

Northern news

BRINGING YOU THE LATEST NEWS
FROM OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS
AROUND THE WORLD

FEBRUARY 2010



Editorial Ramblings



We have been really delighted to make contact with our family in Australia this month. You may remember that we contacted our family in East Grinstead a few months ago and through meeting them and Fran (from Australia) we are now in touch with more family in Australia whom we've never previously been in touch with and had no idea how to find them. Thanks to Colin Head in East Grinstead we are able to communicate with the descendants of my grandmother's brother who emigrated to Australia in 1928. More inside.

So many people I have spoken to recently have told me of their plans to get out of the UK. Isn't that sad? This is the country that everyone else is trying to get into and us true Brits are trying to escape from. Several people have told me that they don't feel that this is their country anymore - they don't even feel 'at home' here any longer. That really is heart-breaking. We have gone from being the finest country in the world to almost - and fast becoming - a third world country. As I've said before, I'd rather be a foreigner in a foreign country than be a foreigner in my own country. I will be sending some additional items to read this month to add more information to some of the content of this edition. I hope you find it interesting and thought provoking. The world is in a state of crisis.

We would value your prayers for the Topping family this month. Eric and Rita (Eric is one of my mother's brothers), both in their eighties, have both undergone open-heart surgery in recent times and we have heard the news that at 2200 hrs on Thursday 4th February, Rita had a fall in which she broke her hip joint. A new one has been fitted and we pray that she will recover soon. Please also continue to pray for Keith Christmas, who is still in hospital and who is now making good progress. Please also pray for Gerry and Sylvia Wickens in Haywards Heath. Gerry is very unwell at this time.

This month has been a difficult one for the photographer! The weather has been abysmal, with little sunshine. The few landscape scenes I photographed resulted in pictures that weren't worth looking at, so I'll spare you those.

Lets look forward to (we hope) some lovely spring sunshine - or is that too much to ask for?



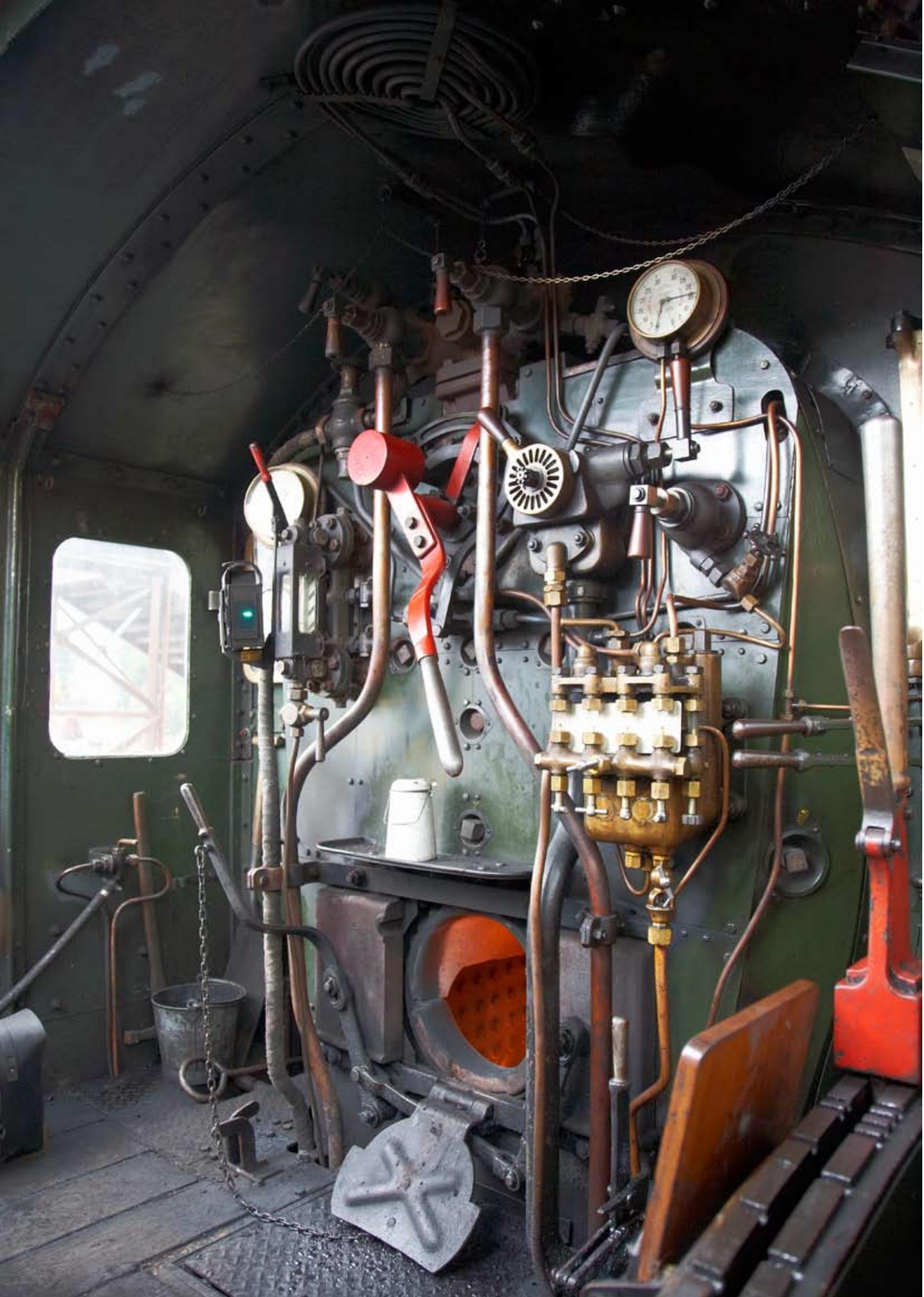
Photograph (by Grace) above: John (2nd from left) during assembly at Christ Church school when his class took part.
Front Cover photographs: St. Andrews Spire - all that remains of the church that was demolished in 1949 - taken on 30 January 2010.



