

Dear Winifred

It gave me great pleasure to hear from you.

I am very sorry that I can be of no use to you with regard to the recollections of fifty years ago.

My memories no doubt will be exactly the same as yours: Dear old **Mr Frampton** in his marvellously smocked overall stopping to speak to us at playtime; Cooper's engine with the man and his red flag walking ahead. The Round House looking down on a deep pit (not yet filled with refuse) - The great event of seeing a motor car when out for an afternoon walk. **Mrs Miller** taking her airing in a carriage drawn by a pair of spanking black horses.

**Mr Sturges** walking down the field path to Church murmuring a hymn tune & stepping aside (without comment) to avoid a choir boy lying in the path to see what would be his reaction.

**Mrs Leyshon** turning out the most wonderful needlework from her pupils. I remember she carried off 10 prizes from about the same number of entries.

**Mr Leyshon** managing to teach arithmetic to a whole class of very medium scholars. How he did that I never cease to marvel. I tried for forty years to copy his example - never did I achieve it. I know that when I went to the Grammar School I was placed in Form III but could assist Form VI girls with their homework - And heaven knows I was not one of his best pupils!!

No doubt you too will recall seeing **Bishop Paget** walking up the hill to call on Mr Sturges. I remember one day the Belchers and we Cruickshank girls were going up the hill & he coming down & before we could step into the road to give him right of way on the path - he had done it. for a set of small children.

Another time a whole tribe of us were waiting on Wheatley station for the Thame train, he came up to us & said "Good morning! Are you all one family?" Even by Victorian standards Cruickshanks, ??? Belchers and Fowlers would have been rather a large quiverful!!!

Oh! my health is now much improved, thank you. We went to Bognor for our Summer Holiday this year & I have been much better since then.

I expect Ella told you that we have a jolly little grandson. A truly modern product. Apparently well furnished with brains - and capable of much self expression. What a pity nature is red in tooth and claw so to speak! For myself I don't think a little repression now and again - is such a bad thing. Modern parents believe otherwise. Anyway my methods frequently pay better & are less strain on the nerves. My young man looked upon one of my treasures & then gazed at me remarking "Grandma's - mustn't touch - No? To which I firmly replied NO and it wasn't!!! We understand one another.

We are hoping to have the pleasure of "Junior's" company for a day or two at Christmas. Andrew is a wonderful son & a great joy to us. I wish I could have been blessed with a daughter as well.

You still run a car do you not? I should be so pleased if you could come up and see us. A phone call would ensure that I would be in. If you came early in the day to lunch you could leave early so as to be home before dark.

I hear that Ella is learning to drive - perhaps you could come together one fine day in the near future - IF - there is a fine day.

Must stop now as it is 3.15 & I am expecting one of my old staff to tea. She comes every Monday and gives me the low down on school life - And I sit back & think - now it is someone else who has to wrestle with youth.

With love

Yours affectionately

Emilie Life (*nee Cruickshank*)