

Richard Bertram Ling

11th March 1884 - 9th May 1954

Richard Bertram Ling (Bertie) was born on 11th March 1884, in Addlestone, Surrey, to Thomas John and Sarah (nee Bodley) Ling. He was one of six children; Eva Beatrice Ling (1864-1945) - unmarried, Edith Bodley Ling (1866-1935) - married Richard Craker and William Laud Morley, Eleanor Bayes Ling (1869-1944) - Board School Teacher, Vivian Reginald Martin Ling (1874-1947) - Office Clerk and Bank Cashier, who left £877. 12s. 4d. in his Will and Maud Isabel Ling 1877-1881. Richard was baptised on 20th April 1884 at St Paul's Addlestone.



A portrait of Richard Ling

Church christening record of Richard Bertram Ling.

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Surrey, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1912 for Richard Bertram Ling

Zoom In | Addlestone, St Paul | 1881-1893

1884	Richard Bertram	Thomas John & Sarah	Ling	Addlestone	Lindheim Printer	W. J. James
No. 234						

Record of Richard Ling's baptism

Richard's father, Thomas (1838-1887) originated in Ewell, Surrey. He was living in Campsey Ash in Suffolk in 1851. By 1861 had moved to Iver in Buckinghamshire. Ten years later he was living in Lambeth and in 1881 was living in Chersey in Surry. By

1887, when he died he had moved back Lambert, London.. Thomas started his working life as an Errand Boy to a Grocer, Joseph Evans in Iver, Buckinghamshire. He later became a Floor Cloth Painter.

His mother, Sarah (April 1842—March 1918) was born in St Luke, Middlesex. She was living in Lavender Hill, Battersea in 1891, was a shopkeeper in 1901 and was living off her own means in 1911. She died in Wandsworth on March 1918.

Richard became an Architect and later was a member of The Worshipful Company of Gardeners (see notes at the end). This originated as a Craft Guild set up in 1345 and ensured a proper horticultural training through a system of apprenticeships.

In 1605 it was incorporated into the Royal Charter. Its ambition to beautify The City of London with flowers and foliage.

Today it is mainly a charitable organisation supporting horticultural projects throughout London and elsewhere. Richard was elected Master in 1952 and served until his death in 1954.

