

Cornelia Clutterbuck's ScrapBook Diaries

Notes by H.V. Beck indicating her range of interests, activities and talents



1945 (Jan to Dec) Crusaders in 1945 - Part 1 Member of 102 Relief Section (Scouts). Service in Holland (Nijmegen, Gorinchem, Schiedam) & Germany (Belsen, Fallingbostal).

See special summary *1945-46 Scout Relief in NW Europe*



1945 (Dec) to 1946 (Jul). Crusaders in 1945 – Part 2 Member of 102 Relief Section (Scouts). Service in Germany (Luneberg, Bomlitz).

See special summary *1945-46 Scout Relief in NW Europe*



1959 In & Around Goathland Religious Introduction based on Psalm 121 vv1,2. Scrap book diary to be kept of holiday impressions of beauty, interest & humour. Poem re packing. Thoughts on travelling and travelling companions. Holiday alone, staying in Goathland, North Yorkshire. Visits to many places around, such as Pickering Castle & Church, Whitby Abbey, Wades Causeway, Staithes, Saltersgate and York. Illustrated descriptions in meticulous detail of the places she visited, along with the thoughts they prompted. The people she met are also affectionately described. A letter expressing appreciation of her company is addressed to Clutty.



1960 One Week in the West Country (30 Jul to 9 Aug) Break from Parish & home duties. Day dreams of what it will be like conjured up from memories of previous holidays. To Plymouth and a warm welcome from her 4½ year old God-daughter, Liz, and her mother and father. Army family. Tours around by buses and ferries to, for example, Whitsand, Treganhawke, Dartmoor, Mount Edgecombe Park, Yelveton, Kingsland, Staple Tor. Morning Prayer at the Royal Citadel. Enjoying rural life and taking pleasure in both old and new buildings and localities. Reflective and prayerful observations on all she did and saw.



1961 Plymouth (1 to 8 Aug) The holiday and Scrap Book are continuations of those of 1960. Stayed with God-daughter, Liz, and her mother – father away on duty. Repeated some excursions of 1960 and went on new ones such as Fowey (by BR Steamer), Tavistock and Saltash, Visit to Church of the Ascension, Crownhill.. Picked blackberries and watched television.



1961 Vol 2 Rectory Roundabout Being the further recollections of an Hon. Parish Sec. Parish matters. Devoted to Rector & Mrs. P. Bradshaw. Much musing esp in terms of animals e.g elephants, Parish bought filing cabinet, filing system introduced, Cornelia welcomed return to orthodox Services & Parish unity, Princess Margaret visit, planted tree on All Saints site, love of Art. Eulogy re Rector. Drawings, cuttings & verse.



1962 Holiday in Dear Old Devon (12 to 26 Jul) On the journey to Plymouth to see her God-daughter, Liz, and her parents. Walks, buses, ferries, steamer excursions to such as Tamerton Folio (drank draught Devon Cyder), Newton Ferrers, Wembury, Kingsand, Cawsand, Princeton, Dartmeet, Salcombe (to see Bar Lodge), Heybrook Bay (5 hours lying on the beach) and Tavistock. Entered fully into family life.

Much re churches – went to Garrison Church for a very abbreviated form of Matins. Impressed by Buckfast Abbey, an exception to her new thinking on churches. She had regarded English churches favourably but now, perhaps because of changes at her own Parish church (St. Nicholas, Peter Bradshaw) she thought the old churches looked archaic, out of date, isolated and out of touch with life around them and definitely not symbolic of a living Church. Communion at the modern Church of the Ascension.

The holiday ended with her being collected early to join a party of Officers' families to see the arrival in Plymouth of HM the Queen and HRH Prince Philip to open the new Council House.



1961-1963 Vol 3 Rectory Roundabout (continued) Parish in detail - e.g. Services, Sectors, administration, Stewardship, alterations to buildings, All Saints project. Parish Office in Rectory, C's 4 afternoons/week, 1962 move to Sacristy. Story re Rector unhappy about maps. Verses re animals etc. Vagrants given food, not money. Author of New Year message? Harpenden Christian Council formed. Curates - Peter Nott arrives & Lord Sandford spoke re local refugee work. C thoughts re being bitty & repetitive. Great devotion to Rector & family.



1969 Part 1 Bulford (31 May to 7 Jun) Unsure about making a Scrapbook but after reactions of "astonishment mounting almost to horror" decided to have a go. To Bulford via Andover to stay with God-daughter, Liz, and her parents. Game of Spin. Helped with gardening. Watched TV. Watched polo match at Tidworth. To Bulford Church for Communion.

