

MEMORIES OF A SECOND WORLD WAR EVACUEE BY TREVOR STEWART

Research by a member of the Griffydam History Group into registered evacuees at Griffydam School brought back childhood memories from 70 or so years ago to another member of the group, Trevor Stewart.

Amongst the 77 children evacuated from around the UK to stay with their hosts in Griffydam, Peggs Green, Osgathorpe, Thringstone & Coleorton who also attended Griffydam School was a girl by the name of Joyce Margaret Talbot. She was admitted to school on 25th Sept 1939 and left on the 12th Dec 1939.

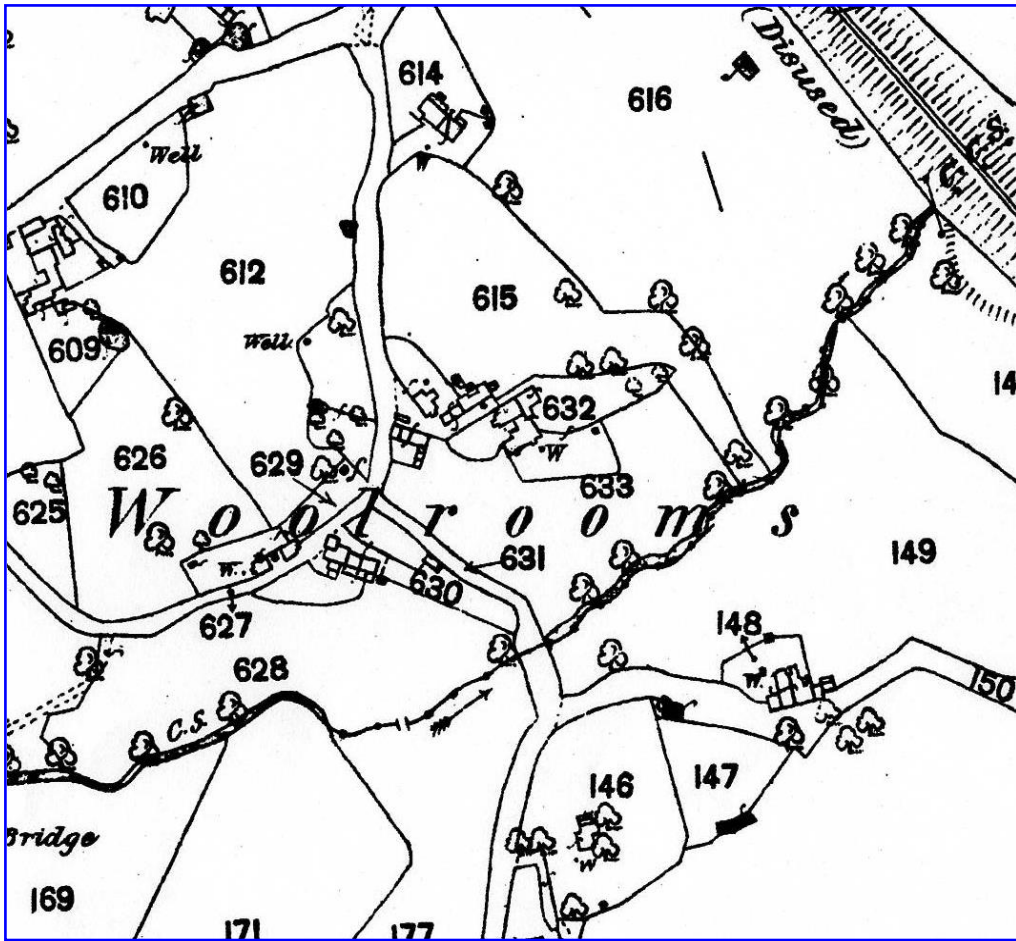
Joyce, who was eleven years older than Trevor came from Derby, and her host's name was Mr and Mrs Frank Bailey of Stoney Lane, Coleorton, who lived in a simple tiny cottage on the RH side of the two semi-detached miner's cottages on Plot 148 shown on the following extract from the 1885 O/S map. This was almost opposite Trevor Stewart's family home, yet to be built. The cottage had the standard "Black leaded oven" and fire with an upright piano. Note the "Well" in the rear garden where they would have obtained their water from at that time.

Trevor knew Joyce because in later years she used to come and visit Mr & Mrs Bailey from Derby with her younger brother Alan. Trevor vividly remembers Alan making him a fishing rod from a new garden cane with a length of cotton on the end and a bent pin attached. They went down to the brook which ran through the fields below just before it entered the tunnel through the old Coleorton Railway embankment to try and catch some sticklebacks. It never worked of course, and it was easier to catch them in a jam jar. However, it was exciting and passed the hours away. How simple life was for children in those days when you made your own entertainment!

Trevor always thought that the Talbots' were relatives of the Bailey's, and of course my Mum and Dad who had their own evacuee never told me any different, but they wouldn't would they!!

It is so nice to learn after all these years that they knew each other because Joyce was their evacuee who took the trouble to visit them in later years.

Frank Bailey and his wife were staunch Methodists and attended Coleorton Primitive Methodist chapel and they are shown in the following photographs.





Mr & Mrs Bailey are on the RH side of the Chapel outing photograph



**Mr Frankie Bailey is in the centre of the front row
with Coleorton Primitive Methodist Chapel in the background**