**A**

**Social History**

**Of The**

**Village of Abbotsham**

**1860-1978**

***Section V 1930 - 1949***

Sincere thanks are given to Mr Clifford Babb for all the time he has given towards the preparation of this study, and to Bideford College for the facilities it has afforded him

**ABBOTSHAM**

Many old parishes and their churches have had their history written by

learned scholars, others by enthusiastic locals, but despite the fact that I do not fall into either category, I have strangely been drawn to the village of Abbotsham, with its beautiful little church of St Helens. On approaching this building an outstanding feature is its very low tower - I wonder whether it was ever surmounted with a spire.

Many a person has visited this lovely little church with its well kept

churchyard, situated in what must be some of the best Devonshire

countryside. To me, the village seems to be always peaceful, people never

seem to hurry, and very little seems to have changed down through the centuries. .

Because of the fact that I am retired and live close to the village, I have been fortunate in being able to research and discover a great deal of information concerning the people who have lived there, how they were employed, and what activities they were involved in during their out of work time. One of the most evident features is that quite naturally people attended their parish church, but also the Baptist Chapel was a very well attended place of worship, with a very enthusiastic congregation.

Although today many of the inhabitants of Abbotsham have come there because of their employment, or have settled there in retirement, this has not

always been the case. Like many other such villages it boasted of quite a

close community, people belonged to the village, and were happy to be there.

I have always considered that every village churchyard can supply a wealth

of information regarding its former parishioners. Old gravestones contained

so very much more detail than those of today. But of course these details

deteriorate with time, especially when situated so close to a wind blown coastline. It is unusual to discover many such epitaphs much older than 300 years old.

I have been fortunate in being able toesearch the old copies of the “Bideford Gazette”, as a result of the diligence of the village correspondents down through the years. Accordingly I have extracted the happenings at Abbotsham, and I believe that the result will give quite a comprehensiveaccount of the day to day lives of the village people.

In addition I have been able to use some extracts from the “Abbotsham Parish Magazine”, which is such a source of valuable information. This

magazine began in 1889, and the Vicar of the parish in 1890 stated, “These

magazines may, in years to come, prove of the greatest interest. They make up in fact a simple history of the life of the parish, and many amongst us, who may be spared to live, will often turn over the pages of such a book, and recall, we trust, with ever growing thankfulness, memories of the past, which is not in reality a past”.

Mike Davy. 8th January 1994.

**ABBOTSHAM PRESENTATION.**

A very pleasing little function took place in the Parish Hall, Abbotsham on

November 21st when Mrs Mary Bale, who has acted as a general nurse in the

parish in sick and maternity cases or over forty years, was presented with a leather wallet and new Treasury Notes as a token of gratitude from a large number of friends and parishioners. Mrs Sealy making the presentation.

(November 26th 1929 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

An Exhibition and Sale of Handicrafts has been held at Abbotsham under the

auspices of Sir Bors branch of the Order of the Knights of the Round Table of King Arthur. The children of Abbotsham School were responsible for much

of the work done. The sale was opened by Mr F.T. Glasscock of King Arthur’s Hall, Tintagel. The proceeds will be devoted to a fund for promoting health and happiness amongst the poor children.

(November 24th 1929 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On December 30th 1929 in Staines - Skidmore John Ashby, J.P. of Rixlade,

Abbotsham, elder son of the late John Ashby of Staines, aged 54 years.

(January 7th 1930 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

Mr and Mrs J. Slee of Abbotsham received many congratulations on celebrating their golden wedding.

(January 7th 1930 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On January 20th at Orchard, Abbotsham, Stella, only daughter of Mr and Mrs

McDermott, aged 9 years.

(January 28th 1930 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

We regret to record the death at Tavistock of Mrs Barnacott, wife of Police

Sergeant Barnacott, a native of Abbotsham, where he still has a sister living. She was 42 years of age.

(January 28th 1930 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A most successful long night dance was held at Abbotsham on January 29th

in aid of the Abbotsham and Littleham Nursing Association. The music was

provided by the Abbotsham Silver Moon Band. The gross takings were somewhat over £14.

(February 11th 1930- BG).

**DEATH.**

On March 4th at Kings Hill, Dursley - Margaret Sealy, widow of A.R. Poole

Q.C., Recorder of Bristol, and second daughter of the late Edward Urch and

Emma Harriet Vidal of Cornborough, Abbotsham, aged 83.

(March 11th 1930 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

We regret to announce the death of Mrs Caroline Stapleton, wife of Mr Thomas Stapleton of Abbotsham which took place on March 6th at the age of

90. Her husband who is still living, is a little older. For many years they

lived at Gammaton, but have lately been residing with their son at the Smithy, Abbotsham. They had been married for 66 years, and there are left, besides the father, 7 children, 22 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

(March 18th 1930 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On April 24th at Abbotsham Parish Church - Wilfred Joseph, only son of Mr

and Mrs Johns of Alverdiscott - to Carrie, the fifth daughter of Mr and Mrs T. Bellew of Pusehill, Abbotsham.

(April 29th 1930 - BG).

**FUNERAL.**The funeral took place at Abbotsham Parish Church on Friday of Colonel

Boucher Charlwood James, D.S.C.O. of Stevenstone, the popular master of

the Stevenstone Foxhounds whose widely regretted death occurred on

Wednesday at the age of 48 years. He was the eldest son of the late Mr

R.B. James of Foxwold, Abbotsham. He was buried in a grave adjoining that

of his father who died in 1923 at the age of 73 years.

(July 8th 1930- BG).

**BRITISH LEGION.**

The annual meeting of the Abbotsham Branch of the Women’s Section of the

British Legion was held at Moreton by kind permission of the President (Lady Stucley). It was mentioned that the Branch was growing, having started with 45 members there are now 93, including 7 members of the “Junior Branch” lately started.

(September 23rd 1930 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On the 21st Inst at Windsor, William Pettle, aged 78 years. Formerly of

Westacott, Abbotsham.

(September 30th 1930- BG).

**FUNERAL.**

The death took place at his residence in Hampshire of Rear Admiral G.H.

Hewitt who was in his 75 year. He was a son of the Rev. J. Hewett of

Babbacombe, Torquay. He formerly lived at South Moor, Buckleigh, Westward Ho. His wife died in 1914 and was buried at Abbotsham. The interment of the deceased admiral also took place at Abbotsham churchyard on Saturday afternoon.

(October 14th 1930 - BC).

**YOUNG FARMERS.**

At the Parish Hall at Abbotsham on Friday evening a meeting was held for the

purpose of inaugurating a Young Farmer Club. It was called under the auspices of the Bideford District Juvenile Advisory Committee. About forty

attended. Mr P.L. Squire proposed that a Club be formed for the Abbotsham

district, which was seconded by Mr Rattenbury. At the close nearly a dozen

members were enroled.

(November 18th 1930 - BC).

**ABBOTSHAM CROSS RECORD**

The fifth of a series of egg laying trials promoted by the Devon Agricultural Committee and held at Abbotsham Cross during the 48 weeks ended September 14th 1930, has produced the highest yield that had been attained in the Devon trials which began in 1925-26.

(December 23rd 1930 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On January 21st in London - Mary Sabina Frederica (Freda), widow of

Windham Sealy Vidal Esq of Cornborough, Abbotsham - only daughter of the

late General Boyes of Marchwood, Northam.

(January 27th 1931 - BG).

**DEATH.**On January 30th at Londonderry - Mary Elizabeth Phillips, wife of the late

John Henry Phillips, aged 70. Funeral at Abbotsham on Wednesday.

(February 3rd 1931 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

At the Devon Music Competitions at Barnstaple this year, Abbotsham Church

of England School Choir won a 2nd Class Certificate; Lucy Cork won a 1st

Class, and Betty Bale, Florence Lee, Consie Prust won 2nd Class certificates for elocution. Mrs Beer trained the children and Mrs Rhys-Phillips accompanied.

(March 10th 1931 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**.

The death occurred at the General Hospital, Bristol on February 23rd of Mr

John Peak who was formerly engaged as a foreman on the Bideford/Westward Ho Railway, and left Abbotsham some 32 years ago. He leaves a widow, six sons and five daughters to mourn their loss.

(March 17th 1931 - BG).

**DEATH.**

Quite a gloom was cast over the village of Abbotsham on Friday June 12th

when it became known that Mrs Ethel Lewis (nee Huxtable) had passed away

in the Bideford Hospital from septic poisoning following a confinement. She

was the wife of Mr James Lewis of Westward Ho. Sympathy is extended to

her husband and six young children. The greater part of her earlier life was spent in Abbotsham village, after being educated at the village school she took service at the Vicarage. The funeral took place at Abbotsham on

Tuesday, and the coffin was borne to its last resting place by six half-brothers - Messrs Thomas and Charles Easton, James and Alfred Hockin, and Arthur Paddon and Harry Lewis.

(June 23rd 1931 - BG).

ABBOTSHAM.

The Harvest Tea at Abbotsham was taken advantage of as an opportunity for

presenting Miss Sealy Vidal, Chairman of the Women’s Section of the

Abbotsham Branch of the British Legion with a slight token of remembrance

of her work and kindness to all during the years she has worked for the

Branch. She was given a solid leather attache case, a gold brooch, a small

jewel case, with an enlarged group of officers and members of the Section,

kindly presented to her by the President, Lady Stucley. Regret was expressed that Miss Vidal is leaving the parish.

(September 22nd 1931 - BG).

DEATH.

On October 19th, very suddenly, at Hilden, Bideford - Hugh Lefroy - husband

of Helen Lefroy, only son of the late C.G. Lefroy of Leamington. The funeral is at Abbotsham Church on October 21st.

(October 20th 1931 - BG).

**FUNERAL.**

The funeral of the late Mrs Barnacott, wife of ex Police Constable Barnacott, who died last week at the age of 75, took place on Sunday the 18th inst at Abbotsham.  
(October 27th 1931 - BG).

**FUNERAL.**

One of the oldest and most loved and respected of parishioners at

Abbotsham has passed away in the person of Mrs Emily Glover at the age of

75. For some years in connection with her late husband Charles Glover, Mrs

Glover held the management of the New inn, and on Mr Glover’s death the

widow carried on the business relinquishing it subsequently to Mr Henry

Tucker, who had married her youngest daughter. It is noteworthy that the

deceased lady was born in the same house nearly 80 years ago, when her

father and mother held the licence of the premises, and it was a source of

gratification to her when she went back to the old house, hopefully to end her days there, which hope has been fulfilled. The funeral took place at

Abbotsham Church on Friday.

(November 10th 1931 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On November 16th at Langdon, Abbotsham - John Gooding aged 76.

(November 17th 1931 - BG).

**BIRTH.**

On January 4th at Westacott, Abbotsham to Mr and Mrs P.T. Trewin - a son.  
(January 5th 1932 - BG)

**DEATH.**

On January 2nd at Fair View, Abbotsham - Mabel Mary Walsh James aged  
46 years.

