

THE SUN

From details supplied by Vera Cusack and David Lane

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Photograph of The Sun taken in the 1960s.

The Sun Inn at the end of Chapel Lane nearest to Littleworth Road was once known as the Eight Bells. The building has a brick dated 1778. It closed in 1999 and was converted to a house.

Pub landlords. From 1830 to 1842, Richard Archer ran the The Sun. In 1847, William Wells was the landlord and then Joseph Harding was recorded there from 1861 to 1863.

Frederick Wadsworth took over in 1869 and Frank Wadsworth was the licensed victualler in 1876. He was also a coal merchant. Harry Cook was the publican from 1901 to 1903 and he was also a haulier.

Sidney Arthur was recorded there in 1907 and Albert Barrett in 1911.

The Stacey family

James Stacey was the publican in 1939, according to Kelly's Directory, and he is shown on the right of the wedding photograph below, standing next to his wife, Clara. He was the father of the bride.



Wedding photograph taken outside The Sun in 1935, when Phyllis Stacey married William John (Bill) Lane.

William's parents, Albert and Ada Lane are on the left. The bridesmaids were two nieces of the bride, Vera Ruth Pearl Scotter, (*the older of the two, who owns the photograph*), and Audrey Clapperton. Ally Lane was the third bridesmaid, standing behind Clara & Phyllis.

In 1939, William John (Bill) Lane and Phyllis were living in Littleworth, Benson. Bill first worked in the village in Aldridge's Motor Garage (near the Crown). Then he worked for many years as a motor machine fitter_at MG Cars Abingdon works until he retired. At this time, James Stacey and Clara were living in the Sun Inn and James also worked as a builder locally. Bill owned an old MG sports car, which only came out in sunny weather. This was changed for an MG Magnate saloon later when the family grew.

Bill and Phyllis adopted their godson David Clarke in 1942. Later the couple moved into The Sun, to help in the running of the bar and kitchen.

The Sun had guest rooms which were used many times during the war years by visitors to RAF Benson. A lot of guests gave gifts to the Stacey/Lane family including expensive perfume brought back by some of the RAF crews.

Bill was the fifth child of Albert Charles Lane and Ada Letitia Bonner, who married in Benson on 5th August 1899. They had seven children but the first two boys died before they were five. Bill's youngest sister was Alice Jeanette Lane, who married Herbert William Beal on 8th April 1939. Alice was very involved with the Girl Guide movement in Benson.

Phyllis (Georgie) was the youngest child of James Stacey and Clara (Sims). Clara was born in Aldworth in 1880 and they were married in 1901, when she was working in the White Hart, Benson.



Clara Sims, born in 1880.



Phyllis Stacey as a young girl

Phyllis (Georgie) lived with her elder sister Ellen Laura first in Streatley and then in Aston Tirrold before her wedding day. Ellen's daughter, Vera had to cycle to Benson for the wedding with her father and younger brother. Unfortunately, they were caught in a rain storm and soaked to the skin by the time they reached Benson. Georgie was not best pleased!

James Stacey was one of the bell ringers at St Helen's Church. After ringing on a Sunday, he used to rush straight back to The Sun to help ready the pub for opening.



Wedding guests in 1935 right to left : Albert Lane, James Stacey, ?(Lady), Jack Scotter with hat, Geoffrey Scotter(boy), Ellen Scotter, ? (Lady in hat), George Clapperton, ? (2 men & lady behind), Gerald Clapperton(boy), Gwendoline Clapperton(behind boy), ? Lady in hat, Lizzie Lane, ??????



John William Lane and Phyllis Stacey on their wedding day in 1935



Above: A later photograph of Clara with her dog Mona outside The Sun.
(The back entrance to the pub was behind Chapel Lane.)



James and Clara Stacey at The Sun



Above: Bill and David Lane behind the bar of The Sun



Left to right: Stacey siblings, Ellen, Phyllis, James and Gwendoline

(Queenie) was Gwendoline Victoria's nick name. Ellen was always called Laura. James was James Victor known as Vic and Phyllis Georgina was always called Georgie. This tradition of changing first names around carried on with the Scotter family.
