

Elsie and Tom Rowe

Elsie was born in Brighton to John and Ellen Langridge. Ellen (nee Theobald) was actually born at Upper Houses, Bulmer but she went into domestic service and finished up working for a family in Brighton. Like her mother, Elsie also went into service and worked for a family named Broad who farmed in or close to the village of Hassocks 7 miles north of Brighton in the Sussex Weald. It was when she came to Bulmer to visit her grandparents that she met and later married Tom Rowe. They had three children, Jean, Esther and Peter.

Tom was born at Upper Houses Bulmer in 1904, the third of the four sons of Philip and Mary Rowe. He attended Bulmer School, which he left aged 12 years. His first job was working for Mr Boggis who traded as a builder from his cottage on Church Meadow. Later he worked for his Uncle Albert Rowe where he learnt to drive a traction engine. (The licence he obtained to drive this also covered him to drive a car, which came in handy about 40 years later when he eventually acquired one !) In the mid-1930s he started working at the Bulmer Brickyard, where he became a brick maker and put his hand to all manner of tasks and trades as required. During the 2nd World War he worked building pill boxes and on several of the local airfields and like all other able bodied men left in the village, was a member of Bulmer Home Guard. Most of Tom's spare time was spent in his beloved garden or working on their old cottage at Upper Houses, gradually adding "mod cons" and keeping it in reasonable repair. He worked at the Brickyard until he retired in the early 1970s

In the late 1980s Tom and Elsie moved to 1 Chapel Cottages, Bulmer Street

Elsie Rowe died 24th March 1993 aged 90

Thomas Harry Rowe died 1998 aged 95



Elsie and Tom Rowe with daughter Jean and Niece Peggie paddling on Brighton beach

Peter Rowe