(January 5th 1932 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

A very successful Dance was held in the Parish Hall on January 27th - the

Misses Nellie and Winnie Henderson and Daisy Williams were responsible

for the arrangements. Music was provided by the Abbotsham Silver Moon

Band. After clearing the expenses £4.7.8d was raised towards the Parish

Hall Funds.

(February 9th 1932 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

At Bideford County Petty Sessions on Tuesday, Mr J. Beesley applied on

behalf of the executors of the will of the late Mrs Mary Phillips for possession of a dwelling house in Abbotsham. It was a weekly tenancy of 2/9d per week in the occupation of Mr F. Cloak (*Cloke?).* The Bench issued a warrant for ejectment, but gave the defendant a month in which to find a house.

(March 8th 1932 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Wednesday afternoon the children in the Poultry Class at Abbotsham

School accompanied by the County Lecturer and the Head Teacher, Mrs

Beer, proceeded to “Little Dene” Poultry Farm. There, the owner Miss

Wilmot Jenkins showed them around the farm.

(May 17th 1932 - BG).

**BANNER DEDICATION.**

The Vicar of Abbotsham, Rev. E.A. du Cane, on Sunday afternoon dedicated

the new standard of Abbotsham Branch of the British Legion. A large number witnessed the ceremony which was held around the War Memorial in the churchyard. Members of the Abbotsham and Bideford Branches joined in procession outside the Church, and walked to the memorial headed by the

Hon. Sec, Mr Ernest Taylor who carried the new standard, supported by

Messrs F. Littlejohns and J. Jewell. The Service was then conducted by the

Vicar of Abbotsham, and he laid his hands on the standard and dedicated it

on a table covered with a Union Jack, and taking it into Church. Mr R.H.

Bartlett presided at the harmonium. The address was given by Maj. Gen.

Nightingale (Chairman of the Abbotsham Branch).

(June 28th 1932 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On July 1st the Seniors of Abbotsham School, together with parents and

friends, went on their annual outing - this year visiting Buckfast Abbey.

(July 26th 1932- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM AND DISTRICT NURSING ASSOCIATION.**

Over £47 was raised as the result of a sale of needlework and handicrafts

held at Abbotsham Parish Hall on Wednesday in aid of Abbotsham and

Littleham District Nursing Association. The event was to have been held at

the School Field, but owing to the unsettled weather it was held indoors.

Tea was served in the afternoon, and May Pole dancing was performed by

the Schoolchildren. An open air Whist Drive was held in the evening and

also a well attended Dance. Messrs R. Davis and E. Taylor were the M.C.’s.

Sea grass stools were made by Abbotsham schoolchildren.

(August 2nd 1932 - BG).

**WEDDING.**

Much local interest was taken in the wedding of Miss Beatrice Moase to Mr

Cuthbert Speight of Sheffield, which took place at the Parish Church,

Abbotsham on September 3rd. Miss Moase was a member of the teaching

profession, and had her early training at Abbotsham School. Her three

sisters - Joyce, Phyllis and Dorothy were her bridesmaids, and Mr E. C.

Moase, brother of the bride, played appropriate music before and during the

entrance of the bride, and the Wedding March after the ceremony.

(September 13th 1932 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On September 28th at Abbotsham Parish Church - Herbert, the third son of

Mr and Mrs T. Bellew, late of Pusehill Farm, Abbotsham - to Gertrude Mary,

second daughter of Mr C. Pickard of Bideford.

(October 4th 1932- BC).

**DEATH.**

On October 20th at Bath, following pneumonia, Francis Turner, of Riccards

Down, Abbotsham. He was aged 73 years and was the third son of Mr William Turner of The Barton, Bideford, and had been living at Riccards Down since 1921 on his retirement from the National Provincial Bank. At the time of his death he was the Vicar’s Churchwarden, Vice Chairman of the Parochial Church Council, a School Manager, and Treasurer of the Parish Hall. The body was brought from Bath to Abbotsham on Sunday, and rested at his residence until yesterday when the funeral took place.

(October 25th 1932 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM SERVICE.**

For the Memorial Service at the Abbotsham Parish Church on Sunday, the

legionaries, ex servicemen and the Women’s Branch of the Legion assembled at the War Memorial in the churchyard at 3.30pm. Wreaths were laid by Maj. Gen. Nightingale and Lady Stucley. The “Two Minutes Silence” was then observed during which the bugles from the service at Chudleigh Fort were plainly heard. They then moved into the Church which was filled to its utmost capacity.

(November 15th 1932 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Another of the series of winter dances on behalf of the Parish Hall funds were held in the hall, and was again a great success. Mrs Henderson was  
responsible for the arrangements.

(December 20th 1932 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

A Nativity Play was given by the children of the Church of England School on December 14th in the Parish Hall. There were two performances - one in the afternoon in aid of the League of Pity, and one in the evening in aid of the Managers Fund for the upkeep and repair of the buildings of the Church of England School. The lighting arrangements were arranged by Maj. Rawdon, and were carried out by means of electric lamps generously lent by Messrs Heard of Bideford. Each performance was opened and closed with a prayer by the Vicar, and the audience was asked to regard it as a religious service, and that there should be no applause.

(December 20th 1932 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On January 28th at Abbotsham - John Bale aged 82 years. He was of a most kindly disposition, very unassuming in manner, but well beloved and respected by all who came into contact with him. The sympathy of the whole  
parish will go out to his widow, so well known to everybody as Nurse Bale,

and the other members of the family. The funeral service was held in the

Baptist Chapel where he had been a most regular and devout worshipper,

followed by interment in the churchyard.

(January 31st 1933- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

On Tuesday evening Abbotsham Poor Lands Charity was distributed to

various residents of the parish qualified to receive it.

(March 28th 1933 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

A net profit of over £7 was raised by a Jumble Sale held in the Parish Hall on behalf of the nursing fund of the Abbotsham & Littleham Nursing Association.  
(March 28th 1933 - BG).

**MARRIAGE**

On April 15th at St. Helen’s Abbotsham - Walter J. Delamore of London to

Doris Isabel Bale, only daughter of Mrs and the late Mr J. H. Bale of

Abbotsham.

(April 25th 1933 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

Both the Good Friday and Easter Sunday congregations at Abbotsham Parish

Church were good, and the collection on Easter Day, which were presented

to the Vicar, amounted to something over £18.

(April 25th 1933 - BG).

**DEATH**

At Abbotsham on April 27th - Emma, beloved wife of the late John Friendship

aged 86 years. She occupied the cottage where she died for over 60 years.

(May 2nd 1933- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**We regret to announce the death of Miss May Jane Essery of Abbotsham

who died on May 10th. she would have been 90 years of age in a short time,

and her death followed quickly on that of her sister, Mrs Emma Friendship,

who was buried the previous week.

(May 16th 1933 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Constantine Brock, a pupil at the village school, has been informed he was successful in winning one of the Devon County day scholarships at the recent examinations.

(May 30th 1933 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Mr Frederick Stapleton, son of Ernest Stapleton, the village smith, was

successful at the Devon County Show at Honiton last week. In the shoeing

class for young men under 25 years of age there were 10 competitors, and he

was placed 4th, and so won one of the cash prizes.

(May 30th 1933- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

It was Constantine Charles Prust (not Brock, as stated last week) of the

Abbotsham C of E School who won a scholarship in the recent examination.  
(June 6th 1933 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM SANITATION.**

At Tuesday’s monthly meeting of the Bideford Rural District Council in regard to the decision of the Council to provide a new and larger septic tank to deal with the sewage of Abbotsham, a letter received from Mr W.H. Pickard, the owner of the field in which the present tank is situated, stating that he should not consent to any alterations being made to the tank, and that if the Council were not satisfied they could move it elsewhere, was read. Mr Bellew (councillor) did not consider there was really any nuisance to the inhabitants. It was simply one individual who had made a complaint. After discussion it was agreed that the Sanitary Inspector make enquiries as to the possibility of securing another site for the tank.

(July 18th 1933- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

On Wednesday night Mr Arthur Beer of Littleham was standing on the corner

outside the Institute at Buckland Brewer, when Mr George Moase, aged 36, a

farm labourer of Abbotsham, came round the bend on his motor cycle and

collided with him. Mr Beer was not hurt, but Moase received cuts to his head and face. He was attended by the District Nurse, and P.C. Moore, and

afterwards conveyed to his home by car.

(July 25th 1933 - BG).

**FORMER VICAR OF ABBOTSHAM.**

We regret to record the death which took place on Monday of last week in

Winchester of the Rev. Phillip Richard Pipon Braithwaite B.A. who was from

1901 until last year Canon Residentiary of Winchester Cathedral, having

been in Holy Orders for 60 years. The reverend gentleman was 84 years of

age, was a native of Bideford, and his first vicarage was at Abbotsham from

10th March 1876 until April 20th 1881, when on his resignation he was

succeeded by the late Rev. Robert Walpole Sealy Vidai M.A.. The Rev

Braithwaite was appointed Vicar of the parish on the death of the Rev.

Edward Dansey, the patron of the living then being Queen Victoria. During

the Rev. Braithwaite’s vicariate the patron was Mr Edward Urch Vidal. The

deceased gentleman was twice married - his first wife, Mrs Jessie Beatrice

Mackenzie Braithwaite passing away on 3rd July 1880 at the early age of 27

years. She was buried at Abbotsham churchyard, in whose grave the remains of her husband were laid on Friday morning. Some years later the Rev. Braithwaite remarried, his second wife, who also predeceased him being Miss Annie Vidal of Cornborough. Since leaving Abbotsham nearly 53 years ago, he held appointments at St. Luke’s, Jersey, and in Andover. While at Abbotsham he was also Chaplain in Bideford Union. (August 1st 1933- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Mr C.W. Davey, an ex serviceman and old member of the Royal North Devon

Hussars, who is undergoing treatment at the West of England Eye Infirmary,

wishes to be remembered to all his friends at Abbotsham.

(August 8th 1933 - 8G).

CARNIVAL DANCE QUEEN CONTEST.

Miss Winifred Henderson was the Abbotsham representative at this contest

held at Bideford’s spacious Market Hall on Wednesday night.

(September 26th 1933 - BG).

ABBOTSHAM.

Much regret and sympathy for the bereaved family was expressed at

Barnstaple when it transpired that Mr Archibald Braunton of Barnstaple had

passed away. He was born at Abbotsham, and was 66 years of age.

(October 3rd 1933 - BG).

**DEATH**

On October 29th 1933 - Arthur John Harris, husband of B.M. Harris of Coombe Walter, Abbotsham, aged 51 years. He was a farmer/dairyman, and had served on the Parish Council, and was a local School Manager.

(October 31st 1933 - BG).

