

Arnold Crowther

The Magician

A look into the family and history of Arnold Crowther the Magician, Conjuror,
Ventriloquist, Puppet Master, Musician, Artist and the
High Priest of the Sheffield coven



William Wallworth

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A look into the family and history of Arnold Crowther the Magician, Conjuror, Ventriloquist, Puppet Master, Musician, Artist, and the High Priest of the Sheffield coven

New stuff added or changed in this Edition C:

Part I

1935	added more newspaper entries for that year
1940 to 1949	added all the newspaper entries for those years
1955 to 1959	added all the newspaper entries for those years

For the lifetime of Arnold Crowther (1909 to 1974) the remaining gaps in the newspapers that needs to be extracted are 1936 to 1939 and 1950 to 1954.

Then need to do Arnold Crowther's mother's side of the family, the McGaw family of Scotland.

This edition C was done on January 5, 2025 Sunday 9:32 PM.

Researched and compiled
by William Wallworth

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Page 171 The father - Cecil Crowther (1882 - 1958)

Part I

Arnold Crowther

Arnold William Crowther (1909 - 1974)

Husband of 1st Mabel A. Barnes and 2nd Patricia C. Dawson

4. **ARNOLD WILLIAM CROWTHER** was born on 6 October 1909 at 5:20 PM at 65 Pagitt Street in Chatham, Kent.

Father: Cecil Crowther (No. 2)

Mother: Mary Helen McGaw

Arnold William Crowther and his brother Norman Cecil Crowther were born twins. Since in two census records below, Norman is listed first then Arnold, we can assume that Arnold was the 2nd of the twin born.

~ 6 October 1909

From the birth certificate:

Registration District - Medway

Sub-District - Rochester & Chatham

1909. Births in the Sub-District of Rochester & Chatham in the County of Kent

No. / When and Where Born. / Name. / Sex. / Father's Name. / Mother's Maiden Name.
/ Father's Profession. / Informant / When Registered. / Signature of Registrar.

46 / Sixth October 1909 5:20 P. M. 65 Pagitt street Chatham UD / Arnold William / Boy
/ Cecil Crowther / Mary Helen Crowther formerly Mc Gaw / Optician / Cecil Crowther
Father 65 Pagitt Street Chatham / Twentieth October 1909 / A R [Srames?] Deputy
Registrar

Image of part of the record:

Columns:—					
No.	When and Where Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.
46	Smith October 1909 5.20 P.M. 65 Ragitt sheet Chatham 40	Arnold William	Boy	Becil brother	Mary Helen brother formerly McGaw

~ 1911

In 1911, Arnold William Crowther, age 17 months, with his brother and mother were at his grandfather's place at 8 Station Road in Openshaw a suburb of Manchester, Lancashire.

From the 1911 census of Openshaw, Manchester:

Number of Schedule - 94

Number of Rooms in this Dwelling - 6 rooms

Postal Address - Mr. McGaw 8 Station Road Openshaw

Name / Relationship / Age & Sex / Marital status / Years married / Children born alive / Children living / Children died / Profession

William McGaw / Head / 64 M / Married / 11 / 3 / 1 / 2 / [Credut?] Draper / Kirkmaiden Wigtonshire

Elizabeth McGaw / Wife / 48 F / " / --- / --- / --- / --- / ----- / Sutton near St Ellens Lancashire

David McGaw / Son / 8 M / Single / --- / --- / --- / --- / ----- / Ardwick Manchester

Mary Ellen Crowther / daughter / 28 F / Married / 5 / 2 / 2 / --- / ----- / Kirkmaiden Wigtonshire Scotland

Norman Cicel Crowther / Grandson / 17 mos M / ----- / --- / --- / --- / --- / ----- / Chatham Kent

Arnold William Crowther / Grandson / 17 mos M / ----- / --- / --- / --- / --- / ----- / Chatham Kent

Lilley Crowther / Visitor / 51 F / Married / 30 / 1 / 1 / --- / Bedford Town

Image of part of the census:

	1.	2.	3.	4.
1	William McGowan	Head	64	
2	Elizabeth McGowan	wife		68
3	David McGowan	Son	8	
4	Mary Ellen Crowther	daughter		28
5	Norman Cecil Crowther	Grandson	17 Mo	Hand
6	Arnold William Crowther	Grandson	17 Mo	Hand
7	Lillie Crowther	Daughter		57
8				

~ 1921

In 1921, Arnold William Crowther, age 11, was living with his parents at [40?] Merton Road in Wimbledon, Surrey.

From the 1921 census of Wimbledon:

No. of Schedule - 45

Signature - Cecil Crowther

Postal Address - [4?]o Merton Rd

Name / Relationship / Age, Years - Months / Sex / Marital status or whether parents alive or dead / Birthplace / School / Profession / Question to Married Men, Number of children under age 16 / " " " " , Age at last birthday

Cecil Crowther / Head / 38 - 7 / M / Married / Ware Hertfordshire / ----- / Sight

Testing Optician - Own Account - 8, St. Georges Rd. Wimbledon / 2 / 11

Mary Helen Crowther / Wife / 38 - 8 / F / Married / Kirkmaiden Wigtownshire / ----- /
Home duties - At home

Norman Cecil Crowther / Son / 11 - 8 / M / Both Alive / Chatham Kent / Whole time / --
----- /

Arnold William Crowther / Son / 11 - 8 / M / Both Alive / Chatham Kent / Whole time /
----- /

Lillie Crowther / Mother / 61 - 8 / F / Widowed / Bedford Bedfordshire / ----- / Home
duties - At home

Image of part of the record:

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
			years. months.			
1	Cecil Crowther	Head	38 7	M	Married	Ware Hertfordshire
2	Mary Helen Crowther	Wife	38 8	F	Married	Herfordshire Wigborough
3	Norman Cecil Crowther	Son	11 8	M	Both Alive	Chatham Kent
4	Arnold William Crowther	Son	11 8	M	Both Alive	Chatham Kent
5	Lillie Crowther	Mother	61 8	F	Widowed	Beaconsfield Bucks

~ 1931

Arnold William Crowther married **MABEL ADA BARNES** on 27 August 1931 in the Register Office in Kingston, Surrey.

From the marriage certificate:

1931. Marriage solemnized at The Register Office in the District of Kingston in the County of Surrey

No. - 144

When Married - Twenty Seventh August 1931

Name / Age / Condition / Profession / Residence at the time of marriage / Father's name / Father's Profession

Arnold William Crowther / 21 years / Bachelor / Optician / 30. Worple Road
Wimbledon / Cecil Crowther / Optician

Mabel Ada Barnes / 23 years / Spinster / ----- / 30. Worple Road Wimbledon /
John Thomas Barnes / House Decorator

Married in the Register Office by Certificate before me, [D. H. Dingfield ?] Registrar
Ernest Saunders Dept Registrar

The marriage was solemnized between us,

A. W. Crowther

M. A. Barnes

in the presence of us,

E. E. Barnes

E. J. Mc Grath

Image of part of the record:

19231. Marriage solemnized at <i>The Register Office</i> in the District of <i>Wimbledon</i>					
No.	When Married	Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession
144	<i>Twenty Seventh August</i>	<i>Arnold William Crowther</i>	<i>21</i> years	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>Officer</i>
	<i>19231-</i>	<i>Mabel Ada Barnes</i>	<i>23</i> years	<i>Spinster</i>	

Married in the *Register Office* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the

This Marriage was solemnized between us, *A. W. Crowther* in the Presence of us, *E. E. Barnes*
M. A. Barnes *E. J. M. Gra*

They were living at 30 Worple Road in Wimbledon, Surrey at the time of their marriage.

~ 1935

It was in 1935 when Arnold Crowther started appearing in the newspapers, in articles and advertisements. He is now a professional magician or conjurer and ventriloquist.

18 January 1935 - At East Ham, Essex

From the newspaper, West Ham and South Essex Mail, Friday 18 January 1935:

OLD FOLKS AT HOME

Although the day was murky and cold, 650 old folk of East Ham and district found sunshine on Wednesday afternoon (January 9th). In the Central Hall they were the guests of the East Ham Brotherhood of a tea and concert, which was visited by the Mayor and Mayoress of East Ham (Ald. and Mrs. T. W. Burden) and the deputy Mayor (Ald. C. W. Brading). Ald. Burden made a short speech of welcome and extended seasonable greetings on behalf of the Council.

After a meat tea the old folk were entertained by the "Tonics" Concert Party, Mr. Arnold Crowther in modern magic, and Mr. Walker Lanham, the B.B.C. artist.

Both over 80 years of age, the oldest woman present received a special gift of a leather bag, and the oldest man was presented with a dressing case. All of the company were old age pensioners.

Tobacco, cigarettes, and tea were distributed at the conclusion of the evening.

19 January 1935 - At Barnes, Surrey

From the newspaper, Richmond Herald, Saturday 19 January 1935:

Barnes Parish Church Children's Party.

A sumptuous tea,

Presents from a Christmas tree,

Their annual prizes,

A conjuror and ventriloquist.

These were some of the "special treats" enjoyed by the young people attending the Morning Sunday School in connection with Barnes Parish Church, when they gathered at the Church Hall, Kitson-road, Barnes.....

.....The prize-giving over, the children settled down to the entertainment, and what a happy hour they had. The entertainer was Mr. Arnold Crowther, a conjuror and ventriloquist of undoubted skill and ability, and he showed that he certainly knew how to amuse a large gathering of excited children. For fully half-an-hour he mystified his young audience with all the marvels of magic, and the hall echoed and re-echoed with shrieks of happy laughter.

Cigarettes that appeared already lit from "no-where," cards that vanished "from the face of the earth," and knots that untied themselves from rope, all thrilled the kiddies, and how they roared when he produced a "rabbit" from his top hat, and a "chicken" from up his sleeve.

The conjuror, of course, made the occasion all the more exciting by inviting many of the boys and girls up on to the stage to help him, and it was worth going a long way to see the looks of amazement on the faces of some, at the dexterity with which handkerchiefs were made to change colour and a boy was released from a chair to which he had securely bound.

Following the conjuring comes the fine treat, when Mr. Crowther turned ventriloquist and introduced "Horace" to the children. There was certainly no slowness in response when at the conclusion they were asked if they wanted to see "Horace" again next year."

27 March 1935 - At Worthing, Sussex

From the newspaper, Worthing Gazette, Wednesday 27 March 1935:

VAUDEVILLE

A Comedy "Bill."

Pavilion Audience Amused.

Comedy was the main element in the vaudeville programmes at Worthing Pier Pavilion on Saturday.

.... Others who appeared were Stylo, in a juggling act. Arnold Crowther, comedian."

27 June 1935 - At Bedford, Bedfordshire

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 27 June 1935:

"BEDFORD --- County.....

.... Jack Allen presents "Vaudeville Vanities," a smart high-speed combination, prior to their season at Bognor. The company is headed by George Bolton the well-known comedian, and includes Zoe Corner (contralto), Arnold Crowther (entertainer)....."

28 June 1935 - At Bedfordshire

From the newspaper, Bedfordshire Times and Independent, Friday 28 June 1935:

"Plays And Pictures

"Vaudeville Vanities" at the County Theatre

Another bright and enjoyable revue is being presented at the Royal County Theatre this week. It is entitled "Vaudeville Vanities" and has a talented cast."

".... And a popular ventriloquist turn is given by Arnold Crowther."

10 July 1935 - At Bognor Regis, Sussex

From the newspaper, Bognor Regis Observer, Wednesday 10 July 1935:

PIER HALL

A really tip-top show has come to the Pier Hall for the season in Jack Allen's "Vaudeville Vanities," a super summer production, comprising all that is best in modern entertainment, with an all star cast.

George Bolton, who is responsible for most of the humour, was extremely funny on Monday night in "I am only a poor crossing sweeper," and another excellent number was a trio by Bernard Knowles, Arnold Crowther and George Bolton, entitled "When they brighten up the B.B.C."

..... Arnold Crowther and his marionette show were entirely different to anything one has ever seen in Bognor."

31 July 1935 - At Bognor Regis, Sussex

From the newspaper, Bognor Regis Observer - Wednesday 31 July 1935:

"THE PIER HALL

Visitors to the Pier Hall this year, who have been to Bognor in previous years, will recognise an old friend in the manager, Mr. Jack Allen.

He has tried the experiment this year of running a resident party instead of changing it weekly, and there can be no question that this new policy is a great success. The "Vaudeville Vanities" are really excellent and present a well varied programme which is bound to appeal to the most jaded taste.

The company is led by George Bolton, who has played in all the leading theatres, and is a comedian who personally leads the show.

The Variety Girls are a valuable inclusion in this super show, which also contains Arnold Crowther, the clever ventriloquist chatterer....."

2 August 1935 - At Portsmouth, Hampshire

From the newspaper, Hampshire Telegraph, Friday 02 August 1935:

PAVILION

CLARENCE PIER

Sunday August 4th, Special Engagement of

GEORGE BOLTON

the Well-known Comedian, and

ARNOLD CROWTHER

Novelty Entertainer .

Reserved Seats 2/6; Unreserved, 1/6; Balcony, 1/- Prices include Toll & Tax

Image of the advertisement:

8 August 1935 - At Portsmouth, Hampshire

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 08 August 1935:

Speedtime continue to hold their own at the Clarence Pier. Light-hearted comedy, clever acting, and delightful music are features of their programmes, which show originality and versatility."

"George Bolton and Arnold Crowther appeared at the special concert in the pavilion on Sunday."

14 August 1935 - At Bognor Regis, Sussex

From the newspaper, Bognor Regis Observer, Wednesday 14 August 1935:

THE PIER HALL

"Vaudeville Vanities"

There was a splendid house at the Pier Hall on Monday evening, when Jack Allen presented his super entertainment, "Vaudeville Vanities."

George Bolton, the comedian who heads the company, should by this time need no introduction: he is a first class comedian and can grip his audience in a manner that almost amounts to genius.

He is supported by a distinguished a company as one could wish to see, including Arnold Crowther, the wonder ventriloquist, who is able to hold the audience spellbound with his magic. In addition to contributing to the company's performances each evening, he conducts a special children's matinee, consisting of magic, ventriloquism, chapeaugraphy , Punch and Judy , and marionettes.

The Arno marionette theatre alone is sufficient evidence of this artiste's talent. It is his own invention, the talking puppets, as exhibited for the first time at the British puppet and model theatre exhibition, London, consisting of variety acts, circuses, etc., by life-like puppets.

This show can be considered as one of the best, most refined, and versatile children's entertainment on the South Coast.

28 August 1935 - At Bognor Regis, Sussex

From the newspaper, Bognor Regis Observer - Wednesday 28 August 1935:

THE PIER HALL

"Vaudeville Vanities"

Jack Allen, the leader of the "Vaudeville Vanities," at the Pier Hall this season, is so well-known in Bognor Regis as a producer of high order that it is unnecessary to enlarge upon his qualities. Evidence of this fact can be clearly seen at the Pier Hall, where there

is an excellent concert party. It is a super summer production and contains all that is best in modern entertainment with an all star caste.

Their repertoire is extensive, in so much that one can visit the show several times without the fear of reproduction of previous programmes.

The caste includes the following: Arnold Crowther, George Bolton, Phyl Sylvers, Joan Coleridge, Bernard Knowles, Marie Wise, Zoe Corner, and the Vanity Girls.

4 October 1935 - At West Wickham, Kent

From the newspaper, Bromley & West Kent Mercury, Friday 04 October 1935:

"Hawes Down Infants' "Treat."

Hawes Down infants' school, West Wickham, which did not participate in the junior and senior children's Charter display on Friday, had its own "treat" on Monday afternoon when 400 children, under Miss Robertson, head teacher, had a tea and entertainment,....

An entertainment and tea was also arranged for the seniors and juniors, including conjuring and a "Punch and Judy" show by Mr. Arnold Crowther, and competitions and house games."

9 October 1935 - at Worthing, Sussex

From the newspaper, Worthing Gazette, Wednesday 09 October 1935:

SATURDAY VAUDEVILLE in the Pier Pavilion will re-commence on Saturday, at 2.45 and 8.0. Programme will include Natana and his Romaine Band. Arnold Crowther, the entertainer, who will introduce the "Arno" marionette theatre, consisting of talking puppets (his own invention), and Mae Margo, "the personality girl with the phenomenal voice."

12 October 1935 - At Worthing, Sussex

From the newspaper, Worthing Herald, Saturday 12 October 1935:

VAUDEVILLE

STARTS TO-DAY

Stage Band Tops the Bill

Mr Jack Allen presents the first vaudeville programme of the winter season at the Pier Pavilion to-day (Saturday) at 2.45 and 8. An excellent bill has been arranged.

Mr Allen has engaged Natana and his San Romaine band as the principal attraction. It is a very popular stage orchestra which has played at most of the principal London theatres and cabarets. A turn that should be full of good entertainment is Arnold Crowther, who will introduce the Arno marionettes theatre, consisting of talking

puppets. This is his own invention and was exhibited for the first time at the British Puppet and Model Theatre exhibition in London.

16 October 1935 - at Worthing, Sussex

From the newspaper, Worthing Gazette, Wednesday 16 October 1935:

"VAUDEVILLE BACK.

Saturday's Programme at Pier Pavilion.

The winter week-end vaudeville shows in Worthing Pier Pavilion were resumed on Saturday with a bill which included the Natana Sun Romaine Band and the Arno Marionette Theatre.

..... Arnold Crowther's marionette theatre put on a novel miniature show which included a performing sea lion, adroitly balancing a medicine ball. Micky Mouse performing queer antics across the stage, a witch riding her broom, and a dancing skeleton."

"In Other Turns.

The programme also included....

.... and Arnold Crowther in some polished conjuring."

24 October 1935 - Advertisement

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 24 October 1935:

London Artists

- Available for -

At Homes, Concerts, Masonic Banquets, etc.

ARNOLD CROWTHER.

The Wonder Vent., Modern Magic, And the Arno Marionette Theatre.

250, W. Barnes Lane, Malden 1068.

Image of the advertisement:



12 November 1935 - At Devonshire

From the newspaper, The Tiverton Gazette, ... Tuesday, November 12, 1935:

EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

Alderman H. C. Wakefield gave the toast of "Educational Establishments," and the Rev. N. V. Gerton and Mr. F. P. Goodchild (headmaster of the School of Science and Art) responded. The latter made an appeal for recognition of the cultural side of education. An entertainment party added to the enjoyment of the evening. Victor Crawford told a number of amusing stories and sang humorous songs, and Mr. Arnold Crowther contributed one of the best ventriloquial performances ever seen in Tiverton; he also did several sleight of hand tricks. The proceedings closed just before midnight with the singing of the National Anthem. Mr. Bertram Phillips was at the piano throughout the evening.

14 November 1935 - At Devonshire

From the newspaper, Crediton Gazette, East Devon ... Thursday, November 14, 1935:

(Same article as the one above on 12 November 1935)

5 December 1935 - At London

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 05 December 1935:

"With the Magicians.

The International Brotherhood of Magicians held a successful concert at the National Trade Union Club on December 2. Those present included Oswald Rae, Joe Jackson, the Zomahs, Billy O'Connor and the Davenports. Harry Kaye and Walter Kemp arranged the programme which included magic by Cedric, Arnold Crowther,"

13 December 1935 - At Saffron Walden, Essex

From the newspaper, Saffron Walden Weekly News, Friday, December 13, 1935:

SAFFRON WALDEN NEWS

Young Oddfellows.--- About 125 juvenile members of the Saffron Bloom Lodge of Oddfellows were given their annual tea and entertainment at the Central Hall on Saturday. After full justice had been done to an excellent tea, a first-class entertainment in conjuring, ventriloquism, and the ever-popular Punch and Judy show was given by Mr. Arnold Crowther, of New Malden, Surrey, who was assisted in some of his "turns" by young Oddfellows. At the conclusion of the entertainment each member was presented with a bun, orange, and a pencil.

Image of the article:

Young Oddfellows.—About 125 juvenile members of the Saffron Bloom Lodge of Oddfellows were given their annual tea and entertainment at the Central Hall on Saturday. After full justice had been done to an excellent tea, a first-class entertainment in conjuring, ventriloquism, and the ever-popular Punch and Judy show was given by Mr. Arnold Crowther, of New Malden, Surrey, who was assisted in some of his "turns" by young Oddfellows. At the conclusion of the entertainment each member was presented with a bun, orange, and a pencil.

=====
Research note -

The years 1936 to 1939 needs to be extracted from the newspapers.
=====

~ 1936

10 January 1936 - At Chesham, Buckinghamshire

From the newspaper, Buckinghamshire Examiner, Friday 10 January 1936:

"Jolly Good Hunting"

"At an Employees and tenants dinner.

It has been the custom of the directors of Chesham Brewery, Ltd. to give the New Year a happy send-off for their employees by entertaining them to dinner."

"The dinner was held at Chesham Town Hall..."

".... as ventriloquist and conjurer Arnold Crowther was excellent;....."

~ 1937

14 October 1937 - At Burton-upon-Trent, Staffordshire

From the newspaper, Burton Observer and Chronicle, Thursday 14 October 1937:

MORE ABOUT ARNOLD CROWTHER.

Versatile Entertainer for Winter Fair.

Arnold Crowther, who is to appear in the Annexe at the "Mall" and "Observer" Winter Fair, is one of England's most versatile entertainers. He has many acts in his magical bag. He is an extremely clever conjuror and is a fellow of the Institute of Magicians and member of the Magic Circle. He is at home with all branches of magic and an expert in sleight of hand.

As a ventriloquist he has no equal, and no matter how you watch his mouth, you will not see the slightest movement of his lips. He does not depend upon a stage to get his effects, but performs among his audience with his greatest ease, proving that he is a real master of this difficult act.

Arnold Crowther has had great experience in all types of entertainments, and in 1927 had the honour of appearing before his late Majesty, King George V., in the Command Performance of "The Wandering Jew," at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

He is also a society entertainer, and has appeared at private functions for many well known people, including the Marchioness of Queensberry, the Marquis of Bath, Lord Weymouth, Lady Buchanan-Jardine, &c.

He has played in most of the famous music halls and cabarets, and has appeared in concert party and revue, and has just finished a summer season at Scarborough.

Mr. Crowther is also a writer, and has written songs for many well known performers. He is a great favourite with children, and has run many children's entertainments, and was engaged to run the Children's Theatre at Bongor Regis in 1935.

He has played at many seaside resorts, including Hastings, Weston-super-Mare, Southsea, Worthing, Brighton, etc.



MR. ARNOLD CROWTHER in one of his conjuring tricks.

~ 1939

In 1939, Arnold and Mabel Crowther were living at 250 West Barnes Lane in Merton and Morden, Surrey.

From the 1939 Register of Merton and Morden:

No. of Schedule 155

250 West Barnes Lane

Sub. No. / Name / Sex / Birthdate / Marital status / Profession

1 CROWTHER Arnold / M / Oct 6 09 / M / Qualified Optician FBOA FSMC Light
Testing & Mechanical car driver

2 Mabel / F / Mar 18 06 / M / Shorthand Typist book keeper

~ 1940

4 January 1940 - Somewhere in Scotland

An advertisement of Arnold Crowther with the E.N.S.A.

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 4 January 1940:

THE CONCERT STAGE

LONDON ARTISTS.

ARNOLD CROWTHER,

Ace of Entertainers. Somewhere in Scotland with E.N.S.A. --- P.a., 230, West Barnes Lane. MAL, 1068.

11 January 1940 - Somewhere in Scotland

An advertisement of Arnold Crowther with the E.N.S.A.

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 11 January 1940:

THE CONCERT STAGE

LONDON ARTISTS.

ARNOLD CROWTHER,

Ace of Entertainers. Somewhere in Scotland with E.N.S.A. --- P.a., 230, West Barnes Lane. MAL, 1068.

3 February 1940 - St. Andrews, Scotland

Arnold Crowther traveling in Scotland with the E.N.S.A.

From the newspaper, St. Andrews Citizen, Saturday 3 February 1940:

Round And About St. Andrews.

WAR-TIME ENTERTAINING.

Many of those concert parties which delighted thousands at seaside resorts in the summer time are now busy touring the country entertaining the troops, and are they finding it exciting? St Andrews had a visit from one of these parties on Thursday night, and they had some exciting experiences to relate.

They have travelled in all kinds of conveyances, sometimes doing 200 miles in a day. They have done the journey in lordly Rolls Royce cars, at other times in furniture vans, and even in farm carts.

This concert party, the "Joy Rays," were the first to perform in Orkney during the war, and did they have some excitement when they were in the north of Scotland? One day while travelling by boat a German plane came low down and had a good look at them, but fortunately it sheered off before dropping any "gifts."

On another occasion, while an air raid was on, they performed wearing steel helmets and their gas masks. Their life is not an easy one. Through N.A.A.F.I. and E.S.N.A., the troops are hearing, for nothing, the finest artistes in the country, while the artistes themselves are making great sacrifices, running many hazards, facing discomfort cheerfully, doing what they can to brighten the leisure hours of the men who have answered their country's call.

But, of course, their travels have not been without their lighter moments. In the course of his act, Mr Arnold Crowther, who is also producer of the show, is assisted by a dummy named "Horace." This figure is so life-like that at one place a dinner was prepared for him, and Mr Crowther had difficulty in persuading his host that "Horace" was just a dummy.

Image of the article:

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3 February 1940 - At Auchtermuchty, Fife, Scotland

From the newspaper, Fife Free Press, Saturday 3 February 1940:

Auchtermuchty

Concert. --- A concert, organised by Horace Collins, Scottish Supervisor, was given in the Victoria Hall, Auchtermuchty, on Wednesday night. The artistes included many well-known personalities among them, being the famous tenor from "The Desert Song," Mr Herbert Cave. Others who took part were Miss Dare, Sisters Elliot, Trixie, Johnny Rae, Bob Lyons and Mr Arnold Crowther, who has given a Royal Command performance.

8 May 1940 - At Auchtermuchty, Fife, Scotland

From the newspaper, Dundee Evening Telegraph, Wednesday 8 May 1940:

AUCHTERMUCHTY CONCERT.

Members of the forces were entertained in the Victoria Hall, Auchtermuchty, last night. The following artistes took part:---

Miss Vivian Walsh, Mrs Crowther, Mr Bob Lyon, Mr Arnold Crowther and R. Lyon.

9 May 1940 - At Auchtermuchty, Fife, Scotland

From the newspaper, Dundee Courier, Thursday 9 May 1940:

CONCERT PARTY AT AUCHTERMUCHTY

A concert was given in the Victoria Hall, Auchtermuchty, under the direction of Mr Horace Collins, Glasgow

The following artistes took part: --- Miss Vivian Walsh and Mrs Crowther, solos; Mr Bob Lyon, accordion; Mr Arnold Crowther, conjurer.

14 September 1940 - At Newcastle

From the newspaper, Newcastle Evening Chronicle, Saturday 14 September 1940:

STARS AT WAR NEEDS FUND CONCERT

Mystery hangs around the star performers at to-morrow night's concert at the Essoldo Theatre, Newcastle, in aid of the Northumberland and Durham War Needs Fund.

(among other performers mentioned)

"... and other performers will include Arnold Crowther, the Royal Command entertainer, assisted by Trixie..."

15 September 1940 - At Newcastle

From the newspaper, Sunday Sun (Newcastle), Sunday 15 September 1940:

TO-NIGHT'S CONCERT TO AID FUND

Some of the North's most popular musicians and entertainers are helping to make up the first - class programme arranged for to-night's concert at the Essoldo, Newcastle, in aid of the Northumberland and Durham War Needs Fund.

(among other performers mentioned)

"... Arnold Crowther Royal Command entertainer ..."

~ 1944

11 August 1944, Arnold and Mabel Crowther returned from touring in Europe. They sailed on the S.S. Queen of Bermuda from Naples, Italy to Liverpool, Lancashire. Their occupation was listed as Theatrical.

From the UK and Ireland, Incoming Passenger Lists:

Ship's Name / Official Number / Steamship Line / Registered Tonnage / Master's Name / Voyage

S.S. "Queen of Bermuda". / 156189 / Furness Withy & Co. Ltd. / 22576 / Wm. A. Charlton. / From Naples. To Liverpool.

Date of Arrival 11 Aug 1944

Line No. / Port of Embarkation / Port at which Passengers have been landed / Names of Passengers / Class / Age & Sex / Proposed Address in the United Kingdom / Profession / Country of last Permanent Residence / Country of Intended Future Residence

14. / Naples / L'pool. / Crowther, Arnold / 1st. / 34 M / New Malden, Surrey / Theatrical / England / England

15. / " / " / Crowther, Mabel / 1st. / 38 F / - do - / Theatrical / England / England

5 October 1944 - An article about Arnold Crowther

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 5 October 1944:

VARIETY GOSSIP

Arnold Crowther

Now rehearsing with a new party destined for Western Europe. Arnold returned in August this year after a 12 months E.N.S.A. tour, including Algiers, North Africa, Tripoli, Malta, Gozo (a very small island off Malta), Sicily, and Italy. He is the only magician to be made a witch doctor by the African natives, and has performed 4,000 ft. in the air in a troop carrier 'plane. Since joining E.N.S.A. in October, 1939, he has entertained troops of over 30 different nationalities totalling over 1,000,000, and has travelled over 700,000 miles. His smallest audience was one bed patient in hospital. His largest over

5,000 troops just out of battle. He has received letters of appreciation written in Arabic, Sesuto (the language of the Basutoland troops), and in Maltese. While in Malta, a Basuto choir and dancers appeared for the first time on any stage in a show which he produced. He gave the first E.N.S.A show on Mount Etna. Arnold Crowther is a conjurer, ventriloquist, and comedian, and was born in Chatham, Kent.

