

### **Christmas and Goddard families – from [www.eastmeon.net](http://www.eastmeon.net)**

*Following the account given by Loni Marcotte of her East Meon ancestors we have been given more information about Jeremiah Christian's family and descendants (Jeremiah is pictured with his brother William, top left). His most notable offspring was Herbie Goddard whose portrait is shown) . On these pages we display photographs provided by Herbie's daughter Hazel (bottom left) and Chris Pamplin, together with their recollections of Hazel's family.*

The story is told that Jeremiah's wife Ellen walked her two infant sons five miles to Petersfield (and back). A robin hopped all the way just behind them, a possible harbinger of the death of the two boys - Freddie just two days after that journey.

Herbie was Chairman of both the Village Hall Management Committee and of the Parish Council (he was a Councillor 37 years and Chair for 16 years). He was also Church Warden, a member of the Horticultural Society and, during the war, a fire warden.

Herbie was helped in running the garage by his son-in-law Chris Pamplin and daughter Hazel. They looked after many of the farm vehicles, in return for which they were often paid in produce such as eggs – which were, in turn, sold in the shop attached to the garage.

The Goddards received evacuees during the war, and two land girls both of whom married local lads.

When Herbie was planning the new Village hall, Hazel remembers fund-raising by creating a mile of pennies – a strip of till-roll stretched along the high street; motorists were stopped and asked to donate pennies.

### **Photo Captions**

The Christmas women. Back row, L to R, Maud, born 1887, who did not marry, Ellen, the mother, Lily later Nicholson, who stayed in England. Front row, second from L, Rose, married name Mauback, Nellie, later Herbie Goddard's wife, The other girl is probably May, who married the first Barratt brother, and Millie and Dolly, both later Barratts, are not in the photo.

Village road team, photographed in the 1920s On the left, William Jeremiah Christmas. Next to him, Stanley William Searle, nicknamed Curly. Stanley was the father of Cath Adams and was responsible for the upkeep of a 'length' of road from The Square up to Coombe Bottom; this involved digging ditches, clearing drains and keeping the length neat and tidy. He died in 1928.

William Jeremiah Christmas, an earlier photo. Jeremiah died in 1934. He worked as a farm hand and also a road builder – since he is holding a pick he might be doing the latter, though he seems to be standing in front of a hay stack or straw pile.

Ellen Christmas, after the death of William Jeremiah Christmas. She died in 1955. She also bore three boys, all of whom died young. Freddy died aged 2 weeks in 1912, William two weeks later, aged 2. The story is told that Ellen walked the boys to Petersfield two days before Freddy's death. A robin hopped all the way just behind them, a possible harbinger of the death of the two boys.

Herbie Goddard, painted by villager Geoff Brook. In all but name, Herbie was the 'mayor' of East Meon. He was first manager, then owner of the petrol station and garage next to Glenthorne House, helped by his son-in-law Chris Pamplin and daughter Hazel. They looked after many of the farm vehicles, in return for which they were often paid in produce such as eggs – which were, in turn, sold in the shop attached to the garage. Herbie was Chairman of both the Village Hall Management Committee and of the Parish Council (he was a Councillor 37 years and Chair for 16 years).

Hazel Pamplin as a girl at the door of Barnards when the River Meon flooded in 1955. At that time there were 6 households in what are now three houses. The cellar was completely flooded. (The Goddards received evacuees during the war, and two land girls both of whom married local lads.)

At back, Hazel's brother David. Next row, L to R, Chris, Hazel, Simon and Mark. Front row Herbie and Nellie. Herbie was also Church Warden, a member of the Horticultural Society and, during the war, a fire warden. With Freddy Standfield, he was largely responsible for the building of the Village Hall. Hazel remembers fund-raising for the Village Hall, by creating a mile of pennies – a strip of till-roll stretched along the high street; motorists were stopped and asked to donate pennies.

Herbie and Nellie in a bus (above) and at their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Herbie died in 1985, aged 76.

In 1972, the Barratt sisters from the USA visited East Meon and are seen outside Barnards. Left to right, Nellie (Goddard), May, Dolly, Millie (Barratt), Lily (Nicholson), Rose (Mauback). May, Dollie and Millie were the USA contingent