ABBOTSHAM BRITISH LEGION.

Under the management of the Women’s Section of the Abbotsham British

Legion a Fancy Dress Dance (optional) was held on Wednesday in the

Parish Hall, and proved very successful. The results were :-

Ladies - Mrs H. Trickey Rainbow), Mrs S. Beer (Minnehaha).

Gents - Mr. H. Trickey (Dutchman).

Juveniles - Girls. Misses Rene Glover and Doris Taylor.

Boys. Masters C. Brock and A. Facey.

Mr W. Hearn won the prize for the most original (Scaramouch) and Mrs Facey

(A Very old Lady). The Golden Bay Orchestra provided the music.

(October 31st 1933 - BG).

DEATH OF MR T. STAPLETON

The death took place at Northam on Tuesday of one who must have been

one of its oldest inhabitants in the person of Thomas Stapleton, who was

nearly 95. For many years he was a blacksmith at Gammaton Moor, where

he commenced business as a young man. He also stayed for a time at

Abbotsham at the residence of his son Ernest Stapleton. The funeral took

place at Abbotsham Parish Church on Friday.

(October 31st 1933- BG).

**FUNERAL.**

The funeral has taken place at Abbotsham Church of Miss Grace Blackmore

who died on November 7th at the age of 78 years.

(November 21st 1933 - BG).

**ARMISTICE SUNDAY.**

A combined service for Church and Nonconformists was held at the Parish

Church on Sunday afternoon following Armistice Day. At 3.15pm a large

number assembled around the memorial and with the arrival of the Clergy

and choir, the Legion banner was lowered, and the names of the fallen

heroes read out. Wreathes were placed at the memorial by Maj. Gen.

Nightingale - Men’s Branch, and by Mrs Magniac - Women’s Section. The

Rev. W.T. Kershaw gave the address.

(November 23rd 1933 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On November 26th, suddenly, Thomas Henry Glover, youngest son of the late T.H. Glover, Post Office, Abbotsham aged 59 years. The death took place at the Post Office where he resided with his sister, the village postmistress.

(November 28th 1933 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On 29th November - Stephen Bale, husband of Frances Bale, and second

son of the late Mr John Bale and Mrs Bale of Putridge Cottage, Abbotsham.

(December 6th 1933 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A galleon built of driftwood picked up on Abbotsham Cliffs, and made by Mr

F. Jewell, an unemployed workman of Bideford, was on view at a recent

exhibition and sale of handicrafts at Abbotsham, organised by the local Sir

Bors Branch of the Order of the Knights of the Round Table.

(December 19th 1933 - BG).

**FUNERAL.**

We regret to have to record the death of Mrs Ackland who passed away ecently at her residence at Riccards Down, Abbotsham, at the age of 77 years.

(January 16th 1934 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On January 26th at the Village, Abbotsham, Emma Jane McLean, the wife of

Gilbert McLean, aged 57 years. She was a native of Abbotsham, formerly

being Miss Friendship. She lived with her husband in Surrey, but they

returned to Abbotsham in retirement.

(January 30th 1934 - BG).

**DEATH.**On February 25th 1934 at Coombe, Abbotsham - Grace Turner aged 94. She was born in 1840, and lived for practically all her life at Coombe, the old

Manor House she loved so well. She was the only surviving daughter of Mr

John Turner of Abbotsham. After the death of her father and sister, she

succeeded to the lands and property of Coombe. She was a constant attendant at the Parish Church. The Rev, du Cane officiated at the service on Thursday last.

(February 27th 1934 - BG).

**PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS.**

Abbotsham - Rev, du Cane presided and declared the following elected parish councillors:- C.H. Pickard (Shamland), John Hooper (Lendon), Thomas F. Friendship (The Village), Thomas Braddon (Langdon), Percy T. Trewin (Westacott), George Jackman (Lake Cottage), Wm. Madge Turner (The Barton), Percival H. Squire (Bowood).

(March 13th 1934- BG).

**RIFLE CLUB DANCE.**

The Dance recently organised by Abbotsham Rifle Club committee on behalf of the Club funds was most successful, and was held in the Parish Hall. The music was given by the Blue Orpheans Orchestra. Spot prizes were won by

Mr W. Churchill and Mrs J. Friendship.

(Maylstl934-BG).

**FETE AT CORNBOROUGH.**

Mrs B.G. Lampard-Vachell of Weare Gifford Hall on Wednesday opened a popular fete held at Cornborough, Abbotsham by permission of Mr and Mrs

H.A. Lomas in aid of Abbotsham Church repair fund and various local charities. Cornborough rests on a beautiful site on the highest point almost of the picturesque Abbotsham Cliffs, and commands some splendid

panoramic and scenic pictures of the Atlantic - swept coast and the

countryside for a long distance around. The tree shaded drive forming a

natural cool shelter led direct to the scene of the afternoons activities, and the large numbers who arrived continuously throughout the day found not

only plenty of side-shows and amusements to entertain them, but also

occupied much of their time in strolling over the well appointed grounds. The Rev, du Cane after opening with a prayer, said there were really four objects which they wanted to assist. First they wanted to pay off the debt which they had to face owing to the dry rot in the Church last year. Two years running they had had dry rot. The last time they paid off without any difficulty the £70 necessary, but this time of course, they had had some difficulty in raising the money, so they decided to hold that fete to pay off the debt of about £70. There were other parish objects for which they also desired to raise funds, and it had been decided after paying off the £70 church debt they should divide any surplus between three other parish objects - one the District Nursing Association funds, second the Church Schools. There, of course, was no endowment, and they were dependent entirely upon voluntary subscriptions and church collections to maintain the School, and there was a debt of £5 to £6 on its upkeep and building account. The third object was to pay off that long standing debt on the Parish Hall. There was still something like £250 owing on it and they wanted to do something towards liquidating at least part or it. Mrs Rawdon and Mrs E.A. Du Cane arranged for the fete during the winter months, and the side-shows were supervised by Maj. Rawdon and Maj. Newcombe. The gate stewards were Messrs F. Davis, D. Tucker, W. Ridd, W. Tucker, A. Harding, J. Lee, H. Trickey, J. Bluett, F. Ellis, J. Allin and G. Andrews. Mr & Mrs F. Davis were in charge of the dance in the evening.

(June 26th 1934 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM BEQUEST.**

Miss Grace Turner of Coombe, Abbotsham who died on February 25th last

left £8,558.13.lOd gross, with net personalty £8,452.7.6d.. The testatrix left £50 to her cousin George Lewis Churchill Turner, providing he claims it within one year, and authorised her trustees to advertise with a view to finding him. £50 to her maid Catherine Hamlyn White in recognition of her faithful service, if still in her service, and £50 to the Vicar and Churchwardens of Abbotsham Parish Church.

(July 3rd 1934 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On July 4th at St. Helen’s Church, Abbotsham - Stanley, the elder son of Mr

and Mrs Short of 19 Richmond Terrace, Meddon Street, Bideford, to Lily,

youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs S. James of Sea View, Abbotsham.

(July 10th 1934- BG).

**DEATH.**

On July 5th 1934 - Emma, widow of the late John Bale of Homewood,

Abbotsham, aged 81 years.

(July 10th 1934 - BG).

**BIRTH.**

On October 6th to Mr and Mrs C.W.M. Turner, Abbotsham Barton, a son.

(October 9th 1934 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On 9th October at Evesham - Alethea H.S. Vidal, the fifth daughter of the late Edward Urch Vidal of Cornborough. Throughout the whole of her life in

Abbotsham she had taken a great interest and active part in all Church and

social work in the parish. After leaving Cornborough she resided for many

years at Bowood, and later at Langdon, where she built a residence on the

property she had acquired there. For a great number of years she was the  
Superintendent of the Church Sunday School, a Day School Manager, one of

the first Trustees of the Parish Hall Management, and the first Chairman of

the Women’s Section of the British Legion. The funeral took place at

Abbotsham Parish Church on October 12th. The grave was beautifully lined

with evergreen and white flowers under the superintendence of Mr Andrews,

gardener at Cornborough.  
(October 16th 1934 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On October 12th at Abbotsham - Flotilla Frayne, youngest daughter of the

late John and Anne Frayne of Bideford aged 54.

(October 16th 1934 - BG).

**DEATH OF MAJ. GEN. STRICK**

We regret to record the death of Maj. Gen. John Arkwright Strick, C.B.,

D.S.C., which took place at his residence Abbotsham Court, Abbotsham on

Tuesday. He had been living in North Devon since his retirement from the

Army in 1926, and was closely associated with the British Legion. He was

64 years of age, and leaves a widow, two Sons and one daughter. The funeral took place at Abbotsham churchyard on Friday morning.

November 6th 1934 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM EXHIBITION.**

The future of the Order of the Knights of the Round Table of King Arthur was stated to be at stake at the annual exhibition and sale of handicrafts and gifts of the Sir Bors Branch at Abbotsham Parish Hall on Saturday afternoon, due to the death of Mr Glassock, as the £700 he provided personally for the maintenance of the Hall at Tintagel had to be found by some organisation.

(December 11th 1934 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM WEDDING.**

The wedding was solemnised at Abbotsham Church on Boxing Day of

Frederick W. Nichols and Miss Violet A. Churchill, eldest daughter of the late Mr J. Churchill and Mrs Frayne.

(January 1st 1935 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM/BARNSTAPLE WEDDING.**

At Barnstaple the wedding was solemnised of Mr William Hockin only son of

Mr and Mrs J. Hockin of Riccards Down, Abbotsham, and Miss Lillian

Smalidon of Barnstaple.

(June 18th 1935- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM FETE.**

In spite of many counter attractions Abbotsham Fete held on Wednesday

once more proved a great success. This year it was held right in the centre

of Abbotsham - in Butty Field, adjoining the Church. The Vicar said the

object of the Fete was to raise money to pay off the long standing debt on the Parish Hall. There was still something like £250 owing. Then there was

the upkeep of the Abbotsham Church Day School. They were absolutely dependent on voluntary gifts. The side-shows included Bunty pulls the Strings; Penny on the Mat; Penny in the Bucket; Kicking the Football; Balls in the Bucket and a Shooting Gallery.  
(July 30th 1935 - BG).

**DEATH OF MRS B. BALE.**

We regret to record the death on September 21st of Mrs Bessie Bale at

Torrington. She was a native of Abbotsham, and for some years she was a

teacher in the Abbotsham School, but gave up to keep house for her aged

mother. She was 65 years of age, and the funeral took place at Abbotsham

on Tuesday.

(October 1st 1935- BG).