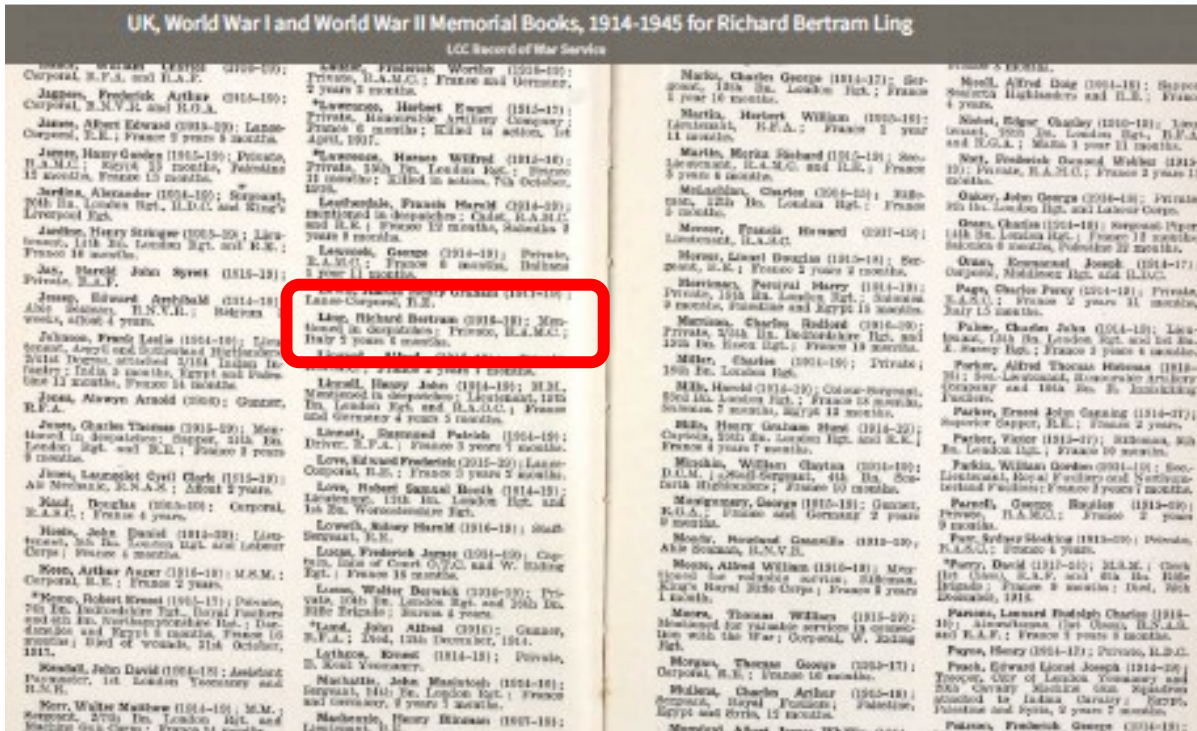


Danehill Parish Historical Society

Richard served in the Army Medical Corps in WW1 and was posted to Italy where he met a nurse called Adelina "Adele" Porto. Romance blossomed and they were married there on 10th April 1920.

He was an Acting Warrant Officer and was mentioned in Dispatches, but it is not recorded what he did to receive this honour. After coming to England with Richard, Adele

became a language teacher,



Richard Ling is recorded in the World War I memorial book

presumably in Italian and they settled in Sydenham. It is unclear whether Westwood Hill is in Sydenham or Lewisham as it is recorded differently in some records. His main residence was at 103, Westwood Hill, Sydenham, but he kept a summer house in Danehill. In 1939 he and Adele lived at Oak Farm, Lewes, Road and then in, aptly named, Richard Bertram House also in Lewes Road. They had two children, Ricardo Vivian and Mary Stella. He died at Westwood Hill. He is buried at Danehill Burial Ground East Sussex. The inscription on headstone reads 'Worshipful Company of Gardeners Master in 1953. He was Master from 1952-1954'.



Richard Ling is buried at Danehill cemetery

LING Richard Bertram of 103 Westwood Hill Sydenham London S.E.26 died 9 May 1954 Probate Lewes 18 August to Adelina Porto Ling widow. Effects £7359 16s. 11d.

Richard Ling—taken from the National probate calendar

Surrey, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1917 for Richard Bertram Ling

Address: 51 Paul 1883-1893

BAPTISMS administered in the Parish of Danehill in the County of Surrey in the year One thousand eight hundred and eighty four

Year	Month	Day	Child's Name	Parents	Minister	Quality, Grade or Distinction	By what Authority
1884	April	24	Richard Bertram	John & Mary Ling	Richard Bertram	Ordinary	By Appointment
1884	April	29	Richard Bertram	John & Mary Ling	Richard Bertram	Ordinary	By Appointment
1884	April	27	Thomas	John & Mary Ling	Richard Bertram	Ordinary	By Appointment
1884	May	1	Frederick	John & Mary Ling	Richard Bertram	Ordinary	By Appointment
1884	May	1	John	John & Mary Ling	Richard Bertram	Ordinary	By Appointment
1884	May	4	Lily	John & Mary Ling	Richard Bertram	Ordinary	By Appointment

BAPTISMS administered in the Parish of Danehill in the County of Surrey in the year One thousand eight hundred and eighty four

Year	Month	Day	Child's Name	Parents	Minister	Quality, Grade or Distinction	By what Authority
1884	May	8	George	John & Mary Ling	Richard Bertram	Ordinary	By Appointment
1884	May	8	William	John & Mary Ling	Richard Bertram	Ordinary	By Appointment
1884	May	8	George	John & Mary Ling	Richard Bertram	Ordinary	By Appointment
1884	May	8	John	John & Mary Ling	Richard Bertram	Ordinary	By Appointment
1884	May	8	Emily	John & Mary Ling	Richard Bertram	Ordinary	By Appointment
1884	May	25	John	John & Mary Ling	Richard Bertram	Ordinary	By Appointment

