

House Histories

The history of the houses of Strawberry Hill

The Elms



**Written by David Cornwell for Strawberry Hill Residents'
Association**

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House histories – The Elms

In the spring 2019 issue of the Strawberry Hill Residents' Association Bulletin an offer was made to all residents of the area. Peter Lamb of the SHRA Committee had offered a service which would involve research on the history of the houses of Strawberry Hill. This fits with another undertaking by SHRA to research and publish, via its website, a number of street histories under the name, *Streetwise*. Clearly, the two projects are linked as streets comprise collections of individual houses. A team of SHRA local historians are working on the project and, at the time of writing, we are working on eight house histories. In return for the time of the volunteer researchers, householders in receipt of a report on their house history, are invited to make a donation to SHRA (the suggested donation is £25).

At a minimum, the work involves:

- searching through various online genealogical databases, e.g. Ancestry, find my past, for Census data and other records;
- searching the British Newspaper Archive for references to the street and house residents;
- visiting the Local Studies Centre in Richmond town centre to view records, especially Kelly's director or Electoral rolls to find out the names of householders after 1911;
- writing a report to present a coherent house history up to the millennium where possible.

The Elms was a large villa in substantial grounds which occupied land at the junction of Strawberry Hill Road and Tower Road. This land now comprises the Downside cul-de-sac, as well as Nos. 25, 25a, 27, 29 & 29a Tower Road. In 1894, *The Elms* and associated outbuildings were all part of the same estate. This house history describes the people who lived in *The Elms* and the other buildings now on that plot with the exception (for the moment) of those dwellings in Downside.

The author of this house history is David Cornwell, Chair of SHRA, who lives in Tower Road on part of *The Elms* plot.

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The Elms

The Elms was a substantial villa containing 11 rooms, the first house to be built on the Waldegrave estate as it began to be developed towards the end of the 19th Century. In the 1894 OS map (shown below) the footprint of the house can be seen at the corner of Tower Road and Strawberry Hill Road. The main house is an unusual L-shape with what appears to be a glass veranda on two sides with a glass house linked to the main house at the rear (see photograph on the front cover). A second building, originally known as *The Stables*, faces on to Tower Road. The waterway *Sparkbrook* which ran along the south of Tower Road surfaces in the south-west corner of the extensive gardens.

At some point during the First World War, *The Stables* was allocated the Number 9, Tower Road, acknowledging that the only other houses on the south side of the road at that time were Nos.1 to 8. In 1921, it became No.17 when it was necessary to renumber Tower Road with odds and evens and, therefore, Nos 1 - 8 had become 1 - 15. By 1930, however, it was known as No 19 and in 1936, it was renumbered again as No.29, finally becoming No.27 in 1954.

By the time the 1960 OS map (shown below) was drawn up, a number of changes are evident at *The Elms*. The main house is now designated as 1 Strawberry Hill Road, but it has been divided (presumably by bricking up doorways) so that the rear of the house has become Nos.29 & 29a Tower Road with a small garden. The White Cottage has its own large garden and is No.27 Tower Road. The main house still has its very large garden and the water course is still visible in the south-west corner of the garden.

In 1962, plans were drawn up for the creation of a cul-de-sac on the land occupied by *The Elms*. This led to the demolition of *The Elms*, and the retention of the narrow and oddly-shaped Nos.29 & 29a Tower Road (relatively new brickwork can still be viewed). In its place were built nine, 1960s-style small, modern houses which comprise Downside. Downside and 1a Strawberry Hill Road were completed and occupied from 1965. The new No.1 Strawberry Hill Road was occupied from 1964.



The Elms shown on the 1894 OS map



The Elms shown on the 1960 OS map

1881 Census – The George family

The Elms first appeared in the census for 1881, the only house then on Strawberry Hill Road as we know it today. The head of household was a widow, Eliza George (nee Evans), aged 55, born in Barking, Essex. Her daughter Eliza Jee, 34 (born 3rd qtr 1846 in Ilford) and son-in-law (William) Graham Finch Ellis 30, born in Ashford, Middlesex (they were married on the 15 July 1872 at St George's Hanover Square) together with their children Lilian (4) and Garforth (1), both born in Wimbledon, were staying in the house at the time. The Ellis's actual home was Tunbridge Villa on Hampton Road (since 1875) and prior to that, in 1873, on Manor Road, Teddington. Eliza senior's husband was Robert Harvey George, born in Wenhaston, Suffolk, in 1806. The Georges were married in Barking, Essex in 13 July 1843 and had two children Eliza and Harvey (b. 24 February 1848). Robert had died 28 April 1875 aged 69 at 4, Sherland Villas, Station Road, Twickenham and was buried at St Mary's. His estate curiously was only valued at £410; their daughter Eliza was the executor.

Anecdote: Robert's coat and cape worth £5 were stolen from his chaise on the 6 April 1837 on a visit from Ilford to the Commercial Road. He gave evidence, explaining that he was an auctioneer, against the culprit Thomas Ainsley at the Old Bailey; Ainsley was found not guilty on the grounds of mistaken identity.

