

Wiltshire Family History Society, Swindon Branch, November 2021

(Sorry – bit long again. Perhaps best read in instalments!)



*Come said the leaves to the wind one day,
Come o'er the meadows and we will play.
Put on your dresses, scarlet and gold,
For summer is gone and the days grow cold.*

*Soon as the leaves heard the wind's loud call,
Down they came fluttering one and all.
Over the meadow they danced and flew,
All singing the soft little songs they knew.*

George Cooper

JOHN'S MESSAGE

Were you, like me, excited at the news that the 1921 census will be available online from early January only to be disappointed that the cost would be £2.50 to view the transcript, £3.50 the original. (Don't forget the mantra "always check the original"). At this price (less 10% if you have Findmypast pro subscription) my research will have to be somewhat "selective".

So, what about my project on the founding members of Swindon (GWR) Male Voice Choir? To date, I have researched a quarter of the choir, but the 21 census would have been ideal to research the other fifty plus members, as the choir was founded in 1919. Fifty x £6, providing I get the correct person on my first attempt, means this little project will be on hold for a while. Oh well!

Other research opportunities are out there though. Talking of which Lis and I, along with Bev and John Williamson recently visited the Resource Centre in Devizes, our first visit there despite years of research and membership of WFHS. What a little gem for researching Wiltshire ancestors. If you haven't been you ought to go to see the vast amount of data they have. Maybe an outing from Swindon?

Anyway, they are always keen for more volunteers to help with research, correspondence and indexing so if you fancy a new challenge and you have some spare time they would welcome you.

Someone who probably will not have time to help our colleagues in Devizes is Yvonne because of the amount of work she puts into this (not so) little newsletter. Thanks again Yvonne.

JOHN MILLS

WHAT'S COMING NEXT?

11th November 2021 – Zoom meeting

Black teeth and dirty finger nails – David Allen

While the wealthy privileged few were contemplating which bonnet to wear that day, thousands of ordinary people were living in cramped, vermin-ridden slums and workhouses. Including eye witness accounts, wonderful photographs and reports from the 1800s, discover how the Victorian poor survived without running water, flushing toilets or Waitrose!

25th November 2021

Roman Trade and Industry in the Borough of Swindon – Mike Stone

We welcome the previous President of Wiltshire Family History Society to talk to us about industry in Swindon from roman times up until the introduction of the railway works in the 1800s.

MARGARET NEAVES

For our Zoom meeting on 14 October Jackie Depelle took us on a tour around the UK to visit museums, record offices and other archives where she has found interesting and useful information to augment her family history, over and above what can be found online. To actually see and hold original documents can be thrilling. Jackie suggested looking out for more unusual sources, including:

Manorial Records/Court Rolls/Presentments

Wills both very old and modern – find family members, sometimes lists of possessions and an indication of the then life-style. Also landowners' wills with copyhold information about tenants.

Church Warden records/Parish Chest/Cathedral archives

Country house archives/sales etc

Poor Law projects

Old Maps eg National Maps of Scotland

Gravestones/Monumental Inscriptions

Railway Documents/Union Papers/School Archives/Military Records/Greenwich Records

Heraldry/College of Arms

Online Parish Clerk database

Newspapers/Divorce Papers

National Archives

UK Parliamentary Archives/Protestation Returns

Genealogical Studies/Conservation projects and studies

Photography advice to get best effects/Film Archives/storage of film

Local and City Libraries/Record Offices

Look on ebay for relevant material

Anyone with northern connections:

The Northern Way and 20,000 images 1225-1650 – registers produced by the Archbishops of York/Cause Papers

Scotland's People

THEN ALONG CAME ANDY – meeting 28 October

Andy Binks took us on a chatty, cheery and challenging excursion, darting around Swindon and districts - a (fairly) random and rambling journey resulting in lots of murmurings and comments from the room.

