

Additional Notes for the Mayor's of Evesham

***Cllr. Roger Thompson 1995** - Cllr Roger Michael Thompson died on 4/6/2003 and is buried in Devon

***Cllr. John Kay 1982** - Cllr John Kay died on 25/7/1998 and is buried in Waterside cemetery, Evesham

***Cllr. Clifford Message 1981** - Obituary – Evesham Journal 19th June 1997

Clifford Arthur Horton Message 1938-1997

Evesham town councillor, and its first Labour Mayor, Cliff Message died at Evesham Community Hospital last Sunday, aged 58, following a long illness.

Cliff was born in Priest Lane, Pershore, and attended the former Pershore Secondary Modern School.

He was apprenticed as an electrician to Abell and Smith in Port Street, Evesham, and then went into the Fleet Air Arm for nine years.

During that time he served as an electrical mechanic on the aircraft carrier HMS Hermes. He also served on HMS Ark Royal.

Returning to Evesham, he went to the Richmond Sausage Company as a maintenance electrician was shop steward of the maintenance department.

In 1971 he was involved in the successful fight to stop the closure. Two years later he moved to the newly opened Long Lartin prison as an electrician, where he remained until ill health forced his early retirement last year.

It was his involvement in the fight to save Richmonds that brought Cliff into local politics.

His first Evesham Borough Council election in East Ward resulted in a dead heat with major-elect 'Dickie' Davies. The by-election 3 months later, however, resulted in a convincing victory.

He continued to represent East Ward until 1991, when he moved to the town's East Ward, which he served to his death.

Just six days before he died, Cliff was given a sundial as an appreciation of his years of service to the council.

He was elected to the new Wychavon District Council in 1973 where he remained until his resignation in 1979, holding the position of vice-chairman of the housing committee,

The highlight of his political career was his year as town mayor between 1981-82.

Supporting disabled people in the Vale, Cliff attended more than 600 functions during the year and raised nearly £6,000 for his charity which was distributed among 13 organisations.

The largest was £2,000 to buy a special hoist for Evesham swimming pool which, in the process, helped to establish the swimming for the disabled organisation, SPLASH.

A lifelong member of the Labour Party, in addition to being a councillor, he held many posts within the party including treasurer of the Evesham branch and vice-chairman of the constituency.

Although he will be remembered for work on behalf of the community through the town council, many will remember him as much for his involvement in local organisations.

Splash was very important to Cliff, and he was delighted to be its president, as was involvement with Arthritis and Rheumatism Council of which he was the local branch's vice-president.

He as a governor of both the Vale of Evesham and Simon de Montfort schools for many years, was a representative on the Community Health Council and served at different times on the committees of the Arts Centre, local Scouts, Sea Cadets and Evesham's Citizens Advice Bureau, being part of the founding of the last two.

The twinning association was also a great love. Numerous visits were made to Dreux, Melsungen and Evesham Township, which brought him a number of personal friends and, as he believed, helped on breaking down barriers. He was an honorary life member of the association. Despite his illness, he was determined to join the 20th anniversary visit to Dreux just three weeks ago.

The above information was kindly supplied by Clive Message, son of Cliff and Rosemary Message, 21/7/2004.

***Cllr. Francis Ernest Hampton (Frank) 1976** - Cllr Francis Ernest Hampton died on 29/8/2000 and is buried in Bengeworth cemetery, Evesham

***Cllr. Cecil Blackwell 1975** - Cllr Cecil Harold Blackwell died on 23/6/1987 and is buried in Waterside cemetery, Evesham

***Cllr. Harold Millward 1971** - Cllr A. H. Millward died on 30/11/1992 and is buried in Waterside cemetery, Evesham

***Cllr. William (Bill) Kimberley 1962** - Cllr William Francis Kimberley died on 16/1/1990 and is buried in Hampton cemetery, Evesham

***Henry Smith 1958 & 1960**

He was a self made man. He loved books and had a beautiful singing and speaking voice. He read aloud at 'Penny readings' a popular form of entertainment at the time and sang at all the local concerts. He was a hopeless romantic and very handsome. Although nervous and imaginative.

He was trained as practical printer and founded the Evesham Journal in 1860 with his brother William. It was a old established printing business of Richard Bult with whom Henry had served his apprenticeship. In the old days Henry used to help set the type by hand. He was entirely responsible for running the printing business and the bookselling and stationers shop. As the Journal grew the commercial side of the paper became increasingly important. His brother who was apprenticed to George Henry Garrard in 1890 had to petition the Master of the Rolls to continue as a partner in W.and H.Smith book shop. A clause in this petition exactly set out the relationship of the two brother in that business. It read as follows:- That your petitioner's personal engagement in connection with the partnership of the business of W.and H. Smith is confined almost entirely to the writing of articles for and the editing of a weekly newspaper publish by them. The petitioner's brother Henry Smith conducting the commercial side of the business....." Henry Smith continued actively in this position until the partnership was converted into the present limited liability company, when he became Chairman of the directors a position he retained for the rest of his life.