Robert was described as a 'Proprietor of Land and Houses' in 1861 at Belvedere Road, Penge where they then lived. In 1871, the family were living at 1 Albert

Street, Westminster (sharing with an Irish belt and brace maker!). Robert was again described as a Landowner. Graham, the son-in-law to be, was a visitor and a Member of the Stock Exchange.

Eliza senior, by then known as Eliza Harvey-George, was buried at Holy Trinity, Twickenham on July 2nd 1884 having died at Gorleston-on-Sea, Norfolk on the 29th June at her son Harvey's house, Surbiton Lodge. Her personal estate amounted to £714.10s 6d. The Ellis's were still at Tunbridge Villa in 1886 but, by 1891, Eliza, described as 'living on her own means', and her children, Lilian and Garforth, were living at Brook Cottage r/o 42 High Street in Thame, Oxon. Husband Graham, now a stockbroker, was a boarder at 25 Queen Anne's Grove, Bedford Park (presumably a permanent separation although they continue to describe themselves as married). By 1901, Eliza Ellis was living on her own, 'on her own means', with one servant at *Hoo Hoo Cottage*, Bray, Berks. Graham, stockbroker and freemason was a tenant at 1 Tottenham Court Road, described as a colonial merchant (employer). In 1911, however, he was living with his step-sister at 355d Clapham Road, Stockwell, described as 'Secretary – unemployed'. He is recorded as a widower (but we cannot identify Eliza's death in the period 1901-1911). He died in Kensington on the 24th February 1931.

Eliza senior's son Harvey Harvey-George married Jessie Hewett (born 16 Nov 1857 at Barking) on 2 Sep 1879 in Barking. She was born into the fishing-vessel-owning family, trading as Hewett & Co Ltd and known as the *Short Blue Fleet*, which had moved its business from Barking to Gorleston-on-Sea. Harvey became effectively the managing director of the firm. Their home in 1881 was Surbiton Lodge. In 1891, their address was Tower House, 31/32 High Street, Gorleston and there were four children. But by 1901, Harvey had moved with his family to 29 Queen Anne's Grove, Bedford Park the same street where his brother-in-law had been living ten years earlier. In 1906, he had moved to Jersey Road, Ilford where he was a builder. His wife Jessie was at 47 Priory Road, Chiswick. Harvey died on the 15 July 1910 at Kingsfield, Ilford leaving £37,766.15s 8d (£4.4mn today); his widow was one of the executors. By 1911, his son Kenneth had become the estate manager of Kingsfield, Jersey Road, where Jessie was living with her sister, Violet, and her daughter, Phyllis. Acting Sergeant Kenneth died in hospital at West Bridgford, Notts on 13 June 1917 from wounds sustained in the war. In 1939, Jessie and her sister were living at Treago Mill, Crantock, Cornwall and she died there on the 12 November 1942 leaving an estate of £5307 16s.10d.

1891 Census - The Frith family

The electoral roll shows that Frederick Bramwell Frith, stockjobber, (b. 2nd qtr. 1854 at Sydenham) arrived at *The Elms* in 1884/85. The 1891 Census indicates that he and his wife Julia Charlotte (nee Parsons born in Brompton in 1862) and a son, Frederick William, aged 10 born in Battersea, lived there with three general servants and a coachman, William Clark, aged 25 from Devon in a separate "house". The cottage on Tower Road was vacant.

Frederick and Julia were married at Holy Trinity, Guildford on 22nd May 1886 – the connection with Guildford is not clear. Frederick junior was Julia's child (1881 census suggests a marriage – to Frederick Parsons - but there is no sign of any registration and she was recorded as a spinster on the marriage certificate to

Frederick Frith). His Stock Exchange registration continued to be *The Elms* to 1894 but by 1896, the family had left and moved to 13 Hillrise, Frognal. The census for 1901 shows them living there with four new servants. Their son was now a member of the Stock Exchange too. He had entered Trinity Hall Cambridge at Michaelmas 1899 having been at Dover College.

In 1911, they had moved again to 111 Oakwood Court, Kensington and in 1915 they were living at Nevern Place, Earls Court. A further move was to 67 Pembroke Crescent, Hove where they both died, Frederick in the 3rd qtr. 1927 aged 74 and Julia on the 23rd November 1930. Her estate was valued at £16109 17s. 11d.

Frederick William, a member of the 1st (City of London) Battalion Royal Fusiliers, was killed in action in France on the 8th October 1916.

1896-98 – The Hindson family

During this period, Lawrence Hindson and his family were living at *The Elms*. Lawrence (sometimes Laurence) was born on the 16th November 1845 at Cooks River, Petersham, New South Wales. He came to the UK and married Ida Johanna Maria Berninghausen on 12 Aug 1872 at Milton, Glasgow, returning to Australia that year. In 1879, they had a son Lawrence Eldred who was born at St Leonards, New South Wales. Lawrence senior was variously described as stock and share broker, merchant and banker and his business was on Pitt Street, Sydney.