Image of the article:



7 October 1944 - At West End, London

From the newspaper, Surrey Advertiser, Saturday 7 October 1944:

E.N.S.A. VISITS WEST END

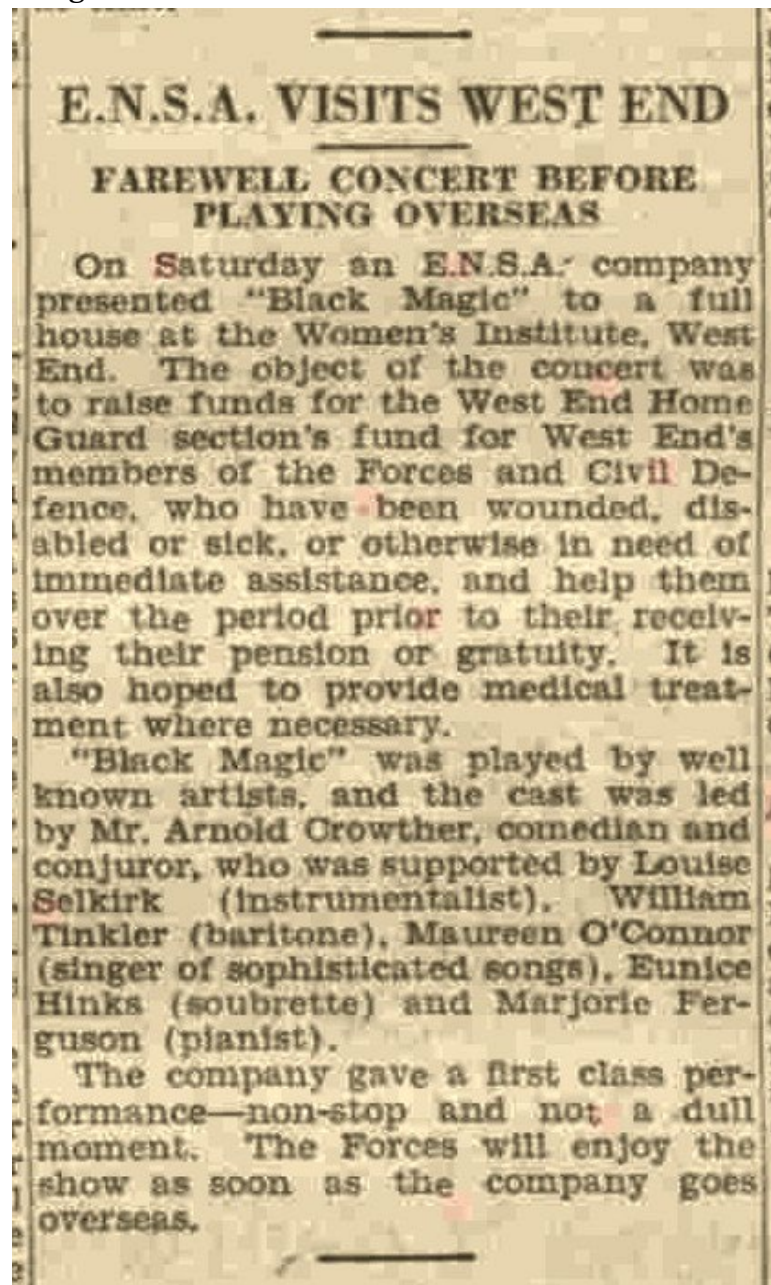
FAREWELL CONCERT BEFORE PLAYING OVERSEAS

On Saturday an E.N.S.A. company presented “Black Magic” to a full house at the Women’s Institute, West End. The object of the concert was to raise funds for the West End Home Guard section’s fund for West End’s members of the Forces and Civil Defence, who have been wounded, disabled or sick, or otherwise in need of immediate assistance, and help them over the period prior to their receiving their pension or gratuity. It is also hoped to provide medical treatment where necessary.

“Black Magic” was played by well known artists, and the cast was led by Mr. Arnold Crowther, comedian and conjuror, who was supported by Louise Selkirk (instrumentalist), William Tinkler (baritone), Maureen O’Connor (singer of sophisticated songs), Eunice Hinks (soubrette) and Marjorie Ferguson (pianist).

The company gave a first class performance --- non-stop and not a dull moment. The Forces will enjoy the show as soon as the company goes overseas.

Image of the article:



~ 1945

29 August 1945 - At Swansea, Wales

From the newspaper, South Wales Daily Post, Wednesday 29 August 1945:

Patti concert

Well-known E.N.S.A. artists will take part in the final concert at the Patti Pavilion tomorrow evening of the Swansea Parks Department summer entertainments.

They will include Arnold Crowther, magician; Lillian Inglis, pianist; Susie Arthur, vocalist; and Nan Malcolm, soubrette. Admission will be free, with a silver collection in aid of local charities.

31 August 1945 - At Swansea, Wales

From the newspaper, South Wales Daily Post, Friday 31 August 1945:

700 ATTEND PATTI CONCERT

There was an audience of 700 last evening at the Patti Pavilion at Swansea Parks Committee's final concert in the Summer Entertainments programme. There was an enjoyable programme by E.N.S.A. artists: Arnold Crowther, Lilian Inglis, Susie Arthur, and Nan Malcolm. Councillor W. G. Rees presided.

The programme is concluded except some dancing on the green on the Promenade and at Southend and fishing competitions.

8 September 1945 - At Swansea, Wales

From the newspaper, Herald of Wales, Saturday 08 September 1945:

700 ATTEND PATTI CONCERT

There was an audience of 700 at the Patti Pavilion at Swansea Parks Committee's final concert in the Summer Entertainments programme. There was an enjoyable programme by E.N.S.A. artists: Arnold Crowther, Lilian Inglis, Susie Arthur, and Nan Malcolm. Councillor W. G. Rees presided.

The programme is concluded except some dancing on the green on the Promenade and at Southend and fishing competitions.

22 September 1945 - At Chester, Cheshire

From the newspaper, Cheshire Observer, Saturday, September 22, 1945:

VOLUNTARY WORKERS' PARTY

American Red Cross Club To Remain Open

What was originally intended to have been a "Farewell" party was attended by 150 voluntary workers, mostly ladies, at the American Red Cross Club, Eastgate Row, on Monday. Mrs. Joan Donithorne Clark (Voluntary Workers' supervisor), announced, however, that it had been decided that the club should remain open for the time being.

The reason is that American troops for miles around have sent petitions to headquarters, requesting that the club should stay open, as it was one of the finest in the United Kingdom.

(long article part not transcribed here)

“ ... An entertainment was provided by an E.N.S.A. party, which included Lilian Inglis (pianist), Vicki Jones (vocalist), Lilian Faye (dancer), who has just arrived back from India, and Arnold Crowther, who was made a witch doctor by African natives, and who has been entertaining troops for six years. ...”

~ **1946**

14 March 1946 - At Harrow, London

From the newspaper, Harrow Observer, Thursday 14 March 1946:

Appreciation

W./O. H. Beard, R.A.S.C., one of the ex-prisoners, responding, thanked the Committee not only for the events recently organised but for all that had been done while the men were away and since they had returned. He only hoped that it would not be necessary for Harrow to form such an Association again.

Following the dinner, an open invitation was extended to relatives and friends of the ex-prisoners to attend, for the excellent cabaret entertainment, provided by Mr. Arnold Crowther (magician and ventriloquist). ...

(the article then goes on mentioning the other performers)

22 March 1946 - At High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire

From the newspaper, Bucks Free Press, Friday, March 22, 1946:

MR. H. JAMES' RETIREMENT

Presentation From McIlroy Staff

To of mark the retirement on pension of Mr. H. S. James after 35 years' service with Messrs. William McIlroy, Ltd., and 32 years as manager of . the High Wycombe branch, the directors gave a complimentary dinner in the Red Lion Hotel, High Wycombe,, on Monday night, during which the staff of the High Wycombe branch made a presentation of an illuminated dial clock.

(long article which parts not transcribed here)

“The dinner party was concluded with entertainment by Mr. Bert Moss, and by two E.N.S.A. artists, Mr. Arnold Crowther, conjuror, and Mr. Bob Lyons, pianist and piano-accordionist.”

19 April 1946 - At Worthing, West Sussex

From the newspaper, Worthing Herald, Friday 19 April 1946:

GAY PARADE CASTE COMPLETED

The Gay Parade concert party, with which Mr. Richard Jerome is to open his season at the Pier Pavilion at Whitsunside, is now complete.

Mr. Bertram Phillips, who was with the last show Mr. Jerome presented at the Pier (in 1938) is to be the music director. ...

(among other performers mentioned)

“... Arnold Crowther...”

2 May 1946 - At Worthing, West Sussex

From the newspaper, The Stage. Thursday 2 May 1946:

At Worthing.

Back to the scene of pre-war triumphs, Richard Jerome will provide the summer attraction at the Pier Pavilion, Worthing, this summer.

A particularly strong company will include...

(among other performers mentioned)

“... Arnold Crowther...”

6 June 1946 - At Worthing, West Sussex

From the newspaper, West Sussex Gazette, Thursday 6 June 1946:

WEEK AT WORTHING

SUMMER SEASON OPENS

Whitsun may be said not only to be the opening of the summer season but the first indication that the town is returning to peace-time conditions and traditions as a health resort. The Southern Pavilion, redecorated and thoroughly organized after its long occupation by the military, is once more available to the public, and the occasion was celebrated by the Mayor and Mayoress by a ball there last night.

To-morrow (Friday) Richard Jerome presents “Gay Parade”, which will entertain nightly at 7.30, with a matinee on every Saturday until July 13, with a change in programme every week. ...

(among other performers mentioned)

“... Arnold Crowther and Charles King (entertainers), ...”

7 June 1946 - At Worthing, Sussex

From the newspaper, Worthing Herald, Friday 7 June 1946:

"Gay Parade" producer is confident

"Mr. Eddie Kelland-Espinoza, son of the West End ballet master, Espinoza, and himself a brilliant dancer, is producing "Gay Parade," which opens its summer season at Worthing Pier Pavilion tomorrow (Friday) night.

This is his first professional appearance after five years in the R.A.F. as Fighter Controller."

"Richard Jerome set a high standard with his pre-war "Gay Parade" productions here. The 1946 vintage is still Richard Jerome's. That means a lot to Worthing's entertainment public and to us."

"..... And that goes for me, too," chimed in the "miracle man," Arnold Crowther, six-foot ex-flyer who was elevated to the rank of witch doctor by natives after they had seen his brand of tricks."

12 June 1946 - At Worthing, West Sussex

From the newspaper, Worthing Gazette, Wednesday 12 June 1946:

THE GAY PARADE

"Gay Parade," in turn, opened the summer season at the Pier Pavilion to a packed and appreciative house. The show is aptly named, for it is a gay parade of brightly dressed, smart, clever and tuneful entertainers who kept the huge audience in a continuous ripple of laughter like the incoming tide running alongside.

(among other performers mentioned)

"...Arnold Crowther..."

13 June 1946 - At Worthing, West Sussex

From the newspaper, West Sussex Gazette, Thursday 13 June 1946:

" GAY PARADE"

Although Worthing had no official celebrations on Saturday, the Town Hall was decorated and the holidays opened cheerfully with the first of six programmes to be presented by the summer concert party. "Gay Parade", presented by Richard Jerome and produced by Eddie Kelland-Espinoza, with Bertram Phillips as musical director and S. Hanlon Dean as director of the orchestra. ...

(among other performers mentioned)

“... and Violet Victoria with versatile Arnold Crowther, who conjures and juggles with skill and effect. ...”

19 June 1946 - At Worthing, West Sussex

From the newspaper, Worthing Gazette, Wednesday 19 June 1946:

GAY PARADE

Second Successful Week

Richard Jerome's post-war presentation of “Gay Parade” began its second successful week at the Pier Pavilion on Friday and was witnessed by a full house.

(among other performers mentioned)

“... Arnold Crowther...”

26 June 1946 - At Worthing, West Sussex

From the newspaper, Worthing Gazette, Wednesday 26 June 1946:

“GAY PARADE”

Third Programme Of The Series

The Pier Pavilion opened on the third of Richard Jerome's series of “Gay Parade” on Friday with the customary introduction to the evening's entertainment by Eddie Kelland-Espinosa, the versatile producer who is also responsible for the dances staged in this variety show.

(among other performers mentioned)

“... Arnold Crowther...”

10 July 1946 - At Worthing, West Sussex

From the newspaper, Worthing Gazette, Wednesday 10 July 1946:

“Gay Parade”

No. 5 --- The Best So Far

Violet Victoria's flair for character studies is given good scope in the current programme of “Gay Parade” (No. 5), which opened at the Pier Pavilion on Friday.

(among other performers mentioned)

“... Arnold Crowther has some new sleight-of-hand tricks to display ...”

17 July 1946 - At Worthing, West Sussex

From the newspaper, Worthing Gazette, Wednesday 17 July 1946:

Pavilion Still Going

“Gay”

Worthing presents a gay front to visitors and residents alike when seen through the performance of its seaside variety show, “Gay Parade,” now showing number six of its 1946 edition at the Pier Pavilion, and setting an even higher standard of sparkle, verve and vivacity.

There is a little bit of everything in this bright little show, which revolves round Eddie Kelland-Espinosa, the producer ...

(among other performers mentioned)

“with Arnold Crowther as the versatile ventriloquist ...”

24 July 1946 - At Worthing, West Sussex

From the newspaper, Worthing Gazette, Wednesday 24 July 1946:

GAY PARADE REPEAT

Second Time Still Funny

Most things do not improve with re-telling, but that did not seem to worry the audience who squeezed into the Pier Pavilion on Friday to see Number One of Gay Parade's series of programmes presented for the second time.

The “House Full” board was outside at the top of the steps sometime before the orchestra were in their places.

Perhaps it was because of that difficulty in seeing what was going on, though, which made Arnold Crowther's conjuring the most popular item for many. He came down and wandered among the audience, picking pennies and oddments out of people's hats and pockets. Such is the effect of sea breezes upon appetites that his discovery of a string of sausages in the handbag of a lady in one of the more expensive seats brought almost as big a murmur as his rather sensational guillotine finale.

The programme, of course, is in the best Worthing resident concert party tradition, pleasant singing and music, two sketches, well-staged dancing numbers, comedy in plenty and not too low. Eddie Kelland - Espinosa bears the brunt of the work --- comedian, dancer and compere.

CHILDREN’S MATINEE.

The Gay Parade Company at the Pier Pavilion are inaugurating a series of matinees for children, the first being fixed for Friday, at 230 p.m.

Image of the article:

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CHILDREN'S MATINEE.

The Gay Parade Company at the Pier Pavilion are inaugurating a series of matinees for children, the first being fixed for Friday, at 2.30 p.m.

31 July 1946 - At Worthing, West Sussex

From the newspaper, Worthing Gazette, Wednesday 31 July 1946:

" GAY PARADE "

Children's Afternoon

It was the children's afternoon on Friday, when the first of the "Gay Parade" matinees brought fun and games to an audience composed, in the main, of youngsters of all ages, at the Pier Pavilion.

A programme of specially selected items with the juvenile touch proved a great success

...

(among other performers mentioned)

"... "Uncle Arnold" Crowther, the ventriloquist, had the main part of the programme, however, and his antics thrilled the kiddies, especially when they were invited to help in creating magical effects. Punch and Judy caused much merriment and many shouts from the children."

9 August 1946 - At Worthing, West Sussex

From the newspaper, Worthing Herald, Friday 9 August 1946:

STAGE HANDS MAKE TOYS FOR PRIZES

Combating the present shortage of toys, stage hands at Worthing Pier Pavilion are turning out model aeroplanes, tanks and Jeeps to provide additional prizes for the Friday children's shows given by Arnold Crowther and Eddie Kelland of the Gay Parade Company at the Pavilion.

For the winners of talent competitions there are prizes of toys followed by tea with Arnold Crowther, who delights the children with his Punch and Judy and ventriloquial acts. ...

(the article continues about other performers)

5 September 1946 - At Worthing, West Sussex

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 05 September 1946:

Dummy Gives Tea Party

"Horace," the ventriloquial dummy belonging to Arnold Crowther, of Richard Jerome's "Gay Parade," at Worthing, gives a tea party every Friday after the children's matinee to prize winners in the competitions. This novelty introduced by "Uncle Arnold" has proved very popular and "Horace" already receives a fan mail.

6 September 1946 - At Worthing, West Sussex

From the newspaper, Worthing Herald, Friday 06 September 1946:

CONCERT PARTY ATTENDS DANCE

Gypsy Anna and Lyn Campbell, stars of “Gay Parade” concert party, presented competition prizes to winners at a dance given by Worthing branch of the British Legion and Worthing ex-Service Club at the Assembly Hall, Worthing, on Thursday last.

Among other members of the cast of “Gay Parade” who spent an enjoyable evening there were Eddie Kelland, producer of the show, and Arnold Crowther. ...

(the article goes on mentioning the other performers)

~ 1947

16 January 1947 - At Eastcote, London

From the newspaper, Harrow Observer, Thursday, January 16, 1947:

The Colne Valley Sports Club

DINNER AND SMOKING CONCERT

Mr. Norman Axford, district superintendent of the Northmet Power Co., referred to the excellent co-operation existing between that company and the Colne Valley and Northwood Electricity Company when he spoke at the annual dinner and smoking concert of the Colne Valley Company's sports and social club held at the Clay Pigeon Hotel, Eastcote, on Friday. ...

(long article of which parts not transcribed here)

“Music during dinner was ably supplied by Whittington White and his Orchestra. Mr. White also compered an entertaining concert by such well-known artistes as Bradley Harris, Avril Fane, Fred Gibson (of the B.B.C. “Eight Bells” show), Audrey Cleaver, Arnold Crowther and Jessie Speller.”

28 March 1947 - At Tring, Hertfordshire

From the newspaper, Bucks Herald, Friday 28 March 1947:

West Herts Herald

Tring

Home Guard Occasion. --- Memories of civilian soldiering were recalled at the 7c Home Guard Association's annual smoking concert, held at the Church House on Friday. It was a well-attended and successful affair, with Mr. J. H. Lewis presiding. The artistes were Miss Francis Buckland (songs at the piano), Mr. Arnold Crowther, of New Malden (magic and ventriloquism),

(it goes on listing many performers, not transcribed here)

~ 1 May 1947

On 1st May 1947, there was a meeting of significance that involved with Arnold Crowther and Gerald Gardner meeting Aleister Crowley at his place. It was recorded in Crowley's diary.

Philip Heselton mentioned about checking the diaries of Crowley in a letter to Mike Howard. He reported the findings.

From a letter, from Philip Heselton to Mike Howard, dated 29 August 1997:

"29th August 1997

Dear Mike,

Following the suggestion of Ronald Hutton, I spent a very interesting day at the Warburg Institute last week, looking at Crowley's diaries and other things.

In brief, what I found was as follows:

[1] The diaries which they have of Crowley's date from 1936 to 1947. The first mention of Gerald Gardner is the entry for 1st May 1947, which reads:

"Thurs 1 May: Miss Eva Collins, Dr. G. B. Gardner Ph D Singapore, Arnold Crowther prof. G. a Magician to tea. Dr. G.R. Arch."

Now, I don't know what all this means [the diaries are typewritten copies of Crowley's originals which are stated to be in the hands of Germer] but it seems to imply strongly that this was the first time that Crowley had met Gardner because (a) he isn't mentioned before; and (b) he is given a formal title, which one only does on the first occasion. It is interesting also in that it is certainly later than 1946, which has been mentioned by Patricia Crowther and certainly suggests that the idea that Crowley and Gardner knew each other for several years before is incorrect."

Do you know who Miss Eva Collins is? Presumably someone known to Gardner or Arnold Crowther. It might be an interesting lead to follow up. I might ask Patricia Crowther about it."

Image of part of the letter:

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Following the suggestion of Ronald Hutton, I spent a very interesting day at the Warburg Institute last week, looking at Crowley's diaries and other things. In brief, what I found was as follows:

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Do you know who Miss Eva Collins is? Presumably someone known to Gardner or Arnold Crowther. It might be an interesting lead to follow up. I might ask Patricia Crowther about it.

Concerning the "Eva Collins" mentioned above, I received a message from Clive Harper recently. He mentioned that this was Eda Collins.

From a Messenger message from Clive Harper dated 9 August 2024:

"A small tidbit for ... - the Crowley diary transcription got Eda's name wrong. Here are some notes from Philip Heselton, who kindly shared them with me a few years ago :-

Eda Collins was a member of the Fiveacres Naturist Club. She joined on either 2nd or 7th July 1946. Her address is given as 3 Cholmeley Lodge, Cholmeley Park, Highgate, London N6. She paid her subscription annually up until 1959. Cholmeley Lodge is an Art Deco block of flats. There is a Wikipedia page on it. I think this address implies that she was fairly well-to-do and I also suspect that she might also have had a car at a time when this was unusual in London at the time. This, in turn, leads me to think that the reason that she visited Crowley with Gerald Gardner and Arnold Crowther is that they didn't have cars and she offered to drive them down to Hastings. The only link may have been naturism, though, of course, she may have also been interested in the occult and esoteric side of things."

15 May 1947 - About Arnold Crowther in World War II

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 15 May 1947:

VARIETY GOSSIP

SNAPS ...

“Arnold Crowther gave magical show in plane between Tripoli and Malta on November 10, 1943.”

17 May 1947 - At Edinburgh, Scotland

From the newspaper, Edinburgh Evening News, Saturday 17 May 1947:

The Passing Show

“Giggles and Girls”

Mr Horace H. Collins has gathered together a brilliant company for his summer show, “Giggles and Girls,” which will be presented at the **Empire** for two weeks.

(among many performers mentioned)

“... Arnold Crowther, conjuror...”

20 May 1947 - At Edinburgh, Scotland

From the newspaper, Edinburgh Evening News, Tuesday 20 May 1947:

STAGE and SCREEN

Jack Anthony

There are new faces among the company appearing in Horace H. Collins’ latest summer show, “Giggles and Girls,” which opened at the **Empire Theatre** last night. ...

(among a long list of performers mentioned)

“... Arnold Crowther...”

“The show was charmingly dressed and the artistic settings were enhanced by the graceful and clever dance ensembles of “Our Young Ladies.”

22 May 1947 - At Edinburgh, Scotland

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 22 May 1947:

IN THE PROVINCES

EDINBURGH

Empire. --- Jack Anthony pays a welcome return visit in “Giggles and Girls.” His happy style finds hearty approval. Able support comes from Bond Rowell and Bertha Ricardo, and Bert Cecil's clever act at the piano proves popular. Others are Caroline and Richards, the Three Imps, Arnold Crowther, Elizabeth Miller, and Billy Richards.

24 May 1947 - At Edinburgh, Scotland

From the newspaper, Edinburgh Evening News, Saturday 24 May 1947:

The Passing Show

New Features

For the second week of its stay at the **Empire Theatre** Horace Collins' new summer show, "Giggles and Girls," will have new principle features as well as the sound and entertaining work of the well-drilled chorus and the fine artistry of the dresses and stage settings.

Jack Anthony, Bond Rowell, and Bertha Ricardo are a trio of trumps for any production of this character. Their comedy is excellent and infectious, and their desire to please is as keen as that of the most junior member of the company wishing to make good. In support are Bert Cecil, the Three Imps, Arnold Crowther, Billy Richards, Elizabeth Miller, and Adaline Calder's Girls.

27 May 1947 - At Edinburgh, Scotland

From the newspaper, Edinburgh Evening News, Tuesday 27 May 1947:

STAGE and SCREEN

Jack Anthony

The second and final edition of "Giggles and Girls," at the **Empire**, provides a complete change of programme. ...

(among other performers mentioned)

"... Arnold Crowther, a slight of hand expert..."

7 June 1947 - At Dundee, Scotland

From the newspaper, Dundee Evening Telegraph, Saturday 7 June 1947:

On The Stage

JACK ANTHONY SEASON AT THE PALACE

"GIGGLES AND GIRLS," with Jack Anthony as its star comedian, comes to the **PALACE** for a short season.

Bond Rowell and Bertha Ricardo are again Jack's assistants in the laugh-raising business.

Vocalists are Billy Richards and Elizabeth Miller, and the show has a stylish dancing duo in Caroline and Richards. The Marquisettes can also be depended on for some snappy footwork.

Other performers are Arnold Crowther, conjuror; Bert Cecil in "swingtime madness," and the Three Imps.

Chorus work is by the Ten Adaline Calder Lovelies.

10 June 1947 - At Dundee, Scotland

From the newspaper, Dundee Evening Telegraph, Tuesday 10 June 1947:

Laughs And Lasses At The Palace

Jack Anthony with his irrepressible clowning is again the life and soul of the party in "Giggles and Girls" at the Palace Theatre, Dundee.

He has gathered a first-rate company for this new edition. Scenery, dresses and lighting are excellently devised.

There are many new faces, but prominent in the "old guard" are Bond Rowell and Bertha Ricardo, Jack's comedy partners, and that snappy dancing duo, the Marquisettes.

A Tyrolean scene, in which Jack and Bond indulge in William Tell capers with a bow and arrow and a wee apple, is one of the high spots on the production side.

Another is "Melody, Movement and Shadows" with a glamorous dance by Caroline and Richards.

An interesting newcomer is Bert Cecil, a young Welshman with the "Hutch" touch in his voice.

Billy Richards is a splendid tenor, and Elizabeth Miller is also a worthy member of the vocal team.

The Three Imps entertain accordions, vibrophone, xylophone and drums, and Arnold Crowther performs neat sleight of hand tricks.

A special word for the 10 Adaline Calder Lovelies, who put over their dances with grace and verve and evident enjoyment.

17 June 1947 - At Dundee, Scotland

From the newspaper, Dundee Evening Telegraph, Tuesday 17 June 1947:

STAGE CHARM AT THE PALACE

"Giggles and Girls" (second edition) at the Palace Theatre, Dundee, has all the freshness and vitality of the first week's show.

Jack Anthony, master of mirth, is on his game in his skit on a minister paying tea-visit. Honours are shared by Bond Rowell as a kirk elder, and Bertha Ricardo as a precocious child.

The trio have a new song extolling the attractions of Dundee's Nethergate.

(among other performers mentioned)

“... Arnold Crowther mawes [sic - makes] two appearances to prove the hand is quicker than the eye.”

21 June 1947 - At Dundee, Scotland

From the newspaper, Dundee Evening Telegraph, Saturday 21 June 1947:

On The Stage

JACK ANTHONY and Company will have more new and attractive fare for the third week of “GIGGLES AND GIRLS” at the **PALACE**.

The cast includes Bond Rowell and Bertha Ricardo; Elizabeth Miller, Billy Richards and Bert Cecil, vocalists; Caroline and Richards and the Marquisettes in two different styles of dancing; the Three Imps in instrumental selections, and Arnold Crowther, conjuror.

24 June 1947 - At Dundee, Scotland

From the newspaper, Dundee Evening Telegraph, Tuesday 24 June 1947:

ALPINE CAPERS AT THE PALACE

Drama in the Alps is a high spot in the latest “Giggles and Girls” show at the Palace.

Jack Anthony is leading man, so the audience have some idea of what to expect.

(among other performers mentioned)

“... and Arnold Crowther obliges with more conjuring tricks.”

28 June 1947 - At Dundee, Scotland

From the newspaper, Dundee Evening Telegraph, Saturday 28 June 1947:

On The Stage

IT'S the same team with a different show for the fourth week of “Giggles and Girls” at the **PALACE**.

Jack Anthony is the big chief of comedy, with Bertha Ricardo and Bond Rowell as assistant mirth-purveyors.

(among other performers mentioned)

“... and Arnold Crowther has a bag of mystifying tricks.”

1 July 1947 - At Dundee, Scotland

From the newspaper, Dundee Evening Telegraph, Tuesday 1 July 1947:

GAY TIMES AT THE PALACE

There is a fine air of gaiety in the fourth edition of “Giggles and Girls,” at the Palace Theatre, Dundee, this week.

Jack Anthony is as usual the life and soul of the party. Bond Rowell and Bertha Ricardo give excellent support in putting over humorous sketches.

These portray Jack working a lunatic asylum and also as the hen-pecked husband who revolts against his wife's rule.

The trio raise many laughs. ...

(among other performers mentioned)

“Arnold Crowther is there to mystify with sleight-of-hand.”

8 July 1947 - At Dundee, Scotland

From the newspaper, Dundee Evening Telegraph, Tuesday 8 July 1947:

More Anthony Fun At The Palace

Thirteen is lucky for audiences [----] Palace this week. There are a d[---] one first-rate items in the farewell performance of “Giggles and Girls.” ...

(among other performers mentioned)

“More baffling moments are conjured [----] Arnold Crowther.”

14 July 1947 - At Aberdeen, Scotland

From the newspaper, Aberdeen Press and Journal, Monday 14 July 1947:

6.30 --- TIVOLI --- 8.35

FOR THE SUMMER SEASON.

