

## Elizabeth Coupe nee Balch – My family and Brompton

The following pictures were kindly made available for us all to see by Elizabeth Coupe nee Balch who left Brompton in 1960. Elizabeth has many family connections with Brompton. Her family has been traced back to the C.18th in Brompton, when a William Smith walked from Swainby to work in the linen factory.

Elizabeth is featured on the picture of the Tree Planting Hilton Close - 1953 Coronation of Queen Elizabeth. Elizabeth is standing- the second "big girl" from the left.



PLANTING OF A TREE TO CELEBRATE THE CORONATION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II ON HILTON CLOSE BROMPTON

1953

(Thanks to **Billy Baines** for contributing picture and most of the names)

Back row - Muriel Gibson (holding child), Helen Dennis, Audry Jenner(holding child), Edna Robinson(holding child), Lionel (Baldy) Coates, Brian Winn, Freda Robinson

Middle row - Noname, Elizabeth Balch, Susan Walker (with hood), Tommy Flowers(with cap), Beryl Jenner(hood), Dorothy Jenner(hood), Tall boy unknown, John Baines, **Billy Baines**(balaclava), little girl unknown, Roger Tomlinson (School cap), Oliver Kilbride, Joan Winn(woolly bonnet), Joan Hebden(beret), Joyce Vayro, Irene Vayro(both wearing bonnets)

Smaller kids middle row - ? Walker(white bonnet), Dianne(Squash) Lemon(wearing white ribbon), Kathleen Flowers, Annette Winn, Jenifer Kilbride (Beatle haircut), Alan Young with spade and possibly Jessica Plumpton holding tree.

The most poignant image of Elizabeth's family, at this time of the 90th Remembrance of the end of World War 1, can be seen on the pictures of the Brompton Football teams where her Grandfather James Smith and his brother Thomas are pictured in the team photos prior to the advent of World War 1. Sadly, as with so many families, neither of them returned and their names are recorded on the Lych Gate War Memorial. Please have a look at Steve Metcalfe's Website ([\*The Brompton War Memorial by Steve Metcalfe\*](#)).

More recently, her Aunt, who lived in the village for most of her life (and who used to loan Elizabeth her copy of Clacking Shuttles) was rescued from her home in Viking Court up Corber Hill during the floods of 2000.

## Whit pageant 1930's

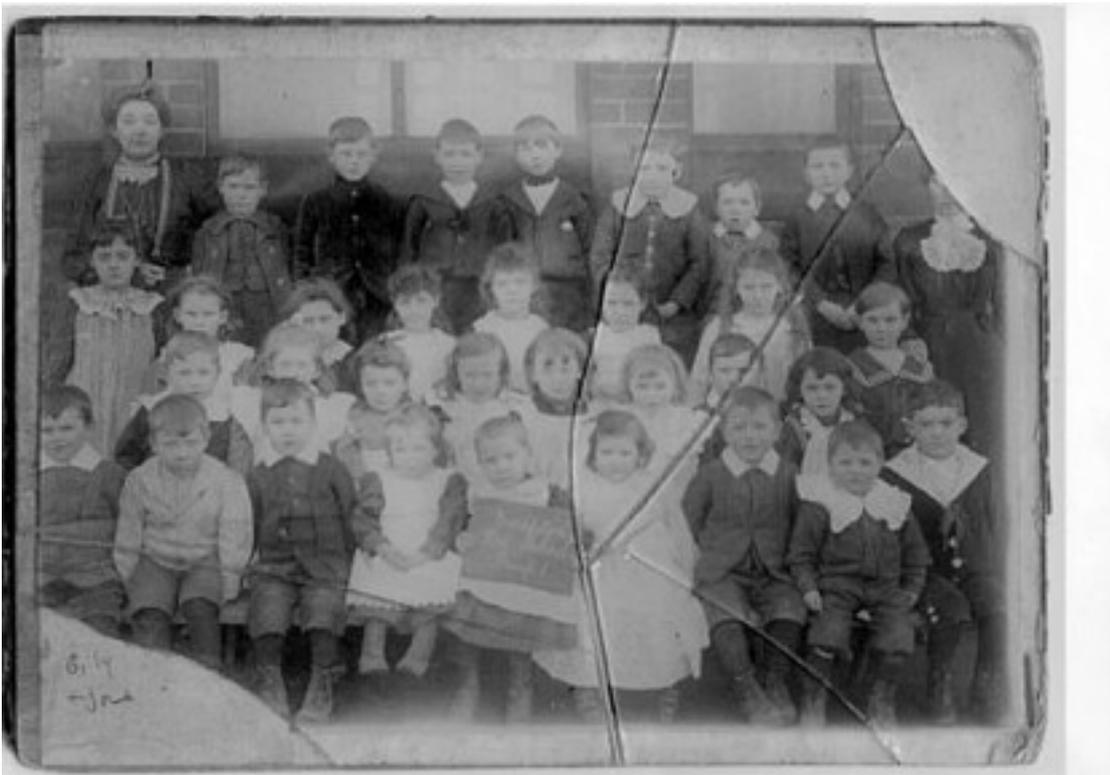


This picture of the Whit pageant was taken in the 1930's and shows the Fancy Dress competition taking place on High Green (opposite the Chapel and The Cobbles with Slater's butchers Shop on the right of the picture). Elizabeth was brought up for her first 4 years with her Grandmother who lived in the cottage to the right of Slater's butcher.



This picture of an unknown boy watching this also unknown young man riding the Penny Farthing bike in his Sunday best is also believed to be at the Whitsuntide Pageant in the 1930's. Any names would be very welcome. W.G. Slater Family Butcher is clearly seen behind him.

## Brompton Board School group 1 C1904



This picture has been reproduced from a copy of a sepia print which shows its age and although this reproduction on the website may be quite poor, it shows Brompton Board School group 1 C1904 we believe.

Elizabeth's great Aunt, Jane Appleton is the girl scowling 3rd from the right on the 2nd row from the top. Her brother William (Billy) is second left on the front row.

## Village Hall assembly



This picture shows an assembly in the Village Hall on Cockpit Hill. The occasion is unknown but it is believed that the man at the back, 3rd from the left is Elizabeth's Grandfather George.

## Brompton Friendly Societies



This wonderful picture of the Brompton Friendly Societies is believed to be C1900. They are clearly outside the Three Horse Shoes pub and it must be an important occasion because of the ceremonial dress and the bunting/decoration and we would be pleased to receive more information about either the Friendly Societies or this particular occasion.

It is believed that Elizabeth's Grandfather George Appleton is 2nd from the left at the back of this picture. He was married to Elizabeth nee Robinson, the parents of Jane & Billy who appear on the School photo above. He was a Coal Merchant at the Coal Yard between the Wilford Mill and the Railway (still a very active local Coal Merchant)

## Queen of Hearts



This picture shows Elizabeth's mother in the centre of the Village Hall stage as Queen of Hearts. Seated in front of her is her lifelong friend Diddy Thwaites. Elizabeth's Mum, 93 years of age at the time we posted this picture, believes that she was about 18 at the time so we reckon this picture is dated C1933. Up to very recently (2008), these two performers and friends have been in weekly telephone contact for the past 50 years although sadly, Diddy's recent illness has now brought this contact to an end.