There is a note in the Sydney Mail of 2 Sept 1882 that Ida had died at Dresden in Germany. Lawrence seems to have travelled to and fro a great deal and on the 11 June 1885, he was married again to Annie Ellen Cartwright (b. 21 February 1864 in Walesby, Lincolnshire) at St Paul's, Covent Garden. They had two children, Gladys Marion and Gordon Humphrey, born 11 May 1886 and 1 January 1888, respectively. In 1886, they were living in Cheltenham, Evesham Lawn (where Gladys was christened). Gordon was born in Ryde, Isle of Wight; their home then was Walton House, St John's Park, Ryde (Electoral Roll 1889).

In the 1891 census, Lawrence was staying with his widowed aunt at *The Vicarage*, Staines Road, Wraysbury; he was described as a 'retired banker'. Lawrence junior had been enrolled as a boarder at Lambrook, a boys' preparatory school at Winkfield Row, the other side of Windsor Great Park. The rest of the family were boarding with the Webb family at Madeira Road, Seaview, on the Isle of Wight; they had a 24-year-old governess, Alice Jones, along with them who was also from Twickenham. There is a record of Lawrence arriving at Plymouth from Lyttelton, New Zealand in 1892, 1898 and 1900.

In the 1901 census, the family were staying at the Imperial Hotel, Whiteladies Road, Bristol prior to moving to 5 Cecil Road, Clifton where Lawrence died on the 14 October. His effects amounted to £7033 14s. 5d. His son, Lawrence, died a couple of months later aged 22 on the 23 December in Otago, New Zealand. By 1911, Annie and the children had moved to Westlands House, Guildown, Guildford; she died on the 19 March 1933 leaving an estate amounting to £8897 1s.7d. The extended Hindson family were extremely wealthy. Laurence's elder brother, Eldred, who lived at the Royal Colonial Institute on Northumberland Avenue, but was staying

at the Grand Spa Hotel, Clifton, Bristol when he died in 1915, left an estate worth £55,142 3s. 9d. – the equivalent spending power today of £5.6mn!

The 1939 register records Gordon Hindson working for Guildford Borough Council as a mechanical engineer; he married Alice Grummitt - in 1927 - and was living on London Road, Guildford. His sister, Gladys, lived with them 'on her own means'; she died in Bristol in 1961. Gordon and Alice had both died in the 1st qtr. 1959.

1899-1900 – The Sage family

Edgar Sage, architect and surveyor, b. 3rd qtr. 1853 in Cardiff, his wife Alice Maria (nee Woods), b. April 1848 in Norwich, and his family lived at *The Elms* for a short while from 1899 (according to the Post Office Directory). They had moved from *Sylvie Villa*, Claremont Gardens, Surbiton (1891 Census). By 1901, they had moved to Lion House, Cambridge Road, Teddington. His practice at that time was at Lincolns Inn Chambers, Chancery Lane. Ten years later he was a boarder at 91 Graham Road, Wimbledon (renting one room upstairs and one down for £1 a week!); Alice had died in the 4th qtr. 1905 registered at Kingston. At 61, he married again on the 26th May 1914 at Hendon; he and his new wife, Elizabeth Lynch (nee Stubbs) aged 56, also widowed, were living at 26 Woodville Road, Hendon. Curiously there appears to be no record of either of their deaths.

1901-1902 – The Cooper family

William Richard Cooper, married, aged 52 (b. 30 Sept 1848 Swaffham, Norfolk) lived at *The Elms* with his 80-year-old widowed mother, Fanny, also born in Swaffham and daughter Beatrice 26 (b. 4th qtr. 1876 at Hackney) together with a cook and housemaid. He was a Drapery Store Proprietor (W.R. Cooper & Co Ltd of 192-208 Well Street, Hackney – 1880 Kelly's) following in his father James's trade. He had lived, in 1891, at Salway Lodge, Salway Hill, Woodford Green, when he was described as a general draper, together with his wife, Kate Charlotte, (nee Kernot b. 4th qtr. 1845 at Rochford, Essex) and two children, Beatrice Kate and William Kernot (b. 4th qtr. 1878). (There was also an elder son, Maurice James, 1874-1924). In 1901, his wife, Kate, was living alone at 170 Amesbury Avenue, Streatham. They were married on 27 April 1873 at South Hackney. He had been married before to Emma Harris on the 12th Feb 1868 at Holy Trinity, Bedford but she had died.

In the 1911 census, William was staying at the Strand Palace Hotel. He died in the 1st qtr. 1925, registered at Steyning. Kate lived alone at 39 Hazelbourne Road, Balham Hill. She died 1st qtr. 1918 registered at Epsom.

Beatrice married William Castello (4th qtr 1910 at Hackney). In 1921, their address was 98 High Street, Feltham. She died in the 1st qtr. 1935 (registered in Surrey NE).

In the *Stables*, Strawberry Hill Road, since 1900 (ER), lived William Champion, the gardener aged 32 from Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire, his wife Ellen also 32 from Twickenham and daughter, Gladys, aged 3 born at Littleton, Middlesex. Ernest Barrick is the lodger and he is described as domestic coachman. The story of *The Stables* is described below.

