

The Fox & Goodfellow Families (1958–1985)

Before the Second World War 123 Victoria Way seems always to have been a family home, even if there were sometimes lodgers. After the war, however, it has four distinct flats each occupied by a different family. This state of affairs persisted until things started to change with the quarter-century residence of Lawrence and Carol Fox. They came to the house to take a single flat, but by the time they left they and their family occupied the whole house.¹

Lawrence H Fox was born in 1933,² the son of Clement Joseph Fox and Lauretta Elizabeth Martin;³ Carol Irene Goodfellow was born in 1936,⁴ the youngest daughter of Walter Goodfellow and Hilda Everett.⁵ Both grew up in Plumstead.⁶ The couple married in 1958 and probably moved in at that time.⁷ At first they were just one of the four families sharing the building. But in 1964, when two other families moved out, Lawrence's younger brother Kent and his new wife Maisie (née Cooper) moved in.⁸

By 1968, the Hammonds, residents since 1954, had also moved out, and now, alongside the two fraternal Fox families, the rest of the premises were occupied by two ladies and a child. These were not strangers, however, but Carol's kin: her mother, Hilda Caroline Goodfellow, her older sister Hilda Elizabeth Garrett, and Hilda's six- or seven-year-old daughter Joanne.^{9,10,11,12} It is not clear why Hilda Garrett's husband John is not listed, but her move from a three-bedroomed house in Abbey Wood¹³ to live in a flat in the same building as her sister suggests either that John had died or the couple had separated. It is easy to see why Carol's 68-year-old mother, widowed twenty years previously,¹⁴ might decide to join her two daughters.

Carol's and Hilda's two brothers were also living not that far away — Alan and his wife Charlotte were living in Plumstead, while Ronald and wife Ernestine were living by Plumstead Common. Lawrence's and Kent's mother must also have been living nearby — she had been living in Plumstead before her husband's death in May 1964.^{15,16} All of these other family members are bound to have been visitors to the house.

Lawrence and Carol had two children by this time, Jacqueline J (born 1962)¹⁷ and Ian Alan (born 1966),¹⁸ with a third on the way — Susan Lauretta (born 1969)¹⁹ — so it seems likely that the family occupied two floors of the building. Since Flat D did not have a kitchen until 1985, it must have been that the family occupied the *top* two floors.

Sometime around 1971, Kent and Maisie moved out, and no one seems to have taken their place. So after Hilda Goodfellow died in May 1977,^{20,16} for the next seven years the house was home to just the two Goodfellow sisters, Lawrence, and four children, until in 1985 it was sold to Brian Betham, a Bexleyheath property developer.

Unfortunately, most sources for people born in the last one hundred years do not give any information about occupations or social status, unless one is prepared to pay for birth, marriage or death certificates. Nor do any of those who are known to have died seem to have left a will, which might otherwise have indicated occupation and status. In origin both families were working-class, native to Woolwich and Plumstead — Carol's father (born 1890) had been a dairyman,²¹ and Lawrence's father (born 1905) a labourer in a sand quarry;²² Hilda Everett had been a domestic servant before marriage.²³ But information like this for the younger generations is not available from the records I have been able to consult.

It has not proved possible with any certainty to trace the lives of the children once the families had moved out, but Joanne Garrett may well be the one who married Edward Land in Greenwich 1983 and had two children;^{24,25} Jacqueline Fox may have been the one who married Paul M Bonner in Greenwich in 1983.²⁶

Hilda Garrett died in 1995, and Laretta Fox in 1998. Both must have continued to live locally, as they were cremated at Eltham Crematorium.¹⁶

Lawrence and Carol moved away from the area at some point: by the millennium, they were living in a house in Fareham, Hampshire.²⁷ Lawrence's name appears in the electoral register for the town until 2018; Carol, aged 86, was still registered to vote there in 2022,²⁷ though the house was sold later that year.²⁸

For twenty years, then, 123 Victoria Way had essentially returned to being a family home, albeit one for an extended family living in individual flats.

Peter, May 2024

Notes

¹ All information about the occupancy of the house is from (a) London, England, Electoral Registers, 1832-1965 (Ancestry.com) or (b) information supplied by Greenwich Archives from Electoral Registers in their collection.

² GRO Birth Index, Q3 1933 Woolwich 1d 1257.

³ GRO Marriage Index, Q2 1933 Woolwich 1d 255.

⁴ GRO Birth Index, Q1 1936 Woolwich 1d 1289.

⁵ GRO Marriage Index, Q2 1922 Woolwich 1d 2333.

⁶ Clement and Laretta were both living at 4 Lee Street, Plumstead, when they married in 1933, and in 1957 the Electoral Registers have them living at 12 St Margaret's Terrace, Plumstead. Oddly, though, in 1939 Laretta (mis-recorded as Rowetta) is with the children in Tonbridge, while Clement is with his parents at 4 St Margaret's Terrace (1939 Register, RG101/0649J/010/42 and RG101/1861A/024/1).

⁷ GRO Marriage Index Q3 1958 Woolwich 5d 1979.

⁸ GRO Marriage Index Q1 1963 Newbury 6A 164.

⁹ 1939 Register RG101/1747J/023/26.

¹⁰ GRO Birth Index Q1 1930 Woolwich 1d 1567. Her mother's maiden name is given as "Everitt".

