** Unknown **36** Revd. E.W.J. Motley. **Can you add some more names or corrections to the list? Maybe you are in the photo?**



## Alan Sims and JK Scout Group 1947

November 2011 Alan Writes: 'Shirley, Many thanks for Clarion 32. I managed to view and print it despite my limited computer skills. Your and everybody's efforts are much appreciated!

I recently came across this photo of JK Scouts after church parade in 1947. It may be of interest to quite a few people. Included are:

**Front Row:** Peter Tozer, Michael Day? George Allen, Alan Sims, Geoff Owen

**Second Row:** Brian Lavers, Donald Wright, John Pryke-Smith, Brian Wright, Brian Fisher

**Back Row:** Roy Streatfield, Mr Motley, Brookie, Derek Fisher, Roy Wright (half face)?



Regards to all. Alan Sims

(Can anyone add some more names?)

**Margaret Mason (nee Stewart)** We recently received a donation from Margaret who remembers the Wright brothers, Elizabeth Taillie (Dawson) and Ruth Gibson.

**Rev. Peter Thorburn** writes 4/11/11: "I do enjoy receiving and reading JK 'Clarion' – but I have to tell you that my dear wife Elsie died in May last year. She was no but a youngster – well several years younger than me, anyway – so I have to manage as best I can in my 94<sup>th</sup> year. Happily my daughter Deborah and her husband are only half an hour's drive away, nearer to Bristol where she is kept busy as a city Councillor.

I belong to an earlier age and don't have a web site. I'm sure it makes communication immensely easier. With very kind regards and my love to you and any who might remember us at JK so long ago.

**Peter Thorburn (The Rev'd., but no longer officiating!)**

The first edition of Mary Pack's history of Deansbrook 1931 – 1981 is printed below. Alan has posted chapters of it on our web site that you can download and print if you use the internet (see pages 2 and 3 for details of postings).

For those who are not internet users we will be publishing chapters for you in Clarion Recall. Let us have your memories of Deansbrook and how it has affected your life. Thank you Muriel for your contribution!

# *A History of Deansbrook School Mill Hill*

FOUNDED 25th AUGUST, 1931

Compiled, narrated and edited by:—  
Mary B. Pack (National Froebel Foundation Certificate)  
in commemoration of the School's 50th Anniversary



*The authoress and her Infant School class in the  
quadrangle, 1934*

Dedicated to all THE SCHOLARS OF DEANSBROOK  
who by their youthfulness have created the impetus for  
me to implement my College motto:-  
"Serve in newness of Spirit not in oldness of the letter."  
(Romans 7 v. 6)

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*Note: The page numbers above refer to the original book which had a small page size.*



## INTRODUCTION

I am inspired to write this History of Deansbrook School following my reflections upon the children in my retirement. As a teacher, I have studied the expressions on the faces of the children and have been cheered when a flash of enlightenment came upon the most puzzled countenance. I recall how countless times when on a walk around the school grounds I have remarked, "I wonder just what this part of Mill Hill looked like during the Ice Age?" Then a torrent of suggestions burst out coupled with exuberant animal noises and I thankfully realized we were tuned onto the same wave length. Children love to use their imaginations and fantasy becomes reality when it is linked with something that is really relevant and connected with their individual lives.

Deansbrook School has been a great part of every pupil's life. The most formative years of a pupil's life are molded at school. Now the school, fifty years old, can claim to have played a vital part in shaping the characters of many parents and children of the Borough and it is therefore appropriate that its history should be recorded for all pupils past, present and future. The past pupils have made real history by their activities and should feel proud of their efforts. The present and future pupils will I hope treasure and expand the traditions of Deansbrook.

The following brief history of Mill Hill is written as a background and to set the environmental scene to our school. As always in my teaching rambles I attempt to weave into the historical facts some legendary stories which I hope will stimulate the child's imagination and create a desire to search for more knowledge about life in bygone days.

