

SCORING A CENTURY

The Life and Times of Onslow Village Resident Marian Hayward

by Angela Joule

When I agreed to write an article about Marian's life, it made me think how incredible it must be to have experienced 100 years of life. I felt honoured to be able to talk to such a remarkable lady who was born 100 years ago on 23 February 1911. George V had been on the throne for less than a year and Scott's Antarctic expedition had begun their ill-fated walk to the Pole. To my knowledge Marian is the only inhabitant of Onslow Village to have received a birthday card from the Queen. If anyone knows otherwise, please let us know! Ed.]

Marian Stratton was born in the small village of Milbourne near Malmesbury in Wiltshire. Her grandfather was the local mill owner, working Garsdon Mill and lived in the attached cottage. Marian's father also worked there, alongside her grandfather.

She was born and grew up in a nearby four-bedroomed house, across the fields from the mill, with her four brothers, three of whom were older than her. Marian's earliest memory of family life was one of those isolated instances of childhood we all have etched in our memory – tipping her younger brother out of a wheelbarrow when she was about nine years old and he was not yet walking!

When her grandfather died, Marian and her family moved



peace being declared and the great party held in the road outside. She said living in the country was not as hard as in the towns, as they had food enough to eat, raising chickens, ducks and rabbits.

When Marian went to senior school in Malmesbury it was too far to walk or even cycle so she lived with her Aunt Betty during the week in order to walk the relatively short distance from there to school, after which she would call in to her Aunt Rose for tea, which was always a boiled egg!

As she grew older, her eldest brother, Sydney, would accompany her to Charlton Village Hall a mile or two away for the regular Friday night dance.

Eventually, when she left school, Marian went to work for the Cirencester Electricity Board as a shorthand typist.

It was here that she became friends with another girl who was the sister of Tony, Marian's future husband. It was whilst on visits to her friend's house that she met Tony, but initially began going out with his brother. However she eventually fell for Tony and they were married in 1935 at the church in the village of Garsdon, two miles from Malmesbury whilst she was still living at the mill.

Tony was a Chartered Surveyor and was eventually employed by Heath and Salter who had offices in Guildford. They both moved into lodgings in Agraria Road whilst they looked for a permanent home nearby, eventually moving into 13 Curling Vale. At this time, Onslow Village Ltd had

What is this 'VILLAGE VOICE' and who are Onslow Village Residents Association?

Onslow Village has an interesting history and a unique character, which the Association (aka OVRA) has been helping to safeguard for more than 50 years. It's run by a committee of unpaid volunteers and provides information and advice; for instance how to maintain the hedges and who to contact about potholes etc, but we also try to bring the community together by putting on talks and social events, such as the annual party in February,



when we were entertained by the fantastic JJ Vinten and his band (left).

Our talks and social events are open to both members and non-members, so why not come along to the next one and give it a try: you'll be very welcome!

The Village Voice is our newsletter, published every three months or so and is usually only delivered to members, but once a year, just after the AGM, it goes to all houses in the village. Annual membership costs just £5 per household and apart from having all the newsletters delivered to your door, it entitles you to free entry to all the Tuesday Talks and reduced entry to the Saturday Socials: to join, please return

responsibility of running the watermill. This is now a private house, although the waterwheel is still there and in working order! Every year all the farmers from the surrounding farms would bring their grain to be milled and Marian still recalls how the whole mill would shake and vibrate as the enormous waterwheel and milling stones did their work.

There were several small rivers in the area, all tributaries of the Avon which runs through Malmesbury. Surrounding the mill was a mill race but Marian recalls the children treated it with great respect and none of them ever fell in!

Her father bought Crab Mill, a second mill, in a village called Lea which her eldest brother Sydney ran. Her other brothers helped in the running of both mills until their father died when Sydney became miller. The land on which they lived and worked was on the estate of the Howard family who were the Earls of Suffolk and Berkshire. At that time the Earl of Suffolk was Henry Howard, the 19th Earl. He was killed in the Great War in Mesopotamia and was succeeded by his son Charles who, in turn, was killed in World War II carrying out mine disposal.