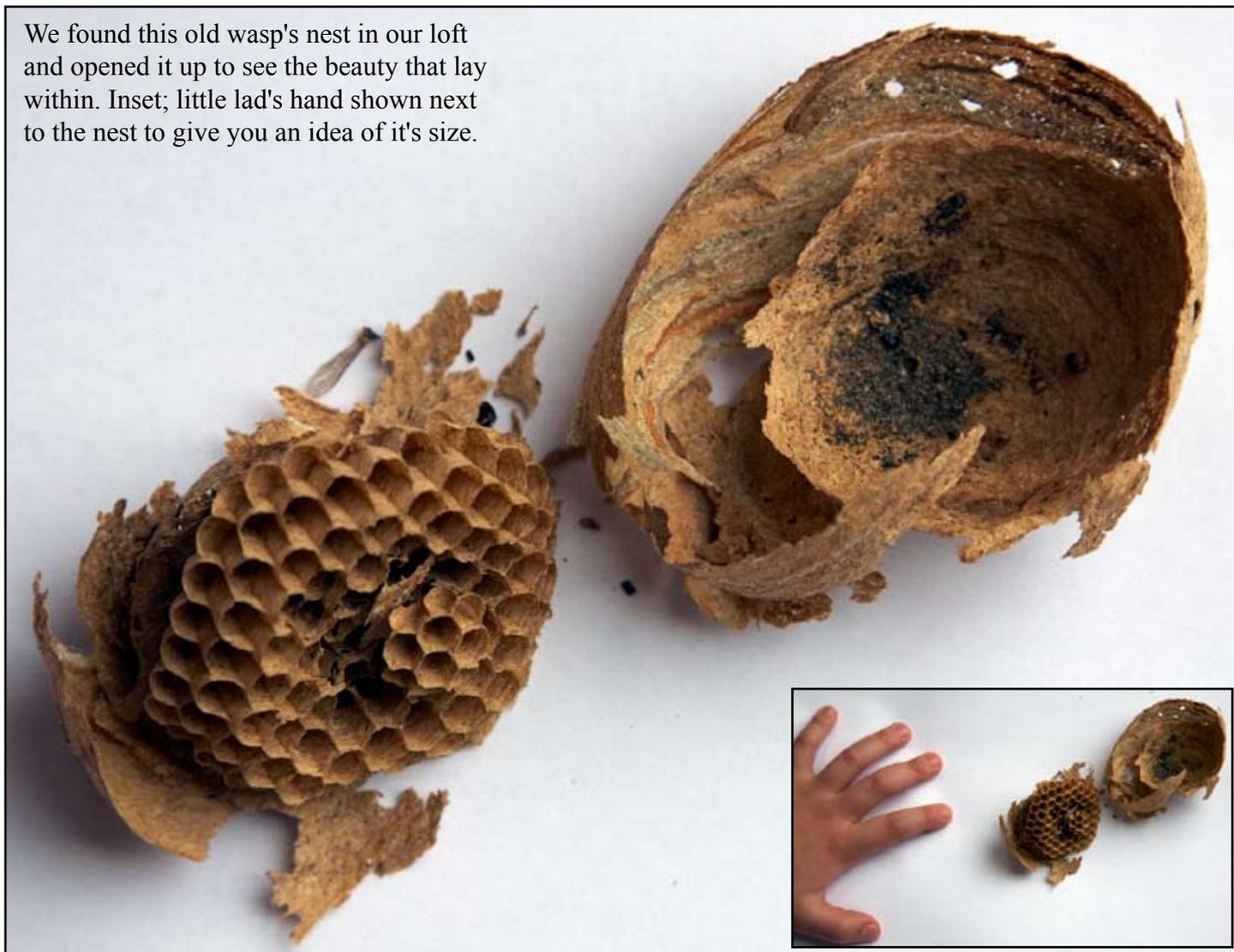


All aboard on the Llangollen Railway





We found this old wasp's nest in our loft and opened it up to see the beauty that lay within. Inset; little lad's hand shown next to the nest to give you an idea of it's size.



This photograph goes back a bit! I took this in the late '70s. It depicts one of the family cats, Saucers, sharing her milk with a hedgehog. It isn't a 'posed' picture, but happened naturally in the garden.





Crocuses bravely poking through the snow
in our garden on 21 February 2010.

Vonnie's Column

from Hong Kong

Certainly ancient vibes of some sort rattling us, I suspect... and right through the being - in your case the spine!

Healing is so amazing.

Just 'chanced' upon a book by Laurens van der Post - he's one of the finest thinkers to my mind -- and look what he says about healing, of course it's all wound into a story about tramping through mountains etc so never a treatise on its own...but I need to extract it here. I only say that because there's something about extracting it in this way that compares to plucking a flower from a mighty forest and assuming someone seeing it in a vase will appreciate it without it's backdrop -- and so they will - but what the viewer will see is but a minute fragment of its glory because it is also a part of the whole - yet can never convey the whole, when taken out of it. Perhaps that's why wild animals in zoos are so astounding on the one hand but so ruined on the other because their massive jungles/forests etc are actually part of them -- how little we understand that particularly in relation to ourselves - and how our background is ourselves and vice versa... perhaps many of us have lost our ancient backgrounds and are just flowers wandering and withering through and past unbelieving eyes...because they can't see our background in the way we know it IS.

But to his words in isolation - for I think they still convey some brilliance and are freshly cut!!!

"Before now I have emerged from serious illness with the conviction of having been in a time and a self anterior to the present and the feeling has persisted despite my failure to analyse or define it. So I have come to believe that, in its most profound sense our battle for survival is fought out at a level and in a spirit of which we have little conscious understanding. And what is particularly moving is that, when the battle is at its grimmest, all those rejected states of life from slime to tree-fern, from amoeba to dinosaur, are thrown in to preserve the very thing that had found them wanting.