We were treated to photos of glorious views over Swindon taken by Andy during his many bike rides, from rooftops and scaffolding, a curious structure now completely submerged, through to long-lost, but not-forgotten (if Andy has anything to do with it) buildings, streets, the canal and Swindon's rich railway history and various personalities. The aerial views seemed to produce the most reaction on just how our town has changed. We were quizzed on 'What? Where? What's there now?' when shown very old pictures, some of them before living memory. And we mustn't forget 'Tiddley Dyke'. Anyone know of this?

Having racked the 'little grey cells', we were then jerked back to reality with Andy's rather poignant photos of a very subdued Swindon during Covid.

As always, when Andy comes to visit, it was a great and very enjoyable evening. Thanks Andy.

FOLLOWING ON FROM THE GEORGE SIMS' ZOOM TALK BY MARTIN ROBINS

THE JARMAN FAMILY: Martin Robins wrote to say that Mr Sims' half-brother, Pop Jarman, was a remarkable character. He manufactured and sold bicycles and exported them as far as China. To help Mr Sims on his travels in Africa he designed and supplied bicycles specifically for that continent.

During the last war the GWR Works was a prime target for German bombers - Pop was appointed Senior Air Raid Warden for Rodbourne. No bombs fell in that area.

The Sims/Jarman family produced some fine men. Regards. **MARTIN ROBINS**

PLEASE NOTE: More about the Jarman family has been coming in from various sources, so please see the attachment to this Newsletter. Also ... late in ... a lovely email from a direct descendant but that will have to wait until our next newsletter.

Alec Elliott who joined us for **Martin Robins' Zoom** talk wrote as follows:

"It reminded me of the occasion in 1943 when I was aged 14 and a bomb was dropped about 150 yards from our house in Holt. It exploded in a shrubbery and blew a fully grown chestnut tree out the ground. A further one was dropped a little away in a nearby field, but did not explode. It was thought that these bombs were not aimed at the Elliott household but were jettisoned by an aircraft which had been turned back from a bombing raid on Bath. Bath is only about ten miles from Holt in a straight line. Similar bombs were dropped in fields around the area by planes which then made a hasty beeline back to base." **ALEC ELLIOTT**

DOES ANYONE REMEMBER THE SWINDON ADVERTISER NIG-NOG CLUB?

Martin Robins' Uncle's wife founded the club in Swindon and was known as Aunty Joy. She was actually Vi Robins, Chief Clerk in the Advertiser's circulation department. Loved by local children (I seem to remember that I was a member) and launched in Swindon in spring 1932 at a charge of threepence to join. Members were given an enamel badge, received a welcome letter, could enter competitions and their birthdays remembered in the paper. All so exciting! Their salute when meeting another member thumbs in ears and waggle fingers.

It is interesting to note that some adults also wore the badge which was common with bus drivers!

When Aunty Joy retired in 1960 following her husband's premature death, unfortunately the club retired with her. Vi went to live with her sister in Llandudno and passed away in 1982.

Vi, nee Higgins, had been born in Durham. She was married to Stan Robins (Martin Robins' Uncle) who formed the Robins Joinery business in Southbrook Street, Swindon, and Vi became the well-known and popular Aunty Joy.

Stan Robins (Robins Joinery) and Vi Higgins (Aunty Joy) on their wedding day in Durham 1945.

Photo courtesy of Martin Robins



She obviously brought the idea of forming a Club with her as the Nig-Nog Club originated in County Durham, created by the Northern Echo newspaper and first launched on 21 October 1929. Within three months there were 50,000 members.

Nig and Nog were two little imps who lived in the land of the moon. Their job was to keep the Man in the Moon awake. Incidentally, the names were quite innocent and had no other implications. It possibly stemmed from a variety concert party of that name to which the famous Ernie Wise was connected. Yvonne

Do you have any memories of this Swindon Advertiser Club, the family or Robins Joinery?
Please share with us on nealy1@virginmedia.com or swindon@wiltshirefhs.co.uk

DO YOU HAVE 16 MINUTES TO SPARE?

For those of you who enjoyed the story of George Sims in the last newsletter, I wonder if you saw the beautiful and haunting story of Horatio Spafford as narrated by Hugh Bonneville at the Royal Albert Hall in 2019. Once seen, never forgotten.

