

ROUND AND ABOUT IN THE PARISH....

With a few other ladies from the Ashdown W.I. we were sitting on Jubilee Green (October 2020) and I must assure you we were all suitably distanced, with masks, hand-gel at the ready and not touching anything and within the prescribed number, when one of the ladies produced some photos of a shop in Danehill. At this my ears pricked up - I stopped eating my picnic (we all brought our own food and chairs - oh! we were so very good) and listened intently. The photos were of the shoe-maker's shop in Danehill. I have briefly written about Cris Newnham before but as I also have new information from Ray Smith, I thought it was worth another article.



This is an early photo of Cris Newnham in his wooden hut at Danehill and it is believed it was taken around the time of his marriage in 1926. His name was Crispin, although it was always abbreviated to Cris. [photo 1]

During WW2, Cris was in the XIVth Platoon 17th Sussex Battalion Home Guard and the late Ron Wenham told me that he and Cris were part of a detachment guarding the Water Works. Ron said there were not many rifles to go around at first, and any sort of gun was welcomed, but eventually they all had a rifle and hand grenades. They had to take turns to do guard duty at night and they got a very small allowance. When an invasion was expected the Home Guard spent many nights at the Denard (now known as Dane Wood) and everyone had a crowbar and if the German tanks were coming up the top of the bank they were supposed to run down and jam the crowbar in the tank. Big concrete tank blocks were positioned outside Cris's old white shop.



Cris was public-spirited and he stood as a candidate for the Mayor of Danehill and Chelwood Gate. The election was held at a fete at Cumnor House School when over £280 was raised towards a target of £1,500 for repairs to the Memorial Hall. Cris unfortunately did not win.

This second photo shows Cris' shop when it was housed in a brick building at Danehill. This area was known informally as Crispens Corner, Danehill. Cris is with his wife Glad who used to work behind the bar in the Social Club from time to time. [

Ray Smith has let me have some publicity Cris did regarding his summer sale, although I don't know what year this would have been. Cris also composed a poem to attract attention.

My thanks to Lin Smith, Pete Baker, Ray Smith, Ian and David Etherton and the late Ron Wenham. **Jill Rolfe 740446**

In Days of Old when Knight were Bold
And wore fine footwear made of gold
Their clothes of silk came from the east
On which their ladies' eyes would feast
The men were then the beauteous creatures
With powder and paint upon their features
Its a shame to spoil such lovely rhymes
With tales of our prosaic times
The shoes today though not of gold
Are still as lovely to behold
Though men no longer sing their praises
For now they grace the feet of ladies
Mere man can but stand and stare
And wonder how, and why, and where
Which brings me to what I'm driving at
My Annual Sale it starts next Sat.
With bargains for both Man and Maid
So come and see, don't be afraid
A Sale's the mildest form of vices
You'll be astounded at the prices

C. CRISPIN NEWNHAM,
FAMILY BOOT DEALER & REPAIRER
BOOT STORES - - DANE HILL
SUMMER SALE

Commencing Saturday July 29th.

- PLEASE NOTE—The shop will be closed from August 14th. until August 19th for Annual Holiday.



A more subtle form of advertising and a socially compliant WI, though the empty chair is concerning!