**GOLDEN WEDDING**

On October 8th 1885 at Abbotsham Parish Church by the Rev. Walpole Sealy - John Shute of Littleham to Hannah H. Hoiman of Abbotsham. Their present address is 10, Geneva Place, Bideford.  
(October 15th 1935 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A Nativity Play entitled “The Coming of the Christ Child” was presented in the Abbotsham Parish Hall on Friday afternoon and evening by children of  
Abbotsham School. The play which was written and produced by Mrs Beer,  
the school mistress, was most reverently given and the children were  
correctly garbed. The part of “Madonna” was taken by Florence Lee - a  
former scholar, and other parts were Gabriel (Edith Blight), Inn Keepers Wife (Violet Jewell), Joseph (Bert Facey), Simeon (George Lee), Three Wise Men (George Facey, John Mitchell and Leonard Manning), Inn Keeper (V. Manning), Shepherds,(John and Arthur Blight, Percy Lee, John Cork, Joan

Mitchell and Arthur Blight). Angels, (Dorothy Facey, Doris Taylor, Dorothy

Lee, Gwen Frayne, Margaret Smale, Eilleen Prouse, Phyllis Jackman, Phyllis

Jeffery and Peter Tucker. A collection was taken to defray expenses, and in

aid of the children of the distressed areas of Durham.

(December 17th 1935 - BG).

WEDDING.

The marriage took place at St. Helen’s, Abbotsham on Saturday of Mr

Frederick Lloyd and Miss Geraldine May Barnacott, youngest daughter of the

late ex Police Constable and Mrs Barnacott of Abbotsham.

(1935- BG).

**MR. E.T. DRUMMOND.**

The funeral took place at Bideford Parish Church on Thursday, followed by

burial at Abbotsham, of Edmund Traherne Drummond who died at his residence “Whitehall”, Bideford on Monday of last week. He leaves a widow and two daughters - Mrs Du Cane, wife of the Rev. E.A. Du Cane, Vicar of Abbotsham, and Mrs Rawdon, wife of Major C.H. Rawdon of Abbotsham.

(January 7th 1936 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM FUNERAL.**

The Rev. Du Cane officiated at the funeral at Abbotsham on Friday of Mr G.

McLean whose death at the age of 73 occurred in a Sussex Hospital. He

was a native of Abbotsham, retiring back there about 7 years ago.

(May26th1936-BG).

**FUNERAL.**

The funeral of Mrs J.C.T. Heriz-Smith whose death occurred in Tunbridge

Wells in her 80th year, took place at Pembury. She was the fourth daughter

of Mr E.U. Vidal of Cornborough, where she lived until she was married on

April 27th 1887 at St. Helen’s, Abbotsham.

*( No date Given)*

**DEATH.**

At Watlington, Oxon. on 15th January 1937 - Edwin Drake Sealy Vidal, the

last surviving son of the late Edward Urch Vidal Esq. of Cornborough aged 78 years.

(January 19th 1937 - BG).

**DEATH**

Thomas Bellew, late of Pusehill, Abbotsham, passed away at Northam on

19th February aged 79 years. For over 40 years he had been a Guardian of

the Poor, and for many years he was a Councillor on the Bideford Rural

District Council representing Abbotsham.  
(February 23rd 1937 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On March 19th at “Trevanion”, Bideford - Frances Flora Kempe, widow of

Canon James Arthur Kempe, late Vicar of Abbotsham, aged 82 years.

(March 23rd 1937 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

The Coronation Day (King George 6th and Queen Elizabeth) will commence

early at Abbotsham where a service will be held in the Church at 8am.

School children will be presented with mugs in the morning, and at 2pm

Sports for Adults and Children will be held. At 4pm a football match will be played. A free tea is to be provided for all parishioners at 5pm, and half an hour later a skittles competition will take place. A Social in the Parish Hall commences at 7pm and at 10pm the huge bonfire will be lit and a display of fireworks will be given. Funds were raised by public subscription and amounted to about £15. Mr D. Grahame is Chairman and Hon. Treasurer of the Celebrations Committee. The Ladies Committee for the Tea and Social comprises Mesdames de Las Casas, Grahame, Bale, Stapleton, Facey, Jewell, Manning, Glover and J. Hockin.

(Mayl1th 1937- BG).

**MARRIAGE**

On May 7th 1937 at the Baptist Church, Bideford - John Thomas Peard of  
Horns Cross to Edith Glover, of the Post Office, Abbotsham.

(May 18th 1937 - BG).

DEATH.

On September 16th at Abbotsham, the dearly beloved husband of Maud Mary

Henderson, after a long illness patiently borne, aged 61.

(September 21st 1937 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On January 21st at Cornborough Lodge, Abbotsham - Henry Blight, the  
beloved husband of Jane, aged 75 years.

(January 25th 1938 - BG).

**WEDDING**

Two well known farming families were united in the wedding at St. Helen’s

Church, Abbotsham yesterday, of Mr Norman T. Westaway, only son of Mr and Mrs J.B. Westaway of Yeo Vale Farm, Littleham, and Miss Edna R. Cork,

eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J.P. Cork of Adjavin Farm, Bideford.  
(February 22nd 1938 - BG).

**MEMBER OF ABBOTSHAM FAMILY.**

The funeral has taken place at Cardiff of Mr Frank Walton Glover, of Cardiff - he was the only son of the late Frank Clover of the Post Office, Abbotsham.  
(April 12th 1938 - BG).

**FUNERAL.**

The funeral took place at the Church Cemetery, East-the-Water, Bideford on

Wednesday of Mr Thomas Bale at the age of 82. He was a member of a well

known Abbotsham family, having worked at Winsford for 33 years, and retired

7 years ago. He leaves 2 sons and three daughters - his wife predeceased

him by five years.

(April 19th 1938- BG).

**HALT SIGN AT ABBOTSHAM.**

A “Halt Sign” at Abbotsham Road/Pump Street junction at Abbotsham raised

an interesting point at Bideford Petty Sessions on Tuesday when Wilfred

John Langbridge of 1, Elm Grove, Bideford, pleaded “Not Guilty” to observing the sign on March 30th. P.C. Pope said he saw the defendant drive a van from Pump Street into Abbotsham Road without halting. The magistrates

dismissed the case on payment of costs, the defendant having committed a

“technical offence”, saying that he stopped before the white line and not

actually on it, and this could not be disputed by P.C. Pope.

(April 26th 1937 - BG).

**REV. E.A. DU CANE.**The Rev. E.A. Du Cane who has been Vicar of Abbotsham from 1927 is

shortly to relinquish the living, but it is understood he will continue to reside in the district, namely Orchard Hill. He was ordained in 1895 at Winchester Cathedral. The Vicar’s resignation takes effect on Thursday, although he will be continuing to take duty at Abbotsham, except for two Sundays immediately after his resignation, until the new Vicar, the Rev. B.M. Challenor arrives at the end of July.  
(May3rd1938-BG).

**ABBOTSHAM W.I.**

The monthly meeting of the Abbotsham Women’s Institute was held in the

Parish Hall on Wednesday - Mrs Grahame presiding. Mrs Glover and Mrs Bale were again the tea hostesses. A short Whist Drive organised by Mrs Grahame and Mrs Turner was much enjoyed. The prize winners were Miss Elliott and Miss Pickard.

(May 24th 1938 -BG).

**ABBOTSHAM’S QUEEN.**

A Dance was held at Abbotsham on Friday, and Ray Amis and His Rhythm

— provided the music. There were seven candidates for the honour of being

elected the Abbotsham Queen, and the voting resulted in the election of Miss West of Springfield Cottage, Abbotsham. Mr E.J. Day, chairman of the

Committee, after presenting her with her certificate on behalf of the Carnival Committee, thanked all who had helped.  
(July 12th 1938 - BG).

**NEW VICAR OF ABBOTSHAM.**  
Before a large congregation the Bishop of Exeter, Dr. C. E. Curzon instituted the Rev. B.M. Challenor as Vicar of the parish of Abbotsham, on Tuesday evening. Peals were rung on the bells before and after the service. After the service, the patron Mrs G. Sealy, entertained to refreshments in the Parish Hall. July 19th 1938 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM CHURCH.**

Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held at Abbotsham Church on Sunday, the preacher being the Vicar. Mr H. Bartlett was at the organ. Many willing

helpers assisted with the decoration of the church, and the fruit and flowers were later sent to Bideford & District Hospital, and the collections were devoted to the Hospitals and the Lord Mayor’s Fund for refugees in Czechoslovakia. Festivities continued on Monday with Sports and a Tea in the afternoon, and a Harvest Supper and Social in the Parish Hall in the evening.

(October 11th 1938 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On December 7th 1938 at Watiington, Oxon. - Agnes Sealy, wife of Col. F.

Gosset, late Royal Engineers, and last surviving child of Edward Urch and

Emma Harriet Vidal of Cornborough, aged 87 years.

(December 13th 1938- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM W.I.**

The annual meeting of the Abbotsham W.I. took place in the Parish Hall on

Wednesday - Mrs Grahame presiding. The Hon. Sec. Miss Elliott read the

report of the year’s work, and the Hon. Treasurer, Miss Kerslake gave a

financial statement which showed a substantial balance in hand. Miss

Clemons was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mrs de

Las Casas. Miss Kersiake won the button hole competition which followed.

At a Whist Drive arranged by Mrs Turner, the prize winner was Miss Ridd.

The tea hostesses were Mrs Light and Mrs McKirdy.

(November 22nd 1938 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On December 7th in London - Edith Douglas Georgina Magniac of Abbotsham, widow of the late Maj. Gen. Francis Lane Magniac, Madras Staff Corps, aged 84 years.

(December 13th 1938 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM WI**

A Fancy Dress Party arranged by the Committee and members of Abbotsham

W.I. took place in the Parish Hall on Wednesday. The Prize Winners were:

Miss I. Griffiths as “Recketts Blue”. Master Harold Manning as a

“Highlander”, Mrs McKirby as “Paper Bags”. Miss V. West as

“Advertisements”, Mr F. West as “Smelling Bottles”. A one act play “The

Village Shop” produced by Mrs Challoner was acted by members. the

judges for the Fancy Dress were Mrs Strick, Mrs Doe and Mrs Lomas.

(December 20th 1938 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On January 15th - Nellie Bale, wife of J.F. Bale of “Carnbrae”, Abbotsham,  
aged 54.

(January 17th 1939- BG).

**DEATH.**

On January 26th at Shebbertown, Abbotsham - Ann Hooper, beloved wife of  
John Hooper, aged 79.

(January 31st 1939 - BC).

**DEATH.**

On March 17th at Abbotsham - John Slee aged 89 years of Riccards Down. He was a native of Putford, but came to Abbotsham as a young man. In 1879 he married Fanny, the daughter of the late Mr Samuel Bale of Abbotsham who predeceased him about 6 years ago. A staunch churchman he was a regular worshipper at Abbotsham Church until prevented by ill-health.

(March 21st 1939 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On October 23rd at Sea View Cottage, Abbotsham - Mariana, widow of the

late Joseph Huxtable, in her 86th year.