¹¹ GRO Marriage Index Q1 1954 Woolwich 5d 2052.

¹² GRO Birth Index Q4 1961 Dartford 5b 628.

¹³ Electoral Register, 1965, 215 Wickham Lane, SE2.

¹⁴ GRO Death Index Q1 1949 Dartford 5b 562.

¹⁵ GRO Death Index Q2 1984, Greenwich 12 974.

¹⁶ Greenwich, Bexley and Dartford Joint Committee, Eltham Crematorium (www.deceasedonline.com).

¹⁷ GRO Birth Index Q4 1962, Dartford 5b 685.

¹⁸ GRO Birth Index Q4 1965, Bexley 5A 302.

¹⁹ GRO Birth Index Q? 1969, Bexley 5a 1190.

²⁰ GRO Death Index Q2 1977, Greenwich 12 1196.

²¹ 1939 Register, RG101/0650B/009/37 (65 Vicarage Rd, Plumstead).

²² 1939 Register, RG101/0649J/10/42 (6 St Margaret's Terrace, Plumstead).

²³ 1921 Census RG15/03055/20.

²⁴ GRO Marriage Index Q2 1983 Greenwich 12 712.

²⁵ GRO Birth Index 1988 Alexander Charles Land, Bexley 11 1019; 1992 Hannah Rose Land, Bexley 11 921.

²⁶ GRO Marriage Index Q3 1983 Greenwich 12 880.

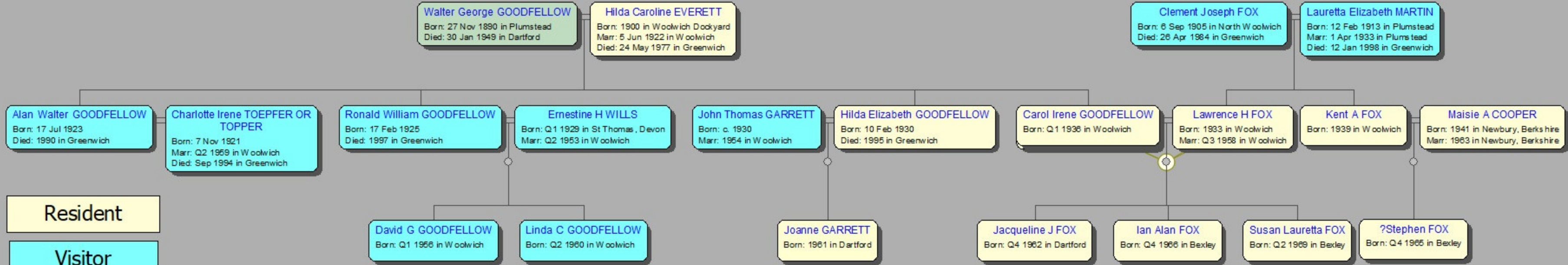
²⁷ Electoral Register Search, 192.com.

²⁸ Zoopla.com, 3 Cherry Tree Avenue, PO14 1PY.

Electoral Register for 123 Victoria Way, 1959–1984

| | | |
|-------------|-------------|------------|
| 1959 | Carol I | Fox |
| | Lawrence H | Fox |
| | Peter | Hammond |
| | Jean | Hammond |
| | Ronald A | White |
| | Joyce | White |
| | Alfred | Brailsford |
| 1960 | Carol I | Fox |
| | Lawrence H | Fox |
| | Peter | Hammond |
| | Ronald A | White |
| | Joyce | White |
| | Alfred | Brailsford |
| 1961 | Carol I | Fox |
| | Lawrence H | Fox |
| | Peter | Hammond |
| | Ronald A | White |
| | Joyce | White |
| | Alfred | Brailsford |
| 1962 | Carol I | Fox |
| | Lawrence H | Fox |
| | Peter | Hammond |
| | Alfred | Brailsford |
| | Patricia | Brailsford |
| | Dennis C | Ewing |
| | Elizabeth L | Ewing |
| 1963 | Carol I | Fox |
| | Lawrence H | Fox |
| | Myra A | Hammond |
| | Peter | Hammond |
| | Patricia | Brailsford |
| | Dennis C | Ewing |
| | Elizabeth L | Ewing |

| | | |
|----------------|------------|------------|
| 1964 | Carol I | Fox |
| | Lawrence H | Fox |
| | Kent A | Fox |
| | Maisie A | Fox |
| | Myra A | Hammond |
| | Peter | Hammond |
| 1968-70 | Carol I | Fox |
| | Lawrence H | Fox |
| | Kent A | Fox |
| | Maisie A | Fox |
| | Hilda E | Garrett |
| Hilda C | Goodfellow | |
| 1972-76 | Carol I | Fox |
| | Lawrence H | Fox |
| | Hilda E | Garrett |
| | Hilda C | Goodfellow |
| 1978-80 | Carol I | Fox |
| | Lawrence H | Fox |
| | Hilda E | Garrett |
| 1982-84 | Carol I | Fox |
| | Lawrence H | Fox |
| | Jacqueline | Fox |
| | Hilda E | Garrett |
| | Joanne | Garrett |



Resident

Visitor

NOTE:
Greenwich, Woolwich, Bexley, Dartford are registration districts, not necessarily the precise location of an event.