

Mr. & Mrs. Pullen. School House, Aston Rowant.

7th July 1987.

(10)

My father was blacksmith for Squire Brown. As far as I know he was born at Ickford. Mr. Pullen's names are Ernest Edward. My wife came from Kent. She came to Aston to work at the House on the Green for Colonel Westland and his wife. She made friends with his sister. I did work in the village for a short while, when I used to clean the horses at the Stud. I went to Aston School here while Jenny Green was head-mistress. The school hasn't changed one bit since then. Mr. Pullen now aged 78 was born and lived in the cottage at the Grove where his father was also groom to the Clerke Browns.

When I was about six we moved to the cottages which are Now Old Croft. The Pullens lived in the end one by the road. Mrs. Albert White and Eddie Horwood lived in the ~~the~~ others. He lived there until he was about 20 years old. Albert White used to work on the farm, and he lived in the middle.

We then moved into one of the Council Houses, 3 The Rise. I have lived here at The School House for more than thirty years. I have a brother who lives at Acocks Green, near Birmingham. Out of the eight boys and three girls there is only my brother and myself left.

I don't know when my father actually moved to Kingston but he came from a Blacksmithing family, all his brothers were also Blacksmiths. He came to work here for Squire Brown at The Grove. The Squire has just had a bereavement in the last few days, his sister Rachel has just died.

We used to use the railway, we used to shop locally. We used to use the little shop on the Green. We go through to Thame now to do our shopping, on the bus. I have to walk along the path across the Moors and catch the bus at the stop by the gate to the Moors on the Stert Road. This means of course that I have to walk back carrying my shopping.

My father was a very happy man, he didn't let anything bother him. There was also a Blacksmith's shop at Kingston, but it was not used a great deal. It was only used when it was needed, by Mr. Jack Barnet.

Mrs. Pullen used to work for Colonel Westland and his wife at the big white house, The House on the Green. We were married from there. It was a Military Wedding, by special licence in 1948 as Joe had orders to go abroad. I came to live here in Aston on 24th January, 1948. I came from Kent. I think I came by train. I met Mr. Puller and so I stayed. The Westlands had lots of cats, and I like cats very much. They actually bred Siamese cats, they also had three dogs, Bell, Mac and another one. The dogs always knew when I was going dancing, they never seemed to bother me then. We used to go dancing to the Lambert Hotel, that's where I met Joe's sister. They didn't have them all that often, The Colonel used to run me down in the car. The Reverend Brookes was the vicar here in those days, and he and the Colonel were firm friends. They used to pop off to the pub together. Mrs. Westland had to sell the house when her husband died.

I was caretaker at the school for twenty nine and a half years. I had to give up because Joe had a stroke.

Mrs. Collet from Nutford, she was head mistress there for many years, was taken ill and died within three weeks.

We have got two grand-daughters who live in Thame. One of them was born the day Joe had his stroke, I was a bit bothered coming from the hospital to tell them. Our daughter's name is Josephine Ann. I love living here near the school, I don't like the holidays. The family now come over and do the garden for us.

Mr. Pullen's brother George played for the cricket team.

Our daughter was just old enough to go to school when we first moved here so we sent her straight to Chinnor.

We remember the fire at the house very well, our daughter used to go and help somebody do umbrella covers on the way home, and she said 'Mrs. Harding there's some smoke coming from the chimneys of the big house, the fire brigade was there all night. Mrs Harding lived in the gardener's cottage opposite the cow shed, just at the end of The Green.

There didn't used to be anything opposite this house, it used to be the bog garden, there used to be snakes and all in there. Mrs. Collett didn't let anyone go in there. But as so many people went in there without her leave, she gave her permission. Mrs. Williams bought the Green up so no one can touch that.

Mr. Pullen's photos show his father, his mother and one of Mr. & Mrs. Pullen.

His brother's and sisters were Annie, Jim, Fred, Ben, Tom, Jack, Sam, (whose son David Pullen live on The Rise), Molly, Susie, Joe and George (who was the only one to become a blacksmith but he gave it up and moved to Birmingham).

Mr. Pullen was born in 1909 and his wife was born in 1910. Their daughter was born in 1948. Their grand-daughters Michel and Tracey are 16 and 13.