I think it is the submerged recollection of this great service so selflessly rendered by less privileged forms of life which gives the sick, on their journey back to normality, such a keen sense of having shared the mystery of all living things. It is from the heart of some such recollection that the world appears rounded and electric with meaning. The memory is like a sea beside which the reviving spirit walks, and from which it draws the grateful tears that fill convalescent eyes at the first sight of a bee tumbling a flower for honey, or a poplar trembling with delicious apprehension under the touch of a June breeze.

.....

and this seemed pertinent:

.....

"It is not difficult to like people provided they have something in their lives that they themselves like. Liking begets liking. The difficult people are the great critics, the ones who cannot find anything in life to like."

...

Allow the healing to emerge and flower.

- and then there's daily living in all its grandeur ... I was just about to push the send button on above - when I was suddenly interrupted -

"Vonnie , can we come in?"

Of course -

"... we are having to get a new sofa I've bought, up over your balcony and ours ... "

I look down sure enough there it is dangling on a narrow rope, to my mind, but I guess/hope it's whipcord, a big vinyl thing of no beauty but shrink wrapped in plastic ... and one woman, perhaps steadying it as two small guys, up above on the top floor provide the heave! That has it paused on the outskirts of my little balcony. Then a tiny wiry man in his 40's probably, performs a heart-stopping circus act on my balcony railing to tie a bit more rope to the whale then the woman races up to my level and helps give it a farewell push from my stage while the circus performer hares up to the top to assist it swing against the railings there and poise precariously while breaths are regained - all of it played out against that continuous sing-song undemanding babble of their tongue -Tagalog - just gently pitching and falling to echo the progress. Then finally some further hauling and encouragement, a crescendo, and the tipping point is reached as it tumbles - back first - to land and then take residence in its new abode. Two slight small men, the tiny owner's wife and the bit larger woman was all it took and no more than about 15 minutes of their day...and off the two guys pedaled with nothing more than that hank of rope coiled lightly in the hand of one, as he stepped outside and then dropped it in the basket of his bicycle... The woman trundled behind with the trolley, I guess she'd pushed it up here on...there are no roads or cars in here - just little winding footpaths.

No wonder Hong Kong's built some amazing buildings with bamboo scaffold and small strong men - it's all about leverage and poise, I think! and dealing with the moment.

...and so far and yet so near to Van der Posts words above? What is this thing we label life...



Our family in Australia



Back Row L to R: Brenda Jean Shipp (nee Muggeridge), Kenneth Wayne Muggeridge, Neville Lee Muggeridge, Wendy Lynette Grant (nee Muggeridge). **Front Row L to R (sitting):** Tom William Muggeridge, Margaret Janet Chinn (nee Muggeridge). **Inset:** William Thomas Muggeridge - One of my Grandmother's brothers who emigrated to Australia in 1928. All are his descendants.

Photograph Right: William Thomas and Sarah Louisa Muggeridge - Our common ancestors. This couple are the parents of my paternal Grandmother, and also the parents of William Thomas Muggeridge (inset above) who emigrated to Australia.

Following Page, Upper Photograph: This is a direct scan of a photograph that hung on the wall of my paternal grandparents home for many years. I remember it so well.

Following Page, Lower Photograph:

The 'Cook'connection is shown in this wedding photograph of my paternal grandparents, Florence Sarah Muggeridge and Samuel Reuben Cook, which I believe was on or about 14 June 1921. I'd like to thank Colin Head for sending it to me and identifying some of those in the photograph. The caption identifying these folk is on the page after the photograph.





Muggeridge Family Portrait.

This photo is believed to have been taken at The Greyhound Inn at Ardingly about 1935 to 1937. inset the circles are Bill (William) (left) and Ernest (right). Back row: Edward, Nathaniel, Arthur, Charles. Front Row: Florence, Winifred, Sarah Louise (Mother) William Thomas (Father), Grace, Lily. William (Bill) was added as an inset because he was in Australia when the group photograph was taken



Previous Page: Photograph taken at the wedding of Reuben Samuel Cook and Florence Sarah Muggeridge.