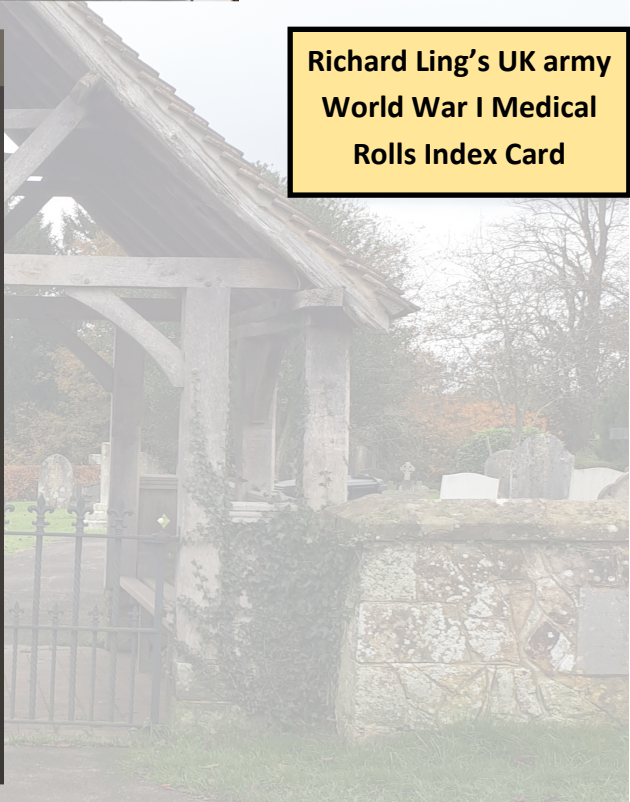
Records showing Richard Ling's baptism

UK, British Army World War I Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920 for Richard B Ling

A-Z > Levett-McEvan > Ling, A-Linton, William J

Name	Comp.	Rank	Regt. No.
LING	R.A.M.C.	AWOCTI	522274
Richard B			
Medal	Ref.	Page	Remarks
Victory	R.A.M.C. 524	3894	
Threats of War Entrenched in			
Date of entry therein			
Correspondence			
Address			

Richard Ling's UK army World War I Medical Rolls Index Card



UK, World War I Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920 for Richard Bertram Ling

British War Medal and Victory Medal > Royal Army Medical Corps > Place 3882: Royal Army Medical Corps

R.A.M.C. REGIMENT OR CORPS

ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS called to the Victory Medal and/or British War Medal under Army Order 301 & 306 of 1920

NAME	Service No.	Rank	Regt.	Remarks
Richard Bertram LING	522274	AWOCTI	R.A.M.C.	
Edward William	522275			
John	522276			
George	522277			
William	522278			
John	522279			
Emily	522280			

Richard Ling is recorded on the medal and awards roll

The Worshipful Company of Gardeners

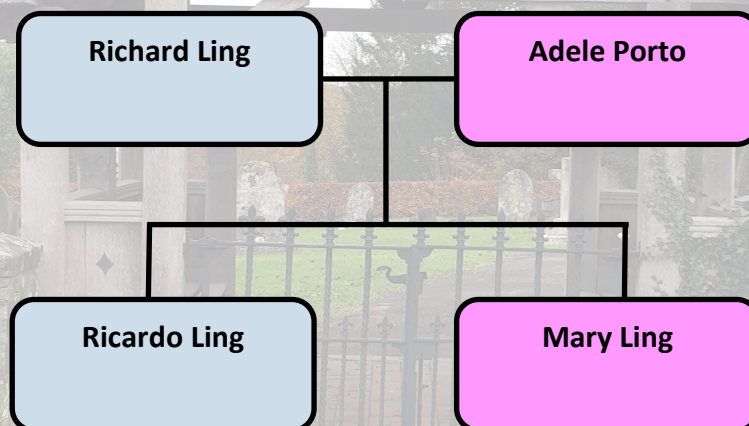
Objectives:

In the 21st century control over the craft of gardening is neither feasible or desirable. Instead the Company pursues three main objectives.

- ◆ Promote the art and practice of gardening throughout the country, especially in the London area. Further, to encourage and support educational establishments which are centres of horticultural excellence.
- ◆ Support charitable activities connected with horticulture or with the City of London.
- ◆ Promote the fellowship of gardening by introducing new members to the Company and to beautify the City of London and elsewhere by encouraging the display of flowers and foliage wherever possible. There is a wide knowledge of gardening and horticulture within the Company which can be drawn upon as practical support for new projects.