Following the sinking of a ship in mid-November 1873, his four daughters were lost. His story is of tragedy but also hope – and the results of that hope. You can still see that story as told by Hugh Bonneville online. It's truly quite wonderful and resulted in the hymn 'It is well with my soul.' Do watch until the end and see even the youngest singing along.

MERVYN HEWLETT'S MEMORIES

The mention of the GWR hospital brings back a memory of being sent into Swindon, from where we lived in Moredon, aged about eight or ten at the time, to buy a block of lard from a pork butchers at the opposite end of the row of buildings to Burtons corner in Fleet Street. It cost six pence I think and weighed about a pound. The block of lard must have been good value to send me into town, because Fred James was much nearer at the Rodbourne Arms, where I was normally sent to buy meat.



(Thanks to cousin Margaret for finding this photo for me. Next door was thought to be 'The Pork Butchers' where, I'm told, Gran used to buy her chitterlings/chitlins on a Monday. Yvonne)

To get home I caught the Rodbourne Cheney bus from the stop out in front of the swimming baths but I remember having to cross the road when it arrived. There was a cabin like structure for the drivers with a seat outside, which I used whilst waiting for the bus back home. If it happened to be wet I was invited inside to keep dry. By this time the Moredon bus went to the Red Lion whereas, previously, it used to terminate at the Rodbourne Arms and return to Swindon. I know my parents had to walk the last mile or so to home when they first moved out there in the 1930s.

Does anyone remember the cabin, or know when it disappeared? Possibly when the new road system was put in place. Regards. **MERVYN HEWLETT**

Mervyn further wrote: "The name of the butchers escapes me as it was well over sixty years ago, but I think it was before the cycle shop on the corner and passed the small street that was a dead end, and was between Burtons and the start of the next block, probably only a couple of cottages. I remember the large square streetlamp towards the dead end."

Does anyone else remember that special streetlamp? Mervyn thinks it was probably a gas lantern that had been converted to electricity by the 1950's.



Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland – see the Map Images Website

Mervyn has sent in a fascinating snippet of an old 1888 map of the Fleet Street area and has discovered (by using John Stooke's fantastic book about old Swindon pubs) that the Inn, where Burtons used to be, was the Commercial Hotel/Volunteer/Jolley sailor Beer House. Do I remember a backway (backsies) and then a bookshop – possibly W H Smith?

Interesting to see the canal and College Street, a Post Office on the corner of Bridge Street and Fleet Street and next but one building in Fleet Street was a bank.

In Bridge Street, on the other side of Fleet Street, was the Baptist Chapel and Sunday School.

My husband's great uncle George Neal and wife Elsie May (nee Townsend) at one time lived at 73 Bridge Street which was part of a terrace. They were there for at least the years between the 1915 Voters List and the 1947 Swindon Street directory. I understand that there were just a few shops on the other side of the road in those days. . The whole terrace was demolished for a car park in the 1960s – was that the same side of the road?

I did a little 'digging' about the Cycle Shop – Western Cycles Ltd as you can see above. A friend, wrote, "I bought my first new bike there in I think 1954 with money I saved from my paper round. It was a BSA with a 4 speed gear, I went everywhere on that bike, Marlborough, Chippenham, Avebury." It all got a bit complicated then as I was told that the son of the owner was Mike Kane aka Keno. However another source says that there was a Kanes/Kane's Cycle Shop in Bridge Street, opposite to Grays cake shop. The owner, Bogie Kane (Bert) emigrated to Australia. Charlie Ackrill worked there and the Wheelers used to meet up there sometimes.

And there's more - Roy Cartwright sent the following photos:



He says that there was another cycle shop in Faringdon Road - the owner used his name backwards and called it Retlaw cycles it was later a book shop.