Henry Smith was a man of most impressive appearance, tall, upright, handsome and dignified. He was one of the most dignified personalities who ever walk the streets of Evesham. He was a man with a great sense of humour and had the endearing quality of delighting in telling a story against himself. A man of integrity and honour, he gained the respect of his fellow townsmen generally and the affection of those associated with him in public works.

As a young man he was actively associated with the Evesham Mechanics' Institute and he became its honorary secretary. The Evesham Institute performed a most vital part in the adult education of both brothers. Both came under the influence of Herbert New a great scholar and man of letters and the senior partner of Messrs. New. Prance and Garrard.

His greatest public work for Evesham was performed on the Town Council which at the time of his death he was the "Father." He never had to fight an election being

returned unopposed. He was subsequently an Alderman for many years. It is interesting to note that on his brother Williams death in 1906, he succeeded him as Chairman of the Public Library Committee. He was Mayor of Evesham four time, and such , worthily and ably represented his town as its chief citizen. (See Granny Becks book about the Royal Visits)

As a public speaker he was outstanding. He never spoke on the political platform, for unlike his brother who was a right-wing Liberal he never took any active part in politics.

In connection with his public works he was interested in education. He was for many years a Grovener of Prince Henry's Grammar School and he was one of the first to realise the great benefit which would accrue to the town and district could the foundations of the Grammar School and the endowed school in Bengeworth known as Deacle's School be amalgamated and formed into a Secondary School under Worcestershire County Council. After prolonged negotiations this scheme was carried out in 1905. The secondary school - to which girls were admitted for the first time - continuing the title of Prince Henry's Grammar School. He was elected chairman of the governors in 1907, on the proposition of Mr. Willis Bund, chairman of the County Council.

In 1894 he was placed on the commission of the peace for the borough of Evesham and was an able and trusted magistrate whose fair-mindedness inspired confidence.

In religion he always remained a strict member of the Church of England. At one time he attended All Saints as a boy singing in the choir. Later he crossed the churchyard and became a regular worshiper at the Church of St. Lawrence. Perhaps it may here be stated that he possessed a delightful baritone voice and at one time was in great demand at local concerts.

In his early days he joined the 2nd Volunteer Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment.

He was the first secretary of the Evesham Boating Club when it was founded in 1863 retaining the position for 30 years. For a few years he was actively involved in rowing his position was always No 2 in the boat.

He was twice married. He married Mary, widow of John Hurd Gordon and for a time lived at Avon View, Hampton where his first two daughters were born. He was widowed in 1875 and went to live at The Parks, Aldington. While he lived there he purchased just over 8 acres of the Lanesfield Estate on Greenhill, Evesham. He built

"Lanesfield." In 1883 he married Clarissa Ann, daughter of William Felton of Birmingham and niece of Edwin Felton, Wine and Spirit Merchants of Vine Street, Evesham. They had two children. My Grandmother Eva Maud Beck nee Smith and Horace raymond Smith. (Most of the information in this story was obtained from the 1960 Centennial of the Evesham Journal)

He died on 25th June 1917 under circumstances which must be considered tragic, for his only son had enlisted in the local Territorials on August 8 1914 and had been at the front in the First World War for a long time causing his father endless anxiety. Had he live another 18 month he would have seen the end of the war and the safe return of his son .

On His gravestone in Evesham Cemetery are inscribed " A race well run".

Anita Harper nee Beck. Henry Smith Gt. Granddaughter. New Zealand

***Cllr. William Beckley 1956 to 1958** - Cllr William G. Beckley died on 21/1/1980 and is buried in Waterside cemetery, Evesham

***Cllr. Ewart Andrews 1955** - Cllr Ewart A. Andrews died on 30/12/1999 and is buried in Hampton cemetery, Evesham

***Cllr. Oscar Grove 1953 to 1955** - Cllr Oscar Frank Grove died on 22/12/1973 and is buried in Waterside cemetery, Evesham

***Cllr. John Hodges 1951 to 1953** - Cllr John M. Hodges died on 28/8/1974 and is buried in Waterside cemetery, Evesham

***Cllr. Frederic Masters 1946 to 1949** - Cllr Frederick J. Masters died on 13/3/1963 and is buried in Bengeworth cemetery, Evesham

***Cllr. James Hemming 1941** - Cllr James Hemming died on June 1947 and is buried in Waterside cemetery, Evesham

***Cllr. William Mason 1940** - Cllr John William Mason died on 28/10/1976 and is buried in Waterside cemetery, Evesham

***Cllr. George Brotherton 1938** - Cllr George James Brotherton died on 13/4/1942 and is buried in Waterside cemetery, Evesham

***Cllr. Alfred Johns 1935 & 1937** - Cllr Alfred Johns died on 28/9/1968 and is buried in Bengeworth cemetery, Evesham

***Cllr. Richard White 1930 to 1933** - Cllr Richard White died on 27/3/1956 and is buried in Waterside cemetery, Evesham

***Cllr. Henry Workman 1888** - Picturer painted by H.T.Munns

***Sir Charles Cockerell 1810 & 1833** - Born 1755

Mayor of Evesham 1810 and 1833

Member of Parliament for Evesham 1819 - 1837

Died 1837