(October 31st 1939 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**  
On December 14th at St. Helen’s Church, Abbotsham - Donald Henry only

son of Mr and Mrs H. Tucker of New Inn, Abbotsham to Millicent youngest

daughter of the late Mr J.T. Moore and Mrs Moore of Fairy Cross.

(December 19th 1939- BG).

**WEDDING.**The wedding took place at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Bideford, on Friday between Miss Therese de Las Casas, youngest daughter of the late

Capt. Manuel De Las Casas and Mrs De Las Casas, M.B.E. J.P. of Riccards

Down, Abbotsham and Mr Edward H.L. Richardson of Lagos, Nigeria.

(January 9th 1940 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On January 14th in Glamorgan - Pte. Louis Charles Easton the only son of Mr

and Mrs C. Easton of Abbotsham to Iris Maud Griffiths of Tonypandy.

(February 6th 1940 - BG).

**NATIVE OF ABBOTSHAM.**

At the great age of 95 years which gave her the title of one of the oldest  
residents, if not the oldest, in the village, Mrs Elizabeth H. Bucknell passed away on May 14th at her residence for several years past at Alcombe. She was a native of Abbotsham, being the second daughter of Mr Thomas  
Chappel Holman whose family had been established in the locality for many

generations.

(May 28th 1940 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

At St. Helen’s Church, Abbotsham on June 19th - Frederick Thomas, eldest

son of Mr and Mrs Stapleton of the Smithy, Abbotsham - to Beatrice Mary, the eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs A Glover of “Carnbrae”, Abbotsham.  
(June 25th 1940- BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On September 18th at Abbotsham Church - Albert Rudolph Brock of Fair View, Abbotsham to Annie Manan, only daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Fogaty of Bideford.

(September 24th 1940 - BG).

FUNERAL AT ABBOTSHAM

The funeral took place at Abbotsham recently of Mrs F.E. Bale of 11

Lamerton Place, Bideford.

(October 1st 1940- BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On September 30th at St. Helen’s, Abbotsham – L/Bdr. William J.W. Turner,

grandson of Mr and Mrs W. Westaway of Thistledown, Bideford - to Joyce

Mary Cork, the second daughter of Mr and Mrs J.P. Cork of Adjavin Farm,

Bideford.

(October 8th 1940 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM NONAGENARIAN**

The funeral has taken place at Abbotsham of Mrs Catherine Pickard, widow

of the late Mr Charles Henry Pickard of Bowood, Abbotsham at the age of 96

years.

(October 8th 1940 - BG).

**FUNERAL AT ABBOTSHAM.**

There was a large attendance at the funeral at St. Helen’s, Abbotsham of Mrs Florence Jane Brend, wife of Mr James Augustus Brend and eldest daughter of the late Mr and Mrs John Henry Phillips of Winsford, Bideford. She was 56 years of age.

(October 15th 1940 - BG).

**UNOBSCURED LIGHT AT ABBOTSHAM.**

For permitting a light to be visible while at the White House, Riccards Down, Abbotsham, Mrs Lillian Mosely was fined £2.2s by Bideford County Bench on Tuesday.

(October 22nd 1940 - BG).

ABBOTSHAM & CLOVELLY LEAD.

In the “Salvage” league table for parishes in the Bideford Rural District,

Abbotsham is at present in the lead with £29.12.5 d to its credit, the runner up being Clovelly with £25.12.10 d.

(February 25th 1941 - BG).

**FUNERAL.**

At the Abbotsham Baptist Chapel on Sunday the funeral took place of Mrs

Mary Jane Bale. The funeral arrangements were by Mr E.G. Moase.

(March 18th 1941 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM IN THE LEAD.**

Reporting on the progress of the Salvage Scheme it was announced that the

League Table was headed by Abbotsham at the moment.

(March 25th 1941 - BC).

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**ABBOTSHAM’S FIRST CONFIRMATION FOR 25 YEARS**.

Rev B.M. Challenor, Vicar of Abbotsham writing in the April issue of the

Hartland Deanery Magazine of the Confirmation Service held at St. Helen’s

Parish Church, Abbotsham on March 24th, says he understands it was fully a

quarter of a century since a Confirmation was held there, It was a lovely

service and they were grateful to the Bishop of Crediton for coming to them

this year. Through the generosity of many of our friends we were able to

invite our visitors that afternoon to have tea with us in the Vicarage Room

after the service, and what an excellent tea it was too, adds the Vicar. We

offer to Mrs Glover and her helpers our sincere thanks.

(April 8th 1941 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM FUNERAL.**

At Abbotsham on Sunday June 29th the funeral took place of William

Montague Pickard of Bowood, Abbotsham, whose death at the age of 63

years came as a great shock to a large circle of friends, although he had

been in ill health.

(July 8th 1941 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On November 8th at St. Helen’s, Abbotsham - Sgt. Constantine Charles Prust

(R.A.) only son of Mr and Mrs B.C. Prust of “Fair View House”, Abbotsham and Miss Martha Banks, the second daughter of Mr and Mrs A.C. Banks of

Yorkshire.

(November 18th 1941 - BG).

**DEATH.**

Roger, son of Mr and Mrs W.H. Light of Rixlade, Abbotsham - killed on flying service at Waterkloof, Pretoria, S.A.A.F. in November.

(November 25th 1941 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM HOME GUARD TRIBUTE.**

Members of Abbotsham Home Guard formed a Guard of Honour at the funeral of a colleague - Sydney Robert Cardew of Kenwith Barton who died at Bideford Hospital following an operation. He was 64 years of age, and was the third son of the late Col. G.M. Cardew. He was one of the first to join the Home Guard, and his regular attendance at drills and his keenness with training was an example to all. At the funeral at Abbotsham the coffin was covered with a Union Jack and the Last Post was sounded by Bandsman

Rendle.  
(December 9th 1941 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM PARTY.**

On Friday Mrs Strick of Abbotsham Court gave another of her Christmas Tree

parties to evacuees living in her house and in the immediate vicinity.

Captain Strick, who was on leave, made an excellent Father Christmas. All

those present, some 34, showed their appreciation by entering into the spirit of the party and the fireside carol singing.  
(December 23rd 1941 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM NOTES.**

A very successful and enjoyable entertainment was given in aid of the “Aid to Russia” Fund in Abbotsham Parish Hall on December 29th by the “Merry

Makers” Concert Party under the direction of Mr J. Roy Ellis and Mrs Doris

Shortridge. There were songs by Mrs Shortridge and Miss Irwin Lee, dances

by Miss Joan Jordan and her pupils, and “Sadie” (Mrs Lesslie) brought life to the piano which had been so comatose for some time. Versatile Roy Ellis

and Mr Gorrell sung humorous duets. In the interlude Mr J. Lee provided

paper tearing into various designs. A sum of over £10 was raised for the

Bideford and district for the Fund.

All Abbotsham children which included evacuees were the guests of Mr and

Mrs Paul Spurner in the Vicarage Room and Parish Hall on New Years Eve.

The children from 2 years old to five had their Christmas Tree, balloons and tea in the Vicarage Room. The older ones arrived later at the Parish Hall. There they quickly made short work of an almost pre-war tea, pulled crackers, and then they enjoyed a cinematograph show. Father Christmas distributed presents and then this ancient Peter Pan played riotous games with the happy youngsters.

(January 6th 1942 - BG).

**FUNERAL.**

Many friends attended the funeral at Abbotsham Church on Tuesday of Mr

Jack Boyle of Buckleigh, Westward Ho whose death took place at the age of

51, on February 14th. Employees of Buckleigh Laundry of which Mr Boyle

was the proprietor were bearers.

(February 24th 1942 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM PARENTS LOSS.**

Mr and Mrs J. Manning of Riccards Down, Abbotsham have received notification that their eldest son Able Seaman Kenrick Manning was killed

while serving with destroyers in the Mediterranean last month. He was an

old boy of Bideford Grammar School and joined the Royal Navy as a boy in

1937. He was 20 and his service included the evacuation of Dunkirk and Cherbourg. He was home on leave just after Dunkirk.

(April 14th 1942 - BG).

**FUNERAL.**

The funeral took place at Abbotsham Parish Church on Tuesday of Miss

Grace Peter Turner, daughter of the late Mr and Mrs William Turner, whose

death occurred at Coombe Gate, Abbotsham the previous Saturday.

(May 5th 1942- BG).

**DEATH.**

On December 12th at Bideford Hospital - Harry Fuller of Sea View,

Abbotsham aged 74.

(December 15th 1942 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM LOSS.**

Abbotsham Court, which for a number of years has been the home of Mrs

Strick, is mourning the loss of Miss Hales, the family nurse, who passed away on Tuesday last at the age of 69. She began service with the family when Mrs Stuck was herself a small child, and has continued through two

generations to serve the family staying with them for 48 years until her death. In accordance with what would have been her wish, Miss Hales’ body was taken to Derbyshire, and buried in her native town of Ashbourne on

Thursday.

(February 2nd 1943 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On February 7th at her residence of her niece Mrs Taylor, Matilda Ann

Eastman, late of Coombe Cott, Abbotsham aged 76. For over 50 years she

was attached to the Parkinson and Magniac family

(February 9th 1943- BG).

**DEATH.**

On March 5th - Ruth Hannah, the dearly loved wife of Charles Hooper of

Coronation Terrace, Abbotsham. Mr Hooper was headmaster and his wife

infants mistress at Abbotsham School for 24 years, retiring in 1924. For

many years she was a member of the Church ladies choir, and was a member

of the Parochial Church Council and the Women’s Section of the British

Legion until her health failed.

(March 9th 1943- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM REQUESTS.**

Mr E.E. Head of Bowood, Abbotsham left £40,417 gross. He left an annuity

of £750 and furniture to Florence M. Terry, companion, 100 guineas each to

the executors, Alistair Saunders and R. Oglethorpe, and the residue upon

trust for Bessie Head for life and then to his daughter Marjorie Saunders for life, with the remainder to her daughter Alison.

(May 25th 1943- BG).

**DEATH.**

On July 28th - Edith Annie, beloved wife of William R. Andrews of “Langdon”, Abbotsham, aged 58.

(August 3rd 1943 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM**

A successful dance organised by Mrs E. Grahame was held at Abbotsham

Parish Hall on August 11th in aid of the “Merchant Navy Comforts Fund”.

Music was supplied by the Manhattan Melody Makers Band. Messrs D.

Grahame and W. Ley were at the door. £18.2.9d was raised for the fund.

(August 24th 1943 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On September 3rd at Bideford Hospital - Harold William Manning, youngest

son of Mr and Mrs J. Manning, Riccardsdown, Abbotsham aged 16 years.

Six fellow Army Cadets were the bearers at the funeral at St. Helen’s Church. He had been in ill health for about two months. Prior to his illness he was a scholar at Bideford Grammar School. His eldest brother went down in 1942 on H.M.S. Jaguar.  
(September 7th 1943 - BG).