Back Row L to R: Edward Cook (Reuben's brother) and his wife, Ann; Arthur Medhurst, William Muggeridge, Amy and Edward Muggeridge;

2nd Row: ?, ?, ?, ?, Lily Simmonds (nee Muggeridge); Grace Medhurst (nee Muggeridge); Nathaniel Muggeridge; Edie (William Muggeridge's wife); William Thomas Muggeridge (Florence's Father); Ethel and Charles Muggeridge; Ollie Holman

3rd Row: Polly Baker, sister of Sarah Louise Muggeridge; Susannah Nye (Samuel Reuben's mother), Hilda Simmonds (Lily Simmonds' daughter), Gladys Cook (Samuel Reuben's sister) Samuel Reuben Cook, Florence Sarah Cook (nee Muggeridge); Winifred Muggeridge; Sarah Louise Muggeridge (Florence's mother); Lily Dean (nee Simmonds); Grace Holman.

Front Row: Probably Arthur Medhurst (Jnr.); one of William & Edie Muggeridge's sons, probably George. Probably Violet and Vera, daughters of Arthur and Grace Muggeridge; Charlie Muggeridge (Jnr), Charlie and Ethel Muggeridge's son; one of William and Edie Muggeridge's sons, probably Thomas; Charlie Medhurst (son of of Arthur and Grace Medhurst).

..and three generations in Australia



Centre Left: Wendy Lynette Grant (nee Muggeridge) with her daughter and grandchildren.

Back Row (left): Diana Maree Nowland - nee Grant - Wendy's daughter.

Diana's children: Sitting on Wendy's lap: Derek Edward Nowland, Samantha Jayne Nowland (white top), Jason Guy Nowland, Tanya Louise Nowland.



Back Row L to R: Ian Noel Shipp Born; Tracy Ann Shipp Born.
 Front Row L to R: : Noel William Shipp (Brenda's husband); Russell Howard Shipp; Brenda Jean Shipp (nee Muggeridge).



Left to Right:
 Trevor John Muggeridge
 DOB: 16 October 1961;

Judy Leanne Muggeridge
 DOB: 22 April 1967;

Karen Aneelina Maree
 Muggeridge
 DOB: 21 May 1963

These are the children
 of Thomas William
 Muggeridge
 DOB 23 November 1935
 and his first wife: Shirley
 Margaret Frances nee
 Dempsey (married on 17
 December 1960).

The secret plot to destroy Britain's identity

by Melanie Phillips

Daily Mail, 24 February 2010

Of all the issues of concern to the public, immigration is possibly the most explosive — and the one about which the most lies are continuing to be told.

During the period that Labour has been in office, mass immigration has simply changed the face of Britain. The total number of immigrants since 1997 is pushing three million.

Ministers claim that immigration policy has been driven principally to help the economy. They have always denied that they actually set out deliberately to change the ethnic composition of the country.

Well, now we know for a certainty that this is not true. The Government embarked on a policy of mass immigration to change Britain into a multicultural society — and they kept this momentous aim secret from the people whose votes they sought.

Worse still, they did this knowing that it ran directly counter to the wishes of those voters, whose concerns about immigration they dismissed as racist; and they further concealed official warnings that large-scale immigration would bring about significant increases in crime.

The truth about this scandal was first blurted out last October by Andrew Neather, a former Labour Party speechwriter.

He wrote that until the new points-based system limiting foreign workers was introduced in 2008 — in response to increasing public uproar — government policy for the previous eight years had been aimed at promoting mass immigration.

The 'driving political purpose' of this policy, wrote Neather, was 'to make the UK truly multicultural' — and one subsidiary motivation was 'to rub the Right's nose in diversity and render their arguments out of date'.

Ministers, however, went to great lengths to keep their real intentions secret from the public — with, said Neather, a 'paranoia' that these would reach the media — since they knew their core white working-class voters would react very badly.

Accordingly, a report about immigration by a government advisory unit, which formed the core of a landmark speech in 2000 announcing the loosening of border controls, went through several drafts before it was finally published — and the Government's true intentions about changing Britain into a multicultural society were removed from the final version.

