

As I remember village of Chelveston during the war years of 1943 - 44
by Horace George Eady.

Water Lane

Starting down at the ford in water yard next to the Osier bed -

Sid and Flo Rollings with daughter Brenda.

Harry Coles and his wife with daughters Mary & Edie.

Albert Morris and his wife. No children.

Top of the yard was Mr (waggy) Wagstaffe who lived alone.

Coming down the yard, the top house was occupied by Bill Parsler and his wife with sons Michael & Ian.

Mr (Brassy) Hanwell (a village character). Then, after his demise, Mr & Mrs Twelvetree. No family.

Top of the next yard was the Gateward brothers, Sid & Reg. I believe they lived with an old aunt & uncle.

The end house attached was Kitty Barrett with daughter Elaine. Kitty's father "Smack" Baxter lived with them.

Harry and Gwen Burton with son Richard.

Jack and Clarice Bettles with John, Doreen & David.

Hall farmhouse was occupied by Fred Knight and his wife with son Alan.

St Johns Cottages

The house next to farm - Albert and Naomi Britten with daughter Margaret.

The middle house was "Sheggins" Watts and his wife. No children.

The last house was George Allen and his wife. No children. George was the owner of the garage, a wooden shed where JST forklifts now stands.

St Georges Row

At the bottom lived Sid and Linda Johnson with son Bobby.

Mr & Mrs Bonfield with daughter Bet. O'dell and her daughter Penny.

Tommy Newell and his wife. No children.

Herbert and Lilla Baxter (later the shop keepers) with son Nigel.

The other side of the entrance was Andrew (Smiler) Harrison and his wife with two granddaughters Margaret & Maureen Chapman.

The top house was Freddy (Toddy) Baxter and his wife Lou with son Cliff.

Raunds Rd

The first house (**Eastview**) was Douglas and Audrey Smith with son Roger. They lived with Audrey's mother.

Pretoria Cottages.

First house was Albert MacGeorge and his wife with sons Vic & Ron.

Mrs See with son Sid.

Mrs Rollings with son Stan.

Miss Webster with nephew Ben and niece Eileen. Another niece Janet came to stay for about 2 years.

Mr & Mrs Weekley.

Art and Win See. No children.

Top of the hill at *Spoin Kop* was an Italian family, Mr & Mrs Depino with sons Alphie & Percy and daughters Stella & Carmella. I cannot recall if there were any other children or not.

The end house was empty as I recall for quite a while.

Pastures farm was owned by the Parnell family.

Back down in the village, the first of three houses on the left was the Betts family who moved here from Bethnal Green. Mr & Mrs Betts with Violet, Pat, Lilly, Rose, Peter & Len.

Fred Grey and his wife.

Albert and Franey Dunmore (the Grey's daughter) with daughter Marina.

The farm house (*Dads* as we knew it) was people from London, Mrs Salmon with Beryl and Roger and Mrs Reid with son Billy. (There were no men in the house; I believe they were away in the forces).

Collis Baxter and his wife with sons Tony & Maynard.

Left-hand side of the arch was the Hart sisters.

Right-hand side of the arch was an empty shop (used to be Meadows bike shop)

Next to shop lived Mabel Meadows and her mother.

The Post Office was next door, this was run by Mrs Dorothy Sharman and her husband Sid. They had one son David.

The Off Licence (or outdoor beer house as it was known) was next door and George and Reenie Baxter with son Terry lived there, along with Mrs Farr and George Bettles.

Up the Arch as it was known (**Pokas Cottages**) Val Wooley and his wife lived in the flat that was once the chapel.

Wilf See and his wife Elsie lived in the detached house. No children.

Bert and Hilda Saddington with sons Douglas & Cliff (Tyke)

Jack and Win. Watts with daughter Diana.

Charlie and Brenda Creamer with son Geoff.

Mrs Stinton and her brother Charlie Weekley.

Middle farm was Joe Brittin and his wife. No children.

Next to farm was Jim and Lizzy Boyce with daughters Margaret & Peggy. Billy Boyce also lived with them, who was Lizzy's son by her marriage to Jim's brother, who died. (The house has since been demolished).

The **White House** stood empty for a few years after the last village butcher Jack (Jimmy) James left it, but the farm barns were used by George Brittin.