Visits to Stourhead, Abbey Church at Amesbury, Salisbury Cathedral. Bus to Old Sarum. – lay on ramparts and thought of other places where she had lain on her own being renewed for the days that lay ahead. Brought into service a bicycle which hadn't been ridden for 20 years and cycled to Stonehenge for a proper visit. Taken by car to Wilton Carpet factory, Wilton House and three Churches. Peaceful on land but Army helicopters and noisy jets overhead. View of Salisbury Plain from Beacon Hill. Felt thoroughly relaxed and refreshed..

1969 Part 2 North-South North & West (18 Jul to 30 Jul) Robert drove down from his home in Cheshire and he and Cornelia, after visiting St. Albans to say farewell to mother drove to Robert's home, making a detour to view the floodlit church at Lower Peover, arriving around 1am. Spent the day gardening then attended the last performance of Peover Saga, part of a 7th Centenary Pageant. Attended Communion at the Church (Robert ringing the bells), at which the Archbishop of York preached. Later that day visited Manchester Airport to watch the planes and listened on the radio to man's first moon landing.

Borrowed a bike to visit Jodrell Bank, learning there more about the moon landing. Disregarded a 'keep out' notice to see waterfall. Disappointed at lack of ice creams. Cycled to Knutsford then Tatton Park (glad to see cyclists catered for). Dinghies with bright sails on the Mere added to her delight.

Drive to Hampton Court for the Arab Horses Society Show (Robert was a Ring Steward). Some entrants from Harpenden. Stayed at The Mitre.

Drive North via Welford (overnight), Naseby, Coventry Gliding Club, and Stanford Park to stay with the Wolfes at Church Stoke. Matins then drove to Bishops Castle, climbed to top of Todleth, lay enjoying the view. Surprise birthday cake. Visits to Montgomery, Newtown, Welshpool, Dolgelly, Barmouth.

To Sussex via Stokesay Castle & Church, Warwick, Banbury to Harpenden.




1970 Volume 2


11 Aug to 15 Aug Drove back with Robert to Harpenden (from somewhere no doubt described in 1970 Volume 1). Drinks with Hanburys – Robert & Brigadier Hanbury were Lambrook Old Boys and had much else in common. Driving and much walking visits with Robert to over 20 churches e.g. at Little and Great Hormead, Barkway, Braughing, Standon, Albury, Little Hadham, Great & Little Wymondley, Buntingford, Weston, Best kept village >700. Chinese meal in Bishops Stortford then home. Mr. & Mrs. Gant? Best to book an evening meal as well as B&B.


21 Aug to 24 Aug To Christchurch via the New Forest. Robert continued on to Coombe Bissett for his Godson Ian's wedding. Stay at a house reminiscent of Miss Haversham's. Tour of Bournemouth. Visits to splendid Priory Church at Christchurch, boat to Mudeford Beach. Communion Service at St. Katharine's Church. Watched a breath-taking film on TV. Robert re-joined, drive back to Harpenden, many stops for refreshment, to view places of interest or unsuccessfully look up old friends of Robert.


28 Aug to 1 Sep Bank Holiday Weekend. Driven by Robert up M1 to his home. Matins at church at Little Peover where Robert was bellringer, choirman and Churchwarden. Visit by the Reads to try some of their home-made (Elderflower 1968) wine. Back to Harpenden by train via Peak District.


5 Oct to 12 Oct To the home of her God-daughter, Liz, and family at Hatherden by rail and car, hours in London exploring West End shops. Walk to Wildhern, Enham Alamein. Driven to Appleshaw, Church of St. Peter in the Wood, Walk, passing Biddesden House to Ludgershall (Church of St. James), bus to Andover, driven back to Hatherden (very quiet). Driven to Bulford (coffee with Vicar and his wife) sketched the home and did a tour of pretty villages. Made a bird table, walked to Charlton, supper at Walnut Tree Inn, Appleshaw. Walked around hamlets in the Parish of Chute. English countryside not as spoiled by roads and motorways as she had thought. Watched TV but no desire to have one herself. To Communion at Tangle - only 11 people including the Vicar, who conducted the Service and played the organ. Returned by train via London, spending some time on the 33rd floor of the Post Office tower.


 1971 Cornelia decided that, following the example of a great great grandmother's c1851 diary, from here on she would mention conditions of life, e.g. what people were wearing. She included what we now call graphics to illustrate her narrative e.g. drawings, some coloured, press cuttings, picture postcards, tickets, photos. She describes visits to friends & relations and describes incidents such as rescuing a horse. Kate Fergusson sometimes provided transport. Cornelia and her brother Robert (teacher, map maker, home made wine, collecting bricks) did much together. Cornelia received a hyacinth from a Wolf cub pack.