Marian remembered her childhood in Milbourne as idyllic, growing up in a truly rural landscape, roaming freely across the fields and having picnics and playing games outdoors in the summer.

As the only daughter she would help her mother whilst the boys learned their trade in the mill.

The village school was a two mile walk away and there were no welly boots in those days so, as Marian recalls, if your feet got wet, they stayed wet!

Two of Marian's brothers enlisted in the Great War and thankfully, both returned safely. She remembers vividly

In 1935 Onslow Village had been established for some years, although Marian remembers Manor Way then as just a sandy track. There were as yet no shops, and the church was a wooden building on the site of the present Village Hall. (See below for a picture of Manor Way c1930s.)

Once again, in World War II, two of Marian's brothers were involved and both returned safely at the end. Tony was exempt from active service during the war.

Marian recalls that the village was not immune to enemy action, with a pair of village houses at the bottom of Bannisters Road and Hedgeway being demolished by a bomb. They were subsequently rebuilt.

As a surveyor, Tony was employed as a Ratings Officer of Farms which was considered vital war work, but he also served his time in the Home Guard, firstly at Henley Fort on the Hogs Back and later at High Wycombe and finally in Brighton.

Like many serving men, he was not at home for the births of his son and daughter, but by the time peace was declared it was time to find a larger house for the growing family. So in 1945 they moved to the house where Marian lives today.

Both Marian and Tony's children went to the private school in Orchard Road run by Mrs Walpole with both children passing their 11 plus to go on to Farnham Grammar School and the County School for Girls in Guildford, respectively.

Marian has six grandchildren and five great grandchildren all of whom call on her and keep in constant touch.

None of Marian's brothers survive and of 17 cousins only one is alive today. Sadly Tony died in 1998. He was on the Board of Management of Onslow Village Ltd for many years where his experience as a surveyor proved invaluable. They were married for 63 years.

Her son now lives in Somerset and Marian explained that he had to remove her lawnmower to stop her trying to mow the lawn! He regularly returns to do that job for her. Her daughter lives a little closer in Wisborough Green and is able to call upon her frequently.

Marian no longer cooks for herself but says she enjoys the ready-cooked meals provided by Wiltshire Farm Foods. In addition, both her son and daughter make extra dishes for her.

the membership application form overleaf.

And if you're new to Onslow Village, we'd like to welcome you and hope you have many happy years here.

Both Marian and Tony played active roles in village life. With two friends she started the Autumn Club who met in the Village Hall every Monday and Marian would make scones for the teas. At Christmas Marian would cook a turkey and take it down to the Hall.

A coach would collect members, some from Hellier House on the Farnham Road, to bring them to the lunch and take them home – all for a shilling!

Over a lifetime in the village Marian has been involved in many of the groups and activities from the Garden Club to school governor for three years at Onslow First School.

She and Tony began attending All Saints' Church as soon as they moved to the village and faith has been a large part of Marian's life; she still attends a service every Sunday. Two days after her 100th birthday All Saints' congregation held a tea party organised by Jean Read to mark the occasion, which a good number of people attended. In addition there have been other celebratory lunches and apart from the birthday card from the Queen, Marian received 114 birthday cards!