All quite fascinating – does anyone have something to add please? Yvonne – nealy1@virginmedia.com or swindon@wiltshirefhs.co.uk

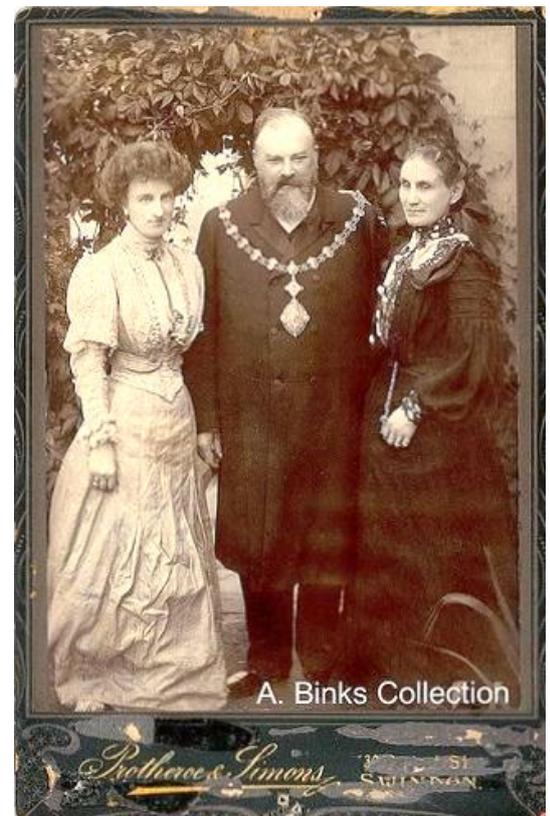
HUNT STREET PROPOSED RAIL TUNNEL AND JAMES HINTON

Roy Cartwright wrote regarding the mention of James Hinton in our last Newsletter in that by 1894 he had built a stable and coach house in Hunt Street. Alderman J Hinton was Mayor of Swindon in 1903 and drove the first tram out of the tram station at the bottom of Bridge Street in 1904.

Roy has written an article about the trams in Swindon which you can access online via Swindon Civic Voice. He explained that Mayor Hinton had persisted in advocating the virtues of public electric lightings, as opposed to gas (which previously had been used in only a few private local undertakings), and on 24 July 1894, he gave notice to start the ball rolling. Two years later, authorisation was granted for Regent Circus, Regent Street, Bridge Street (part), Fleet Street (part), Faringdon Road (part), Milton Road and Commercial Road to be supplied with electricity. This paved the way to operating trams in the town.

Photo: Mayor Hinton with wife and daughter of Andy Binks

Courtesy



On 22 September 1904 the tram system was opened to the public following luncheon and an elaborate ceremony.



Opening of the New Electric Trams at Swindon by the Mayor, J. HINTON, Esq. September 22nd, 1904.

The first car to leave, No 1, driven by Mr Griffin rounded the corner at the Centre too rapidly and dislodged the trolley head.

All passengers had to dismount and board another car and the large crowd, waiting at the Town Hall for the arrival of the cars, was puzzled by their non-appearance at the appointed time.

Photo courtesy of The Swindon Society and Andy Binks

Roy Cartwright has pointed out that the train in the outlet Village is named after Alderman James Hinton."

A VICTORIAN'S INHERITANCE

Our October newsletter mentioned Helen Parker-Drabble's book – a Victorian's Inheritance. We promised a little more information about this fascinating and ground-breaking book, and here it is:

Helen is a lifelong explorer of social history and a weaver of factual family tales. She holds a diploma in counselling. Fascinated by psychological theory and the stories we develop to make sense of ourselves and our family, her original quest was to understand her Victorian grandfather, Walter Parker, born in 1885 in the English village of Upwell on the Norfolk/Cambridgeshire border. Walter migrated to Canada in 1907.

During her research, a transgenerational legacy of loss, trauma, anxiety, and depression unravelled. This discovery helped her understand her work's focus. Helen says, "'Geneathery' combines two of my greatest passions: I'm a former counsellor by profession and a genealogist and family historian by experience." Using her family as an example, her mission is to share theories around mental health, epigenetics, psychology, and neuroscience to help family historians answer their question, 'Who Do I Think You Were?' of their ancestors.