 1972 Photo of Cornelia & Robert with flint wall they had constructed at 9 Manland Avenue. Photo of Ted Heath, Prime Minister. Travels in the UK with Robert, esp Scotland.

 1973 Jury Service. Travels in Wales. Roger Davis & Sara Cook wedding, July 7th (photo) - Sara & her father stayed at Cornelia's the night before. Ref to elections in June for new District Councils. Some 1974 items included.

 1973-74 The End of the Scrapbook of a Parish Secretary and the Start of the Scrapbook of a Plain Parishioner Mostly re Church - many parishioners' names. Cornelia decided not to write any more as she felt she was getting too critical & repetitive. JW Letter.

 1974 #1 What does 1974 hold in store? Resumed writing - some events already referred to in previous Scrapbook. More outward-looking. Notes on events local, national & international. Pic of Parliamentary candidates incl Tony Shaw. Travels with Robert.

 1974 #2 (Jan to Dec) Scrapbook of a Plain Parishioner Mostly re her Church life on relinquishing her job as Parish Secretary after 16 years. Timeline table of 1955-73 Parish staff. Newspaper cuttings with clergy photos. Delight at Dinner in her honour. Janet Searby photos of experimental colour scheme at East end of St. Nicholas Church. Entertaining a Stepney boy - saddened by Harpenden/Stepney disparity. Deanery Synod meeting re ordination of women. Part-time job at St. Georges School, looking after young girl boarders. Decided not to continue writing ScrapBook Diaries as she felt she was too critical and unconstructive. Two thirds of exercise book left blank.



1975 (Jan to Aug) 3 Family Trees. Historical Society & LINK articles. To Aylesbury to type for former Rector Peter Graham. Work at St. George's School. Long walks. Mentions of Coggan Enthronement, E Heath defeat by Mrs. Thatcher, Referendum on Common Market (no indication of her vote), Lord Soper at Methodist Church. Playing games. Mentions of many Harpenden people.



1975 (Aug to Dec) Canals. Verse. Photos. October 75 started weekly help in CHC office.



1976 (Jan to Aug) Gale damage. Major political events noted - no indication of personal preferences. Listened to enthronement of Cardinal Basil Hume. Noted death of Field Marshall Montgomery. Attended Point to Point races. Apr/May - involved in Harold Beck's election as Independent. Thought celebration party went on too long. 17 Jul Cub interview re Scouting experiences. Aug - Tour of Isle of Wight.



1976 (Aug to Dec) Gave much help to N.W. Herts Community Health Council (CHC) especially filing Press Cuttings - comment that she only hoped that someone would sometime look at them. 11 Oct At opening of new CHC offices. 13 Dec To Open Evening of Cub Pack, ref 17 Jul interview. 2 postcards(?) missing.



1977 (Jan to Aug) Explanatory Note re Scrapbooks - not a day-to-day diary but variants from general pattern. There followed a description of the general pattern. Much about National Childrens Home (NCH), Harpenden, of which she was a County Council appointed Manager. CHC letterhead (HB Chairman) and Christmas card/invitation from Sheila & I pasted in. 23 Feb - Bank introducing charges for storing boxes led to handing over great great grandfather's History & Antiquities of Herts to County Archivist. Chester & Alderley Edge visit. Much re HM Queen's Silver Jubilee.



1977 (Aug to Dec) Continuing tour of West Country, Wales. 11 Oct attended HB "Meet Your Councillor" (notice pasted in) with comment "both well-attended and constructive". 30 Nov - much re skateboarding craze. Designed a Silver Jubilee Year birthday card.



1978 #1 (Jan to Jun) Statement that pattern of life much the same. 1 Jan - Drinks with H & S Beck. 7 Jan - "spent an hour with Bob & Jennie Boardman who had been members of my wartime Relief Team in Holland & Germany". 1 Mar - CHC Shirley McCarthy item with photo. 26 Mar - Drinks party at the Cottons. Peterborough Cathedral - gt gt grandfather George Davys Bishop 1839-64. Peak District, Cheshire (Robert's home?). J Bunyan's Bedford.



1978 #2 (Jun to Sep) 16 Jun - Early supper with the Cottons who then took her with Jane Meiklejohn to Someries Castle. Fishguard holiday. Very interested in Abbey dig., also Martham Court (wrote poem). 9 Jul - David Warner took her to Wheathampstead for opening of Cory Wright bypass then for a tour of his school.



