

MEMORY LANE

The above panel will appear each month as a tribute to Sheila Corbett who produced this magazine for over 30 years. It is intended to publish interesting snippets taken from old magazines going back as far as 1912

July 86 SHRAWLEY PUMKIN COMPETITION a list of comments and excuses by Mike Townsend

Ben Colley : "I had three smashers but the sun scorched them" (the temperature was just above freezing).

Dan Pritchard : The snails had my first one. A good neighbour: when he transplanted his he promptly covered it up (thoughtful!) A cat "performed" by my second.

John Cooper : None of mine germinated, when asked later, he mumbled and pointed to the top of his holly tree. If he can get "old ale" up there he's got hidden talent indeed! !

If Howard Freeman: flies over my place he will be shot down by hose pipe as aerial snooping is banned.

Bill Austin : What a nice plodder but no patience.

Wallace : No problem. He gets up too early and his plants are the same.

I lost my third one when a tractor went up the lane, knocked the blossom off a damson tree which suffocated my last plant.

Helen Mills : when asked how her's was, in true magisterial style said "I'm not telling you"

Ted Davies : Showed two rather poor efforts and when asked about the third said "When 'I was looking after Dr. Walker's tomatoes, a mouse got into the greenhouse and ate all the toms and the third pumpkin". (ONE MOUSE FEAT THAT).

Sharon's Mom : Says I have a big one - would not disagree (how the hell does she know).

July 1986 Given below are extracts of a letter received from a Mrs. Pat Brockway of 21 Springvale Road, Kingsworthy, Winchester. Hants. S023 1LT

I feel sure that you would like to know that this year marks the 40th anniversary of the publication of "The Eloquent Silence" the first of two delightful books about the Shrawley area. The writer, Wilfred Hodgkinson, lived at Penrose in Shrawley, and now lives, in his retirement, in Winchester.

Those who love the natural world and the deeper thoughts and feelings it may invoke would derive immense pleasure from reading both this book and "The Kingdom is a Garden" (published two years later in 1948) which may still be found in second-hand bookshops and have lost nothing of their original charm.

Mr Hodgkinson loved Worcestershire "the land of cherry blossom and water meadows, the home of redstarts and goldcrests" and especially the village he calls "Ridding" "there you will find that the trees and flowers will grow into your heart and the meadows will become part of your mind. The ebb and flow of the seasons will pass over you, and into you, so that you become one with the tree and part of the heaven that is this earth"

I could go on indefinitely but I would fill your magazine. This is suffice to remind you of this very special person who spent a large part of his life in Shrawley and wrote. those moving and inspiring books and, being an artist, he also illustrated them.

In connection with the appeals being made at the moment for St. Mary's Church, Shrawley, letters have been received with donations from many people with old connections with the parish.

Of interest to older residents may be the names of:

H. Hugh Piercy who wrote stating that his great-great-great-grandfather, one Daniel Piercy, was Rector of Shrawley from, he believes, 1764 to 1782.

Tom Grosvenor who wrote to say that he was born in Shrawley in 1901 and christened in the Church. His two brothers Harold and Alfred Grosvenor died in the 1914-1918 War and their names are on the memorial tablet.

Also a very touching letter was received from an old age pensioner saying that she could not afford a donation but sent 8 - 12p stamps to help with the appeal.

September 1986, LETTER FROM JANET FARMER.

To Past and present pupils, parents, Colleagues and friends of Great, Witley School.

Dear Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the people who helped in so many ways to make my retirement party such a happy one. The party fare, gifts, flowers, letters, the company and organisation were all very much appreciated. I shall always treasure the memory of it all. Thank you too for the concern shown over my recent indisposition. I am now receiving speech therapy and my voice is gradually getting back to normal.

When eighteen years ago I started at Great Witley school I immediately made many friends amongst the pupils, parents, staff and other members of the community. Many of them are still part of the school extended family a few, sadly, have passed on.

My thanks go to all of the people who welcomed me into their midst and gave me their support over the years with the various sports days, fetes, jumble sales, outings, swimming sessions, craft and puzzle clubs and other ventures. Without this help I could not have had such rewarding years.

Thank you all very much. Sincerely, Janet Farmer.