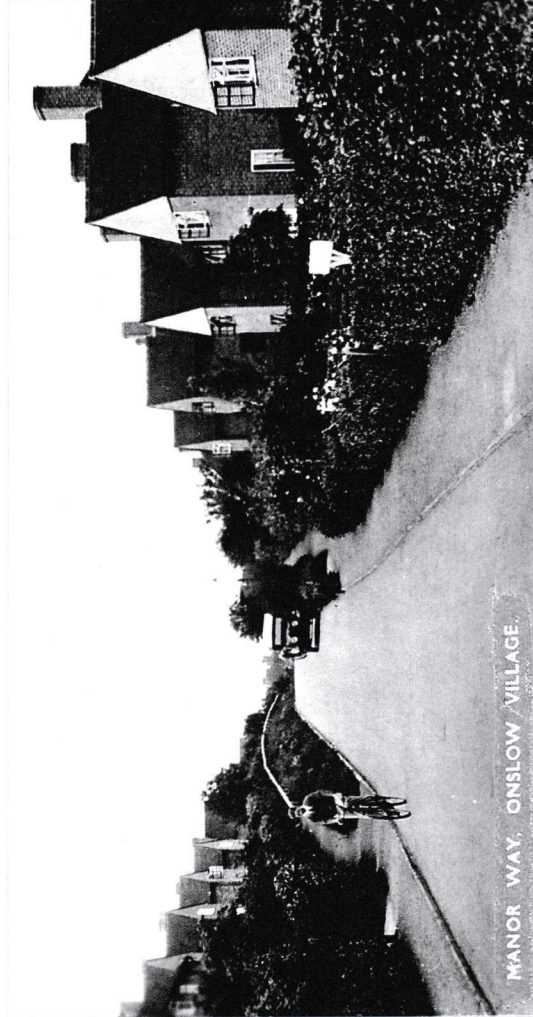
Not long ago the family took Marian back to Malmesbury and she says that she still remembered all the shops from her childhood although the names have long since changed.

During this last winter Marian suffered a stroke which paralysed her entire left side, but amazingly she has made a complete recovery although she admits it limits her walking which she used to enjoy every day. Nonetheless she still goes to the Lunch Box which meets in the Small Hall once a month and continues reading and doing the crossword as well as watching sport on TV – especially the football. She confesses she enjoys watching the men running around! She still possesses remarkable eyesight and hearing and has a real sparkle in her eye.

Marian comes from a long-lived family. Her mother's brother and sister both lived to be over 100. Asked her if she had a recipe for such longevity, she replied, "No, just good genes."

It was a privilege to spend time with Marian and have the opportunity to explore the life and times of such a remarkable lady. I will always be grateful for the kindness she showed in allowing me to listen as she looked back over a very full life.

(In compiling this article every effort has been made to check the accuracy of the information. No part of this article may be reproduced in any form without prior permission from the author).



COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

If you would like to tell Onslow Village residents about your group's forthcoming events, or issues that might interest them, please email ovra.news@ntlworld.com or ring 07720 945430.

Next copy date: 11th July, for publication end July/early August.

RECYCLING NEWS

Visit to the Lakeside 'Energy from Waste' site, Colnbrook

Have you noticed the large chimney on the left hand side as you were passing Heathrow going north on the M25? This is the site of a new Energy from Waste project, which takes household waste destined to go to landfill sites. From 410,000 tonnes of waste per year they create 38 megawatts of electricity, which is enough to power 50,000 households. Some of the waste ash is also used for hardcore and concrete manufacture.

Since the plant opened they have worked at full capacity and could have filled their order book several times over. This method of disposing of waste has been frowned on in the past but unless we are prepared to buy less, reuse more and recycle everything possible, we are going to run out of places to put our waste.

Reminder

Are you thinking about cutting down some hedges in your garden or just tidying after the winter? The Onslow Recyclers (Shredder) Group has four garden shredders around the Village. Please contact Lesley on 01483 533762.

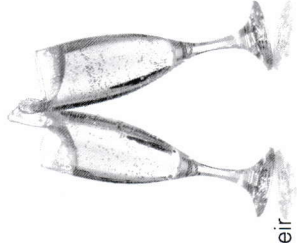
Onslow Village Garden Club

In these times of "Grow your own - it tastes so much better" why not join the Garden Club to get help and advice on how to grow the vegetables, fruit or flowers you always wanted to grow but perhaps didn't have the confidence to know where to begin. You will find a friendly Club ready to welcome and help new members.

The Club meets on the third Wednesday of each month (except August and December) at 7.30pm in the Village Hall for a talk on the broadest aspects of gardening. There is a Sales Table for members to purchase plants, books and other garden related items at very reasonable prices.