1978 #3 (Sep to Dec) To Haileybury with Robert for 1930s Reunion. 18 Oct - 3rd Anniversary of 1st day at CHC. 16 Nov - weekly pension increased by £2 to £19.53. 17 Dec - over new footbridge, raised for electrification of railway - original bridge result of campaign by great grandfather Lydekker so that there would be a footpath to Batford. 27 dec - entertained Becks, Cottons, Warners etc. to whom she owed hospitality. Drawing of bracket for bicycle.



1979 #1 (Jan to Jun) Weekly letter from Robert. 11 Jan - thanks for C's design of Xmas card. Poor weather, strikes galore. John Waller departure (B'p of Stafford). Made front door knocker. Chopping & sawing of wood. New garage - house built in 1925. 11 Feb - Aunt ill (92). 7 Mar - visit by USA cousin. 2 Apr - Richard Llewellyn appointed Rector. 7 Mar to 4 May HB Election campaign - Simultaneous District & General Election. Counting Agent signature witnessed by Simon Cotton J.P. 7 Jun - European Assembly Election.



1979 #2 (Jun to Oct) Jul - Holiday in Lincolnshire. 27 Aug - Mountbatten killed.



1979 #3 (Oct to Dec) & 1980 #1 (Jan to May) Single queue system in P.O. Visits to Aunt, CHC & NCH continuing. 4 Nov - Enjoyable Lunch Party with David & June Warner. 10 Nov to London for Lord Mayor's Show. Evening classes to make Christmas presents. Designed Year of the Child Xmas card. 21 Nov - Ecumenical Reburial of St. Albans Abbots which had been buried in site of new Chapter House. 8 Dec- Annual holly hunt. 29 Dec - Lunch with the Cottons, drinks with neighbours and following day to the Becks for another Drinks Party.

2 Jan - Much re CHC. From 9 Jan - Much re Harpenden. 17 Jan - Went as HB's guest to conferring of Freedom of St. Albans on Robert Runcie, Archbishop designate. 18 Jan - tired of wait for bus at St.A Bus Depot. 5 May - Iran Embassy siege. 21 May - Volcanic ash halts trains & planes (in NW USA).



1980 #2 (May to Sep) 2-week Lake District holiday with Robert & three others, based in Kirkby in Furness. Jun/Jul Visits to Aunt in Nursing Home, dealing with Aunt's affairs, clearing out Aunt's home, The Lodge, arranged for Natural History Museum to collect some items, Phillips (Auctioneers) to dispose of much of the rest. 5 Jul Watched Wimbledon on Lewis's colour TV. 4-6 Aug Visit by Californian cousins. 21 Aug/4 Sep Visits with Barbara Garner to Penshurst Place & Blenheim Palace. 28 Sep To Ordination in St. Nicholas by Bishop of Bedford - Derrick Elliott & Christopher Wharton among the five ordained.



1980 #3 (Oct to Dec) & 1981 #1 (Jan to Apr) 15 Oct Wine & cake at CHC to mark 5 years as volunteer dealing with Press cuttings. One CHC member had been taught by her at Lea House School some 40 years before. 16 Nov Watched dismantling of Hollybush Lane signal box. 24 Nov Went into large London store for the first time since the disappearance of lift attendants.

2 Jan Warm thanks from Honey (?). 7 Jan Attended Public Enquiry on proposed change of route of Public Footpath. 20 Jan Visit to Kate Fergusson's Garston Parish. 1 Apr Taken in by April Fools Day announcement on the radio that the European Government had issued an order that in icy weather everyone was to wear non-slip shoes.



1981 #2 (Apr to Jul) 5Apr Did what gt gt grandmother did in 1851 - filled up Census form. 6 Apr Spent some time in churchyard tidying up the family graves. 27 Apr With Robert to his Cheshire home near Knutsford. Robert is Treasurer of a Church (St. Oswald's, Little Peover). Returned 5 May. Seeing solicitor re Aunt and sorting out photos and silver from The Lodge. 11 Jun With National Trust to Wollaton & Hardwick Halls. 14 Jun To lunch given by the Llewellyns for Peter Bradshaw. 16 Jun Met Goddaughter Susan Balmforth (nee Lindsell), husband an NZer. 1 to 15 Jul. With Robert for holiday in Guernsey. 23 Jul Entertained several of the residents of Martham Court. 28 Jul Watched Charles & Diana wedding at the Cottons. 30 Jul Met Honey, visiting from California.