After revealing all this, Neather subsequently tried to backtrack, saying that his views had been twisted out of all recognition by the media. They hadn't been.

Nevertheless, Jack Straw, who was Home Secretary at the time the immigration policy was changed, said he had read press reports of Neather's remarks with incredulity since they were 'the reverse of the truth'.

Now we know, however, that they were indeed the truth. We know this only because details of the advisory unit's report which were excised from the final published version — just as Neather said — have been emerging into the public domain through Freedom of Information requests.

The pressure group MigrationWatch obtained an early draft which revealed that the Government's intention was to encourage mass immigration for 'social objectives' — in other words, to produce a more ethnically diverse society — but that on no fewer than six occasions this phrase was excised from the final version, published some three months later.

Now we further discover, from what was removed from seemingly another early draft, that the aim was not just to implement this policy of mass immigration without the knowledge or consent of the British people.

It was done in the full knowledge that the people actually wanted immigration reduced.

And we also discover that those who expressed such concerns were dismissed with utter contempt as racists — and it was further suggested that ministers should manipulate public opinion in an attempt to change people's attitudes.

Well, they have certainly tried to do that by hanging the disgusting label of 'racism' round the neck of anyone who dares voice such concerns.

Thus the eminent and decent Labour MP Frank Field found himself smeared as a racist for daring to suggest that the rate of immigration should be reduced.

What bullying arrogance. The real prejudice is surely to believe that opposition to mass migration can never be based on any reasonable objection.

The implications of this covert policy are quite staggering. Ministers deliberately set out to change the cultural and ethnic identity of this country in secret.

They did this mainly because they hated what Britain was, a largely homogeneous society rooted in 1,000 years of

history. They therefore set out to replace it by a totally new kind of multicultural society — and one in which the vast majority of newcomers could be expected to vote Labour.

They set out to destroy the right of the British people to live in a society defined by a common history, religion, law, language and traditions. They set out to destroy for ever what it means to be culturally British and to put another ‘multicultural’ identity in its place.

And they then had the gall to declare that to have love for or pride in that authentic British identity, and to want to protect and uphold it, was racist.

So the very deepest feelings of people for their country were damned as bigotry, for which crime they were to have their noses rubbed in mass immigration until they changed their attitudes.

What an appalling abuse of power. Yet even now they are denying that this is what they did. Yesterday, the Immigration Minister Phil Woolas blustered that the advisory unit report had not been accepted by ministers at the time.

But the fact is that mass immigration actually happened. The only thing ministers hadn’t accepted was that the truth about their intentions should be revealed to the public.

Surreally, Mr Woolas further claims that the Government has brought immigration down.

But the reductions he is talking about have taken place on the separate issue of asylum. The impact of the Government’s new points scheme upon the record rate of immigration growth has been negligible.

The truth is that these early drafts of the advisory unit’s report have blown open one of the greatest political scandals of the Labour years. At no stage did Labour’s election manifestos make any reference to a policy of mass immigration nor the party’s aim of creating a multicultural society.

What we have been subjected to is a deliberate deception of the voters and a gross abuse of democracy.

There could scarcely be a more profound abuse of the democratic process than to set out to destroy a nation’s demographic and cultural identity through a conscious deception of the people of that nation. It is an act of collective national treachery.

Now we face imminently another General Election. And now we know that in their hearts, Labour politicians hold the great mass of the public, many of them their own voters, in total contempt as racist bigots — all for wanting to live in a country whose identity they share.

There could hardly be a more worthy issue for the Conservative Party to leap upon. Yet their response is muted

through their own visceral terror of appearing racist.

The resulting despair over the refusal of the mainstream parties to address this issue threatens to drive many into the arms of the truly racist British National Party.

If that happens, the fault will lie not just with Labour’s ideological malice and mendacity, but with the spinelessness of an entire political class.

Courtesy of URL: <http://www.melaniephillips.com/articles-new/?p=718>

SEVEN KEY FACTS

Net immigration quadrupled to 237,000 a year between 1997 and 2007. In 2008 it was 163,000. 3million immigrants have arrived since 1997.