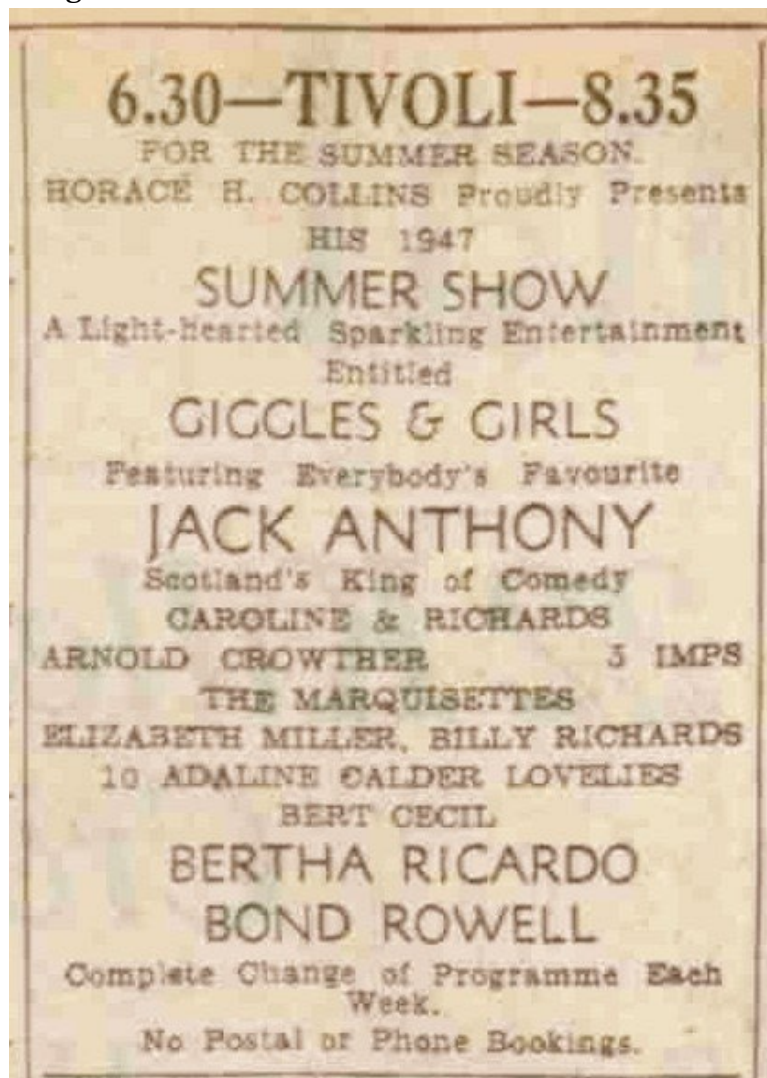
HORACE H. COLLINS Proudly Presents

His 1947 Summer Show A Light-hearted, Sparkling Entertainment Entitled GIGGLES & GIRLS Featuring Everybody's Favourite JACK ANTHONY Scotland's King of Comedy ...

(among other performers mentioned)

“... Arnold Crowther...”

Image of the advertisement:



15 July 1947 - At Aberdeen, Scotland

From the newspaper, Aberdeen Press and Journal, Tuesday 15 July 1947:

“Giggles and Girls” at the Tivoli

If Jack Anthony and his “Giggles and Girls” show keep to the excellent standard attained at last night's performance at the Tivoli Theatre, Aberdeen, they should have a very successful season.

The show is well-varied and tastefully dressed. Jack is his inimitable self, and has the yeoman support of Bond Rowell. Bertha Ricardo, too, plays a prominent part. ...

(among other performers mentioned)

“... conjuror Arnold Crowther ...”

15 July 1947 - At Aberdeen, Scotland

From the newspaper, Aberdeen Press and Journal, Tuesday 15 July 1947:

6.30 --- TIVOLI --- 8.35

FOR THE SUMMER SEASON.

HORACE H. COLLINS Proudly Presents

His 1947 Summer Show A Light-hearted, Sparkling Entertainment Entitled GIGGLES & GIRLS Featuring Everybody's Favourite JACK ANTHONY Scotland's King of Comedy ...
(among other performers mentioned)

“... Arnold Crowther...”

16 July 1947 - At Aberdeen, Scotland

From the newspaper, Aberdeen Press and Journal, Wednesday 16 July 1947:

6.30 --- TIVOLI --- 8.35

FOR THE SUMMER SEASON.

HORACE H. COLLINS Proudly Presents

His 1947 Summer Show A Light-hearted, Sparkling Entertainment Entitled GIGGLES & GIRLS Featuring Everybody's Favourite JACK ANTHONY Scotland's King of Comedy ...
(among other performers mentioned)

“... Arnold Crowther...”

17 July 1947 - At Aberdeen, Scotland

From the newspaper, Aberdeen Press and Journal, Thursday 17 July 1947:

6.30 --- TIVOLI --- 8.35

FOR THE SUMMER SEASON.

HORACE H. COLLINS Proudly Presents

His 1947 Summer Show A Light-hearted, Sparkling Entertainment Entitled GIGGLES & GIRLS Featuring Everybody's Favourite JACK ANTHONY Scotland's King of Comedy ...
(among other performers mentioned)

“... Arnold Crowther...”

18 July 1947 - At Aberdeen, Scotland

From the newspaper, Aberdeen Press and Journal, Friday 18 July 1947:

6.30 --- TIVOLI --- 8.35

FOR THE SUMMER SEASON.

HORACE H. COLLINS Proudly Presents

His 1947 Summer Show A Light-hearted, Sparkling Entertainment Entitled GIGGLES & GIRLS Featuring Everybody's Favourite JACK ANTHONY Scotland's King of Comedy ...
(among other performers mentioned)

“... Arnold Crowther...”

19 July 1947 - At Aberdeen, Scotland

From the newspaper, Aberdeen Press and Journal, Saturday 19 July 1947:

6.30 --- TIVOLI --- 8.35

FOR THE SUMMER SEASON.

HORACE H. COLLINS Proudly Presents

His 1947 Summer Show A Light-hearted, Sparkling Entertainment Entitled GIGGLES & GIRLS Featuring Everybody's Favourite JACK ANTHONY Scotland's King of Comedy ...
(among other performers mentioned)

“... Arnold Crowther...”

21 July 1947 - At Aberdeen, Scotland

From the newspaper, Aberdeen Press and Journal, Monday 21 July 1947:

6.30 --- TIVOLI --- 8.35

FOR THE SUMMER SEASON.

HORACE H. COLLINS Proudly Presents

His 1947 Summer Show A Light-hearted, Sparkling Entertainment Entitled GIGGLES & GIRLS Featuring Everybody's Favourite JACK ANTHONY Scotland's King of Comedy ...
(among other performers mentioned)

“... Arnold Crowther...”

22 July 1947 - At Aberdeen, Scotland

From the newspaper, Aberdeen Press and Journal, Tuesday 22 July 1947:

6.30 --- TIVOLI --- 8.35

FOR THE SUMMER SEASON.

HORACE H. COLLINS Proudly Presents

His 1947 Summer Show A Light-hearted, Sparkling Entertainment Entitled GIGGLES & GIRLS Featuring Everybody's Favourite JACK ANTHONY Scotland's King of Comedy ...
(among other performers mentioned)

“... Arnold Crowther...”

22 July 1947 - At Aberdeen, Scotland

From the newspaper, Aberdeen Press and Journal, Tuesday 22 July 1947:

Tivoli Fare Suits All Tastes

All tastes are catered for in the “Giggles and Girls” show at the Tivoli Theatre, Aberdeen, this week.

Versatile Jack Anthony puts in a power of work and excels in humorous and original sketches. One of his outstanding performances is in “The Minister Comes To Tea,” in which Bond Rowell is superb as the church elder and Bertha Ricardo as the schoolgirl.

...

(among other performers mentioned)

“... Arnold Crowther with his marionettes has an unusual and clever act. ...”

23 July 1947 - At Aberdeen, Scotland

From the newspaper, Aberdeen Press and Journal, Wednesday 23 July 1947:

6.30 --- TIVOLI --- 8.35

FOR THE SUMMER SEASON.

HORACE H. COLLINS Proudly Presents

His 1947 Summer Show A Light-hearted, Sparkling Entertainment Entitled GIGGLES & GIRLS Featuring Everybody's Favourite JACK ANTHONY Scotland's King of Comedy ...
(among other performers mentioned)

“... Arnold Crowther...”

24 July 1947 - At Aberdeen, Scotland

From the newspaper, Aberdeen Press and Journal, Thursday 24 July 1947:

6.30 --- TIVOLI --- 8.35

FOR THE SUMMER SEASON.

HORACE H. COLLINS Proudly Presents

His 1947 Summer Show A Light-hearted, Sparkling Entertainment Entitled GIGGLES & GIRLS Featuring Everybody's Favourite JACK ANTHONY Scotland's King of Comedy ...
(among other performers mentioned)

“... Arnold Crowther...”

25 July 1947 - At Aberdeen, Scotland

From the newspaper, Aberdeen Press and Journal, Friday 25 July 1947:

6.30 --- TIVOLI --- 8.35

FOR THE SUMMER SEASON.

HORACE H. COLLINS Proudly Presents

His 1947 Summer Show A Light-hearted, Sparkling Entertainment Entitled GIGGLES & GIRLS Featuring Everybody's Favourite JACK ANTHONY Scotland's King of Comedy ...
(among other performers mentioned)

“... Arnold Crowther...”

26 July 1947 - At Aberdeen, Scotland

From the newspaper, Aberdeen Press and Journal, Saturday 26 July 1947:

6.30 --- TIVOLI --- 8.35

FOR THE SUMMER SEASON.

HORACE H. COLLINS Proudly Presents

His 1947 Summer Show A Light-hearted, Sparkling Entertainment Entitled GIGGLES & GIRLS Featuring Everybody's Favourite JACK ANTHONY Scotland's King of Comedy ...
(among other performers mentioned)

“... Arnold Crowther...”

28 July 1947 - At Aberdeen, Scotland

From the newspaper, Aberdeen Press and Journal, Monday 28 July 1947:

6.30 --- TIVOLI --- 8.35

FOR THE SUMMER SEASON.

HORACE H. COLLINS Proudly Presents

His 1947 Summer Show A Light-hearted, Sparkling Entertainment Entitled GIGGLES & GIRLS Featuring Everybody's Favourite JACK ANTHONY Scotland's King of Comedy ...
(among other performers mentioned)

“... Arnold Crowther...”

30 July 1947 - At Aberdeen, Scotland

From the newspaper, Aberdeen Press and Journal, Wednesday 30 July 1947:

6.30 --- TIVOLI --- 8.35

FOR THE SUMMER SEASON.

HORACE H. COLLINS Proudly Presents

His 1947 Summer Show A Light-hearted, Sparkling Entertainment Entitled GIGGLES & GIRLS Featuring Everybody's Favourite JACK ANTHONY Scotland's King of Comedy ...
(among other performers mentioned)

“... Arnold Crowther...”

24 December 1947 - At Cranbourne, Dorset

From the newspaper, Wokingham Times, Wednesday 24 December 1947:

CRANBOURNE

British Legion Entertainment --- The Cranbourne and Winkfield British Legion Club entertained members and friends to a concert and dance at the Legion Hall on Saturday, December 13th. The concert performers were Gordon Turner (from the Windmill Theatre), Arnold Crowther (ventriloquist and conjuror), Doreen Halle (songs), and Emily Benfield, pianiste. The concert hall was prepared for the dance by boys of the Ascot Ambulance Cadet Division. Billiards, darts and cards were also played in the Clubroom.

~ 1948

7 January 1948 - At Angmering, West Sussex

From the newspaper, Worthing Gazette, Wednesday 7 January 1948:

Christmas Party

The Christmas party of the Young People's Service of St. Margaret's Church, Angmering, was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday when over 200 were present and who gave a special welcome to "Father Christmas," who had a present for everyone.

Mr. Arnold Crowther, a conjuror from London, gave an excellent performance which included a ventriloquist act and a Punch and Judy show.

Prizes were given to many of the children for special attendance at the Young People's Service during the past year.

8 January 1948 - At Angmering, West Sussex

From the newspaper, West Sussex Gazette, Thursday 8 January 1948:

ANGMERING

" --- The Christmas party of the young people's service of the church was held in the Village Hall on December 31. Over 200 were present. The party gave a special welcome to "Father Christmas," who had a present for everyone. Mr. Arnold Crowther (London) gave an excellent performance of conjuring, ventriloquism, and a Punch and Judy show. Prizes were given to many of the children for special attendance at the young people's service during the last year"

23 January 1948 - At Riverhead, Kent

From the newspaper, Sevenoaks Chronicle and Kentish Advertiser, Friday 23 January 1948:

HIS OLD DUTCH.

Mr. Watkins sang Albert Chevalier's "My dear Old Dutch," altering the words to "We've been together now for 60 years."

The evening was great success. There was a very lavish tea, provided by the residents and tradespeople of Riverhead, and superintended by Mrs. Tye and Mrs. Dadswell.

Buttonholes were given to each guest, and cigarettes, sweets and refreshments were provided. There was port, gin and beer for the men and soft drinks for the ladies.

After tea, community singing was enjoyed, with Mr. Stanley Trevasse at the piano. In a programme by professional and amateur artistes, Mr. W. Watkin was prominent, and others taking part were Mr. F. Daniels (tenor), Mrs. V. Edwards (soprano), Mr. George Cruickahank (pianist), Mr. Arnold Crowther (magician and ventriloquist), and Mr. G. Parsons (musical saw).

A fleet of taxis, provided by the hosts took the old folks to their homes.

27 March 1948 - At Shalford, Surrey

From the newspaper, The Surrey Advertiser, County Times, Saturday, March 27, 1948:

SHALFORD

(part of the article)

“Shalford Institute was full on Saturday, when the Men's Club held their annual smoking concert, with Arnold Crowther's concert party from London. Mr. Alfred Gittings presided.”

17 December 1948 - At Littlehampton, West Sussex

From the newspaper, Littlehampton Gazette, Friday 17 December 1948:

ROTARY CLUB'S SILVER JUBILEE

Twenty-Five Years Of Service

Littlehampton Rotary Club celebrated its Silver Jubilee on Wednesday, having completed 25 years of invaluable social work in the town in carrying out its ideals of fellowship and service to humanity. ...

(long article not transcribed here)

“Entertainment was provided by Arnold Crowther, conjuror and ventriloquist, and Lillian Martin, mezzo-soprano. Mr. Charles Tapson accompanied at the piano.”

~ 1949

15 January 1949 - At Elmer Sands, West Sussex

From the newspaper, Chichester Observer, Saturday 15 January 1949:

ELMER

Sussex Club

The Sussex Club's, Elmer Sands, Children's Christmas Party, organised by Mrs. Charlotte Etwell for the third consecutive year, was as usual a big success. In all eighty children were entertained at the Club, whose ages ranged from three to thirteen. First games were played, then came the Christmas tree, with Santa Claus (Mr. Colvill), and presents were given to all the children.

An entertainer of special appeal to children was engaged, in the person of Mr. Arnold Crowther, conjuror and ventriloquist who concluded his act with a “Punch and Judy” show, to the great delight of the children. It was evident that Mr. Crowther was an expert at performing before children, and had them very soon, either amazed or laughing with him.

(the article continues but not transcribed here)

15 January 1949 - At Elmer Sands, West Sussex

From the newspaper, Bognor Regis Observer, Saturday 15 January 1949:

ELMER

Sussex Club

The Sussex Club's, Elmer Sands, Children's Christmas Party, organised by Mrs. Charlotte Etwell for the third consecutive year, was as usual a big success. In all eighty children were entertained at the Club, whose ages ranged from three to thirteen. First games were played, then came the Christmas tree, with Santa Claus (Mr. Colvill), and presents were given to all the children.

An entertainer of special appeal to children was engaged, in the person of Mr. Arnold Crowther, conjuror and ventriloquist who concluded his act with a "Punch and Judy" show, to the great delight of the children. It was evident that Mr. Crowther was an expert at performing before children, and had them very soon, either amazed or laughing with him.

(the article continues but not transcribed here)

10 February 1949 - At Worcester Park

From the newspaper, Sutton & Epsom Advertiser, Thursday 10 February 1949:

Liberal Come-back ?

Conservatives warned

POSSIBILITY of an increase in Liberal votes at the general election was mentioned Mr. P. G. Clarke (chairman of the Sutton, Cheam and Worcester Park Conservative Association) when he spoke at the third annual [sic] meeting of the association's North ward branch St. Philip's Hall, Worcester Park, on Saturday. ...

(long article not transcribed here)

"The meeting was followed by a variety concert presented compered by Claude Sutton. Artists included Rev. Walker (songs), Arnold Crowther (conjuring) and Credewin Roberts and Lawrie Hallett in "Songs from the shows." "

12 February 1949 - At Roehampton Vale, London

From the newspaper, Richmond Herald - Saturday 12 February 1949:

CHILDREN'S PARTY

Four hundred children of the employees of the K.L.G. (Roehamptonvale) had a glorious party on Saturday provided by the firm's sports and social club, helped by a donation from the directors. Proceedings opened with. a one-and-a-half-hour's show by Arnold Crowther, a magician who gave also a marionette show and a potted pantomime. ...

(the article continues on but not transcribed here)

21 April 1949 - At Westgate, Kent

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 21 April 1949:

WILL HAMMER'S SHOWS

(first mentioned is about the show at Margate not transcribed here)

“Mr. Hammer's company at the Pavilion, Westgate, will be called “Holiday Highlights,” and the personnel will consist of Louis Roberts, comedian; Jane Worth, comedienne; Ivy Esta, pianist-entertainer; Arnold Crowther, entertainer; Ida Willis, soprano; and John Barr, baritone.”

26 May 1949 - At Westgate, Kent

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 26 May 1949:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

WILL HAMMER DIRECTION

Westgate Pav. (Sat., June 4). --- “Holiday Highlights” --- Louis Roberts, Jane Worth, Arnold Crowther, John Barr, Ivy Esta, Ida Willis.

2 June 1949 - At Westgate, Kent

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 2 June 1949:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

WILL HAMMER DIRECTION

Westgate Pav. --- “Holiday Highlights” --- Louis Roberts, Jane Worth, Arnold Crowther, John Barr, Ivy Esta, Ida Willis.

9 June 1949 - At Westgate, Kent

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 9 June 1949:

“Holiday Highlights”

Will Hammer's “Holiday Highlights” opened for its first season at the Pavilion, Westgate, on June 4. It follows in the good tradition of establishing intimacy between artists and audience from the outset. ...

(among other performers mentioned)

“Conjuror, ventriloquist, humorist, and general odd-job man, Arnold Crowther is a decided success. ...”

9 June 1949 - At Westgate, Kent

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 9 June 1949:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

WILL HAMMER DIRECTION

Westgate Pav. --- “Holiday Highlights” --- Louis Roberts, Jane Worth, Arnold Crowther, John Barr, Ivy Esta, Ida Willis.

16 June 1949 - At Westgate, Kent

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 16 June 1949:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

WILL HAMMER DIRECTION

Westgate Pav. --- “Holiday Highlights” --- Louis Roberts, Jane Worth, Arnold Crowther, John Barr, Ivy Esta, Ida Willis.

MARGATE CORPORATION ENTERTAINMENTS

Westgate Pav. --- “Holiday Highlights” --- Louis Roberts, Jane Worth, Ivy Esta, Arnold Crowther, Ida Willis, John Barr.

23 June 1949 - At Westgate, Kent

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 23 June 1949:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

WILL HAMMER DIRECTION

Westgate Pav. --- “Holiday Highlights” --- Louis Roberts, Jane Worth, Arnold Crowther, John Barr, Ivy Esta, Ida Willis.

MARGATE CORPORATION ENTERTAINMENTS

Westgate Pav. --- Will Hammer’s “Holiday Highlights” --- Louis Roberts, Jane Worth, Ivy Esta, Arnold Crowther, Ida Willis, John Barr.

30 June 1949 - At Westgate, Kent

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 30 June 1949:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

WILL HAMMER DIRECTION

Westgate Pav. --- “Holiday Highlights” --- Louis Roberts, Jane Worth, Arnold Crowther, John Barr, Ivy Esta, Ida Willis.

MARGATE CORPORATION ENTERTAINMENTS

Westgate Pav. --- Will Hammer’s “Holiday Highlights” --- Louis Roberts, Jane Worth, Ivy Esta, Arnold Crowther, Ida Willis, John Barr.

14 July 1949 - At Westgate, Kent

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 14 July 1949:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

WILL HAMMER DIRECTION

Westgate Pav. --- “Holiday Highlights” --- Louis Roberts, Jane Worth, Arnold Crowther, John Barr, Ivy Esta, Ida Willis.

MARGATE CORPORATION ENTERTAINMENTS

Westgate Pav. --- Will Hammer’s “Holiday Highlights” --- Louis Roberts, Jane Worth, Ivy Esta, Arnold Crowther, Ida Willis, John Barr.

21 July 1949 - At Westgate, Kent

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 21 July 1949:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

WILL HAMMER DIRECTION

Westgate Pav. --- “Holiday Highlights” --- Louis Roberts, Jane Worth, Arnold Crowther, John Barr, Ivy Esta, Ida Willis.

MARGATE CORPORATION ENTERTAINMENTS

Westgate Pav. --- Will Hammer's "Holiday Highlights" --- Louis Roberts, Jane Worth, Ivy Esta, Arnold Crowther, Ida Willis, John Barr.

28 July 1949 - At Westgate, Kent

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 28 July 1949:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

WILL HAMMER DIRECTION

Westgate Pav. --- "Holiday Highlights" --- Louis Roberts, Jane Worth, Arnold Crowther, John Barr, Ivy Esta, Ida Willis.

MARGATE CORPORATION ENTERTAINMENTS

Westgate Pav. --- Will Hammer's "Holiday Highlights" --- Louis Roberts, Jane Worth, Ivy Esta, Arnold Crowther, Ida Willis, John Barr.

4 August 1949 - At Westgate, Kent

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 04 August 1949:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

WILL HAMMER DIRECTION

Westgate Pav. --- "Holiday Highlights" --- Louis Roberts, Jane Worth, Arnold Crowther, John Barr, Ivy Esta, Ida Willis.

MARGATE CORPORATION ENTERTAINMENTS

Westgate Pav. --- Will Hammer's "Holiday Highlights" --- Louis Roberts, Jane Worth, Ivy Esta, Arnold Crowther, Ida Willis, John Barr.

9 August 1949 - At Margate, Kent

From the newspaper, Thanet Advertiser, Tuesday 9 August 1949:

REGATTA QUEEN

Acclaimed At Margate

Margate's Regatta Queen was acclaimed by the crowd of over 1,500 holidaymakers who chose her at the Oval, on Monday.

The contest was won by 17-year-old Maureen O'Neil, of Powys-lane, Southgate, London, who received a £10 voucher. She reigns over the events of Regatta Week, and visits a number of hotels. A photographer's model, Maureen is training as a mannequin. She has competed in six beauty shows and been successful in every one, including heats and semi-finals of the All-England Perfect Holiday Girl contest.

As her two attendants the audience chose Wynne Hubble (21), of St. Peter's-road, Margate, and Gloria Conway (16), of Cannon Street-road, London

Earlier in the afternoon King Neptune (Arnold Crowther, of the Westgate concert party) sailed from Westgate to Margate in the Golden Spray and was welcomed at King's Steps by Alderman W. J. Perkins. There he climbed aboard a decorated car to drive to the Oval for the beauty show.

Torchlight Procession

The night's celebrations included a torchlight procession from Margate railway station to Palm Bay recreation ground, culminating with the lighting of a monster bonfire. ...
(the article continues but not transcribed here)

11 August 1949 - At Westgate, Kent

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 11 August 1949:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

WILL HAMMER DIRECTION

Westgate Pav. --- "Holiday Highlights" --- Louis Roberts, Jane Worth, Arnold Crowther, John Barr, Ivy Esta, Ida Willis.

MARGATE CORPORATION ENTERTAINMENTS

Westgate Pav. --- Will Hammer's "Holiday Highlights" --- Louis Roberts, Jane Worth, Ivy Esta, Arnold Crowther, Ida Willis, John Barr.

12 August 1949 - At Margate, Kent

From the newspaper, Thanet Advertiser, Friday 12 August 1949:

REGATTA QUEEN

Acclaimed At Margate

Margate's Regatta Queen was acclaimed by the crowd of over 1,500 holidaymakers who chose her at the Oval, on Monday.

The contest was won by 17-year-old Maureen O'Neil, of Powys-lane, Southgate, London, who received a £10 voucher. She reigns over the events of Regatta Week, and visits a number of hotels. A photographer's model, Maureen is training as a mannequin. She has competed in six beauty shows and been successful in every one, including heats and semi-finals of the All-England Perfect Holiday Girl contest.

As her two attendants the audience chose Wynne Hubble (21), of St. Peter's-road, Margate, and Gloria Conway (16), of Cannon Street-road, London.

Earlier in the afternoon King Neptune (Arnold Crowther, of the Westgate concert party) sailed from Westgate to Margate in the Golden Spray and was welcomed at King's Steps by Alderman W. J. Perkins. There he climbed aboard a decorated car to drive to the Oval for the beauty show.

Monday night was Margate's brightest night of the season when more than 800 torchbearers escorted about 50 decorated vehicles and cycles and scores of revellers in fancy dress in a colourful procession along the seafront from Margate railway station to Palm Bay.

Cheering Crowds

Headed by King Neptune, Miss Margate and the Regatta Queen, the parade made its way through an avenue of cheering, waving crowds, thought to be among the biggest of the century. Many of the decorated vehicles and tableaux were accompanied by bands, and gay holiday music added to the carefree atmosphere of carnival which pervaded the town.

At the conclusion of the procession, the vehicles were judged in Dalby-square by the Mayoress of Margate (Mrs. W. C. Redman), who awarded the silver cup presented by Margate Chamber of Commerce to Messrs. Truman, Hanbury and Buxton for their mobile beer garden.

Afterwards a crowd of 5,000 people danced until half-past one in the morning to the music of two bands.

High spot of Tuesday's festivities was the choosing of a "Regatta Mermaid" at Cliftonville Lido pool. Wearing "mermaids tails," 19 girls paraded before the three male judges, who selected a 28-year-old holidaymaker, Mrs. Joyce Jeffries, of Wallington, Surrey, as winner.

Winners of the children's sand design competition at Westbrook the same day were Barry Brown, of East Ham, Graham Walker, of Margate, Judith Saunders, of Bexley Heath, and Audrey Brown, of Beckenham.

To-day's sand design competition will be at Cliftonville sands, while the evening ball takes place at St. Mildred's Hotel, Westgate-on-Sea.

Margate Yacht Club's regatta fills the programme to-morrow with a full afternoon's racing in which boats of seven classes will compete.

REGATTA QUEEN

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The contest was won by 17-year-old Maureen O'Neil, of Powys-lane, Southgate, London, who received a £10 voucher. She reigns over the events of Regatta Week, and visits a number of hotels. A photographer's model, Maureen is training as a mannequin. She has competed in six beauty shows and been successful in every one, including heats and semi-finals of the All-England Perfect Holiday Girl contest.

As her two attendants the audience chose Wynne Hubble (21), of St. Peter's-road, Margate, and Gloria Conway (16), of Cannon Street-road, London.

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To-day's sand design competition will be at Cliftonville sands, while the evening ball takes place at St. Mildred's Hotel, Westgate-on-Sea.

Margate Yacht Club's regatta fills the programme to-morrow with a full afternoon's racing in which boats of seven classes will compete.

18 August 1949 - At Westgate, Kent

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 18 August 1949:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

WILL HAMMER DIRECTION

Westgate Pav. --- "Holiday Highlights" --- Louis Roberts, Jane Worth, Arnold Crowther, John Barr, Ivy Esta, Ida Willis.

MARGATE CORPORATION ENTERTAINMENTS

Westgate Pav. --- Will Hammer's "Holiday Highlights" --- Louis Roberts, Jane Worth, Ivy Esta, Arnold Crowther, Ida Willis, John Barr.

24 August 1949 - At Margate, Kent

From the newspaper, East Kent Times and Mail, Wednesday 24 August 1949:

MARGATE'S MIDNIGHT MATINEE

Winter Gardens Stars

While stars looked down upon Margate's Winter Gardens in the early hours, on Friday. a capacity audience was delighted by scintillating members of the stage and radio firmament at the midnight charity matinee organised by the Mayoress, Mrs. W. C Redman. ...

(among other performers mentioned)

"... whilst versatile Arnold Crowther showed some of the fun holidaymakers enjoy at Westgate-on-Sea Pavilion"

25 August 1949 - At Westgate, Kent

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 25 August 1949:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

WILL HAMMER DIRECTION

Westgate Pav. --- "Holiday Highlights" --- Louis Roberts, Jane Worth, Arnold Crowther, John Barr, Ivy Esta, Ida Willis.

MARGATE CORPORATION ENTERTAINMENTS

Westgate Pav. --- Will Hammer's "Holiday Highlights" --- Louis Roberts, Jane Worth, Ivy Esta, Arnold Crowther, Ida Willis, John Barr.

1 September 1949 - At Westgate, Kent

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 1 September 1949:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

WILL HAMMER DIRECTION

Westgate Pav. --- "Holiday Highlights" --- Louis Roberts, Jane Worth, Arnold Crowther, John Barr, Ivy Esta, Ida Willis.

MARGATE CORPORATION ENTERTAINMENTS

Westgate Pav. --- Will Hammer's "Holiday Highlights" --- Louis Roberts, Jane Worth, Ivy Esta, Arnold Crowther, Ida Willis, John Barr.

15 September 1949 - At Westgate, Kent

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 15 September 1949:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

WILL HAMMER DIRECTION

Westgate Pav. --- "Holiday Highlights" --- Louis Roberts, Jane Worth, Arnold Crowther, John Barr, Ivy Esta, Ida Willis.