For a chance to win a signed paperback edition of *'Who Do I Think You Were?'* A Victorian's Inheritance, answer the following question:

Helen's book *A Victorian's Inheritance* is for people who:

1. Are interested by Victorian English village life
2. Want to deepen their understanding of an ancestor
3. Have questions about how trauma, alcoholism, or physical and mental illness might have affected their forebears
4. Are looking for examples of family history in print
5. All of the above.

For help to answer the question please visit: <https://www.helenparkerdrabble.com/>

Email your answer with your name and address by Friday 5 December 2021 to helen@helenparkerdrabble.com with the subject line 'SBWFHS Christmas competition'. Good luck!

You can download the first two chapters of *A Victorian's Inheritance* free at <https://www.helenparkerdrabble.com/> Just scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on the button 'Your two FREE chapters are waiting'.

A LITTLE STORY FROM THE WILTS & BERKS CANAL TRUST

In our last Newsletter Chris Barry of the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust told us of the two tunnels in the process of being built at Wichelstowe, Swindon. He has now sent the following charming little story about snails and a mouse:



Above is a mouse and, on the right, one of three snails, discovered on some railings - by the towpath under the old railway bridge over the canal at Rushey Platt.

I wasn't aware of them until some passengers on one of our 'Dragonfly' boat trips pointed them out. After posting some photos online, the response came 'Ooh, my Dad did those!'. They were the signature of blacksmith Mick Couling of Wroughton, who put them there in the 1980s.
CHRIS BARRY

Michael John COULING – Mick of Wroughton - was born 7 October 1936 and died at the Great Western Hospital on 5 January 2017 aged 80.

His father was Wilfred John Couling born 6 April 1912 and baptised 23 June 1912 at St Mark's Church, Swindon, son of John Emanuel, Labourer, and Eliza Mary of 89 Redcliffe Street, Rodbourne. He died 7 August 1970 having been living at 168 Oxford Road, Swindon.

At the time of the 1939 Register, Wilfred, a Steel Rolling Mill worker, wife Phyllis (nee Hunt) and daughter Sylvia (married name Reeves) lived at 56 Oxford Road. There were three closed records.

Wilfred's father was John Emmanuel Couling born 4 April 1876 at South Marston, son of Robert and Eliza (nee Lightfield). John married Eliza Mary Comley, born 1880 in Clanfield, Oxfordshire.

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN – time to remember and reflect

A WW2 MEMORY FROM MARCIA DANCER



There was an incident in the war years I shall never forget. It took place very near the Connaught Café, on the corner of Regent Street.

Briggs shoe shop was on the corner, with a doorway in each street.

The incident took place one evening.

Photo: Marcia aged 5 with her two brothers, Rod and Les

My sister had looked after me mostly, with her own small boys, as Mother had her work cut out with the boarders that had been billeted with us. These men came from around the country, working on aerodromes in the area.

From a baby I did not sleep well and never went to bed until my Mother went. We had grandparents not too far away and my sister would go to see them once the evening meals were finished and her boys were in bed. The evenings were quite light until late, being as we had double summer time for the farming. Joyce always took me in a pushchair being I was about three years old and we spent an hour with our grandparents and then made our way home passed College Street School and then crossing Regent Street.

We had just passed the corner when suddenly a crowd of men were fighting and we saw different uniforms. Joyce pulled the pushchair into Briggs doorway. Within minutes lorries came and out jumped American Military Police wearing white helmets and spats. They were hitting the men with truncheons and throwing them into the back of the lorries.

A young American policeman came over and said 'Mam, I advise you to go home', but we stayed until the lorries all left and it was quiet again. When we arrived home we told everyone. The boarders said there had been trouble earlier in the evening with the American servicemen and some RAF soldiers. That was how the Military Police heard about it. **MARCIA DANCER**

Marcia remembers seeing some London evacuees lined up along Deacon Street, waiting for local people to come out and take in a child or children. "A neighbour opposite took in two little sisters and they were their pride and joy – no children of their own. Heart-breaking when they left to return to their parents." Years later, Marcia discovered that one of those lined up was Bernard Bresslaw who shot to fame in *The Army Game* and was also in many of the *Carry On* films. Do you remember him?