Each year The Company presents a gift of produce to the Lord Mayor of London.

The Company presents bouquets of flowers to the Queen and Princesses on their marriage, anniversaries and similar occasions.



'Virtues of the Medlar'. Submitted by R.V.Ling. Lindfield.

This letter was contributed to The Sussex County Magazine 1942.

'It is surprising how many people nowadays do not know what a Medlar is; country folk are no exception, and it is strange that this should be so as, in my part of Sussex at least, Medlar trees are not uncommon, and they bear plentifully.

The fruit, which as Shakespeare reminds us has to be "rotten ere it is ripe", is not to everybody's taste, but the tree is well worth growing for its beauty alone; the clusters of quaint fruit, nestling among the long, strongly marked leaves in the whole range of autumn colours, are very striking. Propagation is by grafting on to willow stock, but any nurseryman will supply trees.

Those who do possess a tree or two may very easily find themselves with a large amount of fruit on their hands, and may interested to know that a delicious jam can be made. The ripe fruit, with just enough water to cover, is simmered to a pulp and passed through a strainer to remove skin and pips. The usual amount of sugar is then added and the jam boiled in the ordinary way; if the jam is not to be kept more than a month or two, however, a much smaller quantity of sugar is quite sufficient, as the fruit is sweet in itself.'

As the parish council is at present considering planting various saplings in the burial ground maybe they would consider a Medlar or two near the Ling family burial plot. (pers. Com Sue Ray 2022).



Danehill Parish Historical Society

Adelina 'Adele' Ling (nee Porto)

30th March 1888 - 24th December 1970

Adelina was born in Italy in 1888.

During WW1 worked as a Red Cross nurse in Italy. (source Rootschat .com). During the war she met Richard Ling who served in the Army Medical Corps when he was posted to Italy. Romance blossomed and they were married there on 10th April 1920. Although she married Richard in 1920 in Italy in a 1930 register she is listed as Porto and in 1933 as Ling. She was awarded The Freedom of the City of London.

After coming to England with Richard, Adele became a language teacher, presumably in Italian and they settled in Sydenham. It is unclear whether Westwood Hill is in Sydenham or Lewisham as it is recorded differently in some records.

Her main residence was at 103, Westwood Hill, Sydenham, but they kept a summer house in Danehill. In 1939 she and Richard lived at Oak Farm, Lewes, Road and then in, aptly named, Richard Bertram House also in Lewes Road.

They had two children, Ricardo Vivian and Mary Stella.



Adele is buried at Danehill cemetery



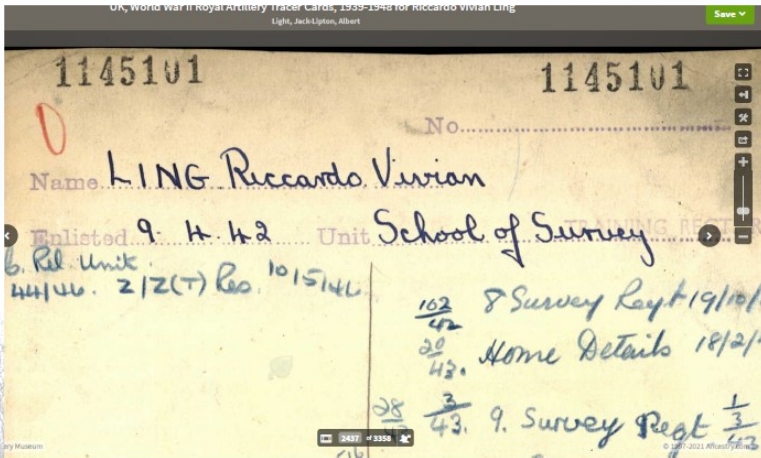
Danehill Parish Historical Society

Ricardo Vivian Ling

15th June 1921 - 22 October 2015

Ricardo was born in Lewisham on 15th June 1921, the oldest of two children, to Richard and Adele Ling. Mary was his younger sister, born in 1926. He was baptised in July 1921 in Lewisham.

He enlisted in Royal Auxiliary during WW2. School of Survey Training Regiment 9th April 1942. Service number 1145101.



