

Hi Anne,

Firstly , thank you again for coming into the Churchyard the other Sunday to show Irene my wife, and myself ,the resting places of my grandmother, Harriet Wood, born 1887, died 1974, age 87 yrs, and my grandfather, Arthur Wood.

I think Arthur died about 1956 but I'm not sure to within about 2 yrs.

Harriet is the mother of Pilot Officer George Fisher, my mother's brother ,who is laid to rest in the churchyard in a Military Grave.

Harriet lost her first husband Frederick C. H. Fisher in 1927.

They had a pork butchers shop in the village at that time, in the right hand side of the Red Lion Pub in The Square, which is now part of the pub.

I believe Fred never returned to full health after suffering from gassing in WW1, and it was because of his poor health that first brought them to Bramham from the smoke of the city of Leeds, about 1923.

My mother, Miriam was only about 1 yrs old and her brother, George, would have been 7 or 8 yrs of age.

Since we placed the flowers on Harriet and Arthur's graves I have been contacted by a nephew of Arthur's , Ian Hebborn, who by coincidence, went to the churchyard the following day and was surprised to find flowers on the graves immediately next to his mother's.

I didn't know before, but Ian's mother was Arthur's younger sister. I always knew that granddad Arthur had a nephew, and I always remember Ian's name being mentioned when I was a child in Horwich, Lancashire, in the 1940s-1950s ,to where grannie Harriet and granddad Arthur had moved for Arthur's work in about 1942.

But I never met Ian, so you can imagine my surprise and delight when, after returning back home last week, I got an email from Ian, telling me about his surprise at finding the flowers on his uncle's and Harriet's graves.

Ian had also noticed the flowers we had placed on George Fisher's, grave, and so with a bit of family research, he managed to put two and two together and make contact with me on the off chance that his deduction was correct, and thankfully, Ian was correct.

So a really nice turn of events that would never have happened had you not been able to help us that Sunday afternoon.

I hope you don't mind me telling you this extended tale, but I thought it would be nice for you to know how your little intervention had, by pure chance, brought Harriet and Arthur's families back into contact with each other after almost 50 yrs.

Not that the absence of contact in previous years had been by active decision, but really by the passing of Harriet and Arthur's generation and the distance, in miles, Ian and Irene and myself are hoping to meet up the next time we are in the village, which I hope will be sooner rather than later.

I have attached the promised photo of the Old Village Pump.

My mother Miriam Fisher is the young girl with her hand in her belt.

The older girl under the umbrella next to my mum is a girl from the village.

My mother, who is 90yrs old next birthday, gets muddled up these days, but she thought she was one of the Woodruff family, but I'm not sure ?

The other two girls are mum's cousins, who I think were visiting from Leeds, one of these is about 96 yrs of age and still lives alone in Whitkirk Leeds.

I think the Photo would be about 1930.

I have several other old photos of Bramham which I will send via attachments to you.

I believe there was, or is, a history book about Bramham, and I wondered if you had any knowledge of it and whether it is still possible to get one.?

I hope the attachments are ok for you, but if you have any problem, please let me know.

Thank you again.

Yours Sincerely,

Edward and Irene Thornton.

Hi Anne,

Thank you for your reply, I've just added 2 more old photos which I had put in a sort of " This is your Life" Red Book, which I made for my Mother on her 80th Birthday.

Until this morning, I had forgotten where I had seen them or put them.

One is of my mother's father, Frederick Fisher, standing behind his van, just to the side of what is now part of the Red Lion .

The second photo is of my mother's grandfather Edward Yates, standing in the doorway of the shop, as it was in those days around 1928, but the doorway is now built up into just a window of The Red Lion towards the right of the pub front entrance.

Edward was a retired coachbuilder, born in Harrogate in 1858, he had been in partnership with his twin brother there. He only came to Bramham in later life to live with my grandmother, Harriet, after Fred, her husband had passed away.

I hope the photos may be of interest to the Village Archivists.

I've also attached a copy of The Church Magazine, 1941, with the "Vicar's Letter "during the second WW.

I thought it may be of particular interest and wasn't sure whether you had any remaining from that turbulent period.

My grandmother, and later my mother, had kept it, as it also had my parent's marriage announcement in it. There is also attached, a Bramham, All Saints, School Photograph from about 1928.

Thank you again,

Yours Sincerely

Edward Thornton.

PS, I wonder if you recall, that when you came into the churchyard the other Sunday with the burial plan, I asked if my grandfather, Frederick C H Fisher, was interred there, but at the time I wasn't 100% sure if he was buried at Bramham.

Well, whilst I have been going through these other photos and records I came across the Burial Announcement in the All Saints' Parish Magazine, dated February 1927.

I would be most grateful if you were able to enquire as to the whereabouts, in the churchyard, his resting place is. And if any records still remain.

I have attached the rather worn copy of the Church Magazine carrying the announcement.

Hello Neil,

Thank you for message and kind offer to me to view your website of Village History, Which I'm sure will be of great interest to me.

Please feel free to use any of the photos or stories of ours in the Village Archive.

I'm sure any of my family who have lived in the village, would be happy to be remembered in this way.

I know, from the stories I heard as a child, growing up on the other side of the Pennines in Lancashire, that both lots of my grandparents and my parents, remember, with great affection, their own time living in Bramham.

My father, William A. H .Thornton, born 16-01-1919, son of William and Norah Ruth Thornton, was raised in Bramham, and my mother, Miriam I Thornton, nee Fisher, lived there from about 1925, until her marriage at All Saints Church, in 1941.

My mother and her older brother, George , and their parents, Harriet and Frederick C. H. Fisher, had the butcher's shop in what is now, the right hand side of the Red Lion Pub.

My father and his sister, Fran Beevors, nee Thornton, lived directly opposite the Red Lion in a House called " Rock Leigh" with their Parents, Will and Norah Ruth Thornton

They had a plumbing business there until the outbreak of WW2.

Fran still lives in the village, in Ivy Cottage, on Front Street.

I've attached a couple more photos, one, a larger one, of the shop, that is now part of the pub. and a second scan of a programme of music with villagers names on it, including George Fisher and his best friend Arthur Tindall, dating from mid 1930s.

I hope they are of interest and use to you

I think I still have other items of interest regarding village life from the pre WW1 and WW2 era, so will send them to you, if you would like to see them.

I have also sent some additional photos to Anne, at the Old Vicarage today, so perhaps she will forward those to you also

Thank you again for your kind offer.

Yours Sincerely,

Edward Thornton