It seems that, aged seven, he together with his two brothers, were evacuated to Swindon and lived with Mr & Mrs T G Findlay of Clifton Street. He always remembered his wartime parents and invited them to his marriage to dancer Betty Wright.

TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN WARRIOR



If I should die
think only this of me:

**That there's some corner
of a foreign field**

That is for ever England.

Taken from 'The Soldier' by Rupert Brooke

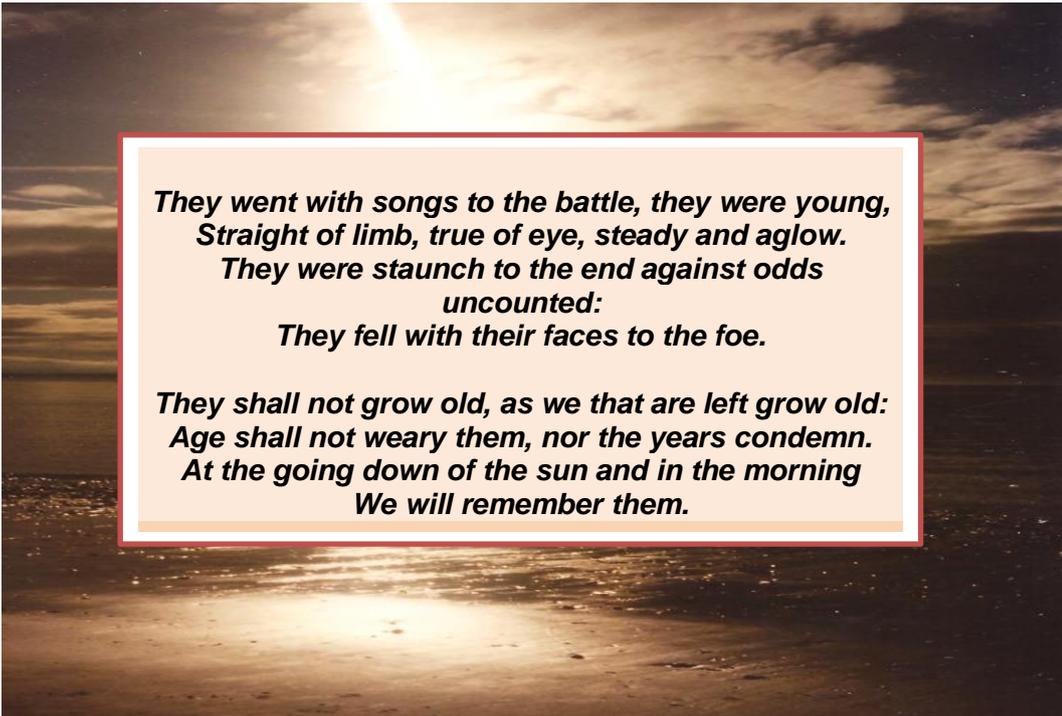
The tomb so poignant - surrounded by the magnificence of Westminster Abbey. The more poignant because it could be anyone's relative who gave the ultimate sacrifice for King and country in the first world war.

J B Wilson first suggested the idea on 16 September 1919 in the Daily Express, of which he was then editor.

Early in November 1920 six bodies of unknown men, killed in action, were brought to a hut at St Pol near Arras. An officer, with eyes closed, rested his hand on one of the coffins. That coffin was brought to England and interred into the 'tomb of the unknown soldier'. Sentries from the four Services stood at each corner of the coffin whilst it was lying in state.

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO FELL IN WW1

Extract from Laurence Binyon's touching poem 'For the Fallen':

A photograph of a sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright, golden glow that reflects on the water's surface. The sky is filled with soft, dark clouds, and the overall atmosphere is serene and contemplative. A white text box with a red border is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text of the poem.

***They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds
uncounted:
They fell with their faces to the foe.***

***They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.***

NOVEMBER NOTES FROM THE PAST

07.11.1665 The first English newspaper, the Oxford Gazette, went into print – at Oxford because Charles II and his court had transferred to Oxford to escape the Great Plague of London.