1902-1913 – The Jewson family

The 1911 census shows that The Elms was now home to Fredericka Blanche Jewson (nee Ashton) b. 30 January 1858 at South Kensington (although she said she was only 48 on the census form). Known as Blanche, she had moved in to *The Elms* in 1902/03 (Kelly's Directory). She was living there with her niece, Adie Jewson, aged 9 (b. Hammersmith). William Jewson, aged 8 (b. South Kensington) and presumably Adie's brother, was at 61 The Green, a school run by the Chapmans. It is not clear whose children they were (there were two brothers-in-law). Alice Thomas, a widow, described as a 'lady housekeeper' was also there with her daughter, Rosa.

Blanche's husband William Arthur Jewson (b. 12 July 1856 at St Marylebone, son of Frederick, a Professor of Music at the Royal Academy of Music) was living at 54 St Charles Square, Ladbroke Grove, of 'independent means', with a son, Gerald Arthur Jewson, aged 13 (b. 4 July 1897 at Stoke Newington). Fredericka declared that she was married and had no children on the 1911 census form, so Gerald had clearly been born out of wedlock!

William and Fredericka Blanche had been married on 30 April 1879 at St Marylebone and lived at 34 Clarendon Gardens Paddington in 1881 and in 1891 when he described himself as 'Assurance Official, Violinist and Journalist'! Blanche was still there in 1901 but living alone with a cook and housekeeper. William had moved to 135 Elgin Crescent, 'living on his own means', with Gerald, then aged three. Esther Lydia Furley (b. 3rd qtr. 1872 in Shoreditch) was a visitor, a somewhat inadequate, but no doubt socially necessary description, in view of the following! William, a prominent musician (wiki) died of a heart attack on 26 April 1914; he had been living at that time at 42 Woodstock Road, Bedford Park and left an estate of £11,633 12s. 7d. Further research (Shiel's wikipedia piece) suggests that Esther and William had been married - although there is no evidence for this - as she was using his name when she married the notorious novelist M.P. Shiel (1st qtr. 1919). In any event, it is clear that Gerald was her son because probate was granted to him when she died at Wisborough Green, Sussex on 16th February 1942.

Blanche remained on the electoral roll at *The Elms* until 1913. Six months after William's death, Blanche herself was remarried in the 3rd qtr. 1914 at Hastings to John Gordon Tanner (b. 1st qtr. 1870), another Professor of Music; she died at Hastings on the 30th June 1926. Probate was granted initially to her widower in the sum of £1333 7s. 4d and then a fresh grant to three individuals in 1927 in the sum of £2600. Later that summer, Tanner himself was married again to Nellie Falcke (nee Roddan) from Ireland, a 52-year-old widow who had been married to Isaac (1856-1937). She was 15 when she was married and had the first of her four children the following year; their home was *The Homestead*, Barnes in 1911. Tanner died in the 3rd qtr. 1935 registered at Kensington.

1914-1947 – The Proctor family

Since 1914, *The Elms* had been occupied by George Proctor b. 7th April 1863 in Elgin, a Director of Public Companies and his wife Mary Williamina (nee Elchies) b.

16 September 1862 in Aberdeen. They had one servant, Jessie MacRae Orton, a widow, b. 1875 in Inverness. They were married on the 25th September 1902 at Llanbryde, Errol, Morayshire.

In 1911, they were living at 46 Strawberry Hill Road where they had been at least since 1905 (Electoral Rolls) and Jessie was there then. Jessie's name was not on the register until 1930 when another Mary Proctor's name (b. 12th June 1907) appears.

The 1946 electoral roll for No. 1 Strawberry Hill Road lists all three Proctors and Jessie, together with Florence Herrmann who had lived next door at No. 3 in 1939. Her husband, a German banker, was exempted from internment on the 1 Jan. 1940 but had died on the 30th September 1944. (She had returned to No 3 in and after 1948). Although Mary is not shown on the 1947 list, the rolls for 1948 and 1949 continue to list Mary W incorrectly (see below) – this may suggest that Mary was still there with Jessie. It is not clear what happened to either of them.

George died on the 26 Nov 1946; his estate was valued at £87,768 7s.11d, £3.6mn today! He had been a Director of the River Trust Company. Mary Williamina died on the 9 February 1947 at *The Elms* leaving an estate of £16,691 19s. 9d.

1947-1962 – The Fielden family

Having been living at 49 Waldegrave Gardens at least since the end of the War, the new occupants of *The Elms* were Norman and Dorothy Fielden. He was born in Belfast on the 8 September 1899 where his father, James, had been working as a foreman printer. By 1901 the family were living at 9 Burnham Road, St Albans. Dorothy was born Dorothy Isobel Bolt on the 23rd May 1907 also in Ireland at Buncrana, Co. Donegal. The 1911 census shows that her father Charles, a Solicitors Managing Clerk, married to Lizzie from Co. Londonderry and Dorothy and her brother lived at 13 Hartington Road, East Twickenham. (The Bolts had a number of addresses in East Twickenham subsequently). At the time of their marriage 2nd qtr. 1937, Norman and Dorothy were living at 10c Upper Teddington Road, Hampton Wick, but by 1939 they had moved to 29 Michelham Gardens. The 1939 Register describes Norman as a 'Retired RAF Officer' and 'Engineers Merchant'; there is evidence that he enlisted in the Royal Flying Corps in St Albans in 1918.

