

## Thorndon Bowls Club

### *Ancient History!-but now within living memory.*

As promised in the last edition I have tried to identify some of the bowlers mentioned in the Newspaper reports using the 1939 Register. To explain what this is I have copied from the National Archive introduction...

#### *When and why the Register was compiled*

*The 1939 Register was taken on 29 September 1939. The information was used to produce identity cards and, once rationing was introduced in January 1940, to issue ration books. Information in the Register was also used to administer conscription and the direction of labour, and to monitor and control the movement of the population caused by military mobilisation and mass evacuation.*

#### *What and who the Register records*

*The 1939 Register was designed to capture the details of every member of the civilian population on a specific date – military personnel were not recorded. It contains details of around 40 million people, recorded in more than 65,000 volumes (transcript books).*

*While the 1939 Register is not a census, it is arranged along similar lines and includes similar, if less detailed, information. It does, however, show exact dates of birth where census returns simply give a person's age.*

...and as previously mentioned there are no Census records for 1931 or 1941. The 1921 Census should be released in January 2022 under the 100 year rule.

On to the bowlers of 1939- an easy one to start with was Ribbons who it turns out was the Police Officer living in Wetheringsett with his wife and two children-Sydney and Ruby. John W Coy was at Poplar Farm Thorndon and RR Cracknell lived at Rishangles Lodge although there is another R Cracknell in Hestley Green. Albert Bailey was at the Post Office with his son Edward and another child who because of the rules covering age and time has redacted information! Now with the H. Everson I do not know whether this is Horace or Herbert-but they both lived in the High Street. A Charles Alderton was in Rose Cottage in The Street with his wife Alice. A possible for F Rush was Frederick who lived at Winfields Farm Occold. And the last one I am reasonably confident with is Edward Brock who lived in Laundry Cottage. The biggest disappointment is that I cannot track down a Miss Roper in or near to Thorndon so unless someone else can help I am stumped.

These people were-in no particular order-Master Carpenter, Farmer, Post Master, Police Officer, Master Boot Maker-and Special Constable, a Horseman on a farm, a bricklayer and a labourer.

Absolute certainty about some of these but questions about the accuracy of others remains!! Please forgive me if I have it wrong-and do let me know!

## The 1940's-

### THORNDON

#### THE LATE MR. J. TYDEMAN.

The funeral took place at Thorndon Parish Church on Monday, of Mr. James Tydeman, who died at his home, White House Farm, on Thursday of last week, aged 82 years. Before coming to Thorndon, Mr. Tydeman carried on business as a carpenter and wheelwright. He had been at Thorndon for about 40 years, during which time he was a prominent member of the village bowls club and served for a period as a churchwarden.

The Rev. H. A. Harris, Rector, officiated and Mrs. L. Brown, at the organ, accompanied the singing of the hymns "Rock of Ages" and "Jesu, Lover of my Soul."

Family mourners were Mr. H. Tydeman and Mr. J. Tydeman (sons), Mr. and Mrs. R. Southgate (Gosbeck), Mr. T. Clarke, Mr. S. Rose, Mrs. M. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. W. Attwood and Mr. D. Legros (nieces and nephews), Mr. and Mrs. C. Noller (brother-in-law and sister-in-law) and Mr. J. Legros (brother-in-law).

The widow and Mrs. H. Tydeman, (daughter-in-law) were unable to be present.

Others present included Mr. H. C. H. Conor, Mr. W. J. Coy, Mr. F. Hammond, Mr. A. J. Hammond, Mr. R. Cracknell, Mr. W. Welham, Mrs. H. Eley, Mr. S. Fulcher, Mr. C. A. Hammond, Mr. C. R. Hammond, Mrs. Chapman (representing Thorndon School), Mr. J. Wells, Mr. J. Hunt, Mr. G. Pooley, Mr. A. J. Hillen, Mr. S. Rose (Wetheringsett), Messrs. I. Stringer and J. Cracknell (employees), Mr. and Mrs. R. Southgate, Mrs. G. Smith, Mrs. L. Pond, Mr. Lock, Mr. Farrow, Mr. Hammond, Mr. F. Rush, Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Thompson, Mrs. W. J. Farrow, Miss M. Noller, Mrs. L. Baker, Mrs. J. Aldis, Mrs. F. Wilding, Mrs. B. Abbott, Miss M. Wilding, Mr. W. Ribbons (Eye), Mr. D. L. Fairweather, J.P. (representing Barclay's Bank, Eye), Mr. and Mrs. W. Last and Mr. J. Adams.

Wreaths were received from: widow and son; son and daughter-in-law; employees on the farm; the Thorndon Bowls Club; Mr. and Mrs. F. Hammond; Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Hammond; Mr. and Mrs. Ford (Ipswich); May and Margie; Miss Newman; Mr. and Mrs. Settles; Mrs. Chapman; Mrs. Smith; Tom and Minnie, Maud and Winnie.

The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. E. D. Brock (Thorndon).

### VAYLEY

You may recall from earlier in the Bowls Club history that the Tydeman family were very involved in the club so this must have been a sad time for many. This from the Diss Express in February 1940.

In August 1941 Messrs Brock and Bailey organised a bowls drive and raised 'over £8' in aid of the Comforts for the Sailors Fund, the winners being Mr R Cracknell, Mr Everson and Mrs Beare and Mrs Claborn. I cannot find a trace of these two ladies-or even the family name does not appear within a twenty mile radius.

In October 1942 the 'Ladies of Thorndon Bowls Club' ran a whist drive at Stanwell Lodge in aid of the Lord Lieutenant's Suffolk War Fund, especially for the Prisoners of War and Missing. £11 was raised and Mr Bailey was the M.C. with the prizes donated by the ladies themselves.

In an edition of a 1949 Diss Express more sad news with the death of Mr Cook. Within the obituary is a phrase which goes towards explaining why, besides the war, there are so few references to the Bowls Club in the 1940's. The phrase 'now defunct Thorndon Club' appears near the end-

## A WELL KNOWN PERSONALITY

### *The Late Mr. R. J. Cook,* Thorndon

A large congregation from a wide area—testifying to the esteem and respect in which he had been held for many years—attended the funeral at Thorndon Parish Church on Tuesday week of Mr. Richard John Cook, of Green Farm, Thorndon, whose death at the age of 71 occurred in East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital. A member of a well-known Suffolk farming family whose association with Thorndon stretches back well over a hundred years, Mr. Cook was born at Green Farm and had farmed there in his own right from 1912 to the time of his death. Apart from his farming activities he had in former years become well-known as a rates and taxes collector in the Hartismere district. For many years he was closely identified with the public life of Thorndon and only comparatively recently retired from the offices of Clerk to the Parish Council and Town Estate Trustees. A keen bowls player, he was a member of the now defunct Thorndon Club, and also clubs at the Red Lion Inn (Debenham) and Beddingfield.

Mr. Cook had also been prominently

I haven't found anything official about the end of the Bowls Club and think it is unlikely anything is publicly available but never say never...and of course somebody may know something.

In the Diss Express area there are numerous reports of bowls being played during the war year with many of them being used as fund raising events for the war effort, buying a Spitfire and local Ambulance to name but a few. Diss Cherry Tree Club held a VE Day plus 1 drive and had a good turnout of players!