**BIRTH.**On October 12th at the Grenville Nursing Home, Bideford, to Molly (nee

Glover) wife of Frederick T. Stapleton of Coronation Terrace, Abbotsham -

the gift of a son.

(October 19th 1943- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM OFFICER’S PATROL.**

In the brilliant sunshine, but with the threatening rain clouds scudding over the mountain tops, an officer and three men set off on patrol to find out if the Boche still occupied a village beyond the next range of hills. For nearly five hours this little band of men had been probing the enemy’s lines. They eventually arrived back at their company’s position in the darkness, establishing the presence of the Boche in the village, and they had little rest then, for our artillery thoroughly enjoyed the task of pounding such a splendid target. It was Captain J.R. Strick who led the patrol - coming from Abbotsham Court near Bideford. He is the eldest son of Ma]. General J.A. Strick C.B., D.S.O. and Mrs Strick. Aged twenty five he joined the Territorials just before the outbreak of war when a University student. He has been twice wounded - once in Sicily and now in Italy. His father’s long military service included the Campaign in Italy during the last war.

(December 21st 1943 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A most successful dance was held in the Parish Hall on January 1st - the

proceeds being in aid of the funds of the local Nursing Association and £15

was realised. It was organised by Mrs Grahame with the aid of Mesdames

Jewell, Manning, Taylor, J. Hockin, and West. Another dance will be held

on January 19th, the proceeds of which will go towards badly-needed repairs

to the Hall.

(January 4th 1944 - BG).

**KILLED IN ACTION.**

Mrs J.A. Strick of Abbotsham Court has received notification of the death in action last month of her eldest son Captain John Richard Strick. He was a popular figure locally and his love of our countryside and his ability as a speaker, coupled with his keen interest in life and his fellow men, and the sincerity of his convictions, marked him as a young man with a very promising career in front of him.

(March 7th 1944- BG).

**DEATH.**

On March 4th at Shebberton, Abbotsham, John Hooper aged 82 years.

(March 7th 1944 - BG).

**DEATH.**

The death took place on March 29th of Mrs Alice Trewin, wife of Mr Thomas

Trewin of “Bay View”, Abbotsham. Before retiring to Abbotsham twelve

years ago they resided at High Park Farm, Bideford.

(April 11th 1944- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

A verdict of death from accidental causes, and that no blame could be

attached to the driver of the motor van which was also involved was returned by the North Devon Coroner at an inquest at Bideford Town Hall on Friday evening on Alfred William Glover of “Carnbrae”, Abbotsham who was fatally injured on Thursday morning while cycling at Riccardsdown. He was 63 and a mason by trade, and was prominently identified with church work at

Abbotsham. The van was the property of Buckleigh Laundry. It might be

said that all his life Mr Glover was part of Abbotsham. In his youth he was a chorister in the Church, and later became a member of the band of ringers

and for over 30 years he had been Sexton and Verger of the Parish Church.

(July 11th 1944- BG).

**“THE MERRYMAKERS” AT ABBOTSHAM.**

On July 26th “The Merrymakers” again delighted a large audience at Abbotsham Parish Hall, giving a popular variety entertainment in aid of

Abbotsham’s effort for Bideford and District Hospital Week. Three guest

artists from H.M. Forces - Lance Corporal McGowan, Sapper Newcombe and

Corporal Horrell helped with the humour. The Vicar thanked the party at the

close. Mr J. Roy Ellis was the compere.

(August 8th 1944 -BG).

**FORMERLY OF ABBOTSHAM.**

The funeral took place at Bideford Church Cemetery on August 2nd of Mrs

Elsie Vaggers of George Nympton aged 43 years. She was the youngest  
daughter of Mr and Mrs John Andrew of Abbotsham.

(August 15th 1944- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM FETE.**

The Vicarage Garden, Abbotsham was the scene of a very happy and successful fete on Wednesday in aid of the British Red Cross Prisoners of War Fund, and £10 was raised. The opening ceremony was performed by Lady Orford, Commandant of a Red Cross Convalescent Hospital. There were many attractive stalls and side-shows. The lawn made a charming setting for a children’s entertainment - the children having been trained by Mrs A. Cotton, the headmistress. There was a Dutch auction and a skittle tournament.

(August 22nd 1944- BG).

**HOME GUARD SHOOT AT CORNBOROUGH.**

As a result of a challenge thrown out by Lt. Colonel D.C. Crombie, Officer

Commanding 5th (Bideford) Battalion of the Home Guard to Bideford born Lt.

Colonel G. Oerton, Officer Commanding 4th (Barnstaple) Battalion, over

1,000 Home Guards competed in a big all day shooting competition at

Cornborough on Sunday.

(September 19th 1944 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

In view of the augmenting of Northam water supply by pumping water from

the River Torridge at Kismeldon Bridge into Melbury reservoir, Bideford Rural District Council are to make representations to Northam Council that a supply should be made available to those residents in the parish of Abbotsham, where application had previously been refused.  
((September 26th 1944 - BG).

**BRIGADIER C.H.M. PETO.**

Brigadier Christopher Henry Maxwell Peto, who last summer purchased Kenwith Castle (now used for Red Cross purposes, but which will be given up for Brigadier and Mrs Peto’s occupation three months after the cessation of

hostilities with Germany) has accepted the invitation of the North West Devon Conservative Association to allow himself to be adopted a prospective  
Conservative candidate for the division at the next election.  
(December 28th 1944- BG).

**DEATH.**On March 22nd 1945 at Pusehill, Abbotsham - Thomas Bellew Hussell.

(March 27th 1945 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On May 28th at 14 Bull Hill, Bideford - Lydia Tallin (widow of Mr Albert Tallin) aged 73 years.

(May 29th 1945- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM NORTH DEVON.**

Small Freehold Detached Country House with four and a half acres for Sale

with Vacant Possession, situated in a residential district near Village Church and Post Office. R. Blackmore & Sons have received instructions from

Major C.H. Rawdon to sell by auction at Tantons Hotel, Bideford on Tuesday

2nd October 1945 at 3.30 all that Freehold Detached Country Residence

known as and being “KEENE”, Abbotsham.

(September 18th 1945 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM NORTH DEVON**

To Let as from 25th day of March 1946 all that excellent Farm and Lands

known as “GREENACLIFF” - comprising commodious convenient and well built Farm House and Outbuildings and approximately 155 acres of watered

meadow Pasture and Arable Land.

(September 18th 1945 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On September 26th at St. Helen’s Church, Abbotsham by Rev. Du Cane -

Harold Fulford Hedden, only son of Mr and Mrs H. Hedden of Hoopers Water,

Buckland Brewer to Lucy Elizabeth, third daughter of Mr and Mrs J.P. Cork of Adjavin Farm, Abbotsham.  
(October 2nd 1945- BG).

**BIRTH.**

On December 26th 1945 at Tonypandy to Mr and Mrs L.C. Easton (neo Iris

Griffiths) of Abbotsham - the gift of a son.

(January 15th 1946 - BG).

**SILVER WEDDING.**

On January 29th 1921 at St. Helen’s Church, Abbotsham by Rev. Canon

Kempe - Bertram Charles Prust of Bideford to Constance Mary Brock of

Abbotsham. Present address - Fairview House, Abbotsham.

(January 29th 1946 - BC).

**MARRIAGE**.

On February 16th at St. Helen’s Church, Abbotsham by Rev. B.M. Challenor -

Henry Gordon Cockerell of Houslow to Doris May Taylor, only child of Mr and

Mrs E.W. Taylor of Abbotsham.

(February 26th 1946 - BC).

**DEATH.**

On March 17th at Riccardsdown, Abbotsham - Adeline, wife of the late C.T.

Bell, formerly of Heale House, Bideford.

(March 19th 1946 - BC).

**FUNERAL.**

The funeral took place at Abbotsham on March 28th of Melita Florence

Millward, widow of Mr William Millward and eldest daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Bamacott of Abbotsham.

(April 19th 1946 - BG).

**THE “NEW INN”.**

Continuing in a short series of old photographic plates, one was recently discovered showing the neighbourhood of the New Inn, Abbotsham as it was

probably forty years ago. The scene has really changed but little since

then, the picturesque thatched roofs being still there. Presumably at one

L time the Inn was a “new” inn compared with older establishments which have not survived, but has now acquired the dignity of age which belies its name.

(July9th l946 -BG).

**DEATH.**

On October 2nd at the New Inn, Abbotsham after a long illness , Henry,

beloved husband of Sybil Mary Tucker, aged 53.

(October 29th 1946 - BG).

ABBOTSHAM GYMKHANA SUCCESS.

A special evening was held in the Parish Hall, Abbotsham on Saturday July

13th when the Trustees entertained all those who had helped to make the

recent gymkhana and fete such an unequalled success. The Chairman - Mrs

C.W.M. Turner thanked the helpers for their loyal support. The Hon.

Treasurer - Mr D. Grahame said that after all expenses had been paid the

takings were approximately £625 which would go towards repairs and to

paying off the outstanding amount on the Parish Hall. Mr H.A. Lomas

congratulated the Trustees on their years work.  
(July 23rd 1946- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM CEREMONY.**

On a cold but otherwise brilliant day, the Armistice Sunday service was held at the War Memorial and Field of Remembrance at Abbotsham. The British

Legion under Brig. C.H.M. Peto paraded with their Standard and Escort and

marched to the Memorial, former members of the Women’s Services also

taking part in the parade. The service was conducted by the Rev. H.P.D.

Pinhey of Northam, and at the conclusion of the two minutes silence Brig.

Peto laid the Legion’s wreath of poppies at the foot of the Memorial amid the crosses of scarlet poppies commemorating the dead of two Great Wars.

The “Legion of the Dead” were saluted. The collection was in aid of Earl  
Haig’s Fund.  
(November 19th 1946 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM FUNERAL.**

The funeral took place at Abbotsham Parish Church on November 23rd of Mr

Underwood Ronald Moseley, who was killed in an aeroplane accident on the

Schipol Aerodrome near Amsterdam on November 14th. He was the second

son of Mr L.H. Moseley of Cheshire and Mrs Moseley of Drummetts Lodge,

Torrington. Mr Moseley was a director of the British/Americal Tobacco Co.

Ltd of London, and he was on the first stage of his second visit to Java since the war finished, when he was killed.  
(December 3rd 1946 - BG).

**BRIGADIER PETO.**

Brigadier C.H.M. Peto, M.P. for North West Devon of Kenwith Castle, Abbotsham, has retired from Military Service as from November 26th having been found permanently unfit for General Service by a Medical Board. He

retires with the rank of Brigadier after 31 years service.