Charles Bolt died in 1951 and Dorothy's mother Lizzie Bolt moved from their home at 30 St Stephens Gardens and joined them at *The Elms*. The Fieldens and Lizzie went to live on the Isle of Wight. Lizzie died on the 19 April 1967 in Newport Hospital having been living at St Catherine's House, Niton. Her estate amounted to £4358 – Norman, company director, was one of the executors. Norman died at 22 Grangeside, Bonchurch, on 7 February 1993 leaving an estate 'not exceeding £125,000'. Dorothy died on the Isle of Wight aged 91 in October 1998.

There were three children: Susan K born 3rd qtr 1939, Stuart born 4th qtr 1941 and Hazel born 1st qtr 1943 for whom *The Elms* was their childhood home. From 2003-10 Susan was still living at the new family home at 22 Grangeside, Bonchurch. Stuart had died in the 2nd qtr 1967, death registered at Gosport. Hazel was married on the Isle of Wight in the 3rd qtr 1963 to Brian C J Dilley. From 1964, they were living with

his family at 202c St Margaret's Road. In 2003-04, their address was 87a Henley Road, Caversham.

The White Cottage (formerly The Stables and – eventually – 27 Tower Road)

1900-1949 – The Champion family

It is not clear from either the census records or the electoral rolls when this building was first occupied. The first recorded inhabitants are the Champion family from 1900 – see above. (Thomas) William is a 'gardener private', a description that continues throughout his life. We can assume that with such a large garden, the householders of *The Elms* needed to employ at least one gardener. He was born on 24th October 1868 at Balls Green, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire, the son of James, also a gardener, and Louisa (nee Caudle), a laundress. In 1881, the family moved to Box, a village nearby.

In 1891, William, aged 22, was working for Sir Samuel Boulton of Copped Hall, Totteridge and living with another young gardener in the Bothy! By 1894, he was living and working in Fulham and he married Ellen Emily Barratt on 24th November at All Saints, Fulham. She was also living in Fulham on Dawes Road but was the daughter of William Barratt (1830-1899), Twickenham's blacksmith in Holly Road. She was then a photographic assistant. A daughter, Gladys Victoria May, was born on the 25th April 1897 at Littleton near Shepperton. Presumably they were living nearby.

However, by 1900 the Champions were resident at *The Stables*, Strawberry Hill Road as the building was known at that time. There was a boarder there too, Ernest Barrick, aged 25 the coachman, who on the 11 August that year was married at St Augustine, Hackney, to Elizabeth Newbury. His address was then 39 Penton Street, Pentonville. In 1905/06, he was in service at 56 Cawley Road, Hackney. There is no sign of them subsequently; perhaps they had emigrated.

The story becomes confused thereafter. The 1910 electoral roll shows that the Champions were at *The Stables* but by the time of the 1911 census they were living at 64 Upper Grotto Road. They were still there in 1912 (Electoral Roll) but in 1913 they were living at 4 Laurel Avenue. Presumably the change of ownership of *The Elms* around that time - when the Proctors took over from Mrs Jewson - provoked some hiccup in their tenancy, if not employment. In any event, by 1914, they had returned to *The Stables* and lived there undisturbed until William died on the 6th June 1949 aged 81! Ellen had died in the 2nd qtr. 1945.

In the 1939 register, Gladys was on 'unpaid domestic duties' alongside her mother. After her father died, she moved to live with her uncle, Edward John Champion, at 17 Glebe Cottages, Twickenham Road, Hanworth. She married Arthur George Haynes, born 9 June 1879, in the 3rd qtr. 1952 registered at Middlesex South – her

maternal aunt's husband! He had been married to Alice Barratt, her aunt, on the 25th November 1906 at St Mary's, Twickenham; her father, William, was one of the witnesses. Arthur was then a Waterman. In 1911, their address was 6 Caroline Cottages, Grosvenor Road and he was by then a turncock for the Metropolitan Water Board (MWB). In 1939, their address was 34a York Street and Alice was an Office Cleaner; Arthur was still with the MWB. By 1948 they had moved to 16 Beards Hill, Hampton and Alice died 4th qtr 1950. Gladys moved in to Beards Hill after her marriage - and they were there at least until 1963. Gladys died 3rd qtr. 1983 registered in Kingston. We can find no record of Arthur's death.

1950 – Hollingshead & Mennem

The new residents (ER) were Annie Hollingshead and Patrick Mennem. Annie Gertrude Hollingshead (nee Cassidy) was born on the 4 Aug 1890 and had been married to Edwin Hollingshead, born 10 Feb 1892 at Battersea, whose family lived in Coleshill Road, Teddington. They were married in the 3rd qtr of 1923 at St George's Hanover Square and he was a journalist. They had been living at 28 Waldegrave Gardens at least since 1931 and had two daughters Edwina and Shelagh. Edwin died on the 19th Feb 1942, leaving an estate worth £1865 2s. 5d.