MARGATE CORPORATION ENTERTAINMENTS

Westgate Pavilion. --- "Holiday Highlights" --- Louis Roberts, Jane Worth, Ivy Esta, Arnold Crowther, Ida Willis, John Barr.

28 October 1949 - At Long Marston

From the newspaper, Bucks Herald, Friday 28 October 1949:

Long Marston

Entertainment for Victory Hall Funds.

--- Long Marston Victory Hall Committee now have £1,600 towards the cost of building the hall. Their latest effort, which raised £15, was an entertainment last Saturday in the Parish Hall. Two guest artistes, Miss Frances Buckland, a versatile and humourous

entertainer at the piano, and Mr. Arnold Crowther, ventriloquist, conjuror and wit, topped the bill. They were supported by well-known local talent --- Miss Ball (Bulbourne), Miss Peggy Chappin, Messrs. T. Gregory, Ray Pheasant, L. Green and Duncan Mead (who also compered).

23 December 1949 - At Desborough

From the newspaper, Bucks Free Press, Friday, December 23, 1949:

SANTA CAME BY 'PLANE

Engineers Made Him Welcome

DETERMINED to keep well up with times, Father Christmas arrived by aeroplane at Desborough Engineering Sports and Social Club's children's party in the works canteen at Desborough-avenue, High Wycombe, on Saturday.

The 170 children there goggled in astonishment when the aeroplane, laden with presents for them all, made its grand entrance. After Mr. W. Squires, as Father Christmas, had distributed his gifts some of the children gave songs and variety acts, each of them receiving a shilling.

After tea, prepared by Mrs. E. McLachan, canteen manageress, Mr. Arnold Crowther and his wife, from the Winter Gardens, Margate, entertained the party with conjuring tricks, ventriloquism and a Punch and Judy show and, with a balloon, an apple and an orange each, the children were taken home by coach. ...

“Party For Adults

Nearly 300 people attended a party for adults in the evening when there was another performance by Arnold Crowther and his wife, including a fascinating telepathy act, and songs by Mr. Ivor Williams, baritone. Highlight of the evening was the production of a pantomime, “Jack and the Beanstalk” by a group of the firm's employees, with four burly six-footers as “fairies.”

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Research note:

Need to extract the newspapers for the years 1950 to 1954

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~ 1955

10 February 1955 - At Richmond, London

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 10 February 1955:

CIRCUS CAME TO TOWN

The Camel Corps Entertainment at the Star and Garter Homes, Richmond, was again organised by Gladys Dawson, who surprised everybody present by introducing members of Rosaire's Circus with a lion cub which was enthusiastically welcomed by the patients. Joyce Grenfell visited the wards of those unable to attend the concert. Other well-known artists appearing were Peggy Desmond, Phil Dawson, Nat Terry, Arnold Crowther, John Derek, and Gladys Dawson and Sid Gatum. Doris Sibley was at the piano.

24 February 1955 - At North Harrow, North West London

From the newspaper, Harrow Observer, Thursday 24 February 1955:

MARIONETTES AND MAGIC

Conjuring, ventriloquism and a puppet show entertained about 180 children aged from eight to fifteen, who attended the Pinner South Conservatives' new year party at St. Alban's Hall, North Harrow.

The conjuring and ventriloquism was by Mr. Arnold Crowther and the Marionette Theatre show was by The Sylvian Puppets. The latter included a scene from "Peter Pan" and a circus introduced by Spot the Clown, a puppet over 50 years old.

Tea was served by lady members of the committee, and later each child was given an ice cream.

26 May 1955 - At Shanklin Pier, Isle of Wight

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 26 May 1955:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

JULIA GOLDEN AGENCY

Shanklin Pier Casino. ---

"Hilarity" --- (among other people listed)

"... Mabel and Arnold Crowther, ..."

2 June 1955 - At Shanklin Pier, Isle of Wight

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 2 June 1955:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

JULIA GOLDEN AGENCY

Shanklin Pier Casino. ---

"Hilarity" --- (among other people listed)

“... Mabel and Arnold Crowther, ...”

9 June 1955 - At Shanklin Pier, Isle of Wight

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 9 June 1955:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

JULIA GOLDEN AGENCY

Shanklin Pier Casino. ---

“Hilarity” --- (among other people listed)

“... Mabel and Arnold Crowther, ...”

16 June 1955 - At Shanklin Pier, Isle of Wight

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 16 June 1955:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

JULIA GOLDEN AGENCY

Shanklin Pier Casino. ---

“Hilarity” --- (among other people listed)

“... Mabel and Arnold Crowther, ...”

23 June 1955 - At Shanklin Pier, Isle of Wight

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 23 June 1955:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

JULIA GOLDEN AGENCY

Shanklin Pier Casino. ---

“Hilarity” --- (among other people listed)

“... Mabel and Arnold Crowther, ...”

30 June 1955 - At Shanklin Pier, Isle of Wight

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 30 June 1955:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

JULIA GOLDEN AGENCY

Shanklin Pier Casino. ---

“Hilarity” --- (among other people listed)

“... Mabel and Arnold Crowther, ...”

7 July 1955 - At Shanklin Pier, Ilse of Wight

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 7 July 1955:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

JULIA GOLDEN AGENCY

Shanklin Pier Casino. ---

“Hilarity” --- (among other people listed)

“... Mabel and Arnold Crowther, ...”

14 July 1955 - At Shanklin Pier, Ilse of Wight

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 14 July 1955:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

JULIA GOLDEN AGENCY

Shanklin Pier Casino. ---

“Hilarity” --- (among other people listed)

“... Mabel and Arnold Crowther, ...”

21 July 1955 - At Shanklin Pier, Ilse of Wight

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 21 July 1955:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

JULIA GOLDEN AGENCY

Shanklin Pier Casino. ---

“Hilarity” --- (among other people listed)

“... Mabel and Arnold Crowther, ...”

4 August 1955 - At Shanklin Pier, Ilse of Wight

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 4 August 1955:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

JULIA GOLDEN AGENCY

Shanklin Pier Casino. ---

“Hilarity” --- (among other people listed)

“... Mabel and Arnold Crowther, ...”

20 October 1955 - Article mentioned a letter from Arnold Crowther

From the newspaper, The Stage. Thursday 20 October 1955:

CHARLES TRENTAM'S PUPPET STAGE

THE British Puppet and Model Theatre Guild Members' Day is, as usual, on the Sunday falling in the middle of the exhibition period, on this occasion October 23. This is always a popular function, with special shows and an opportunity for those who have made special efforts and travelled considerable distances to meet each other, London friends and fellow members.

What he calls the "farce of the law governing Sunday shows" is discussed by Arnold Crowther in a letter to me. Arnold and Mabel Crowther have been presenting their Arno Puppets in Marjorie Ristori's summer revue, "Hilarity." at the Pier Casino, Shanklin, I.O.W., for the second consecutive season, and return there next year.

Mr. Crowther writes: "Our puppets have recently appeared in one of the 'Thoughts for the Week' films which are shown on Sundays, and, although one could see the puppets in film form on Sundays at Shanklin, we were not allowed to use them at the Sunday concerts there." The films in question are only shown on Sundays.

While not entering too deeply, for the moment, into the question of Sunday showings, I must say, firstly, that I find the ban illogical and incomprehensible, and, secondly, that I have always imagined that, in some degree, the puppets were "a law unto themselves." I recall that there have been several cases of local veto (and lack of moral courage) as regards Sunday Punch performances. I also seem to think that the censor (but this does not really apply to the present discussion) has no powers in respect of puppet scripts.

Anyway, the Crowthers have been making up for their enforced Sabbath inactivity by introducing their puppets into the children's matinees at Shanklin, and two mornings a week Arnold did his Punch show. The pair have been with "Hilarity" four seasons. This year they presented 12 different marionette acts as well as a dozen varying magic and ventriloquial offerings. One of their novelties is the way the puppets are introduced by the girls doing a dance in front of the "tabs," which open to reveal a troupe of marionettes dressed like the dancers and continuing with the same dance routine.

Another time the act finishes with the "Grand Turk." The girls dance on in Eastern dress, and each takes a puppet as the "Turk" comes apart and each limb changes. They then make an exit dancing the latter off.

(the article continues about other people, not transcribed here)

26 October 1955 - At Broadstairs, Kent

From the newspaper, East Kent Times and Mail, Wednesday 26 October 1955:

Variety and local talent in Thanet

JERRY JEROME'S VENTURE

JERRY JEROME, popular Broadstairs summer show comedian, who presented the first of a new series of variety shows at the Bohemia Theatre, Broadstairs, on Saturday, had a

difficult task in choosing by audience reaction the winner of a heat in his search for talent. ...

(long article of other people not transcribed here)

“Mabel and Arnold Crowther gave a versatile series of turns on the accordion, conjuring and with a ventriloquial act.”

23 December 1955 - At Claygate, Surrey

From the newspaper, Esher News and Mail, Friday 23 December 1955:

“RED RIDING HOOD”

Old Folk Present Pantomime

Members of Claygate Old People’s Social Club showed great enterprise when they performed their own adaptation of the pantomime, “Red Riding Hood,” at their eighth annual Christmas party, held at the British Legion Hall, Claygate, on Tuesday.

The show was enjoyed by over 80 other old folk, and was carried through with hardly a hitch.

(long article continues, not transcribed here)

“After tea the old folk watched an entertainment given by Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Crowther, who are ventriloquists and conjurers”

~ 1956

9 February 1956 - At North Harrow, North West London

From the newspaper, Harrow Observer, Thursday 9 February 1956:

ENTERTAINING THE CHILDREN

Mr. Arnold Crowther, conjuror - ventriloquist, with some of the children acting as his assistants during his entertainment at Pioneer South Conservative Association’s party held at St. Alban’s Church Hall, North Harrow, on Saturday.

Image that was with the article:



26 July 1956 - At Shanklin, Isle of Wight

Arnold and Mabel Crowther were performing in the "Hilarity" show at the Shanklin Pier Casino in Shanklin, Isle of Wight. In the same show was a newcomer, a pianist named Pat Dawson.

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 26 July 1956:

SHANKLIN

'HILARITY'

Now in their third season at Shanklin Pier Casino, Harry and Marjorie Ristori's "Hilarity" is again playing to appreciative audiences.

Practically all of the 1955 artists have rejoined the company this season, notably comedian Peter Dare and his versatile Noele Austin. Bett Lindley and John Van Best continue to delight with their singing both in duets and solo items, and the show is again greatly enhanced by the dancing by members of the Marjorie Pointer Quartet, comprising Brenda Orton, Rita Davis, Gloria Ward and Pat Lloyd.

Arnold and Mabel Crowther again mystify audiences with many clever tricks --- not forgetting their ever-popular puppets.

Veteran of the company, and father of producer Marjorie Ristori, Harry Gunn never fails to get laughter for his own inimitable turns, and there is a talented young male dancer in Ronnie Marshall.

Barney Powell is back on the drums once more, and two newcomers are pianist Tylson James and Pat Dawson.

Most outstanding features of "Hilarity" include the good team work and enthusiasm of the artists, their versatility and the happy family spirit which emanates from their producer.

This season, the company are presenting an Olde Tyme Night programme at regular intervals. It has proved very successful, a highlight being the Can-Can dance by the Marjorie Pointer Quartet.

SHANKLIN PIER, under the supervision of H. Terry Wood, is again a hive of entertainment for visitors. The Eddie Edward Organisation is providing dancing at the Pier Head Ballroom, with the Latin Quarter Quartet; the Gypsyarnos play in the Ship's Lounge and Terry's Bar. Sunday entertainment is provided both at the Casino and Pier Head Ballroom.

Kiddies' shows are presented twice weekly by Arnold and Mabel Crowther.

17 August 1956 - At Shanklin Pier, Isle of Wight

From the newspaper, Portsmouth Evening News, Friday 17 August 1956:

Vanishing Trick

Thieves who broke into Shanklin Pier stole stock and cash worth £50.

They rifled one of the stage company's dressing rooms and stole a suit belonging to Arnold Crowther, a member of the company. From the bar they took whisky and cigarettes.

Arnold Crowther's bag ---one of the props in his magician's act --- was used to carry away the loot.

20 September 1956 - Advertisement

An advertisement in a newspaper, that suggests that Mabel Crowther had split from her husband Arnold Crowther. An advertisement that shows Mabel Crowther is now performing on her own without her husband.

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 20 September 1956:

MABEL CROWTHER

(V. A. F.)

Britain's Most Versatile Performer

Comedienne - Commere - Accordion - Zylophone

Modern Cabaret, Puppets, including "Old Tyme Music Hall"

Returning from Shanklin, Sept. 23 after 5th Season with "Hilarity."

Very many thanks to Harry and Marjorie Ristori for kindness and confidence.

250, W. Barnes Lane, New Malden --- MAL 1068

Image of the newspaper advertisement:



13 December 1956 - An article about the shrunken head

An article mentioning Arnold Crowther and the shrunken head.

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 13 December 1956:

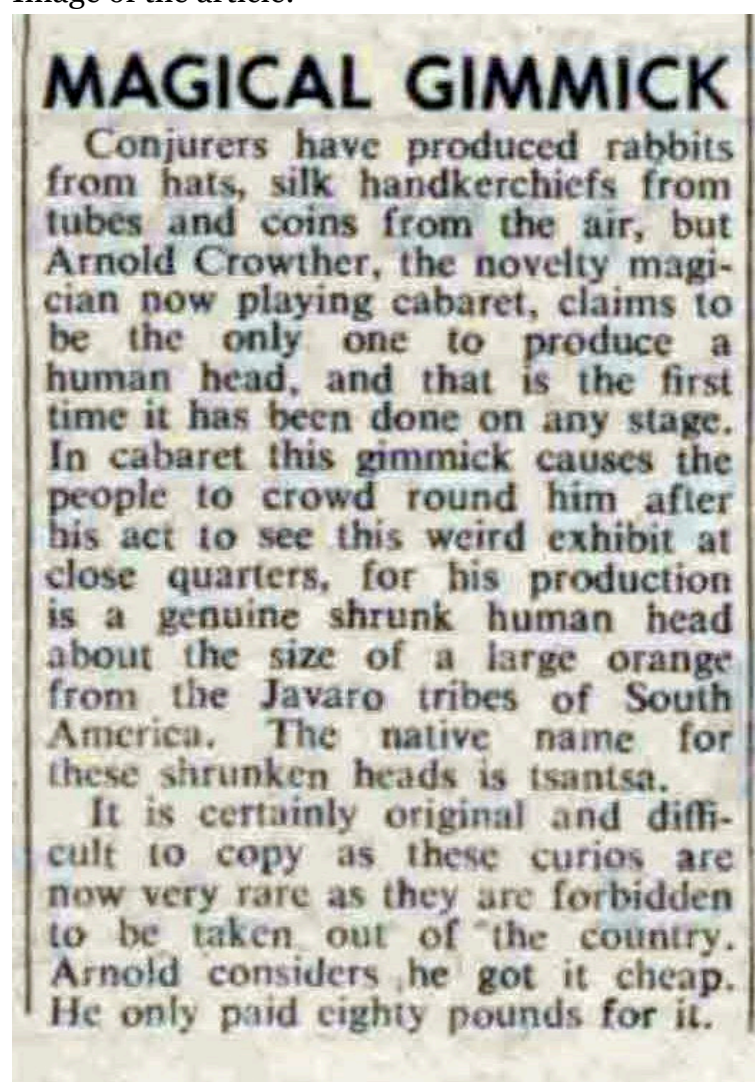
MAGICAL GIMMICK

Conjurers have produced rabbits from hats, silk handkerchiefs from tubes and coins from the air, but Arnold Crowther, the novelty magician now playing cabaret, claims to be the only one to produce a human head, and that is the first time it has been done on any stage.

In cabaret this gimmick causes the people to crowd round him after his act to see this weird exhibit at close quarters, for his production is a genuine shrunk human head about the size of a large orange from the Javaro tribes of South America. The native name for these shrunken heads is tsantsa.

It is certainly original and difficult to copy as these curios are now very rare as they are forbidden to be taken out of the country. Arnold considers he got it cheap. He only paid eighty pounds for it.

Image of the article:



21 December 1956 - At Oxshott, Surrey

From the newspaper, Esher News and Mail, Friday, December 21, 1956:

OLDEST GUEST WAS 91

Old People's Party At Oxshott

Oldest guest at the annual Christmas party of Oxshott Old People's Club last week was 91-year-old Mrs. Agnes Noon. About 70 old folk attended --- including two of 90 - as well as helpers and visitors.

A large Christmas tree with coloured, lights was on the stage in St. Andrew's Hall, and each guest had a novelty hat. A big iced cake made by a helper was a feature of the party tea.

Father Christmas gave everyone a present, and one of the visitors, Mrs. G. M. Betts (Esher councillor for Long Ditton), helped him in the distribution of prizes in a competition.

Entertainment was provided by Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Crowther, of Molesey. They gave a marionette show, and Mrs. Crowther played the accordion and showed her skill at palmistry. Her husband did a ventriloquist act and conjuring tricks. They also led old popular songs, the audience joining in the choruses.

Among visitors were, Mr. E. P. Boret (councillor for Stoke and Oxshott), the Rev. Herbert Evans (vicar), the Rev. M. Cunningham (assistant parish priest), and the Rev. F. C. Player (Baptist minister).

The party was organised by Mrs. O. Tilley (chairman), Mrs. R. Cullum (hon. treasurer), Mrs. P. Budd (hon. secretary) and helpers.

29 December 1956 - At Cobham, Surrey

From the newspaper, The Surrey Advertiser, County Times, Saturday, December 29, 1956:

JOINED IN PARTY FUN AT 90

MEMBERS of Cobham Old Folk's Club had a party of their Old own on Tuesday. The party had been organised by the local Red Cross and the 78 guests had a wonderful time. Specially welcome visitors were the oldest members, Mrs. Joslin and Mr. Kelly, both in their nineties, who joined in the fun with great zest.

A conjuror, Mr. Arnold Crowther, entertained during the afternoon and presents were given to everyone from the gaily decorated tree by the stage.

A Nativity play illustrated with carols, and a sketch that showed the growth of the nursing movement from the days of Florence Nightingale were presented by members of the Cobham Red Cross Cadets and were much enjoyed.

After a fine Christmas tea provided by Red Cross members the old folk sang and talked together for a while. Before leaving cigarettes and sweets were presented to each person.

Mrs. O. Smith and Mrs. Tiley, cadet officers, were responsible for the plays presented by the cadets and Miss M. K. Robinson, commandant of the 120 Surrey had organised the event.

Next week more than 60 members of the old folk's club are to see "Dick Whittington" in London.

~ 1957

17 January 1957 - About Arnold Crowther

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 17 January 1957:

Personalia

(among other persons listed)

Arnold Crowther, the novelty ventriloquist, has developed such a personality in Andy, his handmade dummy, that he receives letters to it from scores of kiddies. One recently wanted to buy him, so Arnold had to explain that he just couldn't cut his own hand off to sell it to the little girl.

1 February 1957 - At Croydon, South London

From the newspaper, Croydon Times, Friday 1 February 1957:

Lonely old-age pensioners chosen by Croydon Guild of Social Service were taken by coach to Shirley Parish Hall last week for the annual party given by Shirley Afternoon Townswomen's Guild.

They had tea and were entertained by Arnold Crowther conjurer and ventriloquist, and on leaving each received a parcel of groceries from the guild.

7 February 1957 - At North Harrow, North West London

From the newspaper, Harrow Observer, Thursday 7 February 1957:

Conservative parties for the children

Three wards of the Harrow West Conservative Association held parties on Saturday for about 270 children. Each was visited by Lady Braithwaite, wife of Sir Albert Braithwaite, M.P. for Harrow West, who also attended two of the parties.

Pinner South's was held in St. Alban's Hall, North Harrow, where 140 children enjoyed a programme of dancing by pupils of the Victor La Rue Stage School, conjuring by Arnold Crowther, and a film show by the North Thames Gas Board. Teas were arranged by members of the Women's Section and organization by the ward social committee.

Sir Albert talked to the children at the other parties run by the Roxbourne Ward Association, at Roxbourne School and the Roxeth Ward at St. Paul's Hall, South Harrow.

7 February 1957 - At Croydon, South London

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 7 February 1957:

Personalia

Arnold Crowther entertained at last week's Surrey party for old people, organised by Shirley's Townswomen's Guild.

4 April 1957 - Article about Arnold Crowther's lectures

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 4 April 1957:

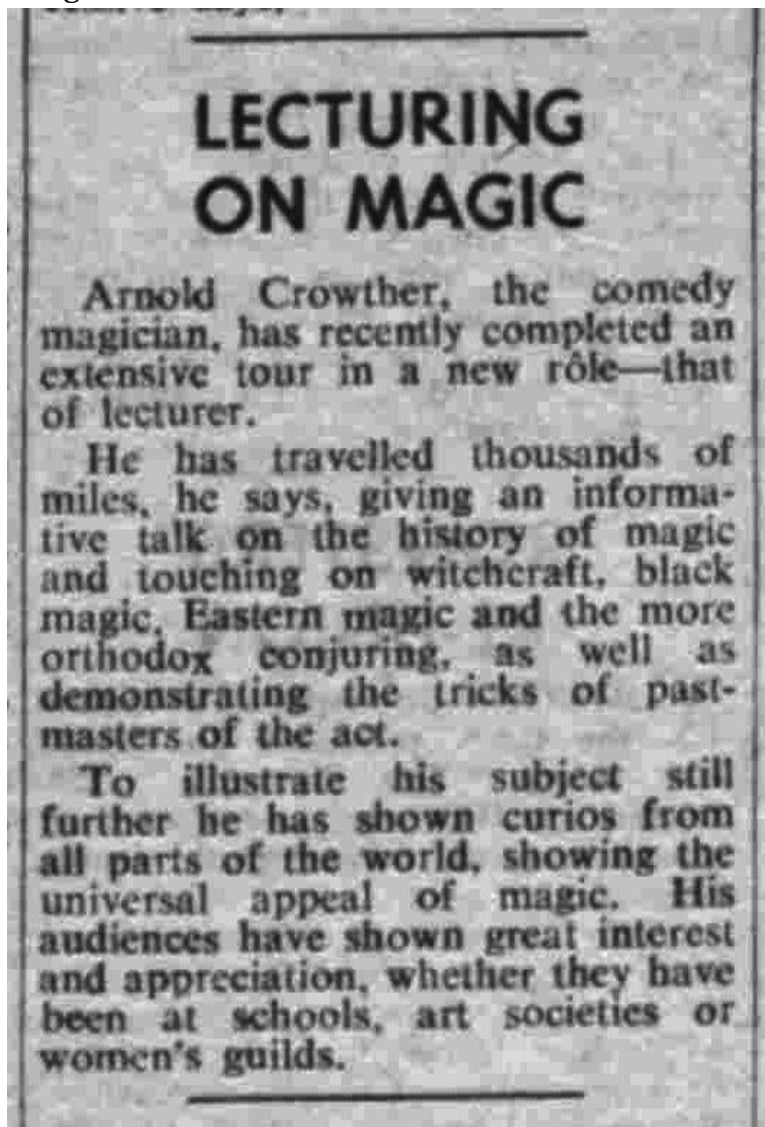
LECTURING ON MAGIC

Arnold Crowther, the comedy magician, has recently completed an extensive tour in a new role --- that of lecturer.

He has travelled thousands of miles, he says, giving an informative talk on the history of magic and touching on witchcraft, black magic, Eastern magic and the more orthodox conjuring, as well as demonstrating the tricks of past-masters of the act.

To illustrate his subject still further he has shown curios from all parts of the world, showing the universal appeal of magic. His audiences have shown great interest and appreciation, whether they have been at schools, art societies or women's guilds.

Image of the article:



13 April 1957 - At Swinton, Mexborough, South Yorkshire

From the newspaper, South Yorkshire Times and Mexborough & Swinton Times,
Saturday 13 April 1957:

VICTORIA CLUB

Tel. Mexborough 2329

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Entertainment Programme

This Saturday --- D I A N A --- Popular ARNOLD CROWTHER Comedy Magician &
Novelty Ventriloquist

This Sunday --- ROY KING and NORAH MAKEPEACE

Easter Saturday --- ALEX BROS.

Tuesday --- WHIST DRIVE

Thursday --- PARTNER DRIVE

Friday --- HOUSEY-HOUSEY

Tennants and Sam Smith's Beers

Image of advertisement:

VICTORIA CLUB
Tel. Mexborough 2329
NOTICE TO MEMBERS
Entertainment Programme

THIS SATURDAY—
DIANA—Popular
ARNOLD CROWTHER
Comedy Magician & Novelty
Ventriloquist

THIS SUNDAY—
ROY KING and
NORAH MAKEPEACE

EASTER SATURDAY—
ALEX BROS.

TUESDAY—
WHIST DRIVE

THURSDAY—
PARTNER DRIVE

FRIDAY—
HOUSEY-HOUSEY
Tennants and Sam Smith's
Beers

23 May 1957 - At Workington, Cumberland

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 23 May 1957:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

DON ROSS AGENCY

(among other locations listed)

WORKINGTON OPERA HOUSE. --- "Laughter Unlimited": Johnny Dallas, Gary Grande and David Mars, Marda, Eddie and Sadie Conway, Patsy Sylva, Arnold Crowther, La Rochelle Trio.

30 May 1957 - At Rotherham, South Yorkshire

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 30 May 1957:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

DON ROSS AGENCY

(among other locations listed)

ROTHERHAM REGENT. --- Grande and Mars, Tommy Dean, Patsy Sylva, Arnold Crowther, Belita Sisters, Eddie and Sadie Conway.

6 June 1957 - At Leeds, West Yorkshire

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 6 June 1957:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

DON ROSS AGENCY

(among other locations listed)

LEEDS CITY VARIETIES. --- Denise Vane, 2 Fosters, Max and Harry Ford, Arnold Crowther, Kay and Kimberley, Tommie Deane, Doreen Lavender.

27 July 1957 - At Kingston upon Hull, Yorkshire

From the newspaper, Hull Daily Mail, Saturday 27 July 1957:

Amusements, Concerts

HULL PARKS DEPARTMENT

All Next Week (7.30 p. m. Nightly).

(among other locations listed)

PEARSON PARK --- Pentland Promotions Ltd. present "Family Fun" --- a different show each night including:

Windy Blow, Arnold Crowther, Harry Marsh, Sandy Sandford

Mons De Foe, Jessica Lynwood, Patrice and Rochelle, Vic Sanderson, Sam Scott and Buddy Smart.

Admissions: 1/-, Children 6d. at all Theatres.

3 August 1957 - At Kingston upon Hull, Yorkshire

From the newspaper, Hull Daily Mail, Saturday, August 3, 1957:

HULL PARKS DEPARTMENT

ALL NEXT WEEK

EAST PARK (7.30 nightly) "FAMILY FUN" a different show each night

Artists include:

Windy Blow, Arnold Crowther, Harry Marsh, Sandy Sandford

Mons de Foe, Jessica Lynwood, Sam Scott Patrice and Rochelle, Vic Sanderson, Buddy Smart

(it continues about performers at other locations not transcribed here)

12 September 1957 - At Kingston upon Hull, Yorkshire

Arnold Crowther is with a Pat Crosby. Could this be Pat Dawson doing a trial run with Arnold Crother before using the name that the public knows her by ?

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 12 September 1957:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

AL HEATH AGENCY

(among other place listed)

HULL ALBERT CLUB. --- Pat Crosby and Arnold Crowther.

19 September 1957 - At Scarborough, North Yorkshire

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 19 September 1957:

PENTLAND PRODUCTIONS

For Top Children's Matinee Shows

1957 Summer Season:

Blackpool - Queens / Bridlington - Grand Pavilion / Scarborough - Floral Hall / Harry Corbett - "The Sooty Show" / Windy Blow - "The Windy Blow Show" / Sandy Sandford - "Family Fun"

with Arnold Crowther, Mons Defoe, The Funbeams, Lorraine, Myster E, Viv Sanderson, Margaret Sellers, Billy Tweedle (playing "Bonzo" and "Chimmy"), Edward Victor, Christopher Wray.

Always glad to hear from children's entertainers.

ATHOL HOUSE, FULFORD ROAD, SCARBOROUGH.

Image of the advertisement:



23 December 1957 - At Crewe Hall, Cheshire

4 January 1958 - the event took place on 23 December 1957 - At Crewe Hall, Cheshire

The earliest newspaper article (found so far) that shows Arnold Crowther working with Patricia Dawson as a team.

From the newspaper, Crewe Chronicle, Saturday 04 January 1958:

IN IT HISTORY, Crewe Hall has seen some gay social gatherings, but there never was a merrier party than that given by the present tenants of the hall, Messrs. Calmic, Ltd., when they entertained 112 children of employees two days before Christmas.

The fun began at 3 p.m. when the children were unloaded from the various buses that had brought them, and poured into the great hall of the house. Ice-cream was served, and a sing-song was followed by a film show.

After tea there was a session of magic, music and ventriloquism given by Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther, and then the young guests were marshalled in the beautifully-decorated inner hall to await the arrival of Father Christmas, who came down a specially prepared chimney alongside the Christmas tree. His bulging sack carried a gift for every child present.

The party was sponsored by Mrs. Dunkerley (wife of Mr. F. Dunkerley, chairman of the Company), who was assisted by the wives of the directors and by Mr. Kennedy (export

manager), Mr. G. Williamson (transport department), Miss Joan Lewis (personal department), and Mr. W. A. Sawdon (personal manager).

~ 1958

6 March 1958 - On their first television appearance

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 6 March 1958:

Studio Talk ...