(December 3rd 1946 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM PARISH COUNCIL PROTEST.**

At a meeting of the Abbotsham Parish Council in the Parish Hall on January

10th careful examination was given to the North Devon Joint Planning

Committee’s proposals for reserving certain areas of Devon as National

Parks. The object in adopting such a scheme it was explained was the

desire to preserve such areas in their “natural aspects”. The Council

considered that these proposals in so far as they apply to the Abbotsham

area are undesirable for the following reasons.

1. This area is protected by the existence of a Planning Committee, and the

conversion into a National Park would turn the area into a tourist camp.

2. Adequate roads already exist for the conveyance of visitors.

3. To enlarge roads in the area would cause unjustified expense.

4. This area is extensively farmed, and to throw it open to public invasion

would be a source of aggravation to local farmers.

5. The Council is convinced that by turning this area into a National Park

much of its pristine beauty and present charm is likely to be menaced.

(January 21st 1947 - BG).

**BIRTH.**

On January 22nd at Shebberton, Abbotsham to George and Rosamund Winter - a son.

(January 28th 1947 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM SUPPLY.**The question of a water supply to Abbotsham has periodically been the

subject of approach and reply between Bideford Rural District Council and

Northam Council. Northam Council’s main from Melbury Reservoir passing

through Abbotsham, a parish in Bideford Rural Council’s area. Letters from

North Devon Water Board and the Ministry of Health pointing out that a

branch main to Abbotsham under the North Devon Water Board scheme had

been found to be impracticable, and in its place provision of a tank at

Abbotsham to be filled at night from the Northam main was suggested,

together with the establishment of a “booster station”. A further meeting is to be held when further discussions will take place.

(February 11th 1947- BG).

**DEATH.**

On February 16th at Lincoln - Ada Marion, wife of the late C.J. Grahame and

mother of Douglas Grahame of Coombe, Abbotsham.

(February 18th 1947 - BG).

**FLOWERS AND BELLS AT ABBOTSHAM.**

Spring flowers decorated St. Helen’s Church, Abbotsham, and the bells

pealed in the morning and evening of April 5th in honour of the wedding of Mr James Ellis, youngest son of the late Mr and Mrs Robert Ellis of Meddon  
Street, Bideford, to Miss Irene May Glover, youngest daughter of Mrs and the late Mr Alfred Glover of “Carnbrae”, Abbotsham. The ceremony was

conducted by Rev. W. Smith, Vicar of Abbotsham. After the ceremony some

120 guests were entertained at a reception in the Parish Hall, Abbotsham.

The wedding cake was made by Mrs West (Abbotsham).

(April 22nd 1947 - BG).

**MRS HELEN LEFROY.**

Her many friends learnt with regret of the death at “Hilden”, Bideford on

Tuesday of Mrs Helen Lefroy, widow of Mr Hugh Lefroy - her maiden name

being Harrington. Mrs Lefroy formerly lived at Kenwith Barton, and moved to

Hilden some 30 years ago. For many years she had been associated with

the Conservative cause in Bideford, and was the Dame President of the

Iddesleigh Habitation of the Primrose League. By her special request the

funeral which was held at Abbotsham Parish Church on Saturday was private.

(June 3rd 1947- BC).

**DEATH.**

On May 30th 1947 in Kent - Victor Manning, second son of Mr and Mrs John

Manning, late of Abbotsham, aged 23 years.

(June 3rd 1947- BC).

**ABBOTSHAM W.I.**

The July meeting was held on Friday in the gardens of “Keene”, by kind

permission of Major and Mrs Campbell. After the singing of “Jerusalem”

there was a short business meeting. It was arranged to have an outing in

July to the Torridge Vale Milk Factory. Refreshments included ice cream

and strawberries served on the lawn by Miss E. James and others. The

social half hour took the form of a short play and recitations arranged by Miss Farrow from Lee. The competition was an article costing not more than 2/6d to go on the stall at the gymkhana and fete - the winners being 1. Mrs Easton, 2. Mrs Cork, 3. Mrs G. Nicholls.

(June 24th 1947 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On June 28th at Abbotsham Parish Church - Frederick John, youngest son of

the late Samuel Williams and of Mrs Friendship of Cross House, Abbotsham,

to Inez Winifred, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs E. Nicholls of Bideford.

(July 8th 1947- BG).

**SUN SMILES AWAY ANXIETY.**

The downpour of rain the previous evening and a dull morning occasioned

anxiety for the success of Abbotsham Gymkhana and Fete at Bowood (by

kind permission of Mrs Channer) on Saturday. But there was bright

sunshine and a large crowd who enjoyed the events which were in aid of local charities.

(July 8th 1947 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM CEREMONY.**

“It has not been easy and what we have seen has been effected in the face of a great many difficulties, both from an administrative point of view and in the supply of materials”. This was one of the comments made by the Chairman of Bideford Rural District Council when on Saturday afternoon, with other members, he inspected three of the Council’s traditional built houses which are ready for occupation and which were officially handed over to the tenants yesterday. The houses are situated off the main Abbotsham/Abbotsham Cross road a few hundred yards above Abbotsham Church. There was a formal opening ceremony. The builder was Mr F.W. Hockin.  
(September 23rd 1947 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM REMEMBERS.**

With Legion standards unfurled, members of the Abbotsham Branch of the

British Legion paraded at morning service at Abbotsham Parish Church on

Remembrance Day led by Brigadier Peto.

(November 25th 1947 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On December 30th at Pump Lane, Abbotsham - Frederick Brock aged 61.

(January 6th 1948 - BG).

**“BROCKY”.**

**I**n Abbotsham has died recently a notable character, a survival from old

times, who made his living along the beaches and in the fields by such means as trapping, prawning and blackberrying. His deep insight into wild life was got at first hand; that is from his father and his famous grandfather, or from such as Wrecker Sanders and Jim Bale. With his gaunt frame and rugged features, Brocky could be seen on most days out on the reefs. Those thin legs of his carried him at a great rate over sharp ribs of rocks, through gullies and pools, and in every crevice beloved by prawns. None now knows the game as he did, the rest are amateurs. Certain brakes and covers in parishes half a days march from Abbotsham were familiar to him, but no human eye saw him there, and what he did there Brocky wouldn’t tell; for twas his delight on a shining night. Brock is the word in Old English for the Badger, and the name is not a bad one for one so fitted to his chosen life. He rarely worked for an employer, and he sold his goods through no middle man. Mr Fred Brock was not the last who will range the rocks of our bay, but I think it will be a long time before there is one who will spend so much of his life like that or do it with such knowledge and so sure a touch.

“Full well knew the sea-wasked raines of rocks

Haunts of the peregrine and the wild cliff fox

From Mermaid’s Pool to Gauter and the Gore

He roved, the true born freeman of the shore.

And lo, the tide that brought his wealth to hand

Has washed his last faint footprint from the sand”.

V.C.B.

(January 20th 1948 - BG).

**BIRTH**

On January 17th at Grenville Nursing Home, Bideford, to Lillian (nee

Andrews) wife of William T. Ross, Cornborough Lodge, Abbotsham - a

daughter Margaret Lillian.

(January 20th 1948 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On January 12th - Ethel May, beloved wife of Arthur Jeffery, The Cottage,

Abbotsham, aged 44 years.

(January 20th 1948 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM - LONDON WEDDING.**

At St. Helen’s Church, Abbotsham on Easter Monday the wedding took place

of Mr Colin Merville Rowsell, only son of the late Mr and Mrs Rowsell of

London - and Miss Margaret Ann Mary Richards, younger daughter of

Captain and Mrs R.A. Richards of Orchard, Puse Hill, Abbotsham.

(April 6th 1948 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On April 23rd at Molo, Major Trevor G. Chamberlain, Veterinary Dept., Sotik, only son of the late Rev. J.C. and Mrs Chamberlain of Eastbourne – to Eleanor Mary, only daughter of the late Mr W.H. Byers and Mrs Byers,

formerly of Kenwith Abbotsham. Now at Highlands Hotel, Molo.

(April 27th 1948 - BG).

**MARRIAGE.**

On April 17th at Barnstaple - Edwin Thomas, youngest son of Mr F.W. Stone

of Barnstaple and Alice Maud, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Braund of

Abbotsham.

(April 27th 1948 - BG).

**W.l. GROUP MEETING AT ABBOTSHAM.**

About 300 members attended the annual Group Meeting of the Bideford

Group of Womens Institutes held in the Parish Hall, Abbotsham on April

22nd. Tea was served, after which members walked around the village or

visited the marquee where there was an exhibition. An entertainment

followed. Items were introduced and accompanied by Miss Keene,

consisting of songs, sketches and a charade, ending with a most amusing

play entitled “Aunt Matilda’s Collar”. Refreshments were arranged by Mrs

and Miss Phillips and Mrs Cork with their Committee consisting of Miss Grant, Miss A. James and Mrs Prust.

(May 4th 1948 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM S.S.M. IN KENYA.**

Bush whacking in Kenya is a far cry from life at Abbotsham, Devon - Staff

Sergeant Major Fred. E. Gough, R.E., whose home is at Riccards Down,

Abbotsham has finally ended up in Kenya, where he is helping to lay a 70

mile water pipe line.

(May 25th 1948- BG).

**DEATH**

On June 20th at 2 Barton Cottages, Abbotsham - John Hearn, husband of the

late Mrs E. Hearn, aged 86 years. The funeral service was held at

Abbotsham Baptist Chapel on June 23rd, followed by burial at Higher

Cemetery, Bideford. He was one of the founder members of the local

branch of the Municipal & General Workers Union, and for many years he

had also been a member of the Sino Tent of the Independent Order of

Rechabites. .

(June 22nd 1948- BG).

**ABOTSHAM WATER APPLICATIONS.**

Northam Council could if necessary supply the whole village of Abbotsham

with water, it was stated at the meeting of Northam Urban District Council on September 2nd. However) further tapping of the mains was undesirable,

and the Council decided to inform Bideford Rural District Council that no

further applications from Abbotsham for water would be entertained unless a

service tank was provided there, and the water taken in bulk.

(September 14th 1948- BG).

**FETE AIDS ABBOTSHAM CHURCH.**

Nearly 300 people paid for admission at the Fete in the Vicarage Grounds,

Abbotsham on Wednesday afternoon. It was the first fete held in connection

with the Church at Abbotsham for some years. There was something of interest to all with heavily laden stalls, a baby show, a human “Aunt Sally”, skittling, “fox and hounds”, bowling for a fowl, hoop la, and attractive teas. As a result, the Church Funds will benefit by about £70. Mrs B. Asquith of Clovelly Court declared the Fete open, and thanks to her were expressed by Mr H.A. Lomas - the People’s Warden. The prizewinners in the Baby Show were –

Under 9 months - 1. David Butler. 2. Raymond Lee. 3. Terrence Rostock. Special - Margaret Ross.

9 - 11 months - 1. Michael Stevens. 2. Patricia Lowry. 3. Roger Turner.

