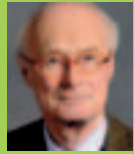


Newport neighbours

FRAMBURY LANE CONTINUED



JOHN GORDON

I began my "Newport Neighbours" series in 1989, journeying around Newport with the aim of eventually visiting each house in the village. For this issue I continued with the west side of Frambury Lane, starting with the houses opposite the entrance to Cherry Garden Lane.

85 Frambury Lane

Robert and Sharon Davey
After an initial setback when I couldn't make contact at numbers 89 and 87 I struck lucky at number 85. There I found Robert and Sharon Davey with their three children James, Hannah and Emily. I was invited in, given a mug of restorative coffee, and off we went.

Sharon told me that she was born in 1971 at Bishop's Stortford but brought up in Little Walden. She went to St. Mary's Primary School and then to the County High in Saffron Walden, leaving in 1988 aged 17. She then did secretarial work locally and in 1992 married Robert Davey and in 1995 bought a house in Cherry Garden Lane, moving to their present home in 2005 in order to get a larger property. In 2001 she bought an ironing business, The Ironing Bored, where she had already been working. She expanded this to ten employees but increasingly found herself running to stand still, so put in hand a radical scaling down and now works on her own with a limited number of customers and is much happier as a result.

Robert told me that he was born in 1970 at Hadstock, where his family had lived for at least two generations before him. He went to Ashdon Primary School followed by the County High. Leaving school at 16 he went to work in Little Walden for Michael Williams Agricultural Equipment as a project manager.



ROBERT AND SHARON DAVEY WITH THEIR DAUGHTERS, EMILY AND HANNAH

Then he moved to a firm involved in pumping equipment at Elsenham, and has been there for 20 years.

Turning to the three children, I learnt that James, born in 1997, went on from Newport Primary School to the Grammar School, whilst Hannah, born in 2001 and Emily, born in 2004 are both at the Primary School.

I had heard that Sharon was a leader at the Youth Club, and she explained that she goes there every Thursday evening, 6.30 to 8.30pm, for the 9 to 12 age group session. She is also the booking agent for Jikes Hall and the whole family belongs to NATS. All in all they are locked into Newport which they all said was 'A brilliant place to live'.

83 Frambury Lane

Ron and Beryl Woodthorpe
Here I was welcomed in by Ron Woodthorpe, who led me through to the sitting room where I was introduced to his invalid wife Beryl. I learnt that they had arrived in Newport in 1988 from Harlow, where they had previously lived from 1970, the year they had married.



BERYL AND RON WOODTHORPE

Ron told me that he was born in Rainham in 1928, one of four children, but upon his mother's death aged 36 and his father's remarriage the family moved to East Ham. His father was a docker and life was hard. Ron left school at 14 in 1942 and went into the building trade before being called up in 1946 for two years' service in the Royal Artillery as a Gunner Signalman, serving mainly in Palestine. After demob Ron went to work at Fords at Dagenham, where he started at the equivalent of 11p an hour. He stayed there for five years, after which he had 17 different jobs in the engineering industry before his retirement in 1992.

He and his first wife, June Ramsden, had three children, Jane, born in 1955, Clifford in 1957 and John in 1959, all of whom live with their respective families in the South East and visit regularly. In 1970 the marriage unfortunately broke up and Ron married Beryl Heed, born in 1930, who had two daughters by a previous marriage. She was born in East Acton but in 1940 the family moved to Blackpool when her father got a job making Spitfires. She too left school at 14 in 1944 and became a dress machinist. In 1950 she married Ted Francis and they had two daughters, Linda and Karen, both now living with their families in East Anglia.

Beryl has sadly been a martyr to ill-health, having had cancer, pneumonia, salt deprivation and diabetes. Ron lovingly cares for her, doing her injections and generally ministering to her. They both spoke very highly of the local doctors and nurses who were brilliant in an emergency. They also praised the Papworth Trust Home Solutions, who had recently carried out some improvements to the house and garden which have made things much easier. They wouldn't ask for help but it is extraordinary how help comes just when you need it. They both enjoy life in a quiet way. They added that their neighbours were wonderful and that they loved Newport. I took my leave filled with admiration for Ron for his patient and hands-on care and for Beryl's stoical acceptance of her disabilities.