10.11.1871 Henry Morton Stanley, sent to Africa by his newspaper to find Scottish missionary David Livingstone, finally made contact with him at Ujiji on lake Tanganyika with the words 'David Livingstone, I presume'.

14.11.1896 125 years ago, the speed limit for horseless carriages was raised from 4mph (2mph in towns) to 14 mph (although most Local Government Boards had the authority to reduce it to 12 mph). It was marked by the first London to Brighton car run, which became a regular and official event from 1927.

...and a few (!) years later on **29 November 1999** a report revealed that rush hour had ceased to exist in London because traffic moved at an average of 10 mph at all times.

14.11.1941 The aircraft carrier Ark Royal sank near Gibraltar after being hit by an enemy torpedo.

10.11.1952 From Swindon Advertiser: Honouring the memory of the dead of two wars, a big crowd gathered at the Swindon Cenotaph for a remembrance service. Among the ceremonial pieces there was a touching moment when a boy of 10 laid a simple bunch of chrysanthemums among the wreaths – in memory of his father, killed in Burma. The lad, Glyn Dennis Webber, of Chapel Street, Swindon wore his father's medals including the Burma Star pinned to his jacket.

29.11.1969 Swindon's beer drinkers enjoyed their last few pints at the old price as the 2d per pint increase approved by the Prices Income Board took affect the next day.

12.11.1971 According to the unions involved, British Rail plan to close their Swindon workshops. From being one of 13 options, it has now become a matter of fact, the men say. . It was reported that the outcome (of a meeting) is that the board did not move away from their threatened redundancy figure of 800 by next year.

09.11.1989 Fall of the Berlin Wall.

ALSO - STORM AND FIRE

27.11.1703 The first Eddystone Lighthouse was swept away in the Great Storm. More than 8,000 died across the country.

30.11.1936 The Chrystal Palace was destroyed by fire.

WEATHER-WISE

24.11.1434 The River Thames froze over and, exactly 281 years later, it froze again.

09.11.1812 One of the worst winters on record began – and caused the defeat of the mighty Napoleon. During his retreat from Moscow, troops endured temperatures as low as -37 degrees for 27 consecutive days.

28.11.2010 Britain shivered in record low temperatures, including a 'ridiculously low' minus 17 degrees C in Wales.

SWINDON ADVERTISER AND NORTH WILTS CHRONICLE 25 NOVEMBER 1882
Emigration to New South Wales

THE NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT will provide Passages to Sydney (by first-class Ships) upon payment of the undermentioned rates, to persons approved by the Agent-General. To consist of Married Couples not exceeding 30 years of age.

Rate per each adult £5 except SINGLE FEMALES who will be taken at a REDUCED RATE of £2 EACH. Children of three and under fourteen years £2. 10s each. Under three years free.

Farmers, Agricultural and other Labourers, Vine dressers, Mechanics and Female Domestics are required.

Further information may be obtained from the Emigration Department, New South Wales Government Offices, 5 Westminster Chambers, London, S.W., or to the Local Agent R. Colbron, Postmaster, Swindon. SAUL SAMUEL, Agent-General for New South Wales.

1945 Regarding Clothing (as a result of WW2)

In January it was reported that there would be more colour in ladies and children's undies, stockings and ankle socks. There would be two new shades – turquoise and nymph green. London Tan would replace Leap Year in women's stocking colours.

By March an appeal went out to women: It was felt that, because 'nobody looks at a woman's legs before lunchtime' the president of the American National Association of Hosiery Manufacturers is asking women to go without stockings in the mornings as rayon is in short supply. But by September it was reported that supplies of nylon stockings should be in the shops before the end of the present rationing period. They would have cotton tops as this allows double the number of stockings to be produced.

A report in April issued the following statement: Brunettes have a longer expectation of life than blondes, are more intelligent and manage their clothing coupons better, according to Dr R E G Armitage of the Research Centre of Anthropology in Londonderry, who has just completed a study of the British Isles. His conclusions were read at a recent congress in Philadelphia.