She was in the house for a very short time because by 1951 (ER) she was living at 3 Thames Eyot, Cross Deep. By 1954, she had moved again to live with her daughter Edwina (now Vardey). She ended her days at St Augustine's Convent, Addlestone, where she died on the 3 July 1979 leaving an estate of £4131.

Patrick Mennem, her lodger, was born on the 12 April 1927 at North Bierley, Yorks. He had come to her as a young journalist from another lodging in Esher and was working for the Surrey Comet. He married Anne M B Ince in the 3rd qtr. 1954 registered at Surrey NW. The web page www.mirrorpensioners.co.uk/obituary/patrick-mennem/ gives a good account of his life as the Daily Mirror's motoring correspondent. Their home was 2 Ivy Cottage, London Road, Little Kingshill, Little Missenden; he died on the 16th July 2005 and is buried at St Peter and St Paul, Great Missenden.

1951-1953 - Gillie

Margaret Grace Gillie was in residence along with her son John Tulloch Gillie. Margaret (nee Wilson) was born on the 24th May 1889 at South Shields and was married in South Shields 1st qtr 1913 to George Tulloch Gillie (b. 29 May 1888 also in South Shields). They separated in the 30s. Margaret and John (born 6 June 1915) had moved from 203a Richmond Road; before the war they were living in Bexley and in 1939 John was described as an Airline Traffic Manager.

George Gillie, Shipowner and Manager, remained in the Newcastle area and after Margaret's death on 27th August 1955 – she had returned to Northumberland by 1953 - he immediately married one Letitia who had already taken his name and was living with him from 1946. He died 3rd qtr 1965 and Letitia died on the 17 Feb 1987 at Fenham, Newcastle.

John returned to Newcastle and 2nd qtr 1961 he married Sheila Bird. From 1969, they lived at 184, Jesmond Dene Road where he died on the 19th November 1990. His estate amounted to £115,326. Sheila died in August 1996.

1955-1960 – The Clark family

Robert F Clark and his wife Phyllis Amy (nee Lay) have moved in to No 27. Robert's name is too common to be able to find out anything about him unfortunately. Phyllis was born in St Albans on the 23rd Sept 1906 and they were married 4th qtr. 1933 in Kensington. He seems to have been away during the War – indeed his name is redacted from the 1939 register and he does not appear again alongside his wife until 1946 at 56 Okehampton Close, Friern Park, Barnet, N12. They had left No.27 by 1961 and moved to *Shelleys*, St Albans Gardens, Teddington. Phyllis died at Eastbourne in the 3rd qtr. 1980.

1961 – 2001 The Miller sisters

Having moved round the corner from 3 Waldegrave Gardens in 1961, two widowed sisters, Mabel Lilian Aldersley and Winifred Alice Gardiner were living at No.27. Their maiden name was Miller and they were born in Chiswick, Mabel on the 3rd November 1897 and Winifred on the 23 February 1899. Mabel married Cyril Aldersley in c.1923 (their marriage was not registered in the UK) and a son, Peter, was born on the 24 May 1924. (They returned from a trip to Canada in August 1924 apparently without their son!) In 1939, Cyril is described as Director-Export Shipping, having started as a mercantile clerk (1911). They lived in various flats in the Barons Court area and then they moved with Peter to 3 Waldegrave Gardens about 1956 (ER) to live with Winifred, her husband Gerrard having died on the 21 Jan 1954; he had owned a motor business in Teddington. The Gardiners had had two children, Matthew and Joan and had lived there since 1930. Gerrard was the son of Matthew, a physician and surgeon whose home was 4 Portland Terrace on Richmond Green. Cyril died in the 1st qtr. 1959 registered at Ealing. Mabel died 2nd qtr. 1982 registered at Westminster. Winifred stayed on in the house supported by carers and holding court on a Thursday (local information); she died in July 2001 aged 102!

29a Tower Road

1955-1979 - Plaskitt

This apartment appears on the electoral roll for the first time in 1955. The occupier was Eric Mirfield Plaskitt born 20 July 1896 in Hampstead. He was sharing No 20 Bonser Road in 1939 and was there until he moved to Tower Road; the 1939 register describes him as a retired Captain in the Indian Army (Supply & Transport) but doesn't indicate what his current business was.

In the First World War, he served with the Honourable Artillery Company and was commissioned on the 24th Sept 1918 in the Middlesex Regiment. There is a further note indicating his record as: Honourable Artillery Company Infantry, Supply and

Transport Corps, Indian Army Reserve of Officers. In 1923, he was back living with his parents and brother William at 189, Walm Lane, Cricklewood.

Eric was still living at 29a, after 24 years, when he died on 2nd April 1979 leaving an estate of £55,999.

1981-2006

In 1980, there is no entry on the electoral roll but from 1981 to 1983, the new occupiers are Mark and Sheilagh K Southwood (nee Little) who had been married the previous year at Camden. In 2003/04, they were living at 74 Upper Grotto Road.