(among other people mentioned)

“Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther made their first television appearance recently on ABC-TVs “Bid for Fame.””

28 March 1958 - At Gainsborough, Lincolnshire

Pat Crosby and Arnold Crowther listed together.

From the newspaper, Retford, Worksop, Isle of Axholme and Gainsborough News, Friday 28 March 1958:

Jim Hagan at Town Dinner

The annual dinner and social evening organised by Gainsborough Trinity Supporters' Club is to be held this evening in the Embassy Restaurant. Silver Street, when several of the officials of the Supporters' Club and of the parent club will attend.

Also present will be Mr. Jimmie Hagan, famous footballer of England and Sheffield United. Mr. Hagan, who is guest speaker, will use “Football and it's Future” as the theme for his speech.

After the dinner, entertainment will be provided by artistes from Carroll Entertainments, Ltd., of Grimsby, featuring The Carroll Brothers (comedians), Pat Crosby and Arnold Crowther (versatile entertainers) and Colin Monk (pianist).

31 July 1958 - At Falmouth, Cornwall

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 31 July 1958:

FALMOUTH

‘LEISURE TIME’

SYDNEY WILSON has brought ‘Leisure Time’ for a seventh season to the Princess Pavilion.

(among other stars listed)

“Another “twosome” is Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther, who bring gaiety and colour with romping concertina and glamorous costumes.”

7 August 1958 - At Falmouth, Cornwall

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 7 August 1958:

ROUND ABOUT

(among comments about other performers at different places)

“We hear from Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther, now appearing in “Leisuretime,” at Falmouth, that their turn includes accordion, not concertina playing, as stated in last week’s issue.”

20 November 1958 - At Ilkley, West Yorkshire

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 20 November 1958:

ALL SET TO GO TO PLACES

Personalia

(among listings of other performers)

Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther opened the cabaret season at Troutbeck Hotel, Ilkley, and introduced the hat routine they televised last March.

19 December 1958 - At Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire

Pat Crosby listed with Arnold Crowther.

From the newspaper, Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph, Friday 19 December 1958:

With Scunthorpe Clubmen

Concerts

Sunday: (among listings of other places)

“... Reform: Pat Crosby and Arnold Crowther...”

27 December 1958 - At Ashby, Lincolnshire

Pat Crosby listed with Arnold Crowther.

From the newspaper, Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph, Saturday 27 December 1958:

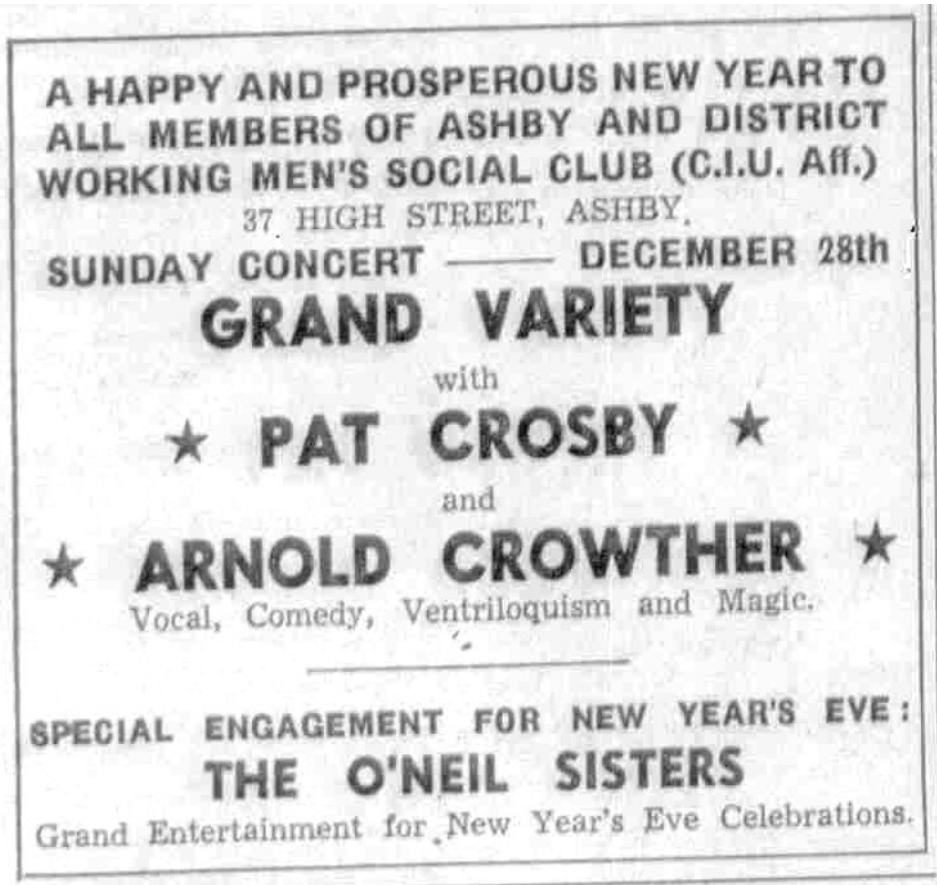
A Happy and Prosperous New Year to all Members of Ashby and District Working Men’s Social Club (C.I.U. Aff.)

37 High Street, Ashby.

Sunday Concert --- December 28th

Grand Variety with Pat Crosby and Arnold Crowther
Vocal, Comedy, Ventriloquism and Magic.
Special Engagement for New Year's Eve:
The O'Neil Sisters
Grand Entertainment for New Year's Eve Celebrations.

Image of the advertisement:



~ 1959

10 January 1959 - At Elstead, Surrey

From the newspaper, The Surrey Advertiser, County Times, Saturday, January 10, 1959:

Puppet show like the one at Sandringham

The first two parties given by the management of the Weyburn Engineering Company to children of employees took place on Saturday in the firm's canteen at Elstead, when

115 boys and girls aged from five to nine were entertained. They were brought by coach from districts as far away as Aldershot, Chiddingfold and Guildford.

While the tea tables were being cleared the children congregated in a room upstairs to be entertained by the Hayseeds, a band mainly composed of men employed by the company. Afterwards they had the good fortune to see Mrs. Arnold Crowther and her puppets in a show similar to that she gave at Sandringham to the Queen's guests on Boxing Day. The first part of the programme included a circus and was followed by a pantomime, "Jack and the Beanstalk."

Mr. Hamilton Gordon, managing director of the Weyburn Company, attended during the evening and chatted with many of the children.

Mrs. Scruby, wife of the company's secretary, distributed presents. Mr. George Brummell was M. C., assisted by Mr. Ron Hall, who appeared as an amusing clown. The party for older children of employees takes place on February 14th.

~ 14 May 1959 - At Sheringham, Norfolk

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 14 May 1959:

Round About

(among other performers at other places)

"Tommy Seymour presents the Court Jesters at the Grand Court, Sheringham, from June 24 with Charlie Bruce, Julie Desmond, Ray Victore, Barbara Carlo, Ossie Rae, Zaraeda, Ivy Linde, Ivy Read, Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther."

27 August 1959 - At Sheringham, Norfolk

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 27 August 1959:

SHERINGHAM

'THE COURT JESTERS'

AT the Grand Court, Sheringham, "The Court Jesters", presented by Tommy Seymour, are enjoying a very happy season.

The company is a judicious mixture of youth and experience presenting entertainment with the accent on lightheartedness. Excellent sketch work is given by Julie Desmond, Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther, who also convulses the audience with his very odd inventions. Barbara Carlos is a very attractive young singer and dancer and Ray Victore presents a neat tap dance as well as being able to sing pleasurably in the modern manner. Attractive and talented Ivy Linde also makes a hit in her own "sticks in tempo" spot.

Ossie Rae is prominent in the comedy and gives his own mystifying thought reading act. Completely blindfolded by a member of the audience, he not only succeeds in identifying

articles collected from the audience, but also makes amazingly accurate forecasts of their personal fortunes. The astonished gasps that accompany his pronouncements are indications of his prowess in this respect.

Heading the fun and welding the show together with his own personal brand of humour is Charlie Bruce whose happy knack of making his comedy appear spontaneous is apt to amuse the company as much as the audience. The hard working and excellent accompanist for the show is Ivy Reade and the production is by Charlie Bruce.

3 September 1959 - At Sheringham, Norfolk

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 3 September 1959:

Charles Trentham on Puppets

(among other performers listed)

“AT the Grand Court, Sheringham, Pat Dawson gives a convincing impression of Ella Shields in the Old Tyme Music Hall, and was presented with a statue of herself as “Burlington Bertie.” Her partner, Arnold Crowther, makes an impressive chairman in this concerted item.”

3 September 1959 - An advertisement for Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 3 September 1959:

PAT DAWSON

Brilliant Accordioniste Soprano & Paimiste

ARNOLD CROWTHER

Comedy Magic, Novelty Ventriloquist & Puppets

vide: --- “Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther must be the most versatile act in the business, turning their hands to anything and everything in the show.” North Norfolk News

Thanks Tommy Seymour for happy season with “The Court Jesters”, Grand Court Theatre, Sheringham

Open for offers from September 20th, for Variety, Cabaret, Continent, T.V., etc.

P.A.: “Dover Villas”, 397 City Road, Sheffield 2 Tel. 25452

Image of the advertisement:



29 December 1959 Tuesday - At Crewe, Cheshire

From the newspaper, Crewe Chronicle, Saturday 9 January 1960:

Crewe Hall their Christmas wonderland

CREWE Hall, former home of the Crewe family, was festively lighted and decorated on Tuesday last week for the Christmas party given to the children of the staff and employes of Calmic, Ltd. (the present tenants). Over 100 pairs of small feet walked the flight of steps leading to the great hail and trod the tessellated [sic] floor that once knew the feet of Royalty.

A great fire in the hearth gave them a welcome from the cold outside, and a 24-foot Christmas tree, lit with strings of fairy lights, promised them pleasant things to come. It stood to one side of a specially constructed fireplace, through which Father Christmas made his appearance later in the evening.

A fleet of buses had brought the children from the surrounding areas. The party was given by the board of directors, and Mrs. P. Dunkerley, wife of the chairman of the Board, and the arrangements were made by Mr. W. A. Sawdon, the personnel manager. Messrs. Bollands, of Chester, did the catering and provided the staff.

Tea in wine cellars

A film show of comics and cartoons, arranged by Messrs. Eachus. of Northwich, passed the first hour and a quarter joyfully - with intervals for ice-cream. Tea was served in the wine cellars, freshly painted and set with small tables. Among the guests were Mrs. Dunkerley, Mr. Dunkerley, and the directors. Messrs. H. Ward. H. T. Mallinson, and C Longworth, the last two accompanied by their wives.

After tea, the children trooped upstairs again to the board-room, where they were given a wonderful display of puppetry, ventriloquism and magic by Arnold Crowther and Pat Dawson, of Blackpool. This room, like the other ground-floor entertaining rooms. was

strung with garlands and coloured lights, and looked very attractive. When the magicians had made their final bows, the children went into the entrance hall to welcome Father Christmas as he emerged from his chimney.

But first came Sylvia Kennedy, bearing the gift of a book for Mrs. Dunkerley, and Janfarie McManus, with a gift for Father Christmas. From the capacious sack every child was given a present (from the directors). Then came the presentation of her own personal gift to each small guest by Mrs. Dunkerley. This brought the happy party to an end.

~ 1960

24 March 1960 – At Leeds, Yorkshire

From the newspapers, The Stage, Thursday 24 March 196:

DON ROSS AGENCY

(Among other place listings)

LEEDS VARIETIES. ---

(among other people listed)

“... Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther, ...”

9 June 1960 – At Witch’s Mill at Isle of Man

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday, 9 June 1960:

Witchcraft Holiday

Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther, the novelty entertainers, are spending a holiday at the Witch’s Mill, in the Isle of Man, as guests of the director of the Witchcraft Museum, Dr. Gerald Gardiner [sic], author of “Thae [sic] Meaning of Witchcraft”, “Witchcraft Today”, etc. Arnold, who is also a painter, has just completed a portrait of Dr. Gardner for his museum. His recent painting of Pope John was presented to the Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham. Pat and Arnold have made several recent appearances on TV in “Sky Port” and “Knight Errant”. They go to Rhyl for the summer season.

Image of the article:



11 August 1960 - Rhyl, Denbighshire, Wales

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 11 August 1960:

AN APPRECIATION OF CHARLIE ELLIS

AS THE curtain rose for the Matinee at the New Coliseum, Rhyl, on Friday, all the artists' thoughts went out to the late comedian Charlie Ellis, whose funeral took place at that moment.

As two of the last artists to work with Charlie in sketches and as his friends, it was obvious to us he was a very sick man, but being a real trooper, he refused to give in, and like Pagliacci was the clown to the end.

His comedy sketch, "The Bad Foot," brought screams of laughter from the audience. As his friends, in the sketch, told him how one illness led to another, so he got worse and the yells of laughter got more and more. No one realised that this is what was happening in real life and when the curtain finally came down on his last night the Coliseum echoed with laughter and applause for him.

Not only have we personally lost a very good friend, but the world of entertainment has lost a grand comedian and a great trooper.

As long as the New Coliseum, Rhyl, stands it will forever be a memorial to the first comic to bring laughter to this new theatre.

Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther

11 August 1960 – At Rhyl, Denbighshire, Wales

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 11 August 1960:

RHYL

'TALK OF THE TOWN'

THE resident summer show at the New Coliseum is "Talk of the Town," presented by Jack Billing, Leading comedian. Charlie Ellis, has recently left the company owing to bad health. Charlie has entered a London hospital and his spot in "Talk of the Town" has been taken over by Roy Rolland and his "Old Mother Kelly" is keeping Rhyl's holidaymakers happy. During the winter, the Coliseum has undergone a complete reconstruction at a cost of nearly £20.000, the transformation scene having been carried out by Kingston Architectural Craftsmen of Hull. Seating capacity is now 800.

The company includes illusionist Arnold Crowther; Pat Dawson and his piano-accordion; Dinky Maurice on her xylophone; Earl Darron, the singer; the versatile Raymond, pop singer, dancer and musician; Buntly Billing and the Four Debs; with Tommy Littlefield at the piano and Bobbie Cook with his drums.

There is a special kiddies show every morning; "High Hat Playtime"; with a free ice cream for every child attending.

~ 9 November 1960

Arnold W. Crowther married **PATRICIA CLAIRE DAWSON** on 9 November 1960 in the Register Office in Sheffield, Yorkshire.

From the marriage certificate:

1960. Marriage solemnized at The Register Office in the District of Sheffield in the County Borough of Sheffield

No. - 220

When married - Ninth November 1960

Name / Age / Condition / Profession / Residence at the time of marriage / Father's name / Father's Profession

Arnold William Crowther / 51 years / Previous Marriage Dissolved / Stage Artiste (Magician) / 397 City Road Sheffield 2 / Cecil Crowther (deceased) / Opthalmio [sic] Optician

Patricia Claire Dawson / 33 years / Spinster / Stage Artiste (Soprano Accordionist) / 397 City Road Sheffield 2 / William Alfred Dawson (deceased) / Hotel Proprietor

Married in the Register Office by Certificate before me, T. G. Wigley Supt. Registrar J. M. Knowles Deputy Registrar

The marriage was solemnized between us,

Arnold Crowther

P. C. Dawson

in the presence of us,

G. B. Gardner C. Dawson

Tom Dawson

Image of part of the record:

1		2		3	4	5
No.	When married	Name and surname	Age	Condition	Rank or profession	Re
220	Ninth November 19 60	Arnold William Crowther	51 years	Previous Marriage Dissolved	Stage Artiste (Magician)	
		Patricia Claire Dawson	33 years	Spinster	Stage Artiste (Soprano Accordionist)	

Married in the Register Office

This marriage was solemnized between us, { Arnold Crowther } in the presence of us, { G. B. Gardner }
{ P. C. Dawson } { Tom Dawson }

13 December 1960 – Letter to a newspaper

From the newspaper, Nottingham Evening Post, Tuesday 13 December 1960:

DUMB ART

I quite agree correspondent Fed Up Beeston. TV has completely spoilt this country. The art of conversation is completely finished. Pleasant musical evenings with friends are a thing of past, and a night out at a music hall gone for ever.

Culture is on its last legs, and the only thing one can talk about is football, cowboy films, and "Emergency Ward 10."

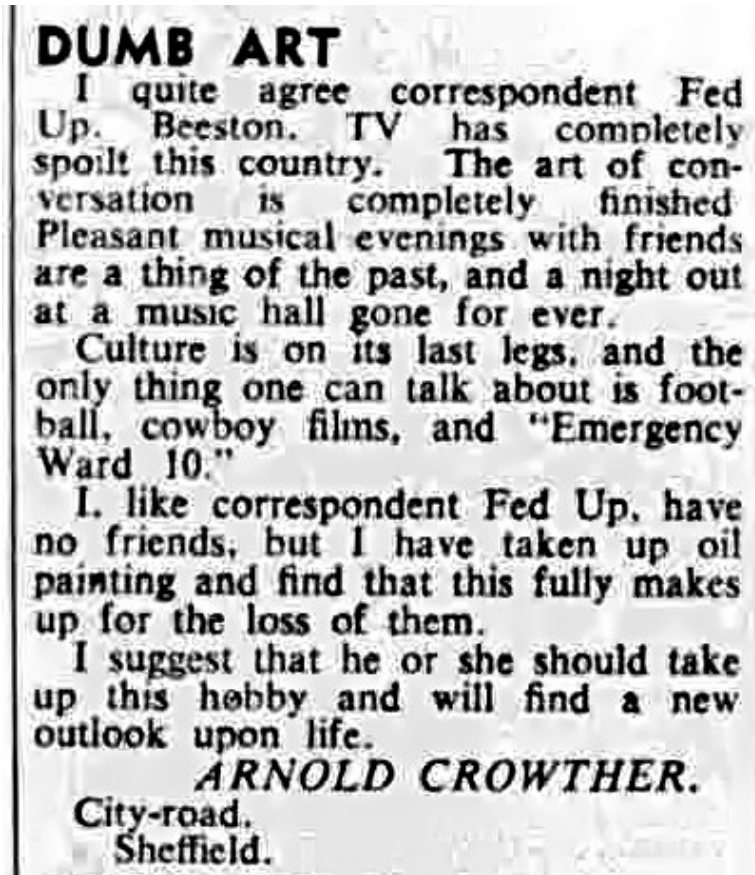
I, like correspondent Fed Up, have no friends, but I have taken up oil painting and find that this fully makes up for the loss of them.

I suggest that he or she should take up this hobby and will find a new outlook upon life.

ARNOLD CROWTHER.

City-road, Sheffield.

Image of the article:



~ 1961

12 January 1961 – At Mansfield, Nottinghamshire

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 12 January 1961:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

DENMAN VARIETY AGENCY

(among others)

MANSFIELD TOWN SUPPORTERS CLUB. --- Leslie Lewis (21st). Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther (22nd).

2 May 1961 – On a BBC television show

From the newspaper, Derby Daily Telegraph, Tuesday 02 May 1961:

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Crowther appeared on television on the BBC's Tonight show on Walpurgisnacht, which was the night of April 30 to May 1 1961.

From the newspaper, Derby Daily Telegraph, Tuesday 2 May 1961:

Not a broomstick in sight ...

Teleview

If Mr. Dennis Wheatley, student of black magic and author of Satanistic fiction, watched B.C.C.'s "Tonight" last night, the chances are he shuddered,

For there, on Walpurgis night, were two "witches" in the flesh --- Yorkshire couple Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Crowther.

Mrs. Arnold Crowther (First Degree Witch) might be the heading on the lady's notepaper, but what about a broomstick and a toad's car or two?

It seems we Wheatley readers have the witch business all wrong, though --- for the Crowthers (and 400 like them) worship a nameless god and goddess of fertility with the aid of a sword, a couple of daggers and a wand like a knobkerrie --- and probably do their stews in glass ovenware, leaving the smokestained cauldron to rust.

POINTLESS

The interview, singularly lacking in point, showed us an honest-to-goodness man and wife who claimed to be witches (despite the fact that the masculine is called a warlock by the Top People) and appeared to be just the kind of folk who would be happier sitting at home watching pointless TV interviews.

Mrs. Crowther, speaking of her quest for "converts" in Sheffield, said people seemed more interested in football and tombola than her latter-day "witchcraft."

He's a strange man who can blame them for THAT on last night's showing!

Image of the newspaper article:



18 May 1961 – In an article about Charlie Bruce

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 18 May 1961:

Appreciation of Charlie Bruce

THE notice of the death of Charlie Bruce in THE STAGE came as a great shock to us, as it must have also come to many other artists who knew him.

It was our pleasure to work with Charlie in a summer season at Sheringham in 1959. He was such a lovable person, both on and off the stage, and helped to make that season one of the happiest in our careers.

Charlie was not only a very excellent comedian in his act and in the double acts with his wife Julie, but also in sketches. The show was his first consideration and I always remember him saying, "I'm not one of those comics that want all the laughs. If anyone else can get laughs, do so. The more laughs the better the show."

Through his death show-business has lost another fine comedian and a very great trouper.

May we offer our deepest sympathies to his wife, Julie, and his daughter, Pamela.

PAT DAWSON and ARNOLD CROWTHER.

30 September 1961 - At Chester, Cheshire

From the newspaper, Chester Chronicle, Saturday 30 September 1961:

ROYALTY THEATRE

Ireland's singing star, Ruby Murray, is top of the bill at the ROYALTY next week. Ruby first came to public notice as a singer in 1954, when she was discovered by TV producer Richard Afton. She became a star almost overnight and her popularity was such that two years later she set up a record by having five recordings in the top twenty at the same time. As yet this is unbroken.

Supporting her is a full Summer Show which has recently been playing at a north-west holiday resort. Among the artistes are the comedian, Sonny Roy; Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther; Bill and Diane Verne; Dinkie Maurice; Maurice French and Joy; and the Zio Angels.

~ 9 November 1961

Alex Sander wrote a letter to Mr. and Mrs. Crowther of the Sheffield coven. He was interested in meeting them.

From the book, A Coin for the Ferryman, by Jimahl Di Fiosa, 2010:

Page 51

"... on Thursday November 9 [1961], Alex Sanders, who had turned 35 years of age that year, sat down and wrote a three page letter that would change the history of Wicca and inspire decades of fussing.

The letter was addressed to prominent Gardnerian witches Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Crowther."

From the Transcription of the letter in the Museum of Witchcraft and Magic, Boscastle, Cornwall:

[page 1]

390 Collyhurst Rd,
Manchester 9
November 9th, 1961.

Dear Mr and Mrs Crowther,

I saw you both on TV, in the People and Places programme, and I was so interested that I have taken the liberty of writing to you.

To be a "witch" is something that I have always wanted - and yet I have never been able to contact anybody who could help me.

I have always been interested in the occult, namely, second sight of which I have had several experiences, I think that this came about in the first place

[page] 2

When I was twelve years of age and my grandmother was telling me about her childhood in wales, and that her great-great grandmother was a well known witch at Mount Snowdon. With this knowledge I have always felt that I was a little different to other people, so that if people ask my help or advice I seem to draw my inspiration from some power which is beyond me.

I seemed to understand so well when you were talking about building the "cone of power," I know how the power can carry you along and yet keep you so aware of things about you.

There are lots of things that I feel, and yet may be I am wrong --- that is why I am taking this opportunity of contacting you, hoping that you may

[page] 3

be able to advise me. I hope to hear from you.

In all Sincereness,
Alex Sanders.

Images of the letter:

390 Collyhurst Rd,
Manchester 9
November 9th, 1961.

Dear Mr and Mrs Crowther,

I saw you both on
T.V. in the 'People and Places' programme, and
I was so interested that I have taken the
liberty of writing to you.

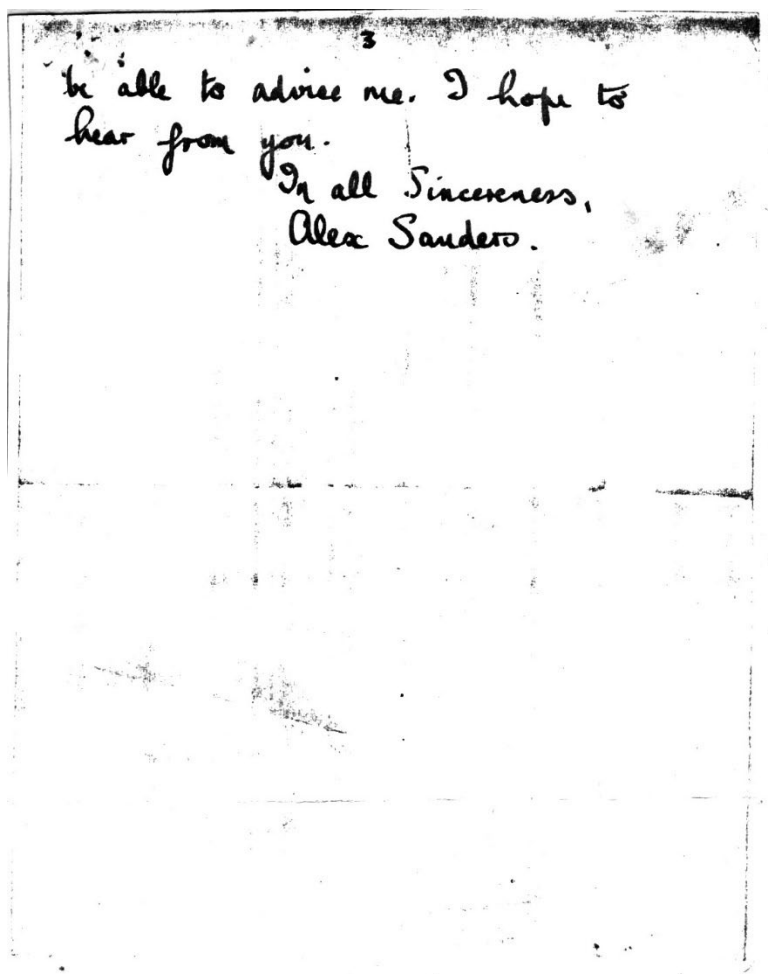
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something that I have always wanted - and yet
I have never been able to contact anybody
who could help me.

I have always been interested
in the occult, namely, second sight of which
I have had several experiences. I think
that this came about in the first place

when I was about twelve years of age and my grandmother was telling me about her childhood in Wales, and that her great-great grandmother was a well-known witch at Mount Sacandon. With this knowledge I have always felt that I was a little different to other people, so that if people ask my help or advice I ~~don't~~ seem to draw my inspiration from some power which is beyond me.

I seemed to understand so well when you were talking about building the "bone of power", I know how the power can carry you along and yet keep you so aware of things about you.

There are lots of things that I feel, and yet maybe I am wrong - That is why I am taking this opportunity of contacting you, hoping that you may



~ 1962

4 January 1962 - At Hereford, Herefordshire

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 04 January 1962:

HEREFORD

'JACK AND THE BEANSTALK'

TOM E. BRADLEY is back again at the Kemble. Hereford, to present "Jack and the Beanstalk", the last pantomime before this old theatre is closed for demolition in the New Year. It will re-emerge as a store.

(further down the article)

Speciality acts come from Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther, with a novelty act, ...

18 January 1962 - At Hereford, Herefordshire

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 18 January 1962:

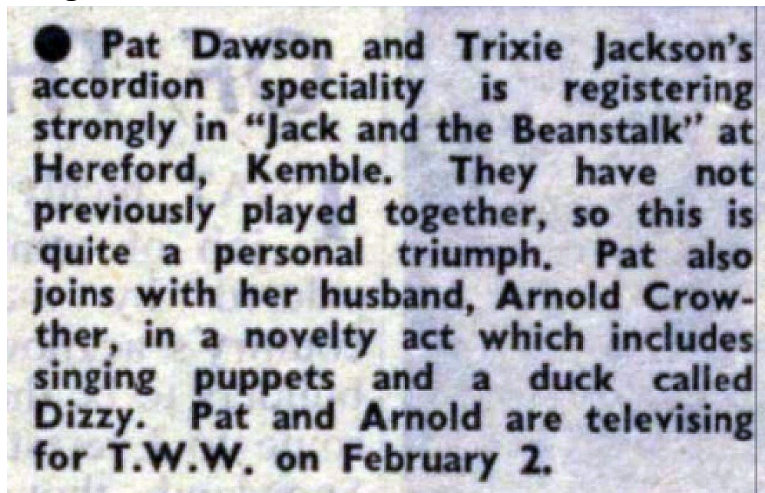
5 PAGES OF LIGHT ENTERTAINMENT

Edited by Mollie Ellis

(among others)

Pat Dawson and Trixie Jackson's accordion speciality is registering strongly in "Jack and the Beanstalk" at Hereford, Kemble. They have not previously played together, so this is quite a personal triumph. Pat also joins with her husband, Arnold Crowther, in a novelty act which includes singing puppets and a duck called Dizzy. Pat and Arnold are televising for T. W. W. on February 2.

Image of the article:



25 January 1962 - At Blyth, Northumberland

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 25 January 1962:

WHILE appearing at the Royal, Blyth, last week, Pat Dawson broadcast on the BBC programme, "Voice of the People", and together with her husband, Arnold Crowther, appeared on Tyne and Tees Television, in "North East Roundabout", On February 2 they are due to appear on Wales and West T.V.

2 June 1962 - At Nottingham, Nottinghamshire

Arnold Crowther and Pat Dawson performed at the Piccadilly Club in Bulwell, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire.

It is more than likely that Patricia Kopinski of Nottingham went to watch the Crowthers perform at the Piccadilly Club.

