

LIFE AT 'BEEZARS' IN RUINS LANE, CHIDEOCK

DURING WORLD WAR TWO



*from left to right: Jennifer Emrys-Roberts, Edward de Broë-Ferguson,
Alison Brooke and, Pauline de Broë Ferguson.
(photograph taken in the gardens of 'Beezars' August 2013)*

Jennifer, Alison and Pauline are all descended from the 'Allanson' and 'Elswood' families. Dora Maude Prior (1875-1952) married Edward Allanson(1871 -1937) in Lambeth in 1902. They had five children – James, Marjorie, Harold, Elizabeth and Kenneth and Jennifer and Alison are the grand daughters of Edward and Dora Allanson. Pauline is a direct descendant of Edward's elder brother George who married Lucy Mary Elswood in 1893. The Elswood family have long associations with Down House at Eype in Dorset.

'Beezars' in Ruins Lane is now the home of Alison Brooke but was originally commissioned to be built in 1936 by Edward Allanson. Jennifer spent much of World War Two living in 'Beezars' and has wonderful stories of what life was like living in Chideock during WWII. She remembers Hornpipe Dances being held in the Village Hall with Diana Payne and Song and Dance evenings. She would run up into 'Ruins Field' clutching her gas mask to where Anti Aircraft Guns were positioned and help in the Baptist Chapel opposite where food would be provided for the soldiers passing through. There were 'no sweets' and food was somewhat in short supply. She remembers with horror eating a pie baked by her mother filled with just carrots and onions in a white sauce and her family spending hours laying runner beans in a salt block and 'water glassing' fresh eggs. There was, of course, 'the blackout' with the local warden shouting 'Beacon for Hitler' at anyone showing a chink of light. A highly amusing memory of Jennifer's was remembering how one day the church bells began ringing out over the village – a sign that 'invasion' was imminent. Everyone was in a panic and ran about trying to find out what was happening when the Bell Ringer announced 'It is Solomon & Sarah's 50th Wedding Anniversary today. I always ring the bells on Golden Wedding Anniversaries and Hitler is not going to stop me!



BEEZARS in Ruins Lane

Jennifer also remembers many Home Guard incidents that did not end well and the comedy ‘Dad’s Army’ comes to mind. Meanwhile in Chideock families were worrying about their husbands and sons who had gone off to War and those that were left behind did their best to keep up their spirits and live with all the shortages of war.

Pauline’s mother Candida Parmiter (née Allanson (born in London in 1902) was the daughter of George Allanson and of Lucy Allanson (née Elswood) who was born in Symondsbury in 1863. Candida who was living at the time at The Shack, Seahill Lane in Chidecock, married Réne Parmiter in 1934 at the Catholic Chapel of our Lady, Queen of Martyrs and St.Ignatious in North Road. Candida was the proud owner of a pony called ‘Carrots’ and she was a regular at Chideock Fêtes and to be seen trotting around the lanes in her pony and cart. Her Grandfather William Elswood was a Grain Merchant who farmed land at Doghouse Farm and Frogmore Farm.



‘Carrots’ at the rear of The Shack on Seahill Lane.



Candida with ‘Carrots’ and her younger sister in the dog cart
in Mill Lane at the gates of The White House

I enjoyed a lovely afternoon with Alison, Jennifer, Pauline and Edward at ‘Beezars’ who were happy to share with me their memories of Chideock, their family tree and the War years. I thank them very much.

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