Ricardo's World War II artillery tracer card

He lived at 103, Westwood Hill, Sydenham, from 1951-1963 and was registered as living at Richard Bertram House, Danehill, 2002-2015. (source electoral register)

He died on 22nd October 2015 in Danehill. The inscription on his headstone reads 'Worshipful Company of Gardeners'. He is buried at Danehill cemetery with his sister Mary



Ricardo is buried at Danehill cemetery



Danehill Parish Historical Society

Mary Stella Ling

6th July 1926 - 19 December 2005

Mary was born on 6th July 1926 to Richard and Adele Ling in Lewisham, London. She had an older brother, Ricardo, who was born in 1921.

In 1939 she was registered as living at Oak Farm, Danehill, East Sussex and she also lived at Richard Bertram House, Danehill (the former vicarage).

She was an accomplished artist / sculptress. There are some plaques made by Mary in St Stephen's in Horsted Keynes. She trained at Brighton Art School and St. John Cass College of Arts in the city of London.

She exhibited at the Royal Water Colour Society and the Society of Women Artists. In 1998 she was made an associate member of the Association of Sussex Artists.



Artist Miss Stella Ling (right), Woodland Hill, chats with Mrs. E. J. Armstrong, wife of the proprietor of the Upper Norwood restaurant where her paintings are being exhibited. In the background is a well appointed and other examples of her work. (Story on Page 4.)

An article in The Norwood News dated 22nd May 1959 is about an exhibition by Mary Stella at The Crystal Restaurant.

An exhibition of water colour drawings by Mary Stella Ling will be held at the Rose & Crown, Fletching. 'Stella' Ling is a local artist who lives in Danehill. She trained at Brighton Art School and then St. John Cass College of Arts in the City of London. She is also a sculptress and her work is to be seen in St Stephen's RC church, Horsted Keynes amongst other churches. Miss Ling has exhibited at the Royal Watercolour Society and the Society of women Artists and this year she has been made an Associate Member of the Association of Sussex Artists.— Fletching Parish Magazine (February 1998)

She died on 19 December 2005 in Danehill, East Sussex. She is buried at Danehill Cemetery

Mary Stella is buried at Danehill cemetery



Danehill Parish Historical Society



The Deposition

by
Mary Stella Ling

The Deposition panels have their origin in a performance of Krzysztof Penderecki's St Luke's Passion that Mary Stella Ling heard in 1966.

She writes "After the last notes of the music died away, late though it was, I took up my charcoal and a piece of tinted paper and drew and drew until there on the paper lay the final composition of my work 'The Deposition'."

"It took seven years to make the finished panels out of the sketches. There was much reading of the Gospels, making comparisons and pondering before the work crystallised into what it is today. Some parts of it reflect my own reaction to what was happening around me; people I know – and knew – are among the characters portrayed. But the main inspiration came from Penderecki's realisation of the Gospel narrative in sound and music: people's feet walking along, ridiculing derisive laughter, unceasing crowds, man's ingratitude. And in the midst of it all the Deposition.

"The central panel – the top half of the figure group – and the roundel of taunting bystanders were the first

pieces to be finished. My method of working was to build up a clay base on a slightly raised board and then to build up the figures in what turned out to be high relief; a sketchy style with accurate attention to detail seemed to be called for, and I was much guided by rhythm which accentuated the meaning... thrust of the figure on the left... Mary Magdalene eager to lend her strength to support Christ's body... stability in the central figure waiting with the sheets and spices... Our Lady, broken in body but not in spirit, a separate figure kneeling in front of the scene... trees falling in the great storm pointing towards the dead Christ."