From the newspaper, Nottingham Evening Post - Saturday 02 June 1962:

Entertainments

PICCADILLY CLUB

Bulwell, Nottingham 272144.

Whitsuntide Programme

Monday --- All Star Variety. Roy Kay Mr. Swing and Sway.

Tuesday --- Twist the night away with Chuck Crest and the Crystelles

Wednesday --- Piccadilly Players. 50/50 Dance Night.

Thursday --- Film Night. Comedy. Cartoons. XXX Certificate at the Bar.

Friday --- Free and Easy. Piccadilly Players with local guest entertainers.

Saturday --- The Four Flyers --- Snowball.

Sunday lunch --- The Moorland Brothers.

Sunday night --- The Four Flyers --- Snowball.

Monday lunch --- Entertainment.

Monday night --- TV Stars. Top Class Variety. Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther Vocal Comedy Act.

Ample Parking Space

Delicious choice of snacks at all sessions.

The Piccadilly spells perfection in Entertainment

Image of the newspaper article:

PICCADILLY CLUB
BULWELL, NOTTINGHAM. 272144.
WHITSUNTIDE PROGRAMME
Monday—All Star Variety.
ROY KAY Mr. Swing and Sway.
Tuesday—Twist the night away with
Chuck Crest and the Crystelles
Wednesday—Piccadilly Players.
50/50 Dance Night.
Thursday—Film Night. Comedy. Cartoons.
XXX Certificate at the Bar.
Friday—Free and Easy. Piccadilly Players
with local guest entertainers.
Saturday—The Four Fivers—Snowball.
Sunday lunch—The Moorland Brothers.
Sunday night—The Four Fivers—Snowball.
Monday lunch—Entertainment.
Monday night—TV Stars. Top Class Variety.
Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther
Vocal Comedy Act.
AMPLE PARKING SPACE
Delicious choice of snacks at all sessions.
The Piccadilly spells perfection in
ENTERTAINMENT 21x

14 June 1962 - At a Yorkshire club

From a newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 14 June 1962:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

DENMAN VARIETY AGENCY

(among others)

YORKS CLUBS. --- Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther, Dennis Stuart and Anne.

~ before 28 June 1962

Pat Kopinski was already an initiate in the Crowther's Sheffield coven before 28 June 1962 as per the next entry.

~ 28 June 1962

Patricia Kopinski met Alex Sanders at Crowther's own home on that date.

From the book, Triumph of the Moon, by Ronald Hutton, 2019:

Page 334

"Patricia Crowther's memoirs did something to put the letter in perspective. They

supplied the detail of how Kopinski and Sanders first meet at Crowther's own home on 28 June 1962 when the former was a member of her coven and the latter a visitor to the house."

From the book, A Coin for the Ferryman, by Jimahl Di Fiosa, 2010:

Page 58

"This second letter, now in the possession of the Museum of Witchcraft in Boscastle England, was written by a woman named Pat Kopinski. There is no dispute over the fact that Ms. Kopinski was a Gardnerian first degree in the Sheffield coven and acted as the coven Maiden for a period of time."

2 July 1962 - At Edinburgh, Scotland

From the newspaper, Edinburgh Evening News, Monday 2 July 1962:

EDINBURGH CORPORATION

Entertainments

Princes Street Gardens

JULY.

(further down)

Friday,

7.0 p.m. --- Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther, Punch and Judy, Puppets, etc.).

SHOWS IN THE PARKS --- 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday,

INCH --- Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther, Punch and Judy , Puppets, etc.), 432 Corps. Engineer Regt. (T.A.) Pipe Band.

Wednesday,

BRIGHTON --- Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther, St. Joseph's School Pipe band.

Thursday,

INVERLEITH --- Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther.

6 July 1962 - At Edinburgh, Scotland

From the newspaper, Edinburgh Evening News, Friday 06 July 1962:

EDINBURGH CORPORATION

Entertainments

Princes Street Gardens

JULY.

Tonight.

7.0 p.m. --- Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther, (Punch and Judy, Puppets, etc.).

Saturday,

2.30 p.m. --- Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther.

Image of the advertisement:



~ 15 September 1962

On 15 September 1962, a sensational newspaper article came out about The Alderley Edge Incident. In front of reporters, Alex Sanders conducted an initiation at midnight on the hillside of Alderley Edge.

Arnold Crowther's artworks were used in the ceremony.

From Doreen Valiente's Scrapbook, Manchester Evening Chronicle & News, September 15th, 1962:

HIGH PRIEST PERFORMS INITIATION AT MIDNIGHT

After hearing rumours of strange Black Masses and witchcraft rites a "Saturday Chronicle and News" team went out to investigate. Last night, in a dark glade in the Cheshire countryside not far from Manchester, they attended the midnight initiation of a witch. On the left, blindfold and with their hands tied behind their backs, are Stan Royle, picture editor Jack Abell, and reporter David Duffy.



[My notes: The three reporters blindfolded with hands tied behind their backs. Also seen is the is the painting of the Egyptian pharaoh Seti I.]



[My notes: The "dead man" with tools on him and the painting of the Goddess.]

Amazing black magic rites on Cheshire hillside

"DEAD MAN" COMES TO LIFE, JOINS WITCHES

Shock 'Chronicle-News' Probe: Clergy Attack

By David Duffy

For more than 45 fantastic minutes I sat blindfold, with my hands tied behind my back, and listened to the chant of a high priest as he initiated a witch into his coven.

Burning incense penetrated the midnight air and a chill wind swept the hillside at Alderley Edge, the famous Cheshire beauty spot. It was the "Festival of the Full Moon." Only feet from where I was sitting --- the very spot where the Wizard of Alderley practised his ancient cult centuries ago --- was a magic circle surrounded by lighted candles, shielded from the wind with ferns.

In the centre of the magic circle lay a man purporting to be a "dead man." He was swathed in a white sheet, his face covered by a golden mask.

On his chest lay a sword, a wand, and a thigh bone said to be that of a Knight Templar. Near by the head of a steel spear pieced the ground.

This was the amazing scene I saw when finally the high priest --- 36-year-old Alex Sanders --- gave the order for my blindfold to be removed:

Clouds cast eerie shadows as Sanders said: "The 'dead man' on the ground is now a witch. When he rises he will be a man born again, with the powers to perform magic."

I challenged Sanders, who I can reveal has been practising witchcraft rituals on the Edge for 12 months, to reveal the initiate's identity.

He refused, "to protect him from any ridicule from his family and friends," he said.

The vow of allegiance

Earlier, in company with photographer Stan Royle and picture editor Jack Abell, we had gone to the secret rendezvous at Alderley Edge.

Before the ceremony and in order to see what was going on, we had to agree first to be blindfolded.

Sanders told us: "You will be able to listen to the rituals, but because they are secret we cannot allow you to witness them,"

Even our hands were tied in case we were tempted to pull away the blindfolds and see what Sanders and his friends were up to.

During the "ceremony" Sanders, who described himself as "High Priest," spoke in a barbaric tongue. Bells were rung and the initiate repeated a vow of allegiance to the cult.

Then, after their gods were summoned from the four points of the compass, the new witch received his "magic tools" --- the knife, a sword, a wand, and a spearhead.

Suddenly it was over. The initiate rose and lit a cigarette.

Then Sanders talked of how he sacrificed his marriage to practice witchcraft.

Power to cast spells

"OUR marriage went on the rocks almost overnight. My wife objected to me worshipping in the nude, as we do on occasions, because there are three women in my coven.

"But I have no regrets. I am a heathen, and practising witchcraft is all important to me. We do perform magic and have the power to cast spells, but we do no harm to anyone."

Sanders, an odd-job man in a

Turn to Back Page

WITCHES' CEREMONY

Continue from Page 1

Manchester library, lives in lodgings in Oldham Road, Newton Heath.

He added: "Through our cult, which has its origin 5,000 years ago, we try to seek a peaceful mind. I have been a witch since I was seven, my grandmother was High Priestess and she initiated me."

On New Year's Day, the "Festival of the Yule," Sanders, who now has 10 witches in his coven, says he plans to marry his "High Priestess," a 32-year-old woman from Nottingham.

"We would be married by ancient ritual," he said.

Back to the sixteenth century

After reading this report, the Rev. C. A. Shaw, vicar of St. Ambrose Church, Pendleton, Salford to-day attacked witchcraft and said: "The Church of England would say immediately that witchcraft is complete and utter nonsense.

"From the description you have given me of the midnight initiation I would say that this is the type of thing I can imagine might have taken place in Lancashire in the 16th century.

"I think there is a strong psychological influence behind the people who practise witchcraft. They are children who have not grown up and are looking for an outlet."

The Rev. J. A. Dean, minister of Bramhall Congregational Church, said: "I feel the practising of witchcraft is misguided. It may be a modern way of achieving a new sensation, but their feelings have run away with their reasoning."

A Stretford Roman Catholic priest said: "The practice is stupid and in these modern times I cannot see any sense in it."



Candles burn around the magic circle as High Priest Alex Sanders performs a phase of the initiation ceremony to make a "dead man" a witch. In the background the Edge.



Part of the "opening of the mouth" ceremony on the "dead man" as High Priest Alex Sanders bends to say magic words.

Interesting article, it is mainly concerning Alex Sanders initiating a new member to the cult at Alderley Edge.

There is two items in the article that connects to Pat Kopinski.

First, in the above, in the 1st photograph is the painting that was made by Arnold Crowther and it was either given to or bought by Pat Kopinski. She was deep into Egyptology.

It was a painting of the Egyptian Pharaoh Seti I. The painting was modeled from the photograph of Seti I's mummy.



Photograph of the head of the Pharaoh Seti I from his mummy.
From Wikipedia.

The other painting, of the Goddess, in the second photograph above is also made by Arnold Crowther.

It is similar to another one that Arnold Crowther made.



This Goddess painting was in the Prediction Magazine in 1966.

Second, the other thing connecting to Pat Kopinski in the newspaper article above is when Alex Sanders mentioned:

" On New Year's Day, the "Festival of the Yule," Sanders, who now has 10 witches in his coven, says he plans to marry his "High Priestess," a 32-year-old woman from Nottingham. "We would be married by ancient ritual," he said."

He was referring to Pat Kopinski.

Intriguingly, Pat Kopinski is already a High Priestess and running a coven in Nottingham at the time of the 15 September 1962 article.

~ 7 October 1962

There was a letter written by Monique Wilson (Olwen) to Gerald Gardner (Scire) dated 7 October 1962. In it, she mentioned that she is planning to go to Sheffield, Yorkshire. To visit the Sheffield coven of Patricia and Arnold Crowther and is hoping to see Gerald Gardner there too.

In the 5 December 1963 letter (below at that date), it mentioned that Monique Wilson never met the Crowthers. We don't know if this trip never happened or if Monique did go down to Sheffield but the Crowthers were not there.

Pat Kopinski was a member of the Sheffield coven at the time. It could be at this time or at another time when she met Monique Wilson and perhaps she invited her to meet Sylvia Tatham and Alex Sanders.

From a transcription of the letter:

7th October, 1962

My dear Scire,

Sorry I did not reply to you as soon as I received your letter at the beginning of the week but I had a dreadful cold in the head. I did not feel at all intelligent. Thank you very much for the cheque, it was very sweet of you. Certainly I shall use it to go down to Sheffield if you wish me to come. When? I could if convenient go down Thursday night. I have one day holiday still to come from my office so I could take Friday off. Would that be suitable? It would be easier for me as otherwise I would have to take two days off. Well let me know if you agree on Thursday night, arriving Sheffield sometime Friday morning. I'll check with the Travel Agent.

To perfectly candid I just cannot picture myself dancing wildly. it's not quite my style, darling, besides being thoroughly undignified. After all I am not a showgirl you know. Still, there's a lot I want to discuss with you and I feel the best way would be by meeting you as somehow or other we seem to get at cross-purposes in letters.

One question: Why did you ask for Jack's permission? How is he able to dictate to you or to ME? Did you for one moment really think that I would accept Jack's say-so? Do you believe he has the right to dictate to me? Do you think I will meekly do as I am told? By Jack of all people? He has nothing to do with my Covens and you are my H.P. You require my permission not Jack's. We'll have to discuss that seriously when I see you, Scire, for things are going just too far and I am getting a bit fed-up with everybody trying to climb onto the band-wagon.

I got my coat yesterday. it's smashing. I think I'll wear it when I go down to Sheffield, give you a chance to see it.

Re. the holidays: I agree with Malaga. Crete would be lovely, but I think it could be very cold (I am not very sure about the climate there) and it is especially very far. It will also be easier for me to brush up on my Spanish than to learn a completely new language. So we'll get a brochure on Malaga also if you can be fixed in neighbouring towns, and a week in Madrid. O.K.? Hugh is pretty good and quick at getting quotations so I might have the log by the time I get down to Sheffield so I'll bring them down with me.

By the way someone is cursing me. I received an anonymous letter, pretty nasty, written in green ink in which the writer proceeds to curse me and threaten me with "Anubis" and ends up:

"Who I am does not matter I have many names. Some call me 'The Messneger' 'The

Red Robe' 'Satanist' 'The Devils Deciple and Advocate' and others 'ANUBIS' (lord of Death) you can

(p.2)

have your choice...But even an Ipssimus would heed this warning – You have broken the 'Seal of the Necropolis' to read this letter – the rest is entirely up to you – you destroy youerself – Then he signs with a weird mixture of sings. I am not afraid because I do not belong to his god and I cannot help but feel that if Anubis came calling my God and Goddess would take a somewhat dim view of such proceedings. Especially as I am Their High Priestess, it would amount to poaching, and I believe the Gods are very careful not to interfere with each other's priesthood. Still, I am puzzled at such venom and I would very much like to know what idiot is responsible...and why. I'll bring the letter for you to see – you might recognize the hadnwriting as Loic seems to remember seeing it at your place.

Well, darling, that's all for now. I am going to take some Aspirin and rest a bit. Thank goodness tomorrow's a holiday – not for me but for loic, so he'll be able to do a few things for me which means I don't have to do them today.

Let me know if next Thursday, 11th October, will be suitable, arriving Sheffield ~Friday, 12th October. I'd leave either Friday night or Saturday morning at the latest as I want to be home for the full moon and my birthday. The next week-end we have a nice couple coming to stay with us. So I really could come only this week or next week bar the week-end. Anyway just let me know.

Lots and lots of love from Loic and Morven who wants to see her Uncle Gerald again.

1 November 1962 - in a club in Nottinghamshire or Derbyshire

From a newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 1 November 1962:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

DENMAN VARIETY AGENCY

(among others)

NOTTS. & DERBYS. CLUBS --- Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther, (among other people listed)

~ 4 November 1962

There was this interesting letter written from Eleanor Ray Bone to Gerald Gardner dated 4 November 1962. In it there is some about a New Zealander man that wanted to get into the craft.

This person visited the Crowthers place in Sheffield and was forwarded to Eleanor Bone's place.

From a transcription of the letter:

Letterhead Brackenburn Rest Home
4th November 1962

My Dear Gerald,

I am sending this to Castletown as I guess you are back by now. No dear, I didn't tell you the wrong programme – it was Huw Thoma "Here and Now" 6.45p.m. Tuesday 30th October, but it was only shown in London I believe. You will be pleased to know that it went very well – everybody said what a dignified performance it was. I don't think that Jack saw it, I know Fay didn't. I am glad your programme went well, I would love to have seen it, but that was Northern only

Yes dear, the "New Zealander" as you call him arrived on my doorstep last Tuesday. Unfortunately I was out and one of my staff asked him in to wait. I might add that he arrived complete with bags etc. Well, of course, the moment I set eyes on him I could see he wasn't a man to be trusted and his accent struck me as typical Australian – having met a number of them in the past. I was even less impressed when he decided to spit into the fire! Bill was furious that the Crowthers gave him this address. I believe they did the same thing to Olwen once. They really must not do that sort of thing – most indiscreet. Anyway, I gave him a meal and he sat for a couple of hours and then I made it quite clear

p. 2

that I could not possibly help him into the Craft and I did not pass him on to any other long-suffering person. I am quite able to dispose of people I don't want around without passing the buck to others. I also made a few tactful enquiries and this man is an Australian who has been kicking around town for a couple of years, trying to get in on the fringe of things. He is known to Sal of all people. He told me that he was in Perth for four weeks, staying with Olwen for two of them – I wouldn't have him here for more than two hours, I can assure you.

"Gerald's Friend" who wrote the letter in "Fate" is none other than our dear Tex. He put in the advert in the name of Artemis, and has had three replies to date. Darling have you had any letters to pass on to me? I need some attractive females, so please do your best. John is now completely in agreement with me over Sal. He had a feeling that I was prejudiced by my pre-knowledge of her peculiarities. Now he knows I was quite right in my decision.

Did you hear that programme by that disgusting man Williamson? He stated that witches make a lot of money helping people. From his angle we sounded like an American protection racket. He won't come to any good.

I am going away for a few days break. My very sick old lady died last Tuesday and her daughter gave me L 20 to have a little rest and holiday after the hard work I had put in. I haven't quite made up my mind where to go. I don't know if you are home or not. I may make my way to Cumberland. Have we any contacts up there that I could visit?

Well dear, no more now, hope to hear from you soon. Much love from Bill and myself.

Blessed be,
Ray.

Could this be the elusive Bill Liddell ?

My theory is that at this point of time Liddell wanted to become an initiate of the Gardnerian Wicca to find out what kind of rituals that they were using.

He would have to go to the United Kingdom as there probably were no covens in Australia at the time.

From the letter, it sounds like the New Zealander was rebuffed in his attempt to join a coven. He went to Perth in Scotland and stayed at Monique Wilson's (Olwen) place for a couple weeks. He went to the Crowther's coven in Sheffield, England and they sent him to London to Eleanor Bone's place the Brackenburn Rest Home that she runs.

Again providing that this was Bill Liddell, it would explain how Bill Liddell would later got to know Sylvia Tatham. Monique Wilson later sent Sylvia Tatham to New Zealand to start a coven there. Bill Liddell would have been probably still corresponding with Monique Wilson afterwards if he went to England and Scotland. He probably was one of the early people to be initiated by Sylvia.

One point that suggest it was not Bill Liddell, was Eleanor Bone's comment " I also made a few tactful enquiries and this man is an Australian who has been kicking around town for a couple of years, trying to get in on the fringe of things."

It could be possible that Eleanor Bone got information on the wrong person. Also, if the man was in London or its environs for two years, he would have a place to stay there.... so why would he be carrying his bags (luggages) to Eleanor Bone's place which is in London too ? When considering the population of London and its environs at the time, it increases the chance of getting intel on the wrong person.

Also Bill Liddell was planning to move to New Zealand as he later did. Hence the New Zealander with the Australian accent comment.

From Melissa Seims' research, she share the following:

"Assuming this is Bill, we may wonder what his motives were for travelling halfway around the world and getting to know Gardner's witches in the UK. The answer may lie in the following letter from Bill Liddell to Australian witch, Simon Goodman, dated 21st August 1983:

My parent tradition [Old Style Craft] had authorised two of us to contact 'public witches' and the editors of various Craft magazines. Our terms of reference were to establish contact with representatives of the Revived Craft; to establish what 'forces' (or 'power') was associated with the various modern traditions; to investigate what they really were doing as opposed to their public image; and, where possible to present our side of the craft in publications. Where we associated with covens or individuals we had to deny categorically any Craft association, affiliation or ancestry. This was to ensure that we would be treated like your average neophyte for gradual and instruction purposes.

It would appear that Bill was under orders from his own Elders. Certainly, Eleanor's comments to Gardner describe a man on a mission!"

Interesting, as this enhance my belief that Graham Moss (a.k.a. Bill Liddell) may have had another name (other than Bill Liddell) if he traveled to England. He is already shown to be quite an operative. See my work "The Magister".

22 November 1962 - in a club in Nottinghamshire or Derbyshire

From a newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 22 November 1962:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

DENMAN VARIETY AGENCY

(among others)

NOTTS. & DERBYS. CLUBS --- Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther, (among other people listed)

29 November 1962 - in a club in Nottinghamshire or Derbyshire

From a newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 29 November 1962:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

DENMAN VARIETY AGENCY

(among others)

NOTTS. & DERBYS. CLUBS --- Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther, (among other people listed)

6 December 1962 - in a club in Nottinghamshire or Derbyshire

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 6 December 1962:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

DENMAN VARIETY AGENCY

(among others)

NOTTS. & DERBYS. CLUBS. --- Arnold Crowther, Pat Dawson (among other people listed)

20 December 1962 - in a club in Nottinghamshire or Derbyshire

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 20 December 1962:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

DENMAN VARIETY AGENCY

(among others)

NOTTS. & DERBYS. CLUBS. --- Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther, (among other people listed)

~ after September 1962

Date unknown, perhaps shortly after the 15 September 1962, the date of the newspaper article.

From the letter of Arnold Crowther to Gerald Gardner in the archives of Museum of Witchcraft and Magic in Boscastle, Cornwall:

Arnold Crowther Letter

The Wica Dective agency.

Dear Gerald,

Have found out more about Alex Saunders. He has started a coven and is using all the rites, including the magicians rites out of your "High Magic Aid."

We called in this week end at Nottingham and he had taken his friends over there, and told them that Pat (of Nottingham) had an apot [apart?] of an ancient Egyptian necklace and wanted her to confirm the lies. As she studies Egyptology, he wanted her to initiate him as a priest of Isis. They also said that they wore towels round them when in the circle. He got my painting of Seti 1. from her by promising to get it framed. Since then she has heard no more from him.

Blessed be,

Arnold.

In this letter concerning Alex Sanders and Pat Kopinski, there are several items that connects to her.

1. The Egyptian painting of the Pharaoh Seti I that was used in the Alderley Edge incident, mentioned in the 15 September 1962 article, was made by Arnold Crowther and was in the possession of Pat Kopinski before Alex took it.
2. Pat Kopinski had part of an Egyptian necklace.
3. That she studies Egyptology and Alex wanted her to initiate him as a priest of Isis. It suggest that she was a High Priestess.
4. Her coven had the circle.

Perhaps she was in two paths, an Egyptian cult coven and Gardnerian-like coven or combined.

As you can see that the newspapers advertisements at this time period shows that the Crowthers were performing in a club in Nottinghamshire or Derbyshire. So, it was on one of these trips that the Crowthers visited them.

~ 1963

3 January 1963 - At a club in Nottinghamshire or Derbyshire

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 3 January 1963:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

DENMAN VARIETY AGENCY

(among others)

NOTTS. & DERBYS. CLUBS --- Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther, (among other people listed)

10 January 1963 - At a club in Nottinghamshire or Derbyshire.

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 10 January 1963:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

DENMAN VARIETY AGENCY

(among others)

NOTTS. & DERBYS. CLUBS --- Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther, (among other people listed)

23 May 1963 - At clubs in Grimsby and Immingham, Lincolnshire

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 23 May 1963:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

CARROLL ENTERTAINMENTS

(among others)

GRIMSBY EXCELSIOR CLUB. --- Jim Brando and Citizens, Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther.

IMMINGHAM BRITISH RAILWAYS C. --- Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther.

~ 27 August 1963

Alex Sanders sent a letter that was received by Gerald Gardner on 27 August 1963.

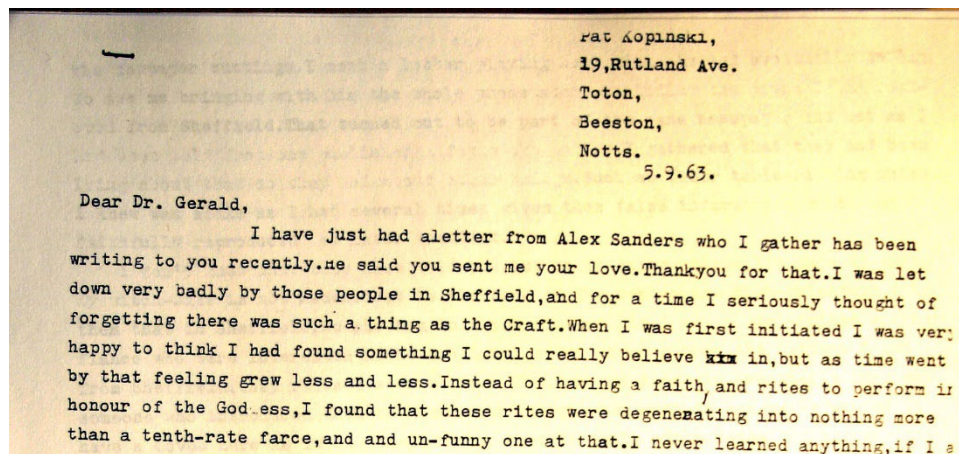
From the book, A Coin for the Ferryman, by Jimahl Di Fiosa, 2010:

Page 57

"In High Priestess, the Life and Times of Patricia Crowther, Mrs. Crowther writes:

'On 27 August 1963 Gerald Gardner, who used to say he heard things on the 'jungle telegraph' received a curious letter from Sanders which he forwarded to me. In this letter, Sanders said he was invited to visit a witch whom he had met at my house, to explain a misunderstanding concerning the person's supposed part in his recent publicity, and that after the matter was cleared up his visit was prolonged for several days. He then went on to say that during his stay he met a High Priestess from Derbyshire, called Medea, and asked her to initiate him.' "

~ 5 September 1963

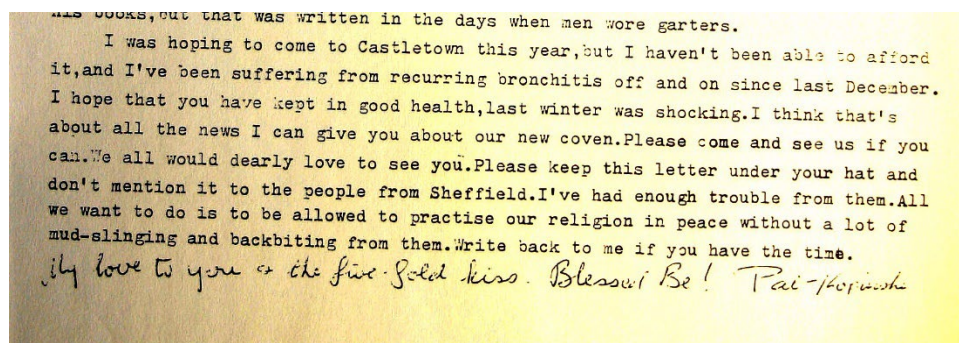


Pat Kopinski,
19, Rutland Ave.
Toton,
Beeston,
Notts.
5.9.63.

Dear Dr. Gerald,

I have just had a letter from Alex Sanders who I gather has been writing to you recently. He said you sent me your love. Thank you for that. I was let down very badly by those people in Sheffield, and for a time I seriously thought of forgetting there was such a thing as the Craft. When I was first initiated I was very happy to think I had found something I could really believe ~~xxx~~ in, but as time went by that feeling grew less and less. Instead of having a faith, and rites to perform in honour of the Goddess, I found that these rites were degenerating into nothing more than a tenth-rate farce, and an un-funny one at that. I never learned anything, if I s

The top part of the letter



his books, but that was written in the days when men wore garters.

I was hoping to come to Castletown this year, but I haven't been able to afford it, and I've been suffering from recurring bronchitis off and on since last December. I hope that you have kept in good health, last winter was shocking. I think that's about all the news I can give you about our new coven. Please come and see us if you can. We all would dearly love to see you. Please keep this letter under your hat and don't mention it to the people from Sheffield. I've had enough trouble from them. All we want to do is to be allowed to practise our religion in peace without a lot of mud-slinging and backbiting from them. Write back to me if you have the time.

My love to you & the five Gold Kiss. Blessu Be! Pat-Kopinski

The end part of the letter

Pat Kopinski typed a long letter to Dr. Gerald Gardner dated 5 September 1963. She explained her situation with her time at the Sheffield coven with Patricia Crowther as the High Priestess. Then explained about her coven and about the Medea coven. Also about Alex Sanders and Sylvia Tatham.

From the 5 September 1963 letter in the Gerald Gardner collection in Toronto:

Pat Kopinski,
19, Rutland Ave.
Toton, Beeston, Notts.
5. 9. 63.

Dear Dr. Gerald,

I have just had a letter from Alex Sanders who I gather has been writing to you recently. He said you sent me your love. Thank you for that. I was let down very badly by those people in Sheffield, and for a time I seriously thought of forgetting there was such a thing as the Craft. When I was first initiated I was very happy to think I had found something I could really believe in, but as time went by that feeling grew less and less. Instead of having a faith, and rites to perform in honour of the Goddess, I found that these rites were degenerating into nothing more than a tenth-rate farce, and an un-funny one at that. I never learned anything, if I asked questions or wanted to learn the rites so that I could do them without fumbling I was told to mind my own business. I was given nothing except a slightly crude rite for the morning. I had no book - except an empty one - and the high priestess would never give me even the ordinary rites which were performed by the whole coven, in spite of the fact that the oath we all took states that we will not deny the secrets of the Craft to our brother and sister witches. I was treated like dirt by her in spite of all I did to help them. She accused me of heaven knows what except when I was working to help them. All I got was backbiting, petty jealousy and intrigue. I was told I had no humility simply because I was proud of the fact that my father's family was one of the oldest and noblest in Ireland. Pride in that family was all he left me, and it is mine by right of birth. She despised me because I had no worldly wealth. None of that bothered me, what did hurt me was the way I was denied all knowledge of the Craft, and the backbiting and contempt I received from someone whom I had regarded as my friend. Then I heard she had taken two people into the coven with whom I could not possibly work. One of them had been the moving force behind the Aldreley Edge incident last year, the other, the less said about him the better, except that it would be against all my natural instincts to have anything to do with that type of man. She hadn't even the decency or courage to ask me to leave the coven, she used an eight month old newspaper clipping and accused me of being involved in the Alderley Edge incident. I didn't even know such a place existed until you showed me the newspaper cuttings. So I did the only thing I could do under the circumstances, have nothing more to do with them.