There are three shows a year - the spring one in March, the summer one in June and the Annual Show in September.

The Annual Outing, open to all, is to RHS Hyde Hall and Beth Chatto Gardens on Saturday 16th July. Tickets are still available - phone 573107.



A Platinum Celebration!

We would like to send our heartiest (if slightly belated) best wishes to Bill and Doreen Bellerby who celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary in April. Many congratulations!

OVRA SOCIAL CALENDAR

All events take place in the Village Hall: complimentary refreshments are served from 7.15pm, talks begin at 7.45pm. Entry is FREE for OVRA members, non-members are welcome at £3 each.

Tues 14th Jun: Wartime Bombs on Guildford & District

David Rose returns to give a talk about bombing raids, including one by a Zeppelin, on Guildford during WWII.

Tues 12th Jul: The History of Guildford House

Iris Hawkins will give this talk which spans 350 years of history.

Tues 13th Sep: Owen Manning, William Bray and the Writing of Surrey's County History, 1760-1832

An illustrated talk by Julian Pooley of Surrey History Centre.

Sat 8th Oct: Film Night with Circle 8 plus buffet

Look out for details and ticket prices.

Tues 8th Nov: More Christmas Traditions

The speaker is Sheila Davidson who returns with more fascinating stories of how our Christmas traditions developed.

2012

Tues 10th Jan: Hindhead Commons, Past and Future

Matt Cusack, National Trust Head Warden for the area, will describe plans for the future with the road tunnel completed and the A3 diverted.

Sat 11th Feb: Annual Party

Look out for details and ticket prices.

Tues 13th Mar: AGM + speaker

Hannah Greenfield will talk about and demonstrate handbell ringing.

Information is correct at date of printing, but may be subject to change. - please look out for future publicity or ring 07720 945430 to check.

OVRA on Facebook & Twitter

Don't forget you can follow us on Facebook and Twitter and receive updates about all our events and news affecting Onslow Village. Just search for "Onslow Village Residents' Association" on Facebook, and on Twitter, find us at http://twitter.com/OVRA_ (take care to include the underscore).

reminiscent of the Ascot Gavot from "My Fair Lady". The musical numbers - all of which were performed with the group's usual polish - were interspersed with a clever one-act play entitled "Speed Dating".

The play highlighted both the pitfalls and potential embarrassments for those considering this avenue to finding a perfect partner, with its resultant toe-curling comic boy-meets-girl encounters - as well as girl-meets-girl!

Long-serving members of the Curtain Raisers were joined by members of the Youth Group. Those taking part in the performances ranged from six years old to considerably older!

Everyone on stage appeared to be giving their all - particularly the little ones, many of whom were treading the boards for the first time.



The choreography and production was deftly handled by Amy Scott, Mandy Grealis and Marina Harkins, injecting pace and spirit into the whole show as well as taking part in both the song and dance routines and "Speed Dating".

It was encouraging to see so many young performers again on stage with the Curtain Raisers. It has always been one of the group's founding principles to encourage the younger talent in the community to come forward and have a go.

The Curtain Raisers always welcome new talent, on stage or backstage, whether experienced or not.

Contact Membership Secretary Amy Scott on 01483 564018 or email membership@curtainraisers.org.uk.

coming along as a guest at our next meeting.
Joe Pais.

The Curtain Raisers

Due to earlier casting problems, the Curtain Raisers were unable to stage their traditional post-Christmas pantomime. However the local amateur group staged a revue at Onslow Village Hall on the evenings of 11th and 12th March, which, unsurprisingly, played to virtually full houses.

The production, entitled "Something For Everyone," certainly lived up to its name: a lively evening of song and dance, mostly drawn from popular musical shows. Amongst these was a highly amusing twist on "Fugue for Tinhorns" from "Guys and Dolls" performed by Jane Bryant, Anne Stewart and Vanessa Wheeler as three genteel English ladies at the races. It was

wanted - MIS DOUBTLINE:

Babysitting help needed before and/or after school for three well-behaved girls (aged 7 - 13) in November/December. Please call Ellie on 833026 if you think you might be interested.