In May it was reported that there was a serious shortage of civilian clothes for the men and women about to be demobilised, because of the lack of cloth and workers. Just before Christmas that year the government anticipated that the last of 5 million demob suits would be finished by the end of March, and manufacturers would be able to concentrate on producing for civilians and the export trade.

Children were affected too: Towards the end of July it became apparent that many children were absent from school for weeks at a time while their shoes were being repaired. This prompted the Welfare Education Committee to write to the Board of Trade asking them to manufacture stronger shoes for children.

In September it was found that children up to 5 years old were going barefoot as the demand for their shoe sizes was four times greater than the number of shoes available. Retailers said their quotas disappeared in minutes.

.... **and personnel** : It was decided in June that school teachers should be demobbed from the forces quickly because of a shortage in schools but by November it was reported that the shortage of teachers was so great that 5 year olds could not go to school as there was no-one to teach them.

Similarly with doctors, in July the BMA requested the release of 5,000 doctors from the Forces because, if an epidemic developed during the winter, civilian doctors would not be able to cope with it.

July 1945 Britain's ace 'secret service squadron' of carrier pigeons (40 birds trained to bring back information from Europe's underground during the war) were flown to Berlin to race back over 600 miles with the first messages from the Big Three conference. Among those pigeons were those which brought the news of the flying bomb sites in the Pas de Calais, and the VC pigeon of the war which brought a message of 5,000 words, sketch plans and maps of the fortifications of France just before D Day.

Secret Weapon: In July it was announced that a secret weapon, aimed at livening up 'The Local', was about to be launched. It was a super-toned Juke Box. Mr T Murphy, secretary of the Showman's Guild, predicted a big future for the juke box in the UK.

A COUPLE OF FINAL THOUGHTS:

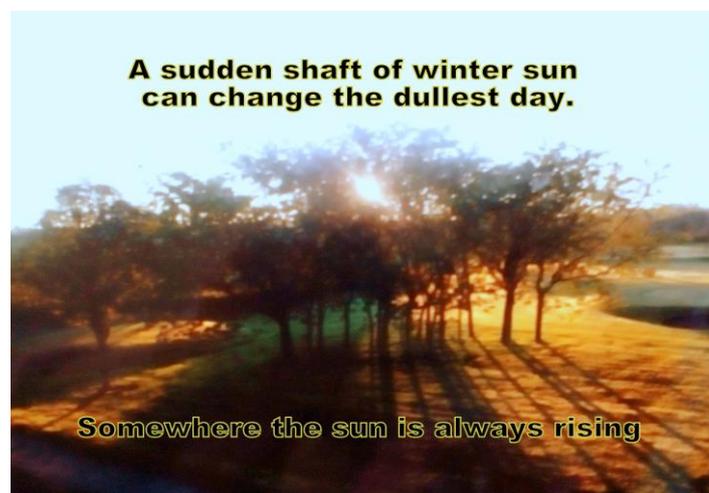
With thoughts turning to Christmas, do you have any family stories to share with us?
nealy1@virginmedia.com or swindon@wiltshirefhs.co.uk

Also, mentioned above, is a pork butchers selling chitterlings/chitlings. You never hear of that these days – perhaps there are other such items you can recall. For example toad-in-the-hole, spotted dick. Would kiddies these days know what they are?

POST SCRIPT FROM MAGGIE LOWTON for Bailey family of Slade Hayes Farm, Oxford Road:

As the fifteenth grandchild of Harry and Roseanne Bailey, I have news of the death of my cousin Colin Bailey, drummer.

Colin, as a child, lived at Slade Hayes Farm with his parents and grandparents. It was his granddad Harry who bought Colin his first drum kit and the rest as they say is history. Colin became a very successful musician, living in Australia then on to the States, where he passed away at home in Port Hueneme on 20 September, survived by his wife Michelle. **MAGGIE LOWTON**



(You are receiving this email from Yvonne Neal, Secretary of the Swindon Branch of Wiltshire Family History Society, as a Member living in or near Swindon. Your email details are held securely and not divulged to any other persons or organisations. Please let me know if you want to be removed from the list by emailing nealy1@virginmedia.com)