Alex wrote to me several times but I ignored him until the accusations about

(next page of the letter)

the newspaper cuttings. I sent a letter playing hell with him and eventually [he?] [came?] to see me bringing with him the whole press story, including the piece I had received from Sheffield. That turned out to be part of the same newspaper and not as I had been told from one [published a few weeks before]. I gathered that they had been lying about that as they had about other things. Such as their table-rapping which I knew was a fake as I had several times given them false information which was faithfully reproduced at later meetings.

I don't know what they have told you, but it is quite untrue, I'm sure of that. My witch-name is not Medea. That is the name of the Derbyshire high-priestess. I told them that in Sheffield, so she has told you another lie. I had a girl-friend and her fiancé who were interested in the Craft, but after showing them the letters I got from Sheffield, they refused even to meet Thelema and Alestair. Eventually they met someone who introduced them to Medea and brought her over to see me. We wanted to have a coven here as it was easy for us to meet quite often. Medea had already initiated my friend Sylvia and I asked her if I could be made high priestess so we could continue with our meetings. When I told her I had originally been taken into the Sheffield coven she was horrified and refused point-blank. She said she would have nothing to do with anyone concerned with that "crowd of charlatans" as she called them. She said that the witches she had met in different parts of the county refused to associate themselves with anyone from Sheffield. I showed her the letter I had received and after explaining things to her, I managed to persuade her to think it over. When Alex came over he met her and told her the whole story of the Alderley Edge business and she finally made up her mind to initiate him on the 9th of March with me as his sponsor. On the 10th she made me high priestess and Sylvia the Maiden. I gather that Medea and her husband came from Shropshire and they have been in this area since the war. The other two members of their coven live in Northampton, but I only met them once. Medea's husband died last April and she has now gone to live with her sister in Dorset. I gather she has decided to resign as high priestess, she is around 50 and she said she would give up her position. She put me through the pentacle and gave me the secret names. But we shall do not have all the rites. We have to manage as best we can.

I have five members in my coven at the moment, counting Alex who comes now and then again. We only have two women, but we may have a third if she is suitable. Sylvia is very good, she always gets excellent results from her work, including her latest when she helped one of the women in her office to get great relief from the rather crippling arthritis she has suffered from for years, and she did it without this

(the next page)

woman's knowledge. She is a bit impulsive but she will but she will learn, and she loves the Craft. It has given her a new meaning in life. She has not had too happy a life recently, her brother whom she loved dearly committed suicide a few years ago and it left a great shadow on her but since she has been in my coven that shadow has been lifted and she is much happier and has much more peace of mind. She has a very great love for the Goddess. Mostly we have been working for other people's health and we seem to have had some success. We worked for my son to pass his G. C. E. in biology and we were successful there.

I was wondering if you would like to come and spend a week or so here with us, then you could meet the new coven. They are all longing to see you as they have all heard so

much about you. I would love to have you here for a visit. I have a friend who is a lecturer in psychology at the University, although he is actually a historian. He is a member of the Society for Psychical Research and he is writing a book at the moment on 19th century hauntings and so on. He is waiting for some letters that were written by a man whose biography he is incorporating in his book. He is als[o] interested in witchcraft and he has a very good collection of these books including some 16th and 17th century editions. He would like to meet you if you can come over so that he can ask you something about our beliefs etc.. He has read your books on the Craft and enjoyed them. Now he says he would like to meet the author. He is preparing a lecture on poltergeists which I think he is giving either this week or next. He has actually had experience of one. He loans me some of his books and lets me go to his flat to type out anything I need from the more valuable ones. But there are so many I never know where to begin. I don't know if he will ever want to join the coven, he has said nothing about it yet, although I would like him to. I would like him for my high priest, but of course I cannot ask him to join or try to persuade him in any way, that must come from him. All I can do is hope that he will get a bit interested in me then perhaps he will come to us. Sylvia suggests we work a love charm on him, but we are rather vague as to what to do. We found one in one of his books, but that was written in the days when men wore garters.

I was hoping to come to Castletown this year, but I haven't been able to afford it, and I've been suffering from recurring bronchitis off and on since last December. I hope that you have kept in good health, last winter was shocking. I think that's about all the news I can give you about our new coven. Please come and see us if you can. We all would dearly love to see you. Please keep this letter under your hat and don't mention it to the people from Sheffield. I've had enough trouble from them. All we want to do is to be allowed to practise our religion in peace without a lot of mud-slinging and backbiting from them. Write back to me if you have the time.

(the below in handwriting)

My love to you & the five fold kiss. Blessed Be ! Pat Kopinski

25 October 1963 - At Ashby Labour in Lincolnshire

From the newspaper, Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph, Friday 25 October 1963:

WITH SCUNTHORPE CLUBMEN

Next Tuesday sees the final of the Vic Wells Memorial snooker competition between Social and Ashby Mill Road.....

(long article)

CONCERTS

Ashby Labour, Saturday. (among many names) Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther...

~ 1964

6 March 1964 - Mrs. Arnold Crowther mentioned in an article
From the newspaper, The Scotsman, Friday 6 March 1964:

SO EVEN WITCHES DRINK A PINTA ...



An empty jug labelled "Best Toad Venom," a broomstick, and a cauldron lie beside more prosaic milk bottles at the back door of 45 Nimmo Avenue, Perth, the home of Mrs. Monique Wilson.

Windfall for Perth "priestess"

The Isle of Man's self-styled "White Witch," Dr Gerald Brosseau Gardner, who died last month at the age of 80, has left the bulk of his £25,000 estate to Mrs Monique Wilson, of Nimmo Avenue, Perth who claims to be high priestess of a Scottish coven of witches.

A legacy of £3000 goes to another "witch," Mrs Arnold Crowther, of Sheffield.

Yesterday Mrs Wilson and her husband Campbell (40) left Perth for the Isle of Man with their daughter Yvette (8). Mr Wilson was employed as a clerk at the Scottish Gas Board's Friarton depot. He resigned last week.

On the doorstep of their prefab home last night the Wilsons left an old-fashioned broom and an empty bottle marked "Best Toad's Venom." In the garden were the remains of a bonfire, and nearby a discarded cauldron. The caretaker of the housing estate, Mr Sebastian Ramsay, spoke of seeing "skulls and a red-tinted head with horns sticking out of it."

14 March 1964 - At Rosegrove and Brierfield, Lancashire

From the newspaper, Lancashire Telegraph (Blackburn), Saturday, March 14, 1964:

CABARET CLUB Rosegrove / NEW 77 CLUB Brierfield

SUNDAY AND WEEK (Closed Monday)

The Uproarious TV Sensation! Roger Carne & Canasta Ventriloquist Extraordinary

Jimmy Charters The Little Round Comedian

Frank Kesby Dancing Impressionist

Sylvia Astell Sweet Songstress

Mike Wallis Direct from London Cabaret

You Name It --- They Do It ! Pat Dawson & Arnold Crowther

ALSO Special Show, Sunday Lunchtime with Chris Travis and Jimmy Charters

The finest and most inexpensive show in the north

Members and Guests Welcome

Sign up as a member now before we close the book

Be sure of a seat --- Come Mid-Week !

Image of the advertisement:

CABARET CLUB Rosegrove	NEW 77 CLUB Brierfield
SUNDAY AND WEEK (Closed Monday)	
The Uproarious TV Sensation !	
ROGER CARNE & CANASTA	
Ventriloquist Extraordinary	
JIMMY CHARTERS The Little Round Comedian	FRANK KESBY Dancing Impressionist
SYLVIA ATELL Sweet Songstress	MIKE WALLIS Direct from London Cabaret
You Name It——They Do It !	
PAT DAWSON & ARNOLD CROWTHER	
ALSO SPECIAL SHOW, SUNDAY LUNCHTIME with Chris Travis and Jimmy Charters	
THE FINEST AND MOST INEXPENSIVE SHOW IN THE NORTH MEMBERS AND GUESTS WELCOME SIGN UP AS A MEMBER NOW BEFORE WE CLOSE THE BOOK BE SURE OF A SEAT ——— COME MID-WEEK !	

7 May 1964 - At Lancashire

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 07 May 1964:

CALLS FOR NEXT WEEK

Lancashire, Manchester and Northern Club Circuit (Parker Ents. in conj. with T.D.C. Ents.) ---

(among other people listed)


“... Pat Dawson, Arnold Crowther, ...”

13 August 1964 - At Ryde, Isle of Wight

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 13 August 1964:

Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther currently scoring as “Ella Shields” and the “Chairman” in Olde Tyme Music Hall at Warner’s Holiday Camp, Ryde, Isle of Wight. This is proving a very successful year for them, as apart from a full date book, Arnold Crowther’s book for children entitled: “Let’s Put on a Show” was published this week. The book should be a great help for youngsters who want to start in the entertainment business.

Image of the article:



Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther currently scoring as "Ella Shields" and the "Chairman" in Olde Tyme Music Hall at Warner's Holiday Camp, Ryde, Isle of Wight. This is proving a very successful year for them, as apart from a full date book, Arnold Crowther's book for children entitled: "Let's Put on a Show" was published this week. The book should be a great help for youngsters who want to start in the entertainment business.

12 September 1964 - Advertisement for a book

From the newspaper, Bookseller, Saturday 12 September 1964:

from Stanmore Press Ltd

ready in October

(among other books listed)

LET'S PUT ON A SHOW

By Arnold Crowther

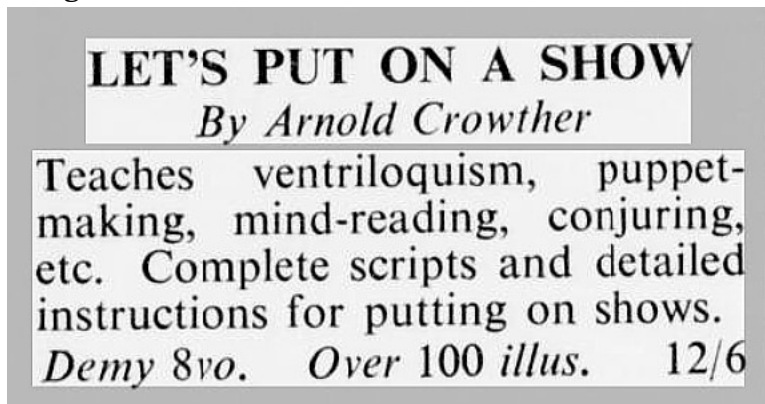
Teaches ventriloquism, puppet-making, mind-reading, conjuring, etc. Complete scripts and detailed instructions for putting on shows.

Demy 8vo. Over 100 illus. 12/6

STANMORE PRESS LTD

25 Thurloe St. London SW 7

Image of the advertisement:



~ 1965

15 July 1965 - At Bracklesham Bay, West Sussex

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 15 July 1965:

CALLS --- continued from page 2

HOLIDAY CAMPS

Pontins (Bracklesham Bay). ---

(among other people listed)

“... Arnold Crowther & Pat Dawson, ...”

22 July 1965 - At Bracklesham Bay, West Sussex

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 22 July 1965:

CALLS --- continued from page 7

HOLIDAY CAMPS

Pontins (Bracklesham Bay). ---

(among other people listed)

“... Arnold Crowther & Pat Dawson, ...”

29 July 1965 - At Bracklesham Bay, West Sussex

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 29 July 1965:

CALLS --- continued from page 15

HOLIDAY CAMPS

Pontins (Bracklesham Bay). ---

(among other people listed)

“... Arnold Crowther & Pat Dawson, ...”

5 August 1965 - At Bracklesham Bay, West Sussex

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 5 August 1965:

CALLS --- continued from page 15

HOLIDAY CAMPS

Pontins (Bracklesham Bay). ---

(among other people listed)

“... Arnold Crowther & Pat Dawson, ...”

2 September 1965 - At Bracklesham Bay, West Sussex

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 2 September 1965:

CALLS --- continued from page 7

HOLIDAY CAMPS

Pontins (Bracklesham Bay). ---

(among other people listed)

“... Arnold Crowther & Pat Dawson, ...”

9 September 1965 - At Bracklesham Bay, West Sussex

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 9 September 1965:

CALLS --- continued from page 7

HOLIDAY CAMPS - continued

Pontins (Bracklesham Bay). ---

(among other people listed)

“... Arnold Crowther & Pat Dawson, ...”

~ 1967

~ 14 September 1967

Arnold Crowther wrote a letter to the editor of a Wolverhampton newspaper concerning an article that he read in an earlier issue.

From the newspaper, Wolverhampton Express and Star, Thursday 14 September 1967:

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Meaning of witchcraft

IN THE article “Devil worship warning” (Express and Star, August 30), Mr. MacCarthy claims to be an authority on witchcraft, yet he has no idea of the dates of the sabbaths, which would be the first thing an authority would know.

The dates he mentions are purely Christian ones and have nothing to do with witches. Neither would they know anything about the devil, as their religion existed centuries before the Church invented Satan. Also most of the church festivals were purely Christianised Pagan festivals.

The old religion was a fertility one and its followers would have no interest in taking life. I suggest our expert should read “The Meaning of Witchcraft,” by Gerald Gardner, or my own book, “The Witches Speak.” He would then learn what witchcraft really is.

A. CROWTHER,
397, City-road,
Sheffield 2.

Image of the article:

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PIXies by Wohl

FRANKLY, CLARENCE...
I THINK SOMEONE'S
TRYING TO CON YOU.



JACK WOHL 5-17
©1967 by United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

~ 18 September 1967

A few days after Arnold Crowther's letter to the editor appeared, there was a critical response to the letter from a person signed as "VULCAN" in a later issue of the newspaper.

From the newspaper, Wolverhampton Express and Star, Monday 18 September 1967:
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Which are witches ?

THE rites of British witchcraft can lay no claim to fabulous antiquity as Arnold Crowther (September 14) implies. It is well known that these rites were written for Gerald B. Gardner (father of modern witchcraft) in 1936, by the famous magician, Aleister Crowley, for X amount of hard cash.

Before this nothing was heard of the so-called witches of England simply because they did not exist.

Mr. Crowther's statement that the Church "invented Satan" is ridiculous. The name Satan has existed in one form or another for 3,000 years or more. The Egyptian "Set" (or Seth), the Arabic Sethan and the Greco-Roman god name Saturn bear witness to this fact.

The eight so-called witch sabbats or sabbaths which Mr. Crowther doubtless refers to are nothing but early, and not so early, pagan festivals: Beltain, Lammas, Rood Mass and Hallowe'en, to mention a few.

The books Mr. Crowther mentions are of a similarly unconvincing nature; in fact, they are quite laughable. They consist mainly of bits and drabs originally cooked up by Crowley. They contain nothing new.

Even the so-called secret names of the modern witch cult's god and goddess are old hat to anyone familiar with mythological studies.

Organised witchcraft consists of one part delusion, one part hysteria and is held together by a hard core of downright childish nonsense.

VULCAN.

Image of the article:

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Organised witchcraft consists of one part delusion, one part hysteria and is held together by a hard core of downright childish nonsense.

VULCAN.

Traffic lights

An *Express* and *Star* September 9 report said a policeman who checked traffic lights found that the minimum phase was 1½sec.—and the maximum 2½sec.

I have long been of the opinion that the amber period is too short. It should be at least 8sec.

N. SIMMONS,
210, Sandwell-street,
Walsall.



WEST MIDLANDS: Mostly intervals, becoming cloudy with light, becoming moderate or heavy maximum 17C. (63F.).

Further outlook: Cloud and showery weather with sunny intervals.

15 December 1967 - At Bakewell, Derbyshire

From the newspaper, Buxton Advertiser, Friday 15 December 1967:

HELP FOR THE UNDERPRIVILEGED

THERE was a good attendance of members with their wives and friends at the annual dinner of Bakewell branch of Toe H, held at the Wheatsheaf Hotel, Bakewell, on Saturday.

The members and visitors were welcomed by Mr. Ernest Williams, Chairman, who referred to the continued success of the branch and said that in the future they proposed to extend their activities and give what aid they could to the under-privileged.

On half of the members, Mr. D. A. Fisher presented a travelling clock to Mr. A. O. Thompson in appreciation of the 13 years' service he gave to the branch as the secretary. Making the presentation, Mr. Fisher said that they all regretted that Mr. Thompson had found it necessary to give up the secretaryship on account of ill health. Mr. Thompson thanked the members for their gift and good wishes.

Ater dinner entertainment was provided by Arnold Crowther and Pat Dawson.

~ 1968

19 January 1968 - At Marton, Lincolnshire

From the newspaper, Retford, Worksop, Isle of Axholme and Gainsborough News - Friday 19 January 1968:

Marton veterans entertained

“The veterans of Marton, near Gainsborough, have been remembered again --- for the 18th year.

Last Saturday 48 of them from Marton and Gate Burton parishes met at the Parish Hall as guests of the Parish Hall and Sports Association at the New Year party.”

(long article not transcribed here)

“After tea, the guests were ably entertained by the skill and versatility of Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther, of Sheffield, with piano and piano-accordion, songs old and new, conjuring and comedy, ventriloquism and puppets, all of which was greatly appreciated by the audience.”

15 August 1968 - At Puckpool, Isle of Wight

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 15 August 1968:

WARNER'S HOLIDAY CAMPS

Attractions

(among listings of other places)

Puckpool Holiday Club: “Puckpool ‘68” with Gus Raymond, Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther.

~ 1969

3 January 1969 - Hewitts Circus, Lincolnshire

From the newspaper, Grimsby Daily Telegraph, Friday 3 January 1969:



Arnold Crowther entertaining children of members of the Eskimo Sports Club, at Hewitts Circus, during their annual Christmas party, held at the club yesterday.

Arnold Crowther entertaining children of members of the Eskimo Sports Club, at Hewitts Circus, during their annual Christmas party, held at the club yesterday.

~ 1970

21 May 1970 - At Brixham, Devonshire

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 21 May 1970:

WARNERS

(among listings of other places)

SOUTH BAY HOLIDAY CAMP

BRIXHAM, DEVON

Manager: M. Forrest.

Entertainers: Arnold Crowther and Pat Dawson.

~ 1974

~ 1 May 1974

Arnold Crowther died suddenly at the age of 64 years on 1 May, 1974.

From the newspaper, The Stage, Thursday 30 May 1974:

Obituary

CROWTHER

ARNOLD CROWTHER the popular and versatile entertainer whose repertoire included "Punch & Judy," Magic, Glove Puppets and other dexterous feats such as Paper Tearing etc, who was for many years part of the act of PAT DAWSON & ARNOLD CROWTHER, died suddenly on May 1, 1974 at the age of 64.

Besides being an entertainer, Arnold Crowther was an author of numerous articles and his published books include: "PUT ON A SHOW" and "TAROT PACK" etc illustrated by himself, for he was an artist and cartoonist of great merit.

Crowther invented many Magic Tricks (he was a Founder Member of "THE MAGIC CIRCLE"): one of his most famous was "Water From The Nile" a "standard" trick these days in the repertoire of many magicians.

His life as a Punch & Judy Man can be read in his autobiography --- as yet unpublished -- entitled "HAND IN GLOVE" --- which he had submitted to RADIO BRISTOL, shortly before his death --- and negotiations are still in hand for it to be serialised.

Arnold Crowther performed before Royalty at Buckingham Palace, and at Chatsworth House for the DUKE & DUCHESS OF DEVONSHIRE. He was the very first magician to do a show in the air --- entertaining troops being flown to North Africa during World War II. He also presented for ENSA his Show "BLACK MAGIC."

Image of the article:

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Many thanks to:

Melissa Seims - for her help in getting some original documents to my attention. She owns a website called 'The Wica' at www.thewica.co.uk.

Scott Bisseker - For the images of the letter from Alex Sanders to Mr. and Mrs. Crowther dated 9 November 1961.

Clive Harper – For the information concerning the Eva Collins who was at the meeting between Crowther, Gardner and Crowley in 1947.

Jimahl Di Fiosa - For some excerpts from his book, A Coin for the Ferryman, 2010.

Professor Ronald Hutton - For some excerpts from his book, Triumph of the Moon, 2019.

Philip Heselton - For his letter to Mike Howard about the 1 May 1947 meeting of Gardner and Crowther to Crowley. Letter dated 29 August 1997.

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220. 1964 Aug 13 - Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther at Ryde, Isle of Wight. The Stage, Thursday 13 August 1964, page 28. British Newspaper Archive, online at www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk. Searched on November 11, 2024 Monday 1:01 AM.
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232. 1968 Aug 15 - Pat Dawson and Arnold Crowther at Puckpool, Isle of Wight - The Stage, Thursday 15 August 1968, page 58. British Newspaper Archive, online at www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk. Searched on November 12, 2024 Tuesday 9:30 PM.
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Part II

The earlier Crowther Family

1st generation

Samuel Crowther

Husband of Lizzie Huckle

Brewer and Commercial Traveler

(Arnold Crowther's Grandfather)

1. SAMUEL CROWTHER

Researching Arnold Crowther's grandfather, Samuel Crowther, is problematic.

According to the 1891 census, Samuel Crowther was born ca 1853 in Doncaster, Yorkshire.

In "Research A" below, it will show that the only Samuel Crowther born around 1853 plus or minus several years in Doncaster was born ca 1854. I also checked census records for the same and there was only one, the same person born ca 1854. But that Samuel Crowther died in 1889 in Doncaster... so he can't be the same Samuel Crowther that was in the 1891 census (Arnold Crowther's grandfather).

So had to junk this research path.

Next, in "Research B" below, I widened the search for a Samuel Crowther that may have been a brewer. And there turned out to be one and he was in Yorkshire also. But he was born in 1849 in Horsforth, Yorkshire and lived in Pudsey, Yorkshire.

He was born to a well to do woollen manufacturing family. In the 1870's, he was in trouble a lot with the law and had a couple of brewing businesses that went bankrupt. He appears to have left his family and disappeared in the 1879 to 1881 period.

Arnold's grandfather first appeared in the records with the 1882 birth of Cecil Crowther (Arnold's father).

Speculations...

So it is possible that the Pudsey Samuel Crowther didn't want to get caught by the law again. As a commercial traveler he probably knew about the person in Doncaster and later used his info. Then went to other parts of England and met Lizzie Huckle. So far, I was not able to find the marriage of Samuel Crowther and Lizzie Huckle. Perhaps they never did, as the Pudsey Samuel Crowther would have been still legally married.

After 1891, Samuel Crowther disappeared (again) and since then Lizzie Crowther and son were alone in the records and I didn't find Samuel Crowther in other records.

Concerning records on the Samuel Crowther that we can connect to being Arnold Crowther's grandfather ...

~ early 1880's

Samuel Crowther went into a relationship with **LIZZIE HUCKLE** by 1882

So far no marriage record was found for them.

Lizzie Crowther was born ca 1859 to 1860 in Bedford, Bedfordshire.

~ 1882

Samuel and Lizzie Crother's son, Cecil, was born on 2 November 1882 at their home at High Steet in Ware, Hertfordshire.

Samuel Crowther's occupation was a Brewer.

~ 1891

In 1891, Samuel and Lizzie Crowther were boarders at 18 Frederick Street in St. Pancras, London.

Samuel Crowther was listed as Export and Commercial Traveler.

From the 1891 census of St. Pancras:

18 Frederick St [----]

Household of William A Gough

Name / Relationship / Marital status / Age & Sex / Profession / Where Born

Samuel Crowther / Boarder / M / 38 M / [-----] Export & Commercial Traveller -
Employed / Yorkshire Doncaster

Lizzie Crowther / Boarder / M / 32 F / ----- / Beds Bedford

Cecil Crowther / Boarder / S / 8 M / ----- / Herts Ware

After this 1891 census, Samuel Crowther disappears from the records. It is not known what happened to him. Lillie Crowther states she was married in the 1901 and 1911 censuses but he is not found anywhere. In the 1921 census, Lillie states she is a widow. Also after this point Lizzie Crowther started calling herself as Lillie Crowther.

~ 1901

In 1901, Lillie Crowther was living at 56 Longridge Street in Newton, North Manchester, Lancashire.

Lillie Crowther was listed as a Laundress.

From the 1901 census of Newton:

56 Longridge St.

Lillie Crowther / Head / M / 41 F / laundress [----] - Worker / Bedfrds Bedford

Cecil do / Son / S / 18 M / [-----] / Hertfrds Ware

Joseph Hulu Machin / Boarder / S / 44 M / Printers Agent - own account / Staffs Longton

~ 1911

In 1911, Lilley Crowther, age 51 years, was a visitor in the home of William and Elizabeth McGaw's place at 8 Station Road in Openshaw a suburb of Manchester, Lancashire.

The McGaws were her son's father and mother in laws.

From the 1911 census of Openshaw, Manchester:

Number of Schedule - 94

Number of Rooms in this Dwelling - 6 rooms

Postal Address - M^r. M^cGaw 8 Station Road Openshaw

Name / Relationship / Age & Sex / Marital status / Years married / Children born alive / Children living / Children died / Profession

William M^cGaw / Head / 64 M / Married / 11 / 3 / 1 / 2 / [Credut?] Draper / Kirkmaiden Wigtonshire

Elizabeth M^cGaw / Wife / 48 F / " / --- / --- / --- / --- / ----- / Sutton near St Ellens Lancashire

David M^cGaw / Son / 8 M / Single / --- / --- / --- / --- / ----- / Ardwick Manchester

Mary Ellen Crowther / daughter / 28 F / Married / 5 / 2 / 2 / --- / ----- / Kirkmaiden Wigtonshire Scotland

Norman Cicel Crowther / Grandson / 17 mos M / ----- / --- / --- / --- / --- / ----- /
Chatham Kent

Arnold William Crowther / Grandson / 17 mos M / ----- / --- / --- / --- / --- / ----- /
Chatham Kent

Lilley Crowther / Visitor / 51 F / Married / 30 / 1 / 1 / --- / Bedford Town

Image of part of the census:

	1.	2.	3.	4.
1	William McGaw	Head	64	
2	Elizabeth McGaw	wife		68
3	David McGaw	Son	8	
4	Mary Ellen Crowther	daughter		28
5	Norman Cicel Crowther	Grandson	17 Mo	17 months
6	Arnold William Crowther	Grandson	17 Mo	17 months
7	Lilley Crowther	Visitor		51
8				

~ 1921

In 1921, Lillie Crowther, age 61, was living with her son's family at [40?] Merton Road in Wimbledon, Surrey.

From the 1921 census of Wimbledon:

No. of Schedule - 45

Signature - Cecil Crowther

Postal Address - [4?]0 Merton Rd

Name / Relationship / Age, Years - Months / Sex / Marital status or whether parents
alive or dead / Birthplace / School / Profession / Question to Married Men, Number of
children under age 16 / " " " " , Age at last birthday

Cecil Crowther / Head / 38 - 7 / M / Married / Ware Hertfordshire / ----- / Sight

Testing Optician - Own Account - 8, St. Georges Rd. Wimbledon / 2 / 11

Mary Helen Crowther / Wife / 38 - 8 / F / Married / Kirkmaiden Wigtownshire / ----- /
Home duties - At home

Norman Cecil Crowther / Son / 11 - 8 / M / Both Alive / Chatham Kent / Whole time / --
----- /

Arnold William Crowther / Son / 11 - 8 / M / Both Alive / Chatham Kent / Whole time / ----- /

Lillie Crowther / Mother / 61 - 8 / F / Widowed / Bedford Bedfordshire / ----- / Home duties - At home

Image of part of the record:

	(a)	(b)	(c) years. months.	(d)	(e)	(f)
1	Cecil Crowther	Head	38 7	M	Married	Ware Hertfordshire
2	Mary Helen Crowther	Wife	38 8	F	Married	Wotton Hertfordshire
3	Norman Cecil Crowther	Son	11 8	M	Both Alive	Chatham Kent
4	Arnold William Crowther	Son	11 8	M	Both Alive	Chatham Kent
5	Lillie Crowther	Mother	61 8	F	Widowed	Bedford Bedfordshire

~ 1935

Lillie Crowther died at the age of 75 in the 2nd quarter (Apr-May-Jun) of 1935 in the Surrey North Eastern registration district of Surrey.

From the England & Wales, Death Index:

Name / Age / Death Date / Registration District / County / Vol. / Page

Lillie Crowther / 75 / Apr-May-Jun 1935 / Surrey North Eastern / Surrey / 2a / 93

Children of Samuel and Lizzie (Huckle) Crowther

2. + **CECIL CROWTHER** was born on 2 November 1882 at High Steet in Ware, Hertfordshire.

Cecil Crowther married Mary Helen McGaw.