A migrant still arrives every minute.

We must build a new home every six minutes for new migrants.

England is already, with Holland, the most crowded country in Europe (except Malta)

Immigration will add 7 million to the population of England in the next 24 years - that is 7 times the population of Birmingham.

To keep the population of the UK below 70 million, immigration must be reduced by 70%. Government measures so far may reduce it by 12%.

Courtesy of URL: <http://www.migrationwatchuk.org/>

MigrationWatch UK is an independent, voluntary, non political body which is concerned about the present scale of immigration into the UK.

... and our Christian faith!

'Muddled' sex education plans pass in Commons

The Christian Institute - 24 February 2010

The Government's controversial sex education plans were forced through the Commons yesterday (23 February 2010), but critics slammed a faith schools amendment as an "incoherent muddle".

Labour used its control of the chamber to rush the Children, Schools and Families Bill through, but the Tories and the Lib Dems opposed it as centralising and bureaucratic.

Under the Bill, sex education will become part of the national curriculum and control over the content of lessons will be taken away from school governors and given to Whitehall officials.

All publicly-funded schools will be forced to teach children how to access contraception and abortion services.

The schools will also be forced to teach children that unmarried unions are equal to marriage.

But the Government, concerned about a backlash from faith schools, amended its own proposals to say that while faith schools must teach these things, they may do so "in a way" that reflects their religious ethos.

This led to several days of claims and counter-claims in the media about the effect of the amendment.

Humanists and the Lib Dems said it amounted to a blanket opt-out for faith schools.

But others said the amendment was just "window dressing" and it did nothing to alter the fact that faith schools will be forced to teach lessons which directly contradict the schools' beliefs.

The Children's Secretary Ed Balls was forced to admit: "There is no opt-out for any faith school" but he said faith schools "can explain the views of their faith".

Writing on the Spectator website, commentator Melanie Phillips called it an "incoherent muddle" and a "totally unworkable amendment, which faces two ways at once".

She said: "Considering that the Catholic Church, for example, regards contraception as a sin, abortion as murder and civil union as a perversion of marriage, it is hard to envisage how Catholic schools could teach such matters in accordance with their own religious precepts. Indeed, it is impossible.

"It would mean, for example, teaching girls that they had a right to abortion and here was the address and phone

number of the local abortion clinic, but that abortion was forbidden by Catholic teaching as being akin to murder.

"What Balls was saying was therefore demonstrably absurd. Surely he couldn't have meant to propose such an incoherent muddle? Oh, but he did. The division he made, risible as it is, does indeed constitute the policy."

But she warned: "the real significance of this appalling piece of legislation goes far beyond this particular row over this amendment, and far beyond the particular difficulties to be faced by faith schools and the ludicrous hoops through which they are now expected to jump.

"For it means that in all schools, parents will now find that their children are to be indoctrinated in a set of 'non-judgmental' assumptions about sexual activity that many may find questionable or objectionable – but by law these assumptions may not deviate from the doctrines laid down by the Inquisitors at the Department for Children Schools and Families."

The Government may run out of time to get the Bill through the House of Lords before a General Election is called.

If so, the Opposition will have an opportunity to block it in the horse trading that goes on in final throes of a parliament.

Courtesy of URL: <http://www.christian.org.uk/news/muddled-sex-education-plans-pass-in-commons/>

Ed: The persecution, yes, *persecution*, of Christians in the UK - formerly a strongly Christian country - will have taken many by surprise. The shock to many people around the world, as well as in the UK, must be considerable. With this edition of our newsletter I have attached a publication from the Christian Institute entitled: *Marginalising Christians - Instances of Christians being sidelined in modern Britain*. I hope you read it and understand why this once great country, that was held in high esteem by so many, and played a role model in the development of so many other countries around the world, has become a sick society run by evil leaders who have deliberately destroyed our democracy and our Christian faith - leaving the door wide open for an Islamic (or even Fascist!) takeover.