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### CHAPTER I A SHORT HISTORY OF MILL HILL AREA

Deansbrook School is situated on the boundary of Mill Hill and Edgware. Mill Hill is a place of great beauty in the Brent River Basin which lies between the Hampstead Heath and the North West Middlesex Heights. The latter is composed of a long ridge running from High Barnet to Stanmore Heath (505 ft.) through Arkley Barnet Gate (435 ft.) and Elstree together with two transverse ridges. One of the transverse ridges is that of Totteridge and the other is through Highwood Hill (455 ft.) and the Ridgeway. In between there are valleys and streams. One of these streams is Deans Brook which rises in Mote Mount, flows to Edgware under Hale Lane and then along the west side of Farm Road. Later it unites with the Silkstream and flows into the Welsh Harp. The school was named after the Deansbrook stream.

In prehistoric times the whole of South East England was a large chalk plateau and between the Chilterns and the North Downs was a basin filled with thick London clay and lighter boulder clay. Evidence has been found that suggests the inrush of the sea and of Ice Age glaciers. When the huge ice rivers melted small streams were left. The broken rocks and gravel residue from the glaciers disappeared and left behind clay. Hence the hills that remain are remnants of a large plateau whilst the ponds on the hill tops (for example the "sheep wash" pond on the Ridgeway) have formed because there are pockets of gravel on top of clay which is estimated to be 230 ft. thick.

In Roman Times Julius Caesar crossed the River Thames and arrived in the North West of London. Watling Street runs straight from Hyde Park Corner to Brockley Hill. A Roman camp at Sullonacae on Brockley Hill was established and Caesar could have camped here on his way to attack and defeat Cassivellannus at his capital of Verulam (near St. Albans). Archaeological research has unearthed at Brockley Hill the site of Roman pottery kilns which were used between 70-160 A.D. Using local clay, the potters made flagons for liquids and mortaria or food mixing bowls. The potters stamped their names on the rim of the article and also the word "fecit" which means "he made it". Remains of these pots have been found in Scotland, Wales, Dorset and Essex. Also the potters made tiles which were used to pave the floors of houses in Roman London or Londinium. The Romans had a habit of "beating the bounds" of the district in their custom called Ambarvalia. They blazed one side of an oak tree and then used them as pointers for an important route, hence the name Burnt Oak. Roman coins and a lamp were found in Mill Hill in 1769.

When the Saxons came to this area they advanced in a North West direction with Watling Street as the centre. It is possible the Saxons lived on the top of Brockley Hill and came down to cultivate the fertile land. Place names suggest their origin, -Brockley -field of the badger, Boreham Wood-home of the wild boar, Elstree-hill of the elder trees. It was because of the fertility of the River Brent basin that the Saxon farmers settled in Mill Hill, Hendon and Edgware areas. Farms known to be on ancient sites are Deans Lane Farm, Goff's Farm (Lower Hale) and farms opposite the Green Man (Upper Hale). In 790 Offa King of the Mercians shared the Manor of Hendon between the Abbot of Westminster and the Abbot of St. Albans. But in 959 A.D. Dunstan, the famous Archbishop of Canterbury gave it to Westminster.

Mill Hill is mentioned in the Domesday Book. Then the 150 inhabitants lived in the main street, presumably, the Ridgeway in houses made of posts, wattled and plastered over with clay. Occasionally an upper storey was reached by ladder. The floors were bare earth, windows and chimneys were unknown. The sanitation was appalling. There were three fields and each tenant had a strip in each and they grew wheat and beans. Some common land was used for grazing the goats. Also pigs were kept. They were fed on acorns and beech masts and this was known as pannage. In those days cattle were killed in October because farmers had no root crops with which to feed the animals. Then the meat was salted.

Mill Hill and Hendon history is bound together in the Domesday Book. Then, Hendon was known as "Handone". The name is derived from the old English "haeh" meaning "high" and "dun" meaning "down or hill" and means "at the high hill" referring to the old village of Hendon clustered round the church of St. Mary at the top of a high hill. Mill Hill is part of an ancient forest which stretched over Middlesex, Hertfordshire and Essex. Scratch Woods is a remnant of that old forest.