BEWARE: OPPORTUNIST THIEVES

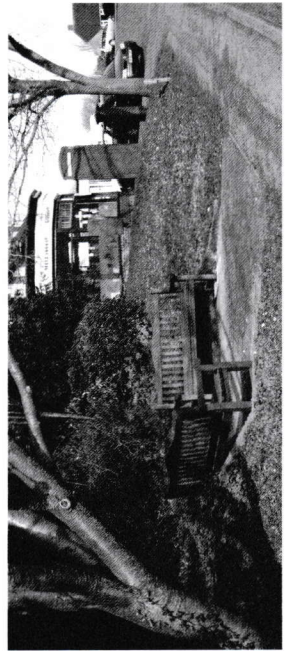
A resident contacted OVRA with a cautionary tale about a theft from his doorstep recently. Despite clear instructions to the courier about where to leave a delivery of wine so that it was out of sight, the driver left the box by the front door without letting the recipient know. The first the householder knew of it was when his dog alerted him to a noise and he opened the door to see a man escaping on a bike with the box under his arm. The theft has been reported, but be warned to be extra vigilant if you are expecting a delivery that won't fit through the letterbox.

Persistence finally pays off

Two years or so ago, OVRAs Chairman Joe Pais contacted Guildford Borough Council to find out what they were planning to do about the broken benches in the Jubilee Garden near The Square.

What appeared to be a relatively simple repair job, proved to be surprisingly difficult to get sorted out and there followed protracted discussions, as both Guildford Borough Council and Surrey County Council initially denied responsibility for repairing the benches. At one point OVRA even offered to do the work ourselves, but we were told that it would make us liable for any problems in the future.

However, Joe persisted and help came at last in the form of Borough Councillor Tony Phillips and Surrey County Councillor David Goodwin, who agreed to fund the supply of two new benches from his County grant for local projects. As these pictures show, the new benches have now been installed and thanks must go to Joe Pais (seen here enjoying the spring sunshine on one of the benches) for not giving up on the project and David Goodwin for providing the necessary funds.



IN MEMORIAM

Michael McAlister

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Michael McAlister on 5th April. The Association gratefully acknowledges his contribution over the last few years as OVRAs auditor and sends sincere condolences to his widow Elizabeth and family.



Mike Hawthorn Memorial Tree Photo

Our thanks for the following, received in response to our request for information about the photo in our last issue: "I am pretty sure that the person crouching second left is Tony Brooks, a well-known racing driver who drove in the same era as Mike Hawthorn and Stirling Moss in the 1950s. On the right, I guess is Chris Slyfield who was deputy Mayor of Waverley and who laid a wreath along with Keith Childs and Tony Brooks.

Mike was actually the 1958 Formula 1 World Champion not 1959!"

VILLAGE VOICE 24 REPLY SLIP

Name:

Address:

Telephone no:

E-mail address:

You can unsubscribe at any time and we will not pass your details to any third party.

Membership (runs from 1 April '11 – 31 March '12)
I would like to join/renew my membership and enclose £5 per household. (Please make cheques payable to OVRA)

Comments/suggestions

Please hand this form in at any OVRA social event, send it to the OVRA Membership Secretary at 68 High View Road, Guildford GU2 7RU or deliver to one of the following addresses, clearly marked for the attention of OVRA:

- 17 Abbots Close
- 5 Bannisters Road
- 28 Bannisters Road
- 17 Curling Vale
- 39 Curling Vale
- 57 Curling Vale
- 24 Elmside
- 9 Farm Walk
- 17 Friars Gate
- 41 Hedgeway
- 29 High View Road
- 68 High View Road
- 17 Litchfield Way
- 3 Manor Way
- 5 Orchard Road
- 54 Queen Eleanor's Road
- 17 The Crossways
- 10 Vicarage Gate
- 16 West Meads
- 17 Wilderness Road
- 14 Windsor Close