SHEILA WHYMAN (1929-1997) MARRIED GORDON HARVEY (1925-2006) IN 1948



81 Frambury Lane

Nigel Harvey

When I rang the bell at number 81 a familiar face came to the door - it was Nigel Harvey, the middle of the three sons of Gordon and Sheila Harvey, both now sadly deceased but whom I



NIGEL HARVEY AND MEYER

remember interviewing for the Winter edition of 1989. Nigel showed me into the house and I met his tame parrot, Meyer, one of the Senegal variety who keeps him company.

Nigel reminded me that he was born in 1957. He went to the village Primary School before going on to the County High, leaving in 1971 aged 15. After working in various local garages to qualify as a mechanic he started at the airport as an aircraft engineer, rising to leading mechanic. In 2004, after 27 years in the job he retrained as a plumber and operates locally, together



TOP: ROBERT JAMES HARVEY 1880-1952. (NIGEL'S GRANDFATHER)
ABOVE: DAVID HARVEY, BORN 1950. BARRY HARVEY, BORN 1963 AND NIGEL HARVEY, BORN 1957

We have buyers waiting for a property like yours



Kevin Henry Estate Agents

sell more houses – year-on-year – than any other agent in the Saffron Walden area since we opened for business over fifteen years ago.

So, whatever the age, style, size or value – £75k to £750k – of the property, contact us to discuss your sale or purchase, or visit our website to find out why.

KevinHenry

www.kevinhenry.co.uk

Kevin Henry Estate Agents

1 Market Street – right on the Market Square
Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 1JB
Tel: 01799 513632 Fax: 01799 513318
E-mail: sales@kevinhenry.co.uk

with his son Matthew. He much enjoys being a local business without the pressures of working for a large company.

Nigel married Linda Barnwell from Clavering in 1977 and they had two sons, Thomas, born in 1981 and Matthew, born in 1984. Sadly Nigel and Linda divorced in 2005 but Linda still lives in Gaces Acre with the boys, and the family see each other regularly. Nigel's hobby is collecting old motorcycles and he is very interested in Jeeps.

Nigel's elder brother is David, born in 1950. He lives up the road in Wendens Ambo with his wife and runs the Wenden Garage, whilst the youngest brother is Barry, born in 1963 who is married and lives in Australia, having roved the world.

Nigel's father was Gordon, who died in 2006 aged 81, and his mother was Sheila Whyman from Clavering, who passed away in 1997 aged 68. Gordon was a gardener at Shortgrove before the war and after serving in the army worked as a nurse at the Radwinter Road hospital. Gordon was descended from a long line of Harveys in Newport so Nigel represents one of the oldest families in the village, with two sons to carry on the line.

79 Frambury Lane

Denise (Jummie) Morris

On then to Number 79 where I was welcomed with a brilliant smile by Denise (Jummie) Morris. Here I struck a rich vein of gold in that Jummie is part of Newport's heritage with three generations of the family living in the village. Indeed, until six years ago it was four generations until Jummie's grandmother, Margaret Stone, died in 2006.

Jummie told me that her mother, Linda, was one of the seven children of Benjamin Stone (1916-2005) and his wife, Margaret (1923-2006). Benjamin was a gardener at Shortgrove and the family lived in a cottage near the cricket pavilion behind the hall. Linda's sister Margaret lives with her husband, Ron Haddock, in Wicken Road, whilst Linda lives in Gaces Acre.

Jummie herself was born in 1966, and when Linda and her three daughters moved back to Newport from Catmere End in 1975 Jummie went to the Primary School, followed by the

JUMMIE, DAISY AND PHOEBE MORRIS



County High, leaving at 16 in 1982. She then got a job at Millers, now Dorringtons in Saffron Walden for two years followed by a further two years in an electronics company. In 1986 Jummie married and had two daughters, Lucy in 1986 and Natalie in 1989, both of whom were tragically killed in a fire in 1992. That same year Jummie returned to Newport to live at 79 Frambury Lane and had twin sons, James and Benjamin, both of whom went to the Primary School followed by the Grammar School. Both have also just gone off to university, James to Anglia Ruskin to read music technology and Benjamin to Leeds Metropolitan to read music production.