From 1984-85, the occupiers were Thomas and Jacqueline G Meechan (nee Wilkinson) who were married locally in February 1984. In 2004, they were living at 41 High Path Road, Guildford.

Another young couple Michael J and Julie E Nugent (nee Keene) were there from 1986 - 87; they were also married locally in Sept 1985. Their address from 2003-10 was 194 Hampton Road, Twickenham.

From 1988 to 1992 the apartment was occupied by Anita Lamb. She was married locally to Kevin J McMahon in May 1994. In 2003-07, their address was 96 Kingston Road, Teddington.

From 1993 at least to 2006, the occupier was Adrian Malcolm Lecore, chartered librarian and the archivist at St Mary's College.

29 Tower Road

1955-1958 - Cozens

As with 29a, this apartment also first appears on the roll in 1955 when the occupiers were Alec Bertie and Mabel Ella Cozens (nee Holman).

Alec was born in Twickenham 12th Jan 1884 and he was baptised later that year at Cold Aston, Glos where his mother had been born. The family lived 1 Denmark Cottage, First Cross Road. In January 1901, he joined the Post Office as a Telegraph Learner and was appointed to Sorting, Counting, Telegraphs & Telephones (SCT) in September that year; the family had moved next door to 7, First Cross Road. From 1909 to 1910, Alec rented a first-floor bedroom at 12 Heath Road for 5s a week. By 1911, the family had moved to 4 Florence Villas, First Cross Road and Alec was a Bank Clerk. On the 1st May that year he married Mabel at St Mary's and after the War they were living at 30 Copthall Gardens. By 1939, they had retired to Paignton and Alec was recorded as a Bank Accountant (retired) and an Air Raid Warden. They returned to Twickenham and moved in to No 29 in 1955 where Mabel died 4th qtr 1957. Alec left after 1958 and in 1961 was staying at the Hotel Norman on Carlton Drive, Putney. After a short period in Barnes he moved to Oxford where he died on 12 Jan 1971 leaving an estate of £1839.

1959-1966

There were then a number of short term residents at No 29. In 1959, Joyce and Raymond Ward who managed also to be on that year's electoral roll at 59 Hillfield Road, Hampstead, in 1960 Christopher and Sylvia Savage who moved on to 162 Buckingham Road, Hampton and from 1961 Alan and Margaret Moad. He was born on the 12th May 1931 in Newcastle and married Margaret Jordan 4th qtr 1957 at Wood Green. In Jan 1958, he was on a ship to Karachi from their home 1, The Towers, Braemar Avenue, Wood Green. They lived at No 29 until 1962. By 1972, when a daughter Elizabeth was born, they were living in Bury St Edmunds. Their address in 2003-06 was Pipers Piece, School Lane, Great Barton, Bury St Edmunds.

In 1963, the new resident was Penelope G Tarrant. She came from 175 Uxbridge Road, Hanworth where she had been boarding with the Evans family. She stayed until 1964. In 2nd qtr 1977, she married Brian A. Maxwell from Feltham registered at Hounslow. Their address in 2003-09 was 1 Govers Meadow, Colyton, Devon.

In 1965, the apartment was vacant. In 1966, the occupier was Kenneth Simpson about whom nothing has been identified.

1969-1986 - Fell

It was not occupied again until 1969 when Robert H and Hilda J Fell (nee Silver) were there until 1986. They were married at Marylebone 3rd qtr 1950 and in 1965 had been living at 1, Sandways, Sandycombe Road, Kew.

1987-2004

During 1987 – 88 the new occupiers were David S and Alison J D Winch (nee Taylor) who were married locally in August 1985. In July 1999, Alison was married again to Nigel D Moy. In 2006, David Winch was living at 35 Mereway Road and the Moys at 73 Fifth Cross Road.

1989- 98 Karen Hesmondhalgh and Philip R Carter about whom nothing is known.

2000-04 Alexander Borg and Eugenia A. Borg-Longhurst were the occupiers. In 2010, their address was 20 Old Palace Lane, Richmond.

25 Tower Road

1957-1964

This house appears in the electoral roll for the first time in 1957 when the occupier was Joseph William de Fraine, his wife Lena Georgina Charlotte (nee O'Farrall) and their son John. They had been living immediately before at 56 Wellington Road, Hampton Hill and by 1958 they were back there – in 1959 at No 56a! Presumably they needed somewhere to go while that house was altered. He was a Provisions

merchant whose business in 1949 had been in Clerkenwell. He died in Jun 2000 aged 92 at Romsey, Hants; Lena died in 1991 at Southampton.

From 1958 – 1963 No 25 was the home of Howard and Lilliane Rochelle Lara Surtees. They had been living at 46 Cambridge Road, East Twickenham for some years beforehand. He was born in Sunderland on the 13th Sept 1920 and was a student there in 1939. There is no record of their marriage but in any event there was a divorce and Howard remarried 1st qtr 1980 registered at Surrey NW to Shizuko Ayao. Howard died aged 81 in April 2002; in 2003-04, his widow was living at 9 Oriel Hill, Camberley. Lilliane who ran a dress shop at 74 Tower Road had died on the 29th July 1987, aged 60, at Wimborne, Dorset.