All through the Middle Ages the Abbey at Westminster relied on food and drink given by the Manors and in this area the "Manor of Hendon". The Abbot came to hunt each autumn in the Great Wood (now Highwood). Also thirty large oaks were given yearly to continue the building of Henry TIT'S new abbey. In addition oaks from the Mill Field (Mill Hill) were used to make the mediaeval hammer beam ceiling in Westminster Hall. In the records of 1220 A.D. there are references to wolves, bears, stags and wild boars in the area whilst during the reign of Henry I the Citizens of London had free rights to hunt in the forests of Middlesex.

In the 15th Century Mill Hill shared in the excitement of the Wars of the Roses because three battlefields were in close proximity. About 1448 A.D. there are records of William Nicoll, a miller of Heywood, William Page of Page Street and Marsh of Marsh Lane,-all were important people in those days. However there is no record of a mill in the Old Mill Field opposite Belmont School on the Ridgeway. It has been suggested that, if there was a mill there, it could have given rise to the name of Mill Hill.

During the reign of Henry VIII Cardinal Wolsey is reported to have travelled along the Ridgeway, up Highwood Hill and then by grass track via Mote End Farm Fields to Elstree (now Stirling Corner), on his way to the Abbey at St. Albans.

A Friends' Meeting House now known as Rose Bank was established and George Fox the founder of the Quaker Movement visited Mill Hill and spoke at a large meeting in 1677-8. This house on the Ridgeway Mill Hill dates from 1678 and is in good repair.

In 1681 Lord William Russell was taken prisoner from his home Highwood House which is situated at the top of Highwood Hill. Later in 1683 he was beheaded in the Tower of London for plotting against King Charles II.

In 1731 this same house was the home of a famous actress called Mrs. Porter. She acted at Lincoln's Inn Fields, Haymarket and Drury Lane Theatres. The legend is that in the summer of 1731 she was driving in her one horse chaise when she was intercepted by a highwayman. The man declared he was not a robber but forced to commit the crime to relieve the needs of his starving family. Mrs. Porter gave him 10 guineas, - all the money in her purse and promised to help the man if he would give his address. At that moment a servant approached and the highwayman ran away down the pathway through the fields. Mrs. Porter gave her horse a sharp lash and the animal ran off the roadway. The carriage overturned and Mrs. Porter sustained a broken thigh. From then she was unable to act but she fulfilled her promise to the robber and collected over £60 for him and his family.

Another personage who features in the history of Mill Hill was Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles. He was a naturalist and founder of the British settlement at Singapore. Also he was one of the founders of the London Zoo. In 1825 he bought Highwood House. He lived there after his return from Singapore. On his return voyage he lost through fire all his botanical collection and was so deeply distressed that in 1826 he died. But his wife Rachel continued to live in Highwood House for a further fifty years and was a great philanthropist in Mill Hill. Sir Stamford Raffles was a close neighbor of William Wilberforce who lived at Hendon Park nearby from 1826-31.

William Wilberforce played a vital part in the life of Mill Hill too. During the reign of Elizabeth I, 1558-1603, Admiral Hawkins had introduced the Slave Trade. Wilberforce was opposed to slave trading and in Parliament was successful by his eloquence in persuading Pitt and Fox over to his side. As a result a Bill was passed in 1831-2 to abolish Slave Trading in the British Empire. Also whilst in Mill Hill Wilberforce was instrumental in the building of St. Paul's Church to his own design. It was consecrated in 1833 after his death. William Wilberforce was noted for his generosity. Legends report that he used to leave his home on Sunday morning to walk to church. His pockets would be bulging with money and this he would give to the poor that he passed on his way. On his return journey he talked to more poor people and took them back to his home for dinner of roast beef and plum pudding.