15 months to 2 years - 1. Rodney Wright. 2. Anthony Beer.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Fete was Lt. Col. J.C. Bassett - the Vicar’s Warden.

(July 20th 1948 - BG).

**MR ARTHUR FRAYNE.**

At Abbotsham Parish Church on November 12th the funeral took place of Mr

Arthur Frayne of “Glenlyn”, Abbotsham whose death occurred in Abbotsham

suddenly on November 9th at the age of 72. For many years he had been a

member of the Abbotsham branch of the British Legion.

(November 30th 1948 - BG).

**SOLDIER-POET.**

“As a soldier he completed his destiny; his destiny as a poet remained

unfulfilled”. Thus writes Harold Nicolson in a memoir of the late Captain

John Richard Strick whose poems have recently been published in a book.

Captain Strick was the eldest child of Mrs J.R. Strick of Abbotsham Court and of the late Major General J.R. Strick. He was only twenty six when he was — killed in action at Anzio during the recent war.

(December 21st 1948 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM FANCY DRESS DANCE.**

Organised by the Abbotsham branch of the British Legion, Women’s Institute,

and the Rifle and Skittle Clubs, a very successful fancy dress (optional)

dance was held in the Parish Hall on New Years Day. Some two hundred

dancers enjoyed an enjoyable evening. The music was provided by Alec

Blackmore and his Blue Rockets Dance Orchestra.

(January 11th 1949- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM AND HARTLAND COMPLAINTS.**

Complaints by tenants about Council Houses at Abbotsham and Hartland were reported at Tuesday’s meeting of Bideford Rural District Council. At the previous month’s meeting it was stated that tenants at Glebe Houses,

Abbotsham had complained of water seeping under the doors. The Surveyor

said he had visited the site with Mr C.W.M. Turner - Abbotsham Councillor

and thought that the best way out would be to erect a baffle wall outside No’s 1 and 6.

(January 11th 1949- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM WATER.**

At their General Purposes Committee meeting on Wednesday Northam Council decided to adhere strictly to their previous resolution not to entertain

any further applications for water to be supplied to houses at Abbotsham until a water tank was erected at Abbotsham Cross.

(January 11th 1949 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM W.I.**

The monthly meeting of Abbotsham W.I. was held in the Parish Hall with Mrs

Campbell (President) in the chair. The competition for the best string mat

was judged by Mrs Westaway, who awarded the prize to Mrs Cleverdon.

Refreshments followed - the hostesses being Mrs Beer and Mrs A. Beckley.

The social half hour took the form of a roll call on the subject “What is the most useful article in your home”.

(April 12th 1949 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM WEDDING.**

St. Helen’s Parish Church, Abbotsham had been beautifully decorated by the

members of Abbotsham W.I. for the wedding there on April 27th of Mr Arthur

J.A. May of Eastleigh Barton to Miss Edith Margaret Cork, youngest daughter

of Mr and Mrs J.P. Cork of End House, Weare Gifford, and formerly of

Adjavin Farm, Bideford. Over 100 guests were entertained at the reception

at Abbotsham Parish Hall.

(May 6th 1949- BG).

**DEATH.**

On May 18th at Chulmleigh - Edwin James, late of Abbotsham, aged 67

years.  
(May 20th 1949 - BG).

**MRS E. HOCKIN.**

Friends over a wide area heard with regret of the death on May 2nd at

Bideford Hospital of Mrs Ellen Hockin of Riccards Down, Abbotsham. The

funeral took place at St. Helen’s Church, Abbotsham - the Rev. W.T.

Gibbings officiating.

(May 20th 1949 - BG).

**OPENING OF PLAYING FIELD.**

Saturday June 11th was a red letter day for the children of Abbotsham. At

the invitation of the Parish Hall Trustees the children were entertained to

sports and a tea to mark the official opening of the Playing Field adjoining the Parish Hall. With a grant from the Gymkhana Committee, a generous donation from the St. Bors Branch of the Round Table, and subscriptions collected locally, a piece of ground has been fenced off and a sand pit, seesaw and swing provided. Punctually at 3pm the flag was broken by Maj. Campbell, and all joined in singing the National Anthem. Mrs Wilson of Stanhope, Bideford performed the opening ceremony. She was presented with a bouquet by Valerie Parkin. Brian Potter expressed the Abbotsham children’s gratitude to all who had helped in providing the playground.

(June 24th 1949 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

There was much sympathy in the death at the North Devon Infirmary on July

3rd of Mrs Lilian Ross aged 34 years, wife of Mr William T.C. Ross of

Cornborough Lodge, Abbotsham.

(July 15th 1949- BG).

**LATE MR T.F. FRIENDSHIP.**

Mr Thomas Frederick Friendship of Cross House, Abbotsham, whose death

occurred at the age of 76 had been a member of the choir at Abbotsham

Church and a bell ringer there for over 60 years. He was a member of the

Parochial Church Council and had been a verger for the past five years. The

funeral service took place at St. Helen’s, followed by cremation - the ashes being buried at Abbotsham.

(August 5th 1949- BG).

**BIDEFORD CARNIVAL QUEEN.**

At the Carnival Dance at Bideford Pannier Market on Wednesday evening

Miss Betty Wise of Bideford was elected “Miss Bideford”. Among those

competing was Miss Abbotsham - Miss Audrey Mitchell.

(August 19th 1949 - BG).

**DEATH.**

At Barnstaple on August 20th 1949 - John Andrew, late of The Barton,

Abbotsham, aged 80 years.

(August 26th 1949 - BG).

**MRS L.R. MARTIN.**

The funeral of Mrs L.R. Martin of “Coombe Walter”, Abbotsham who died on

August 22nd aged 55 years, took place at Lake Chapel, Shebbear on August

25th.

(September 2nd 1949 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On September 2nd 1949 at Coombe Gate, Abbotsham, Mary Turner. She had

lived for a great many years in the parish, in which she had been actively engaged in Church and social work.

(September 9th 1949- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM BRITISH LEGION.**

For the first time a secret ballot for the election of officers was taken at the annual meeting of the Abbotsham branch of the British Legion on November 30th. Elected were - President - Capt. S. Bell; Chairman - Lt. Col. J.C. Bassett; Vice Chairman - Mr W. Powell. General Committee - Capt. J.A. Meeks, Messrs W. Hockin, J. Jewell, B. Prust, G. Tallin, F. West, L. Easton, H.B. Ridd and S. Short. Appointed Vice Presidents were - Mr H.A. Lomas and Brig. C.H.M. Peto M.P.

(December 9th 1949 - BG).

**OLD DAYS AT ABBOTSHAM.**

A few weeks ago we published a request by Mr Jimmy Hill now of 4 Monica

Road, Leicester, who wished to hear from old friends at Abbotsham of sixty

years ago. He now informs us he has received replies, among them being

one from Mr John Dennis of Orford, Woodbridge, Suffolk. Mr Dennis who

was with Mr Pickard at Chaltaborough in 1887 still retains a vivid memory of the Abbotsham of years ago. He has a son at Northam.

(January 13th 1950- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM FARM**

On Tuesday at Mitchell’s Cafe, Bideford, Messrs Hannaford, Ward & Southcombe Ltd negotiated the sale of Pusehill Farm, Abbotsham for Mr L.

Bellew, the various lots selling for a total of £27,500. The six lots consisted of: -

Lot 1. Pusehill House, buildings and 80 acres of land. £10,600 to Mr A.P.

Tucker of Westward Ho.

Lot 2. Small holding comprising 17 acres - £3,800 to Mr William Beer of

Bideford.

Lot 3. 49 acres of freehold land known as “Gainsboroughs” - £3,250 to Mr

A.P. Tucker.

Lot 4. Two fields totalling 15 acres -2,750 to Mr A. Reed of Northam.

Lot 5. 22 acres of land - £3,750 to Mr E.G. Bean of Abbotsham.

Lot 6. 19 acres of meadow land - £3,350 to Mr A. Tucker.

(February 3rd 1950 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On February 12th at the home of her daughter in London, after much

suffering bravely borne - Louisa Bale (Beaky), for 15 years the beloved friend and housekeeper to Major and Mrs Rowdon. Cremation followed by burial at St. Helen’s, Abbotsham.

(February 17th 1950 - BG).

**ABBOTSHAM.**

Although the attendance was not so large as last year, there was a happy

spirit at the annual dinner of the Abbotsham branch of the British Legion held at Mitchell’s Cafe, Bideford on Friday evening. The chairman of the branch, Lt. Col. J.C. Bassett presided, accompanied by the President, Captain S. Bell.

(March 3rd 1950 - BG).

**BRIGADIER PETO.**

Brigadier C.H.M. Peto won a Conservative victory in the North Devon

Division, polling 17,724 votes.

(March 3rd 1950 - BG).

**BIRTH.**

On March 1st at Crossways, Abbotsham to Evelyn and Dennis Harle, a son, a

brother for Martin.

(March 3rd 1950 - BG).

**BIRTH.**

On April 18th at Kenwith Cottage, Abbotsham, to Marion and Ernest Blight – a brother for Raymond, Grateful thanks to the Nurse.

(April 21st 1950- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM FETE.**

Some £80 gross was realised despite unfavourable weather conditions as a

result of the Fete at Abbotsham on Wednesday in aid of Church funds. The

stalls were transferred from the Vicarage gardens to the shelter of the School.

(June 23rd 1950 - BG).

**DEATH OF FORMER VICAR.**

Vicar of Abbotsham from 1927 to 1938, the Rev. Edmund Arthur Du Cane,

died at his home, Garden End, Orchard Hill, Bideford on Wednesday. The

funeral takes place at Abbotsham Parish Church today.

(July 3rd 1950 - BG).

**DEATH.**

On July 17th at Shamland, Abbotsham - Miss Louisa Ann Pickard, aged 78

years. She was the second daughter of the late Mr and Mrs C.H. Pickard.

(July 21st 1950 - BG).

**DEATH.**

The funeral took place on October 9th at Abbotsham Parish Church of Mr

Frank Jasper Pickard who died at Parkham aged 68 years. He was the youngest son of the Late Mr and Mrs C. H. Pickard, formerly of Abbotsham.

(October 20th 1950- BG).

**ABBOTSHAM CHRISTMAS FAIR.**

Miss Betty Stucley opened the annual Christmas Fair at Abbotsham on

Friday, in aid of the Parish Hall Fund and the Playing Field. Proposing a

vote of thanks to her, Mrs Norman Fulford mentioned the long associations of the Stucley family with Abbotsham. There were many stalls, and Father

Christmas was Mrs Ward. Door stewards were Messrs F. Cleverdon and

T.T. Trewin. The organiser was Mrs C.W.M. Turner, and Mr E. C. White was

treasurer. Proceeds totalled approximately £70.

(December 8th 1950 - BG).