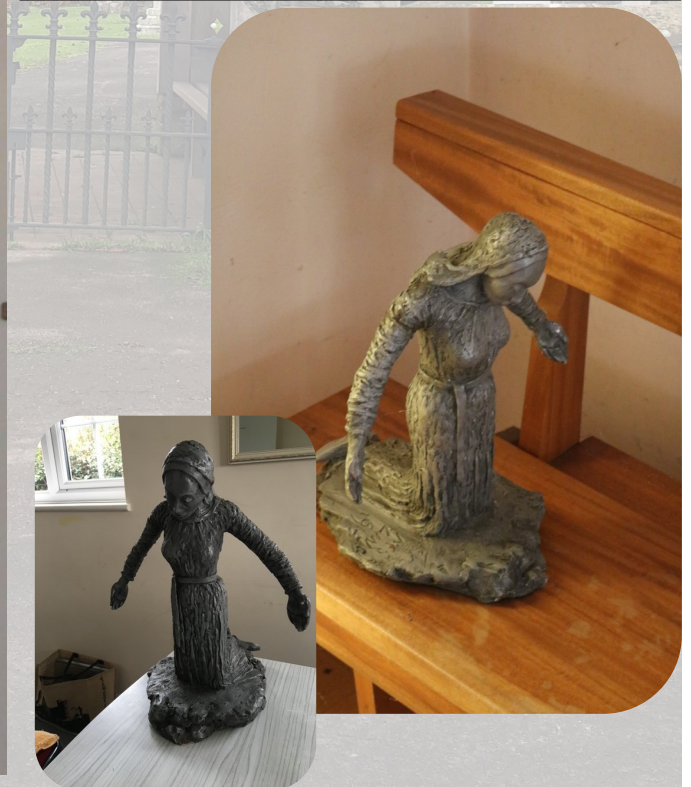
As each panel was finished it was cast in resin aluminium, some by Dunton's and some at the Sir John Cass Art School, Whitechapel. The first was made in 1966 the last in 1973.

Nuns of a convent school where Stella Ling taught art saw the finished work and this led to the panels being accepted by the Parish for St Stephen's church.

'The Deposition' was dedicated on Easter Sunday 1987

From an article in "Church Building" Autumn 1991

Mary Stella's work at St Stephen's Horsted Keynes

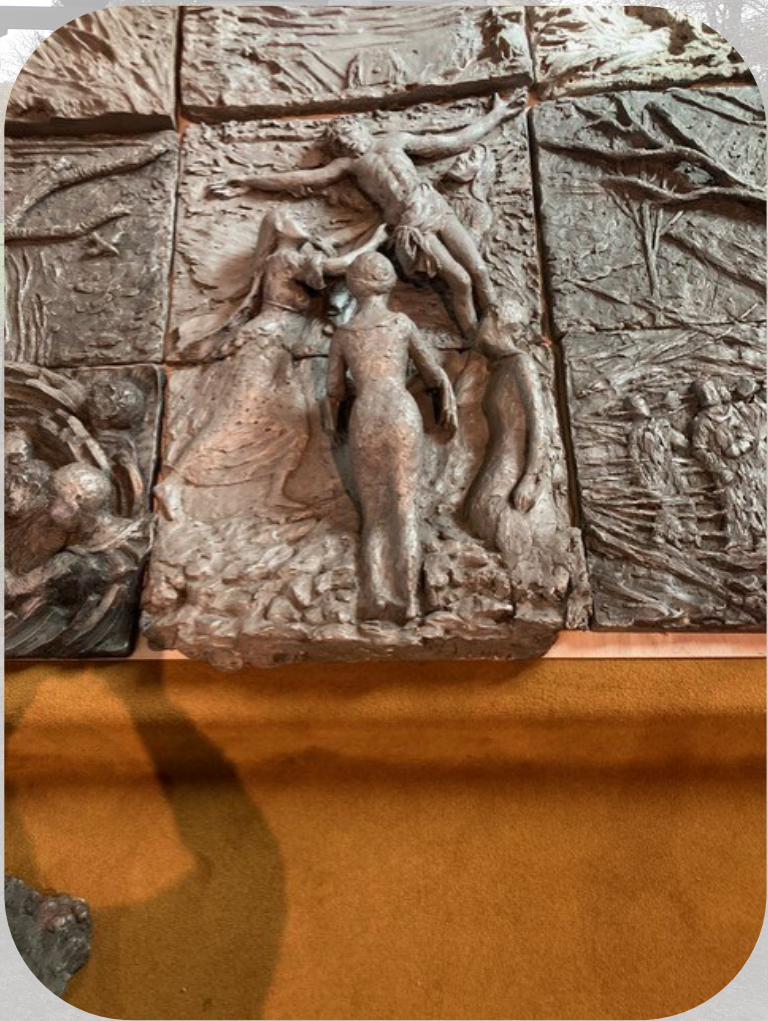


Danehill Parish Historical Society



DANEHILL
To commemorate those of the staff of the Royal Mint who fell in the war, a sculptured war memorial fountain is to be erected. Miss Mary Stella Ling, of Oak Farm, has the distinction of having had her design selected. The motif is two children reaching up to flowing water, symbolic of the influence of the supreme sacrifice of the fallen on the young life of to-day, a poetic inscription giving the words to this

