

of flowers going up to the church to help with the Easter Sunday decorations. People in England, especially in the villages, are far more Church conscious than we are and the Church fills a great part of their lives and they are always trotting off to Church meetings and Choir and Bell Ringing practices. Rather nice really. We went along one evening across the road to the church to watch the bell ringing practice. It was most fascinating and interesting to see the way each member pulls on his rope at just the right moment and the ringing is real music. I doubt whether we have any bell ringing in South Africa. While we did the shopping in Stratford Mary was across the road, I say say across, because the church is within a matter of a hundred yards, to help with the decorations.

It was a cold and misty day and the folk say 'How rough'. The swans on the Avon are most elegant and so graceful. I saw one arch its body and practically stand on the water and flap its wings, such a picture of grace and beauty. I was reminded of some dancers I saw doing 'The Dying Swan' I think it was Pavlova on one of the films.

The Cafes in Stratford were crowded with week end shoppers and we had at the Shakespeare Hotel, a lovely old place, really old, which was taken over by the R.A.F. during the war years.

We came home through Welford instead of the usual way and saw this quaint and picturesque village inhabited mostly by wealthy business from Birmingham as it is only a short run from Birmingham, about 25 miles. This gets them away from their business centre.

From the high ground here we could look both ways and see the Avon with its fascinating curves. The country side here cannot be compared with any other at home, it is English Countryside with its beauty which is incomparable. Later we passed through another little village where the pub was called the enchanted name of "House of Content" Either lovely isn't it? It is wonderful being in England at this time. As you will have realised a lot of my story is taken from Lorna's diary and so I am able to give our various movements etc.

So to continue, Roma, a friend of Edith's, on her way to Birmingham had lunch with us and she found her very chatty and interesting and also interested herself in the history of England and London much of which we knew. London, originally Londinium was a Roman town and that is the part now known as the City. What are now part of London were then mere villages, Picadilly, the Haymarket, Hampstead etc. The area between Picadilly and Kensington was so isolated that people were scared to walk there for fear of being coshed.

After Roma left us we went for a drive over the most beautiful country looking at its best - to Astwood Bank about ten miles away where Lorna's Grandparents lived. It was here in 1919 and again in 1929 that Lorna stayed with them. But in her diary she says the place has changed beyond recognition, being then an attractive little village but now as has happened all over built up into a large town.

We had tea with Francis, an Aunt, who now lives with Clara Harris. A pathetic household for Clara, who had been a school principal, was so looking forward to her retirement but suffered a stroke the day before she retired and is now bedridden.

Francis who, in her younger days was an athlete is now an old woman. Her husband Willie Wood served with the Buffs in South West Africa in 1914 and after his death she returned to England.

Her daughter daughter was with her for two weeks of her holiday, she being 24 and a Gym instructor at a large school. A tall girl with an extremely fine figure and very beautiful, Joan who is to be admired for her courage in keeping so cheerful in that household.

April 9th. Today is Easter Sunday an important day and one of great meaning in the hearts of English people. We woke to the ringing of the church bells, of which there are eight here in this church, Salford, and went to the early eight o'clock service as we wanted a walk before breakfast to watch all the people on their way to the various churches.