1981 #3 (Aug to Dec) Cornelia notes mileage of journeys to Robert's Cheshire home. 27 Sep to Ordination of Dennis Mihill. 2 Oct To Handicraft meeting at NCH - new group of children, whose behaviour was too good to be true. 8 Oct NCH children behaved in a slightly less restrained manner - one showed her an alternative way of drawing a star. Oct Paid Stewardship visits. 27 Oct Differences in pub names between Cheshire & Hertfordshire noted. 28 Oct. Assists Robert in hunting activities - wondering about the rightness of spending so much money on hunting. 31 Oct Bring & Buy at Martham Court. 8-29 Dec A big freeze.



1982 #1 (Jan to May) 6-15 Jan Extremely cold, snow, floods. 5 Jan Aunt, nearly 96, had a fall and broke a hip, leading to hip replacement discharge to the nursing home, hip resetting and on 1 May transfer to The Red House. Cornelia given to much walking e.g. Redbourn to Harpenden, Harpenden to & from St. Albans.



1982 #2 (May to Jul) 28 May-2 Jun Listened to BBC's coverage of Pope's visit. 5 Jun Attended funeral of "town character" Cecil Bragg. 12 Jun National Trust visit to Saffron Walden - arrived in thunderstorm but "was able to enjoy a smoke while sheltering in the portal of an imposing house". 25 Jun- 9 Jul On holiday with Robert and Peter & Sylvia Graham at the Beominster holiday home of the Wallers.



1982 #3 (Jul to Oct) 7 Jul Cutting re vote by General Synod against uniting with United Reform, Methodist & Moravian Churches (no comment). 7 Sep At NCH Ackroyd family cut cake they had baked in honour of Christening of Prince William of Wales - another cake went to Buckingham Palace. That evening saw "an unusual & beautiful butterfly in my garden, which, after reference to a Natural History book, I thought to have been a Comma".



1982 #4 (Oct to Dec) 11 Oct "I resumed my usual routine, which included visiting my Aunt most afternoons". 8 Nov Took advantage with Betty Forshaw of a coincession for holders of Pensioners Rail Card by travelling to Norwich, receiving a warm welcome from Vice Dean Peter Bradshaw. 11 Dec "I finished off the annual pollarding of my lime trees". End of 1982 Notes that the Daily Telegraph review of the year's events had left out military law in Poland, NHS & Rail disputes and over 3,000,000 unemployed, which included the thousands of school leavers unable to find jobs.



1983 #1 (Jan to May) Decided to continue with writings. 1 Jan "Regular pattern . . . visiting my Aunt in the Red House in the afternoon and bringing home a bundle of clothes to be washed and ironed . . . 7 Jan High winds so fixed guy lines to garden fence. 5 Feb Walked to Wheathampstead, visited PTA Market and walked back. 7 Feb To History Society meeting re County Records Office - 1977 cutting re history of Hertfordshire written 150 years ago by Robert Clutterbuck. 16 Mar Photo of Aunt on 97th birthday. 23 Mar Handbag stolen - contained diary, also bus pass - "I was most grateful to Anne Jenkins who drove me home". 15 Apr to 7 May, much re her help in unsuccessful election campaign of Harold Beck.



1983 #2 (May to Sep) 18 May Outing to Essex. 19 May Outing to Sussex. 13 Jun Picture of Turk, Robert's much-mentioned dog and birthday card from Turk to "Mis Sticky". 23 Jun - 9 Jul Holiday in Wales - see 1983#3. 23 Jul "I made a quantity of jam from my own gooseberries". 29 Aug To St. Albans. Watched Carnival Procession from St. Peter's Churchyard. "I also spoke to a St. Peter's Churchwarden about moving a large misplaced stone that was covering the Lydekker vault".



1983 #3 Wales Holiday '83 23 Jun to 9 Jul, with Robert (and Turk).



1983 #4 (Sep-Dec) 18 Sep Annual Sloe picking expedition in the fields near Bowers Heath. ScrapBook Diaries neglected while preparing a talk on the Lydekker family - it was "not until well into 1984 that I got down to writing them up". 28 Nov Cornelia gave her talk on the Lydekker family to the Harpenden & district Local History Society. She was pleased with the response. She & Robert met Cousin Anthony from London for the first time. It was hoped that a transcript would be made available to members.



Jottings & Cuttings A collection of verse and prose ranging from rhymes and a playlet for very young children through descriptive nature poems to philosophical works. (SJB)

Harold Beck
31 Oct 2013