It seems strange to imagine poor people in Mill Hill but life was very different from modern times. Many children were unable to go to school either. The earliest record of a school in Mill Hill was a Dissenter's School which was started by Richard Swift who had been deposed as a curate of Edgware Church by the Justices of Middlesex in 1660. After some financial difficulties between 1660-5 the school became established when boarders were accommodated. The School operated in a house named Jeanatts which was situated opposite Ridgeway House (now Mill Hill School), and functioned for some forty years. It is interesting to learn that Swift is mentioned in various schedules of tax payers. In the Hearth Tax Returns for 1666 he is recorded as paying "18sh. for 6 hearths whereas Harrow School only paid for 4." Furthermore, "Swift was a man of great charity who was generous to many poor families in the parish". He arranged "several children out to trade and did as much good as the gentlemen of fortune in the village". We learn that:- "The exclusion of Non conformists from the local Grammar Schools and the Universities for more than two Centuries led to the building up of Dissenting Schools and Academies of which Swift's at Mill Hill seems to have been the earliest". Mill Hill Grammar School now Mill Hill School was established in 1807.

To return to the earlier part of the 17th Century we learn from the Manorial Survey of the Lord of the Manor of Hendon in 1635 that John Hearn was the Lord. He lived in the Burroughs and owned Crowches Grove nearby. A little later in 1643 it appears that the Vicar of Hendon, Benjamin Hinton, at the time of his death, held half of Crowches Grove for the purpose of a school. This, with the other half of Crowches is the same site as that in the Burroughs where later Charity Schools were maintained.

An enlightening fact is revealed in the very interesting will of Richard Doggett of Hendon. Dated 1705, it states, "he desires to be decently buried in the Parish Church" and that "all invited to my funeral to have gloves, also all my scholars to have gloves." This suggests that R. Doggett was the school master. Now the Vicar in 1707 was the Rev. Meshach Smith. He and others received "money for rings" as beneficiaries in the same will.

The Rev. M. Smith and his benevolent parishoners did much to put the Charity School for about 30 poor children of Hendon on a good foundation. In 1787 the first Charity School at Mill Hill was opened and it was financed by the Vicar and helpers from St. Mary's Church Hendon. In this school there were 30 boys and girls and the School Master William Roome was paid £25 per year with an extra £5 for rent if "he was found to be attentive to the children's instruction". From the Treasurer's Accounts of the Charity Schools in 1814 there are the following entries. "Johnathan Payne Qrs. salary to Xmas £13." Also for his son, "Payne for house at Mill Hill for £2.2.0". This positive evidence of a Charity School at Mill Hill is particularly interesting as all through this century many people have tried to discover and locate its site but without success. By 1821 the total population of Hendon was 3,100 and it had increased by 511 persons during the past 10 years. This was attributed to the increase in the number of boarding schools - Mr. Wood's Academy at Mill Hill (Ridgeway House), also Mr. Thoroughgood's (Mill Hill), Mr. Lockwood's (Mill Hill) and several others in Hendon.

To return to the time when William Wilberforce was living in Mill Hill the Vicar of Hendon was the Rev. Theodore Williams. Sadly, he disagreed with Wilberforce because the latter was agitating to build a private chapel at Mill Hill. Also the Vicar was an investor in the West Indies and did not object to the Slave Trade. So the two men were opposed and the Vicar made a pulpit attack on Wilberforce whose son was a curate at St. Mary's Church Hendon. Finally, when Wilberforce built St. Paul's Church for the people of Mill Hill the Rev. Williams was furious and as a result the financial help the Vicar of Hendon and his parishoners gave to the Charity School in Mill Hill came to an end. However in 1833-4 St. Paul's National School was built next to the church. Almost a hundred years passed before the next school was erected in Mill Hill in 1931 - namely Deansbrook School.

Finally, you will realize that Mill Hill is a treasure rich in local history for you to discover. At present there are 21 plaques around the Borough which mark places of historical interest. Remember when you are walking with your parents or teachers you are probably following in the footsteps of great people like Raffles and Wilberforce whose plaques are placed side by side in the North Aisle of Westminster Abbey.

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**Barbara Bate (nee Conner) writes 16/11/11:** 'Thanks for the last Clarion. Very interesting reading and the photo's were really good. On the back page were a few of my guides that were in 7<sup>th</sup> Mill Hill, and it was nice to see their photo's.

Just had my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and celebrated with a big family party at our house. Thanks again. Barbara.'

Thank you for the donation towards costs Barbara, glad you enjoy reading Clarion!

**Please do let us have some material for Clarion 34 and the web site.  
We can't keep going without your help!**