

COMING HOME

In early May, my husband and I spent two wonderful days in Sarratt. This was a homecoming for me as I lived in Sarratt from 1943 until 1949 when I emigrated to Canada with my parents and two sisters. I corresponded with friends for a few years, one of whom was RON POYNTER, a life-long resident of the village, until the busyness of working and raising families dominated our lives and we lost touch.

After my Mother died and as I was sorting and organizing the dozens of black and white photographs which she kept in chocolate boxes, I realized how little I knew about Micklefield Green where my family had lived for six years. A Google search revealed that our home at #3 had recently been sold. Other links led to the history of Sarratt and a directory of businesses - one of which was Ron's - with a telephone number. I called the number and we reconnected after almost sixty years. Since then Ron and his wife JOYCE, my husband, BOB, and I have met in Sarratt and in Vancouver.

As we walked across the Dell to The Cricketers Pub, the memories came tumbling out: playing pinders in the Dell, riding my bike to the village to do the shopping for my Mum at the three shops owned by the Misters Wingfield and at Mrs. Olds' general store; sitting and reading on 'my log' in the wood at Micklefield Green surrounded by bluebells and primroses; walking to Sunday School at the Baptist Church with my sisters; memories of Mr. and Mrs. Simpson, my teachers for the six years I spent at the Church of England school; walking from Micklefield to the Village Hall on Thursday evenings with my family where we watched movies with friends and neighbours: Custer's Last Stand, Hopalong Cassidy, Gene Autry and Roy Rogers.

On Saturday morning we explored the village with Ron: walking around the school, visiting the Village Hall beautifully decorated with spring blossoms for a wedding, driving around The Green where the Village Fair was in full swing, pausing for photographs at the former Baptist Church. We walked along the River Chess ending our tour with a visit to beautiful Holy Cross Church where Ron and I recalled walking down Church Lane from the school to the Church with all the pupils of the school to attend the funeral of one our classmates.

Thank you, Ron and Joyce, for making our visit so memorable and thank you to all the people of Sarratt who have so lovingly cared for and created the beautiful and vibrant village that it is today. **Marjorie Nelles (nee Neave), Vancouver, Canada**

WHO'S WHO AND WHO'S DOING WHAT IN SARRATT?

On page 11 you will find the third of the occasional series about one of our younger residents. Emily Reid has transformed the garden behind the Village Stores into a vital, productive, market garden. Although she is running it as a commercial venture she is also teaching our Ducklings and other youngsters how to plant vegetables and to understand where our food comes from. We are sure you will be mightily impressed by what she has achieved. Do please visit during the Open Day.

If you'd like to be interviewed for this series tell the editors what you're up to and we'll try to fit you in.