

Note of a telephone conversation with Mrs Penny Mason on 16 May 2006

Penny was born in 1930 but did not live at Broomfield until she was five or so, but remembers how much she looked forward to visiting her grandfather. A new wing had been built on to the House so that all six grandchildren and their nannies could be accommodated and in the day nursery a triple cupboard was built so that each family had their own toy store.

The land to the south of the Red House was known as the Far Garden and although it was cared for it was not quite so immaculate as the ground closer to the House. Penny recalls an impressive avenue of trees and a good view across to St Martin's Church. The trees, and the view, suffered as a result of snow damage in the 1940s.

When Sir George died Norman inherited Broomfield. He and Eva lived at the House and various other members of the family – and their domestic staff - also lived there, or nearby, from time to time. Donovan & Muriel, for example, lived initially at Hungry Hill and then at the Red House, George and Ursula at Churt Gate House.

After Sir George died, various 'old retainers' lived on in estate accommodation until their own death or they moved away. For example Head Gardener Etheridge continued to occupy the Lodge. And there was 'Diddy', who may have been George's Nanny.

During the war the House was home to various evacuees and others eg Miss Knight the Housekeeper's sister and her friend, who were teachers. She does not recall Henley's staff being accommodated there.

Ivy House had been occupied by a Mr & Mrs Carter and when they left/died the Jordan Moss's lived there for a while. The house was given a major modernisation in the mid-50s when Norman & Eva moved out of Broomfield.
(Penny got married in 1955 in Africa)

There were rooms above the garages for visiting chauffeurs. This was occupied by a Mrs Savage, sister of Phyllis Bridger – Charlie Bridger had been one of the gardeners. Benny Brooks may have been a Bridger nephew. He was not employed by the estate but did odd jobs especially carpet laying and upholstering.

Penny does not recall the Broomfield laundry. Her recollection is that the House laundry was sent to Capel.

She hopes to attend the June Walk with one or two friends, including her nephew Sir Anthony Touche – who lives at Ockley.