Howard received the OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours of 1969 when he was Managing Director of Elliott-Automation Space and Advanced Military Systems Ltd.

In 1964, Victor Alfred Dobell Penfold (b 1897) and his wife Doris Louisa (nee Porter) (b 1900) had taken up residence - for a year. They were married in Richmond 4th qtr 1921 and in 1939 were living in Bristol; he was an Engineer (general). In 1965, they had taken up residence at 2 Parkfield Avenue, East Sheen. He died there on the 11 Feb 1973 – estate worth £138,540. She died in Esher on the 19 Dec 1989.

1965-2000

In 1965, Leslie Cecil and Phyllis Elizabeth Hill Lavers (nee Lavers) were the new occupiers. He was born in West Ham on the 3rd April 1912, she, presumably a cousin, in Willesden on the 3rd June 1913. They were married 1st qtr 1938 in Barnet and in 1939 were living at 68 Stanley Road, Northwood. He was a Chartered Accountant and Senior Clerk, she a professional musician. They came to No 25 from 26 Moor Park Road, Northwood where they had been for a number of years. No. 25 remained their home until Leslie died (at Bury St Edmunds) in July 1992 leaving an estate worth £138,540. Phyllis was still there at least until 2000. She died at Northampton aged 95 on the 30th July 2008.

25a Tower Road

1959-1988

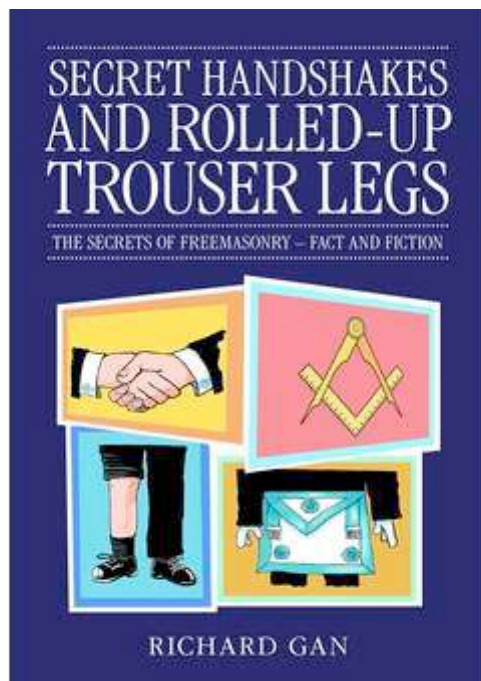
The land on which 25a was built was transferred by Norman Fielden, the owner of The Elms, to Eric Ernest Burford on the 29th June 1959. The first entry on the electoral roll was not until 1962 when Eric and his wife Norah Florence (nee Holt) duly appear; they were there until at least 1987. He was born in Wandsworth on the 20 July 1905, she on the 21st August 1906 in Chesham. They were married 2nd qtr 1930 registered at Amersham; they were living at 34 Marnell Waye, Hounslow Heath. From 1939 until 1961, they had owned and run the grocery and provisions shop at 5 Wellesley Parade. They seem to have moved to 25a on retirement from business. He died on the 1st June 1988 at Dudley House Nursing Home in Isleworth leaving an estate of £38,120. Norah died on the 5th March 1991 at the same nursing home; her estate was valued at £215,470.

1989-1997 - Gan

The new residents from 1989 were Richard Ludwik and Elizabeth Dorothy L Gan (nee Winter). Richard (originally Ryszard) was born 1st qtr 1950 – his mother was Czeslawa Gorzelnik, a Pole, who married Ludwik Gan in 1949. Elizabeth was born 4th qtr 1950 in Nottingham and they were married there 1st qtr 1971. They divorced around 1994/5 because Richard was married again in August 1995 to Nicola J Collins.

From 2003-07 they were living at The Old Post Office, Albury, Surrey. From 2008-10, at least, their address was 9 Hobbs End, Henley-on-Thames.

Richard is a Justice of the Peace, a senior Freemason and a Grand Officer in all the major Orders of Freemasonry. He retired in 2014 as the editor of *The Square*, an independent magazine for Freemasons and is the author of *Secret Handshakes and Rolled Up Trousers: The Secrets of Freemasonry – Fact and Fiction*.



1997-2012

In June 1997, ownership of the house was transferred to Robert Alan Sperl.

Photo-gallery



Roofs and veranda of The Elms and The Stables can be seen in the foreground of this 1928 aerial view of the Tower Road/railway intersection (photograph provided by Alan Winter)



The Elms garden in the snow – photograph provided by the Fielden family



No.27 Tower Road – *The Stables, The White Lodge now, The White Cottage*



Part of The Elms which is now 29a Tower Road



The Downside cul-de-sac showing the 1960s houses that were built on the site of *The Elms*



Rear view of No29 Tower Road aka what remains of *The Elms* from Downside