The **Blacksmiths Cottage** stood empty for a while and the first I can recall anyone living in it was called Norman Bampeed who lived there alone, although he didn't stay too long and he was followed by Mr & Mrs Fox with son Stewart.

Top Farm was George Britten and his wife. No children. George & Joe Brittin were brothers, although they didn't speak to one another.

Next to pub was Rod and Ethel Eady with John, Joan, Ted & Margaret (twins), Horace and Gillian.

The **Star & Garter** was kept by Albert and Edna Grant.

Other side of the pub lived Albert Carter and his wife. No children.

Across the road on the corner is where Reg Hudson and his wife lived with sons Kenneth & Keith (Zolar)

Next to them lived my grandparents, Walter and Mary Eady.

In the **Bakehouse** was Mr & Mrs Baldwin. No children

Red Row

Starting from the club was George and Joan Saunston with son Barry.

Joe chambers and his wife (parents of Joan Saunston.)

Percy and Lucy Felce with daughters Marion & Irene.

Walt and Olive Bridge with Bobby, Gill & Jenny.

Walt and Rose Conquest with Gladys, Freda & Dennis.

Violet Smith with George, Pauline & Kenny.

The stone house at the top of the jitty was occupied by Mrs Kennel with daughter Eileen and Mrs Kennel's brother, Johnny Wadsworth.

Apiary Cottage was Frank and Emily Morris with daughter Bet & son Noel (Moggy). Jack McCauley and his wife lived in Duchy Farm along with their son Simon.

Alms Houses

The Alms houses on the green were occupied from the bottom near the brook by Mrs (Nanny) Parker, Mrs (Granny) Smith, the next one was used as a store and Mrs (Granny) Coles lived in the top one next to the field gate.

The old village school - Tommy Morris lived there for a short time, and then Ginny Simpson moved down from Caldecott into it after Miss Mary died.

Mrs Doreen Mason (school teacher) and her husband with daughter Cherry lived in the **School house**.

In the **Vicarage** was Rev C. Ayton Williams and his wife with two children Trevor & Monica.

In the big house (**Church House**) next to the church lived Ginny Simpson and Miss Mary (Mary Simpson) as she was known to everyone.

At the bottom corner of Caldecott near Bidwell was a row of terrace houses next to the footpath.

The family that lived in them was Mrs Knight with her son Stan. I believe this was the last family to inhabit this cottage as they were demolished a few years later.

In the house nearest the road of the pair of semis was Cyril Taylor and his wife with son Patrick.

Next door was Mr & Mrs Manning with sons Cliff & Ron and daughters Doreen & Grace.

The farm house opposite was Mr Miller and I believe he lived with his mother and aunt.

Peter Farr and his wife lived in cottage next door.

The next farm along (known to us as *Adamses*) Mrs Stanton with her daughter Margaret.

Poplar farm was Mr Alfie Carr and his second wife Louise with his sons Alfie, Ian (Jockey), Keith & Leslie. There was also his daughter Kathy.

In the house (**The Cottage**) nearest the field next to the gate lived Herbert Watts and his wife with Dennis Watts and his wife with granddaughter Hazel.

Lucy Brittin with daughter Gwen lived next door.

The thatched cottage (**Annlois**, now **Yew Tree Cottage**) opposite stood empty for a while before being occupied by Mabel Meadows with her mother.

Next to that stood a pair of cottages (**Poplar farm Cottages**) the first one was lived in by Mr Roly Stewart and his wife, with sons Ralph & Joe and daughters Isobel (later to become the landlady of the *Star & Garter*) & Billie.

I can't recall anyone living next door at this particular time until it was occupied later on by the Parish family from Derbyshire.

The detached house opposite (**Top Gate Farm**) was Freddie Bradshaw and I believe it was his sister that lived with him.

Next to this was a pair of cottages (**Manor Farm Cottage**) on the corner, one was empty and the other one was lived in by Jimmy James (nothing to do with the village butcher Jimmy James) and his wife.

The big detached house (**The Marches**) over the road was lived in by a family by the name of MacMertree (there may have been one child, but I cannot be sure).

All of the above is my recollection of the inhabitants of Chelveston and Caldecott in 1943 - 44.

There may be the odd mistake, but then again, 1943-44 was a long time ago and I was only 6-7 then! I was born in the house next to the pub (now the dining room of the pub) on 7th Dec.1937.