Equality Bill - Employment by churches and religious organisations

Just as political parties have the freedom to employ only card-carrying members of the party, churches and religious organisations want to require that their staff personally share the same faith and live it out in their lives. Exceptions to discrimination law currently largely allow for this, providing essential religious freedom. However, this freedom is coming under attack.

The Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2003 currently allow an employer to apply a requirement related to sexual orientation if the employment is “for purposes of an organised religion”.¹

This has allowed churches and other religious organisations to retain their ethos. But the Equality Bill introduces a new narrow definition of “for purposes of an organised religion”. To qualify for the new organised religion definition under schedule 9, paragraph 2(8) of the Bill, the employment must wholly or mainly involve leading worship, or promoting or explaining doctrine.

But many ministers of religion will not spend their time wholly or mainly leading worship or teaching doctrine. There are many administrative and pastoral elements to the role of minister of a church which simply do not seem to have been considered in the drafting of the legislation. The new definition could therefore see churches sued for refusing a minister who commits adultery or who has a homosexual relationship. The same exemption (and therefore the same narrower definition) also covers sex discrimination law, therefore outlawing a male-only clergy policy.²

The Church of England has called paragraph 2(8) a “substantial narrowing” of church exemptions without any prior consultation or warning for Christian groups, while the Roman Catholic Church has accused the Government of failing to understand the nature of religious life.³

The Explanatory Notes to the Bill as introduced in the House of Commons made it clear that this exemption “would not apply to a requirement that a church youth worker or accountant be heterosexual”. The notes have been revised and now state: “This exception is unlikely to permit a requirement that a church youth worker who primarily organises sporting activities is celibate if they are gay, but may apply if the youth worker mainly teaches Bible classes.” Such an approach entirely fails to appreciate the nature of churches and how they organise themselves. As the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC) has pointed out, churches must be permitted to employ people in key roles who share their ethos, otherwise “their ability to defend, uphold and advocate the principles and practices of the faith will be seriously undermined”.⁴

The example of a youth worker used in the Explanatory Notes is ill-considered. As a church employee, a youth

worker is a representative of the church in all he does and his conduct in every respect must live up to the church’s teaching. Churches have an ethos which would be entirely undermined by employing someone living a lifestyle that did not match up to the biblical beliefs of the church. The Bill must recognise that churches need to protect their ethos. Churches want to keep the freedom in law to continue to appoint according to their faith.

The Government maintains that the exception is not narrowed by the Equality Bill. In Public Bill Committee the Solicitor-General, Vera Baird MP, said: “contrary to what has been suggested, the new definition does not narrow the scope of the existing exceptions.”⁵

Yet it has emerged from a reasoned opinion of the European Commission that the Government has told the Commission that the Equality Bill will reduce the scope for religious organisations to employ staff whose lifestyle is compatible with the organisation’s ethos. After raising the concern that the UK employment exemptions are too broad to be compatible with the 2000 Employment Directive, the Commission’s opinion states: “The UK Government has informed the Commission that the new Equality Bill currently under discussion before the UK Parliament will amend this aspect of the law and bring UK law into line with the Directive.”⁶

Clearly, if the Government has told the Commission that the Equality Bill will narrow the existing law, this is at odds with its public statements that the Bill does not narrow the law.

The Christian Institute
January 2010

Footnotes:

1 *Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2003, Regulation 7(3)*

2 *Briefing note from the Catholic Bishops’ Conference on Equality Bill Lords 2nd Reading, December 2009*

3 *Christian Today, 23 May 2009, see <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/anger.over.governments.gay.employment.legislation/23423.htm> as at 9 December 2009; Memorandum submitted by Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales (E14), House of Commons, Public Bill Committee on the Equality Bill, Session 2008-2009, para. 5*

4 *Submission on The Equality Bill, The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches, 19 October 2009.*

5 *House of Commons, Hansard, Public Bill Committee, 23 June 2009, col. 454*

6 *Commission of the European Communities, Reasoned Opinion, RO 226 EC/cases other than failure to notify measures, 20 November 2009, para. 19.*

Little Lad riding on the steam train of the Llangollen railway



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