Four years later in 1996 Jummie had a second pair of twins, this time two girls, Daisy and Lily. Again they went to the Primary School and the Grammar School, where they are still. Daisy is a keen sportswoman playing hockey, rounders and netball, whilst Lily lives for her music.

For most of her adult life Jummie has been a full time mother, a role which she loves. However four years ago she did a year at the Primary School as a learning support assistant before moving to the Grammar School for a similar role, but mainly with children with complex needs. I remarked that this must require great patience, with which she agreed but said that she absolutely loved the job.

Her other roles in village life include being vice chairman of the Youth Club, which she told me is proving a great success due to the hard work by the leaders and helpers. She has also just finished a two year stint as a member of the Parish Council, and this year gained a GCSE in Maths. She would

now like to move on to do a language or two.

At this point we were joined by Phoebe, born in 1996, the daughter of Jummie's sister Julie who was born in 1971. There is a third sister Jayne, born in 1983. Phoebe is in the sixth form at the County High, having previously been at the Grammar School.

Jummie makes an enormous contribution to village life at many levels and I was very pleased to have met her. As I left she reminded me that she had been at the Primary School with my second daughter, Arabella. I also winkled out of her that she had been the Carnival Queen in 1984, something which she had thoroughly enjoyed.

77 Frambury Lane

Trudy Corless

Jummie then kindly took me next door and introduced me to her neighbour, Trudy Corless, who lives there with her daughter, Jasmine and their Boxer dog, Cassie.

Trudy invited me in, and told me that she was born in Billericay in 1963 and went to school locally, leaving at 16 to work in the GPO in Customer Service for three years. In 1983 Trudy married Andy Corless and they set up home in Basildon and had two children, Scott, born in 1984 and Jasmine ten years later in 1994. In 2000 Trudy and Andy separated and they divorced two years later. In 2007 Trudy and her children moved to Newport, which they love. Trudy now works as deputy manager of the Coach and Horses at Thorley, where she does up to 50 hours a week. It is very hard work but she thoroughly enjoys it. Her daughter Jasmine works at the Premier Inn at the Airport, so they are both in the hospitality sector serving the public.



TRUDY CORLESS

SCHARROWNE AND CHARLOTTE FARMER



75 Frambury Lane

Scharrowne Farmer

Scharrowne was a great surprise. She is a keen animal lover and lives with her many chickens, ducks, dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, fish and other pets at number 75, besides keeping a horse and a pony in Littlebury. She kindly asked me in and told me that she was born in East London in 1968 to rather dysfunctional parents. At 14 she was put into care for a year in Norfolk but then returned to her mother briefly before leaving home and school. She then did a number of jobs and basically 'raised herself' as she said. For ten years from 1994 she worked in livery stables in Waltham Abbey and it was then that she went back to college and as the result of hard work gained seven good GCSEs, nearly all in the sciences. She just loves learning!

Scharrowne later met Gary Stark, and in 2007 they had a daughter, Charlotte, a pivotal event in her life. The following year Scharrowne and her daughter moved out to Thaxted before coming here last November, taking over the house from Julie Morris. She greatly enjoys living in Newport and Charlotte has settled in well at the Primary School. Scharrowne loves her animals and particularly enjoys being a member of Facebook, where she has up to 300 friends who provide her with a social life.

Scharrowne is a woman with a mission - to try and clear up all the poo messes in Newport, especially at the recreation ground. She says that most dog owners are very good about picking them up and depositing them in the red bins provided but that there is a significant minority who are not so conscientious. Apart from that she says Newport is super and she is very glad to be living here.

73 Frambury Lane

Ken Henderson

Here I was met by Ken Henderson. Detecting in his voice a northern accent I asked him where he hailed from - 'Sunderland' he replied. He was born in that town in 1928. His father was a miner, as indeed were the whole family, centred on the famous Wearmouth Colliery, mining coal up to three miles out under the sea. Tragically Ken's father had a very severe accident at work and as a result made Ken promise not to follow in the family tradition. Soon after he died, aged only 47. His ill health had been exacerbated by Ken's sister dying from pneumonia at the tender age of six.