Above: an article from the West Sussex Gazette and South of England Advertiser (15 September 1949)
Right & Below: Mary Stella's work at St Stephen's Horsted Keynes



Danehill Parish Historical Society

The restaurant is an art gallery, too

ONE day, as they were having a cup of coffee in their favourite Upper Norwood restaurant, Miss Mary Stella Ling, Westwood Hill, Sydenham, and her mother, Mrs. Adele Ling, had a bright idea.

Miss Ling is an artist, and thought that as the restaurant walls looked rather bare, the proprietors might like to buy some of her pictures.

They did not—but they suggested she might like to exhibit her paintings. Now the walls of the Crystal Restaurant are gay with colourful pictures in oils, including a self-portrait of Miss Ling in a red dress.

Traditional

Portraiture, with floral studies and garden landscapes, is the field on which Miss Ling mainly concentrates for her work.

She paints in traditional style and has definite views about "modern" art. Garish colour masses have no attraction for her, and she is sure many modern artists specialise in this type of work simply because they have not the necessary technical ability, or cannot be bothered to put in the work on details needed for the traditional style.

That is why, although she went to four art schools, she did not stay at any of them. These days the schools all teach the modern idiom, and they and Miss Ling just did not see eye to eye.

Copying

Copying is another cause of friction between her ideas and the ideas of the modernists. Twice a week she goes to the National Gallery to study paintings there, and make accurate copies of what

she sees. This improves her own technique, and when she comes back to painting from life, her results are better.

Now modernists consider that copying is an old fashioned idea, and that the painter should work from life, painting what they see, and what the subject means to them.

"They talk an awful lot about shapes," said Miss Ling last week, "but they look at something in nature and 'improve' on it. Circles come out squares, and squares as triangles.

"Personally I think the shapes in nature are so beautiful already that it is a shame to change them."

Colour is another tricky problem. Before starting on a picture Miss Ling has to decide in what light she will paint, and from what distance she will look at her subject.

Widely travelled

"Take you for example," she said. "If I look at you from here"—that was several feet away—"the colours on your neck are different from those I see when I look at you from here."—coming up close and looking under my chin.

Oil painting is not by any means Miss Ling's only accomplishment, though she has painted a Lord Mayor's portrait and is a Freeman of the City of London.

She is a widely travelled young woman—her mother is Italian although her father was British—and she speaks Italian and French as well as English, and is planning to learn German. She goes to Italy every year, and has visited Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium and France.

She has studied elocution, and has a gold medal for her poetry

from the Poetry Society.

She started her artistic career as a sculptor. One commission she had was for a fountain from the Royal Mint, but it was never finished. She won a competition to get the work, but halfway through heard the Mint did not want the fountain. The reason? Lack of money to pay for it!

As if this is not enough to keep her busy, Miss Ling plays the piano and violin, and is a singer. Whenever she has the chance she rides horses.

A gymnast

A fairly recent interest is gymnastics. She is a member of the Medau Society, which runs classes—there is one in Penge—for gymnastics, with the emphasis on the rhythmic flow of movement. The idea originated in Germany, and it was in this country that Miss Ling first came across the idea.

She belongs to the Bow Group, a progressive research group within the Conservative Party, and has written for them a pamphlet on patronage of the arts.

Patronage

There is another subject on which she has definite views. Patronage in the days of the "old masters" came from wealthy individuals. Today there are few individual people with enough money to spare to do anything in that way on a large enough scale to be effective in encouraging young artists.

Miss Ling, and many fellow-thinkers, believe that today's patrons should be industry and big business.

(Photo on page 8)

Margaret Exell

An article from the Norwood News (22 May 1959)



Danehill Parish Historical Society