Ken left school at 14 and joined the local lime quarry, one of the largest in Europe, in order to train as an engineer. In 1945 he was called up into the RAF where he worked at an enormous camp of some 34 square miles near Salisbury, where most of the explosives left over from the war were stored. It was Ken's job to help take the surplus explosives to Stranraer, from where they were shipped out to the



KEN HENDERSON

deep water at the Continental shelf and tipped into the sea.

Having served his two years Ken went back to the lime company but in 1970 came south to work in the United Match company in Bishop's Stortford, and it was about that time that his health began to deteriorate, due, he thinks, to his spine having been affected by an explosion in his RAF days.

In 1951 Ken had married Elizabeth Lumsden and they had four daughters. The family initially lived in Stortford but once their daughters had left home

R & R Saggers

High Street
Newport

FOR
CHRISTMAS TREES
TRADITIONAL AND
NEEDLE RETAINING VARIETIES

... PLUS ...
MANY GIFT IDEAS
01799 - 540858

Open Christmas Eve

PEOPLE

Elizabeth and Ken moved to Newport around 1985. Sadly Elizabeth died in 1990 aged only 62, and is buried in the churchyard.

As mentioned above, Ken has suffered from ill health but recently, following some pioneering treatment at Papworth, he is able to lead a largely normal life, driving his car to Saffron Walden and doing his own shopping. His daughters are very supportive and keep an eye on him. He loves Newport and particularly praises the doctors and staff at the Surgery, besides being extremely grateful to Papworth for all the life-enhancing help which they have given him.

71 Frambury Lane

Irene, Mary and Jenny Warby
Walking through the immaculate garden of number 71 Frambury Lane I was met by Mary Warby, who welcomed me in to their very tidy home where I was introduced to Mary's mother, Irene Warby, and younger sister, Jenny. Irene told me that she was born in Lowestoft in 1928, one of the four children of a corn carter and his wife. Sadly Irene's father died aged 42 when she was only ten years old, leaving his widow with three children to support, one having died at two years old. Irene reminded me how hard life was in the prewar days when you hesitated to call out the doctor due to the expense, and life was a perpetual struggle. Assistance came in the form of a means tested token which you took down to the market and exchanged for food.

When the war broke out the family moved to Bury St. Edmunds, as Lowestoft with its docks was a target for German bombers. There Irene met her future husband, Cyril Warby, who had been posted to Bury during the war; originally from Bishop's Stortford, he had worked in the Co-op in Saffron Walden before serving in the forces for the duration of the war.

Irene and Cyril married in 1946 and that same year set up home on Elephant Green, Newport, renting Elephant Cottage with one room down and two up. In 1956 they moved to number 71 Frambury Lane, a new house in which the Warbys were the first residents. They really appreciated the three bedrooms and bathroom.

In 1947 Mary was born and went first of all to the old Primary School and then

MARY, JENNY AND IRENE



to the County High, leaving at 14 in 1963 when she went to work at Tube Investments at Great Chesterford, where she spent 16 happy years before moving to WPA in Walden as secretary to the directors, staying till she retired in 2002.

In 1961 Jenny was born. She also went to the Primary before moving to Tye Green, Harlow and later to adult training in Saffron Walden, sandwiched with two days a week at the Sir Peter Kirk college doing music and drama.

It was an enormous shock to the close knit family when Cyril died in 1972 aged only 57 - he had a sudden heart attack in the garden. He was still working at the Co-op, grew all his own vegetables and was extremely active.

Mary keeps very busy in her retirement, looking after her mother and sister. She is a great believer in internet shopping and their weekly order is delivered by Sainsbury's. Mary has played a full part in village life in the past, most particularly running a carers' group, helping in the old library at the Primary School and doing keep fit. All three of the family likes living in Newport though they said that they missed some of the old characters in the village. They also greatly appreciate the support and help at the Surgery. One downside of the growth of the village is that one knows fewer people. They said that in the old days you could walk down the High Street and know nearly everyone.

I left wondering at the enormous changes for the better in peoples' lives over the past years as exemplified by Irene's life and what difficulties she and her mother had coped with successfully. We have a lot to be grateful for.

69 Frambury Lane

Wardale and Mary Millward
Next I went to number 69 where I was welcomed by Mary and Wardale Millward and taken into their comfortable sitting room. They had kindly laid out a mass of old photographs which were fascinating, especially as they included dates, places

and above all, identifications. I took out my notebook and set to work.

I learnt that Mary was born in 1924 in Bradford, where her father was a motor engineer. Mary went to primary school followed by secondary school, leaving at 15. At this point her father sadly died from a burst appendix in 1939 and her widowed mother had to go out and get a job. As she was a trained caretaker telephone operator, she took a position as a caretaker operator in Newport which became available.

The exchange was then at the White House, opposite the Old Vicarage in the High Street. Mary's mother, Lillian Rushforth, arrived in 1941 with her two daughters, Mary who was 17 and Thelma, a year younger. The caretaker operator was on duty each day from 5.30pm till 9am the next morning. In those days people would often just pick up the phone and ask the operator for the person they wanted to contact by name, so the operators had to have excellent memories to memorise some 200 residents' numbers!

On 28th October 1944 Mary married Wardale Millward, a night telephonist at Bishop's Stortford, in a double wedding with her sister who was marrying a US serviceman, Gladstone Booher. It was said that it was the first double wedding ever to take place at Newport church.

After a brief intermission when they returned north, the young couple came to Newport and moved into their present home in 1957, the first people in to their recently built council house, and they have lived here ever since. They had three children, Sandra born in 1946, Janet in 1957 and Adrian in 1962. In due course Mary went back to work, firstly at the Primary School, then five years as a dental nurse, and later 14 years in charge of a Sheltered Housing Home in Dunmow, after which she happily retired.

I turned to Wardale, who told me that he was born in 1922 in Staffordsire, an only child. His father



PEOPLE

was a plate layer on the Earl of Dudley's private steam railway. He left school at 14 in 1936 and did a variety of jobs until he was called up into the Pioneer Corps and was demobbed in 1947. He then joined the GPO as a night operator at Bishop's Stortford, retiring in 1989.

He and Mary very much enjoy living in Newport. They are well looked after by their children and with them and their local friends they find that life passes very pleasantly. Rather to his surprise, Wardale will be 90 in December. They keep a car in which they go shopping and on little trips. I said that I would return one day to have a closer look at the photograph albums which look so intriguing.

Two other interesting facts emerged in our discussion. After Wardale's father became a widower he married Mary's widowed mother, though sadly she died soon afterwards. Secondly, Mary is descended from John Rushworth (1612-90), an English lawyer, historian and politician who compiled a series of works covering the history of the English Civil Wars and a well-known figure of the time.

MARY AND WARDALE MILLWARD



As I walked home I thought about the nine homes I had entered momentarily and was amazed as always at the sheer

variety of residents of Newport, their resilience in the face of many difficulties and above all how much better off in every material sense we are than those who lived before the war. Let us enjoy and appreciate it. **NN**



Friendly local printers
who offer fast delivery at
competitive prices to your door.

For all your
Litho *and* Digital printing
requirements look no further,
call today or visit our website.

Tel:
01223 891286

E-mail: info@sbprinting.co.uk

www.sbprinting.co.uk

Elder Street
Farm Shop & Deli Cafe

Purveyors of homemade and
locally sourced speciality foods

Free Range Turkeys

Fully Licensed

Luxury Christmas Hampers

Homemade Christmas Puddings

Festive Lunch Menu

Available everyday in December

- Free Range Turkey with all the trimmings
- Traditional Christmas Pudding & Brandy Sauce
- Freshly Ground Coffee & Homemade Mince Pies

All for £10 per person

Opening times for December

Monday-Wednesday 9am-5pm
Thursday & Friday 9am-8pm
Saturday 9am-5pm
Sunday 10am-4pm

Elder Street, Howlett End, Wimbish, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 2XA
telephone: 01799 529 420 email: info@elderstreetfarmshop.co.uk