Sources:

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2. 1891 census of England, London, St Pancras, Gray, District 14, image 32, online at Ancestry.com. Public Record Office reference RG 12/125, original page no. 31, stamped page no. 49. No. of Schedule 257, Samuel Crowther and family as boarders in the household of William A Gough. Searched on January 14, 2023 Saturday 12:18 AM.
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4. 1911 census of England, online at Ancestry.com. Lancashire, South Manchester, Ardwick, 44, images 188 & 189 No. of Registration District 464, No. of Registration Sub-District 2, No. of Enumeration District 44. No. of Schedule 94, the Crowther family in the household of William McGaw. Searched on January 1, 2023 Sunday 2:00 AM.
5. 1921 Census Of England & Wales, online at Findmypast.com. Registration District: Kingston 40, Registration Sub-District: Wimbledon 40/1, Enumeration District: 23. No. of Schedule 45, household of Cecil Crowther. Searched on January 1, 2023 Sunday - New Years Day.
6. 1935 death of Lillie Crowther in the index. England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916-2007, online at Ancestry.com. Age: 75; Death Date: Apr-May-Jun 1935; Registration District: Surrey North Eastern; County: Surrey; Vol.: 2a; Page: 93. Searched on January 15, 2023 Sunday 1:18 AM.

* * * * *

Research notes:

Research A

There was one Samuel Crowther born ca 1854 in Doncaster, Yorkshire, England and was baptized on 9 July 1854 in St. George church in Doncaster. He was a son of William Crowther and his wife Charlotte Lamprey.

Samuel was listed with the family at Doncaster in the 1861, 1871 and 1881 censuses.

In the 1871 and 1881 censuses, Samuel Crowther's occupation was listed as a whitesmith. According to the death index, there is a Samuel Crowther who died at age 35 in the 4th quarter (Oct-Nov-Dec) of 1889 in the Doncaster registration district.

He died two years before the 1891 census which has Lizzie and Samuel Crowther in St. Pancras, London.

So the Samuel Crowther of Doncaster is not our guy.

Then had to junk this research path.

Research B

So what I did next was to widen the search for a Samuel Crowther that may have been a brewer. And there turned out to be one and he was in Yorkshire also. But he was born in Horsforth, Yorkshire and lived in Pudsey, Yorkshire.

Speculations...

Could he be the same Samuel Crowther that was Arnold Crowther's grandfather ?

As you will see, this Samuel Crowther had some trouble with the law with failed businesses and left his wife and children. So he may wanted to avoid getting caught. Perhaps as a commercial traveler, he met this other Samuel Crowther born in Doncaster and later use his info.

But because we only have Arnold Crowther's grandfather in just two records before he disappeared (again), I do not have enough evidence yet to say that this was the same person.

Samuel Crowther was born in Horsforth, Yorkshire and baptized on 19 August 1849 at St. James church in Woodside, Yorkshire.

He was a son of John and Ann Crowther of Pudsey, Yorkshire. The father was in the Woollen manufacturing business employing many workers.

~ 19 August 1849

From the baptism records of St. James, Woodside:

Baptisms 1849 - Page 9 No. 70

When Baptized. / Child's name. / Parent's names. / Surname. / Abode. / Profession. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.

1849 Aug 19 / Samuel / John & Ann / Crowther / Pudsey / Cloth Manufacturer / G R Bluet

~ the night of the 30th to 31st of March 1851

Samuel, age 1, was living with his parents, John and Ann Crowther at the Prospect House in Pudsey, Yorkshire.

His father was a manufacturer of Woolens.

From the 1851 census of Pudsey:

Name / Relationship / Marital status / Age & Sex / Profession / Where Born

Prospect House 1087

John Crowther / Head / Mar / 35 M / Manufacturer Woolens / Yorkshire Pudsey

Ann D^o / Wife / Mar / 25 F / ----- / D^o Horsforth

Samuel D^o / Son / ---- / 1 M / ----- / D^o D^o

Sarah Busfield / Servant / U / 17 F / ----- / D^o Forsley

~ the night of the 7th to 8th of April 1861

Samuel, age 11, was living with his parents, John and Ann Crowther at the Prospect House on Littlemoor (Road) in Pudsey, Yorkshire.

His father was a Mill Owner and Cloth Manufacturer employing 267 hands.

From the 1861 census of Pudsey:

Name / Relationship / Marital status / Age & Sex / Profession / Where Born

Littlemoor Prospect House

John Crowther / Head / Mar / 45 M / Mill Owner & Cloth Manufacturing Employing 267 Hands / Pudsey Yks

Anne Do / Wife / Mar / 35 F / ----- / Horsforth “

Samuel Do / Son / --- / 11 M / Scholar / Do “

John Ben Do / Son / --- / 5 M / Do / Pudsey “

Sarah E Do / Daur / --- / 3 F / Do / Do “

Sarah Ann Britton / Servant / Un / 28 F / House Servant / Woodlesford “

~ the night of the 2nd to 3rd of April 1871

Samuel, age 21, was living with his mother, Ann Crowther, at Littlemoor in Pudsey, Yorkshire.

Samuel Crowther was a Wool Mill Owner.

From the 1871 census of Pudsey:

Name / Relationship / Marital status / Age & Sex / Profession / Where Born

Littlemoor

Ann Crowther / Head / W / 44 F / Gentle Woman / Yorkshire Horsforth

Samuel Crowther / Son / Unm / 21 M / Wool Mill Owner / Do Do

John B. Do / Son / Unm / 15 M / ----- / Do Do

~ 17 February 1872

Samuel Crowther was arrested and charged with forgery in Leeds, Yorkshire.

From the newspaper, The Huddersfield Chronicle ... Saturday, February 17, 1872:

Miscellaneous News and Some Gossip.

Mr. Samuel Crowther, gentleman, of Pudsey, was apprehended on Thursday, at Leeds, on a charge of forgery upon Messrs. Beckett's Bank, for £459.

~ 17 February 1872

More about the forgery case of Samuel Crowther of Pudsey, Yorkshire.

From the newspaper, The Leeds Mercury, Saturday, February 17, 1872:

A PUDSEY MANUFACTURER CHARGED WITH FORGERY.

Samuel Crowther (23), a woollen manufacturer, carrying on business at Pudsey, was yesterday charged before Mr. Bruce, at the Leeds Police-court, with uttering a forged bill of exchange for £489 15s., on Messrs. Beckett and Company. --- Mr. Braithwaite prosecuted; and Mr. Malcolm appeared for the prisoner. --- Mr. Braithwaite in stating the case said the prisoner had kept an account at the bank of the Messrs. Beckett. During the present month he had paid in three bills of exchange, amounting altogether to £1,320. Inquiries were made on the part of the Messrs. Beckett, which satisfied them that the bills were forgeries, and the result was the apprehension of the prisoner. It was upon the bill last given in that the charge was laid. --- The first witness called was George Cuff Travis, clerk to Messrs. Beckett and Company. He stated that on the 3rd inst. he received from the prisoner a bill of exchange for £327 10s., drawn upon "S. Paterson, Newcastle." On the 13th he received two other bills from the prisoner. One was for £509 6s. 3d., and was drawn on "Mr. Stone, Manchester;" and the other was for £483 15s., and was drawn upon "Thomas James Watson, Bradford." The last-mentioned bill was dated Feb. 9. --- Charles Foster said he was cashier at the bank. On the 14th a cheque for £1,000 was presented for payment. It was signed Sam. Crowther, was dated Feb. 12, and was made payable to "self or bearer." The cheque was sent in through the Bank of England. In cross-examination witness stated that the prisoner's account with the bank had extended from June last. He could not say whether the account was opened as a secured account or not. --- Emerson Crawford, head clerk with Messrs. Beckett, said he had made inquiries at the Bradford banks, and at the Post-office in that town, as to the existence of Thomas James Watson, but could not find such a person. --- Cross-examined: Left Leeds by eleven o'clock train, and returned at ten minutes to one. The prisoner's account had been generally overdrawn. There was an equitable deposit on his account for, he thought, £600. --- Re-examined: At the time of the presentation of the cheque the prisoner's account had been overdrawn, exclusive of the two last bills. --- Henry Stables said he had acted as foreman in the employment of the prisoner. The words on the bill produced -- "At Messrs. Williams, Deacon, and Company, bankers, London, Thomas James Watson" --- were written by witness at the instruction of the prisoner. The prisoner told witness that he had to go to Loudon, and had not time to write himself. He copied the names from a piece of paper given him by

the prisoner. Witness had never seen a bill of exchange before. --- No other witness was called, and Mr. Malcolm said he did not think there was a case to convict. ---Mr. Bruce thought a case had been made out for committal. --- Mr. Malcolm: The offence itself is not actually committed by the prisoner. --- Mr. Bruce said that if Stables was an innocent agent, it was exactly the same thing as if the prisoner had taken his hand and guided it. --- Mr. Malcolm did not think he could persuade his Worship that there was no case for committal. --- Mr. Bruce said the evidence as to the non-existence of Thomas James Watson was not sufficient. A man who lived at Bradford ought to be called. --- Mr. Braithwaite said he was prepared to take the case as it stood. --- The prisoner was then committed for trial at the assizes. --- An application was made that the prisoner be admitted to bail, and no objection was offered by the prosecution. --- Mr. Bruce said that as the responsibility had thus been thrown upon him, he would consider the application, and give his decision to-day.

~ 27 March 1872

Samuel Crowther pleaded guilty to feloniously forging.

From the newspaper, The Leeds Mercury, Wednesday, March 27, 1872:

FORGERY AT LEEDS.

SAMUEL CROWTHER (23) pleaded Guilty to an indictment charging him with feloniously forging and uttering the acceptance of Thomas J. Watson to a bill of exchange for the sum of £489 15s., at Leeds, on the 13th February. --- Mr. Foster stated that the bill purported to be drawn by the prisoner and accepted by Thos. J. Watson, of Bradford, but there was no such person as Watson. This bill, which was made payable at Messrs. Williams, Deacon, and Co.'s bank, London, was handed in to Messrs. Beckett's bank, Leeds. He was instructed on behalf of the prosecution to say that the prisoner had ample means, and that there was no reason whatever for resorting to this course, which seemed to have been an ill-considered act on the part of the prisoner. A letter was handed up to his Lordship, in which the Messrs. Beckett recommended the prisoner to mercy. --- The Judge: I see he is described in the calendar as a manufacturer and as a person of good education. --- Mr. Waddy said that at the time the offence was committed the prisoner was in the possession of real property of the value of from £7,000 to £8,000, and was a person of good credit, good reputation, and good family. Mr. Goddard, the gentlemen in order to pay whom this money was obtained, would give the prisoner a good character, and say it was a stupid thing for the prisoner to do, as he would have lent him £1,000 himself had it been necessary. What the prisoner did was that he had to go away to the London wool sales, and not having time to get the money ready, he, in the hurry of leaving, forged this bill, and handed it into the bank, expecting that he would be able to meet it long before the time at which it was due. Unfortunately for him the thing was discovered at once, and the bank took proceedings against him. He had a certificate signed by two or three justices, the incumbent of Pudsey, and other

gentlemen of influence and position in the county, as to the prisoner's character. Mr. Varley was present, and he would also say what sort of reputation the young man had borne. --- Mr. Goddard, woolstapler, Bradford, and Mr. Richard Varley, drysalter, Leeds, gave evidence as to the excellent character the prisoner had hitherto borne. The former said that on the prisoner attaining the age of twenty-one he came into possession of property worth between £6,000 and £7,000, after all his debts were paid. The prisoner had this property at the time he paid the bill into the bank, and £4,000 or £5,000 might have been raised upon it in half-an-hour. Prisoner had been in business only seven mouths. --- Sentence was deferred.

~ 1 April 1872

In a newspaper dated 2 January 1873, there was a listing of events for the year 1872. Samuel Crowther was sentenced to imprisonment for a year.

From the newspaper, The Bradford Observer, Thursday, January 2, 1873:

CHRONICLE FOR 1872.

APRIL.

1. Monday. Samuel Crowther, a Pudsey manufacturer, sentenced at Leeds Assizes to one year's imprisonment for forging a bill of exchange.

~ 8 August 1873

Samuel Crowther of Pudsey was charged with keeping an unlicensed horse.

From the newspaper, The Bradford Observer, Friday, August 8, 1873:

EXCISE PROSECUTIONS. --- At the Bradford West Riding Police Court, yesterday, before Colonel Pollard, Mr. T. Horsfall and the Rev. W. L. Howarth, Mr. Roberts, supervisor of excise, appeared and preferred charges of breaches of the Excise Laws. --- (among other cases)

Samuel Crowther, Pudsey, was charged with keeping an unlicensed horse for use on the 14th July. The officer proved that he saw the horse drawing a carriage in which the defendant and his sister was sitting. The license was not taken out till the 8th of July. It was contended for the defence that the horse was only four years old, and was only put in harness to see whether it was fit for work; and further that when it was found to work a license was taken out. The case was dismissed.

~ 8 September 1874

Mr. Samuel Crowther submitted the plan of a brewery.

From the newspaper, The Bradford Observer, Tuesday, September 8, 1874:

LOCAL BOARDS.

“PUDSEY. --- The Monthly meeting of this Board was held last evening, ...”

(long article not transcribed here)

“Mr. Samuel Crowther submitted the plan of a brewery, which had been returned to show the footpath and the adjoining property.”

~ 12 April 1875

The contents of the Star Brewery in Pudsey being sold by auction.

From the newspaper, The Bradford Observer, Monday, April 12, 1875:

To be Sold by Auction.

Star Brewery, Pudsey.

To Brewers, Innkeepers, and Others.

Messrs. WHALLEY & SON will Sell by Auction, on Friday, the 16th of April, 1875, at the Star Brewery, Bottom of Roker Lane, Pudsey, The Brewing Plant, Stock, &c., consisting of one large wrought-iron brewing pan and fittings, oak mash and working tubs, patent copper refrigerator, iron coolers, lead piping and brass taps, barrels of various sizes, bottles, bottled and draught ale and porter, two good carts, and a variety of other effects used in the trade.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock in the Forenoon.

Auctioneers' Office, 16, Union Passage, Bradford.

~ 27 May 1875

A petition for liquidation was filed concerning Samiel Crowther and his Star Brewery.

From the newspaper, Manchester Evening News, Thursday, May 27, 1875:

A petition [sic] for liquidation has been filed in the Bradford County Court by Samuel Crowther, trading under the name of the Star Brewery Company Roker-lane, Pudsey, but the amount of the liabilities is not stated.

~ 26 June 1875

Sanuel Crowther, of Pudsey, brewer charged with perjury.

From the newspapers, Sheffield and Rotherham Independent, Saturday, June 26, 1875:

A Pudsey Brewer Charged with Perjury.

--- At the Bradford Borough Police Court, on Wednesday, Samuel Crowther (28), brewer, Pudsey, was charged with committing perjury. --- Mr. Rennolls stated that the prisoner had until recently carried on business as a brewer and spirit merchant at Lowtown, Pudsey, and had connections at Bradford, Saltaire, and elsewhere. In March last it was known that the prisoner was considerably involved in debt. On the 9th April

last, the prosecutor, who was a creditor for work done, filed a petition against the prisoner in the Bradford County Court. That petition was fought by the prisoner, who filed affidavit on 13th April, one paragraph of which the prosecutor considered to be grossly untrue, and constituted the perjury with which the prisoner was charged. That paragraph was the 12th, and in it the prisoner swore --- "I say that I am possessed of property worth, at a very reasonable calculation, £8000 or £9000, always deducting all encumbrances thereon; and that the total amount of my other liabilities does not exceed £800." The Registrar heard the case, and having regard to the fact that he had such large assets, he dismissed the petition. On the 25th May --- the following month --- Mr. Crowther filed his petition in liquidation. In that petition he stated that he was unable to pay his debts, which he estimated at £8600. On Monday week, at a meeting of his creditors, the statement of affairs showed that, the debt were £9949. 17s --- Remanded.

~ 20 May 1876

Samuel Crowther, brewer, of Pudsey, was charged with assaulting bailiffs.

From the newspapers, The Leeds Mercury, Saturday, May 20, 1876:

Assaulting Bradford County Court Bailiffs. --- On Monday, at the West Riding Court, Bradford, Samuel Crowther, brewer, of Pudsey, was charged with assaulting Benjamin Sharp and Edward Frost, bailiffs of the Bradford County Court. Sharp, who is an assistant, was sent by Mr. Woodhead, the High Bailiff, with warrants to enter the defendant's house. The bailiff could not get in on Thursday, and on Friday he returned to the charge, disguised as a rag and bone dealer, managed to effect an entry, and said he was a bailiff. The defendant, however, seized him by the neck and threw him out, Sharp's elbows being peeled in the operation. Sharp had eight warrants with him. --- Mr. Woodhead said the defendant had promised to behave himself and allow the bailiffs to be in peaceable possession. An entry was effected on Friday, and Joseph Stead, a bailiff, was left in possession. The defendant came home drunk at a late hour, smashed a lot of plates, threw a pitcher at Stead, and pitched a quantity of provisions into the fire. --- Evidence having been given by Frost, Mr. Rennalls, for the defendant, admitted that his client had thrown Sharp out of the house, believing that he was a rag and bone dealer who had rudely thrust his way into the house. He called Ellis Estron and Simon Ibbetson for the defence. ---Mr. Pollard said the cases were distinctly prayed. The defendant would be fined £2 10s. in each case, inclusive of costs, or two months in each case in default of payment.

~ 23 March 1878

Samuel Crowther went bankrupt again, this time as a brewer at the Globe Inn in Scarborough. Yorkshire.

From the newspaper, Sheffield and Rotherham Independent, Saturday, March 23, 1878:

BANKRUPTS, &c.

[From Friday Night's "Gazette."]

Bankrupts.

(among other cases)

Samuel Crowther, late of Pudsey, common brewer, but now of Old Globe Inn, Globe street, Scarbro', common brewer.

~ on the night of the 3rd and 4th of April 1881

Helena Crowther and two of her children, John P. and Thomas J. Crowther were living at 25 Woodhouse Cliff in Leeds, Yorkshire.

From the 1881 census of Leeds:

Name / Relationship / Marital status / Age & Sex / Profession / Where Born

25 Woodhouse Cliff

Helena Crowther / Wife / mar. / 26 F / ----- / Yorkshire Wakefield

John P. do. / Son / ---- / 3 M / ----- / Do Scarbro'

Thomas J. do. / Son / ---- / 1 M / ----- / Do Wakefield

And Helena Crowther's other child, Samuel Herbert Crowther, was living with his grandmother, Ann Crowther, at Littlemoor Road in Pudsey, Yorkshire.

From the 1881 census of Pudsey:

Name / Relationship / Marital status / Age & Sex / Profession / Where Born

Littlemoor Road

Ann Crowther / Head / Widow / 55 F / Woollen Scribblers employing 77 hands / Yorks Horsforth

John Ben Crowther / Son / unkm / 25 M / Landed Proprietor / " Pudsey

Sarah Edith Crowther / Dau / unkm / 23 F / ----- / " "

Heilda J. A. Crowther / Grand Dau / ---- / 6 F / ----- / " "

Samuel Herbert Crowther / Grand Son / ---- / 2 M / ----- / " Wakefield

Samuel Crowther was not found in the 1881 census.

So it can be between 1879 when the 3rd child was born and 1881 when Samuel Crowther disappeared from this family.

~ 24 October 1883

The family woollen manufacturing business in Pudsey, Yorkshire failed.

From the newspaper, Manchester Courier and ... Wednesday, October 24, 1883:

FAILURE OF WOOLLEN MERCHANTS.

A petition for liquidation has been filed in the Bradford County-court on behalf of Ann Crowther, Sam Stables, and Henry Stables, trading at Pudsey as woollen manufacturers, under the style of John Crowther and Co. The liabilities are estimated at £5,600.

~ 27 October 1883

Another article on the family woollen manufacturing business in Pudsey, Yorkshire failed.

From the newspaper, Liverpool Mercury, etc., Saturday, October 27, 1883:

Ann Crowther (widow), Sam Stables, and Henry Stables, all of Littlemore, Pudsey, Calverley, Yorkshire, and trading in co-partnership as John Crowther and Co., at the Union Bridge Mills, Roker-lane, Pudsey aforesaid, manufacturers; also separate estates of A. Crowther, S. Stables, and H. Stables.

~ on the night of the 5th and 6th of April 1891

Helena Crowther was living at her sister in law's place at Snowdrop Cottage in Wakefield, Yorkshire.

Helena was a barmaid at an Inn.

From the 1891 census of Wakefield:

Snowdrop Cottage

Mary Ann Widdop / Head / Wid / 48 F / Dressmaker – Neither Employer nor Employed / Devon Denbury

Bertha D^o / Daur / S / 12 F / Scholar / Yorkshire Wakefield

Helena Crowther / Sister in law / M / 30 F / Barmaid Inn - Employed / D^o D^o

Also one of Helena's children, Samuel H. Crowther, was living at his grandmother, Ann Crowther's place at Littlemoor Road in Pudsey, Yorkshire.

From the 1891 census of Pudsey:

Littlemoor Rd (Springfield House)

Ann Crowther / Head / Wid / 64 F / Living on her own means / Yorks Horsforth

S. Edith do / daur / S / 33 F / do / do Pudsey

H Eva R. do / Grand daur / S / 16 F / ----- / do do
Samuel H. do / do Son / S / 12 M / Scholar / do Wakefield

Helena's other two children, John P. and Thomas J. Crowther, in the early 1900's went and settled in Canada.

One of those sons had a son named Cecil Crowther. Was it a coincidence or did they know about their half-brother, Cecil Crowther, and named it after him ?

Children of Samuel and Helena (Widdop) Crowther

- a. John P. Crowther
- b. Samuel Herbert Crowther
- c. Thomas J. Crowther

Sources concerning the Samuel Crowther of Pudsey, Yorkshire:

1. 1849 baptism of Samuel Crowther. West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1910, Woodside, St James, 1849, image no. 2. Online at Ancestry.com. Baptisms 1849 - Page 9 No. 70. Searched on November 2, 2024 Saturday 12:50 AM.
2. 1851 census of England, Yorkshire, Pudsey, ALL, 10, image no. 15, online at Ancestry.com. Public Record Office reference H.O. 107/2313, original page no. 14, stamped page no. 319. Householder's schedule no. 54, household of John Crowther. Searched on September 29, 2024 Sunday 10:24 PM.
3. 1861 census of England, Yorkshire, Pudsey, ALL, District 11, image no. 25, online at Ancestry.com. Public Record Office reference R.G. 9/3347, original page no. 21, stamped page no. 31. No. of Schedule 85, household of John Crowther. Searched on September 30, 2024 Monday 12:08 AM.
4. 1871 census of England, Yorkshire, Pudsey, ALL, 12, image no. 10, online at Ancestry.com. Public Record Office reference R. G. 10/4507, original page no. 9, stamped page no. 88. No. of Schedule 42, household of Ann Crowther. Searched on October 1, 2024 Tuesday 1:07 AM.
5. 1872 Samuel Crowther was arrested and charged with forgery in Leeds, Yorkshire. The Huddersfield Chronicle and West Yorkshire Advertiser, Sat, Feb 17, 1872, page 3. Online at Newspapers.com. Searched on October 8, 2024 Tuesday 1:48 AM.
6. 1872 More about the forgery case of Samuel Crowther of Pudsey, Yorkshire. The Leeds Mercury, Sat, Feb 17, 1872. page 8. Online at Newspapers.com. Searched on October 9, 2024 Wednesday 12:19 AM.
7. 1872 Samuel Crowther pleaded guilty to feloniously forging. The Leeds Mercury, Wed, Mar 27, 1872, page 4. Online at Newspapers.com. Searched on October 8, 2024 Tuesday 12:43 AM.
8. 1872 (in a 1873 newspaper) Samuel Crowther was sentenced to imprisonment for a year. The Bradford Observer, Thu, Jan 02, 1873, page 6. Online at Newspapers.com. Searched on October 8, 2024 Tuesday 12:00 AM.
9. 1873 Samuel Crowther, Pudsey, was charged with keeping an unlicensed horse. The Bradford Observer, Fri, Aug 8, 1873. page 3. Online at Newspapers.com. Searched on October 5, 2024 Saturday 10:15 PM.

10. 1874 Mr. Samuel Crowther submitted the plan of a brewery. The Bradford Observer, Tue, Sep 08, 1874, page 3. Online at Newspapers.com. Searched on October 8, 2024 Tuesday 12:00 AM.
11. 1875 The contents of the Star Brewery in Pudsey being sold by auction. The Bradford Observer, Mon, Apr 12, 1875, page 1. Online at Newspapers.com. Searched on October 7, 2024 Monday 11:35 PM.
12. 1875 A petition for liquidation was filed concerning Samiel Crowther and his Star Brewery. Manchester Evening News, Thu, May 27, 1875, page 3. Online at Newspapers.com. Searched on October 12, 2024 Saturday 1:57 AM.
13. 1875 Sanuel Crowther, of Pudsey, brewer charged with perjury. Sheffield and Rotherham Independent, Sat, Jun 26, 1875, page 10. Online at Newspapers.com. Searched on November 1, 2024 Friday 11:24 PM.
14. 1876 Samuel Crowther, brewer, of Pudsey, was charged with assaulting bailiffs. The Leeds Mercury, Sat, May 20, 1876, Page 13. Online at Newspapers.com. Searched on October 12, 2024 Saturday 1:57 AM.
15. 1878 Samuel Crowther, brewer, of the Globe Inn, bankrupt. Sheffield and Rotherham Independent, Sat, Mar 23, 1878, page 7. Online at Newspaper.com. Searched on October 5, 2024 Saturday 10:40 PM.
16. 1881 census of England, Yorkshire, Leeds, West Leeds, District 39, image no. 28, online at Ancestry.com. Public Record Office reference RG 11/4530, original page no. 27, stamped page no. 87. No. of Schedule 134, household of Helena Crowther. Searched on October 1, 2024 Tuesday 10:06 PM.
17. 1881 census of England, Yorkshire, Pudsey, ALL, District 12, image 18, online at Ancestry.com. Public Record Office reference R. G. 11/4483, original page no.17, stamped page no. 32. No. of Schedule 98, household of Ann Crowther. Searched on October 1, 2024 Tuesday 10:35 PM.
18. 1883 The family woolen manufacturing business in Pudsey, Yorkshire failed. Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser, Wed, Oct 24, 1883, page 4. Online at Newspapers.com. Searched on October 9, 2024 Wednesday 1:29 AM.
19. 1883 Another article on the family woolen manufacturing business in Pudsey, Yorkshire failed. Liverpool Mercury, etc., Sat, Oct 27, 1883, page 7. Online at Newspapers.com. Searched on October 9, 2024 Wednesday 1:38 AM.
20. 1891 census of England, Yorkshire, Wakefield, ALL, District 19, image no. 19, online at Ancestry.com. Public Record Office reference RG 12/3750, original page no. 18. No. of Schedule 95, household of Mary Ann Widdop. Searched on October 1, 2024 Tuesday 11:51 PM.
21. 1891 census of England, Yorkshire, Pudsey, ALL, District 12, image no. 16, online at Ancestry.com. Public Record Office reference RG 12/3657, original page no. 15, stamped page no. 45. No. of Schedule 103, household of Ann Crowther. Searched on October 2, 2024 Wednesday 12:26 AM.

* * * * *

The earlier Crowther Family
2nd generation

Cecil Crowther (1882 - 1958)

Husband of Mary Helen McGaw

Optician

(Arnold Crowther's Father)

2. **CECIL CROWTHER** was born on 2 November 1882 at High Street in Ware, Hertfordshire.

Father: Samuel Crowther (No. 1)

Mother: Lizzie Huckle

~ 1882

From the Birth certificate:

Superintendent Registrar's District – Ware Union

Registrar's Sub-District – Ware

1882. Births in the Sub-District of Ware in the County of Hertford

*No. / When and Where Born. / Name. / Sex / Father's Name. / Mother's Maiden Name.
/ Father's Profession. / Informant. / When Registered. / Signature of Registrar.*

185 / Second November 1882 High Street Ware USD. / Cecil / boy / Samuel Crowther /
Lizzie Crowther formerly Huckle / Brewer / L. Crowther Mother High Street Ware /
Twelfth December 1882 / George Price Registrar

Image of part of the record:

Second November 1882 High Street Ware USD.	Cecil	boy	Samuel Crowther	Lizzie Crowther formerly Huckle
--	-------	-----	--------------------	--

~ 1891

In 1891, Cecil Crowther, age 8, was living with his parents at 18 Frederick Street in St. Pancras, London.

From the 1891 census of St. Pancras:

18 Frederick St [----]

Household of William A Gough

Name / Relationship / Marital status / Age & Sex / Profession / Where Born

Samuel Crowther / Boarder / M / 38 M / [-----] Export & Commercial Traveller -
Employed / Yorkshire Doncaster

Lizzie Crowther / Boarder / M / 32 F / ----- / Beds Bedford

Cecil Crowther / Boarder / S / 8 M / ----- / Herts Ware

~ 1901

In 1901, Cecil Crowther, age 18, was living with his mother at 56 Longridge Street in Newton, North Manchester, Lancashire.

From the 1901 census of Newton:

56 Longridge St.

Lillie Crowther / Head / M / 41 F / laundress [----] - Worker / Bedfrds Bedford

Cecil do / Son / S / 18 M / [-----] / Hertfrds Ware

Joseph Hulu Machin / Boarder / S / 44 M / Printers Agent - own account / Staffs
Longton

~ 1906

Cecil Crowther married **MARY HELEN McGAW** on 14 April 1906 in St. Peter church in Ashton under Lyne, Lancashire.

From the parish register of St. Peter, Ashton under Lyne:

Page 135

1906. Marriage solemnized at St. Peter's Church in the Parish of Ashton under Lyne in the County of Lancaster

No. - 270

When Married. - April 14th 1906

Name. / Age. / Condition. / Profession. / Residence at the time of Marriage. / Father's
Name. / Father's Profession.

Cecil Crowther / 23 / Bachelor / Optician / 240 High Street Rochester / Samuel
Crowther / Traveller

Mary Helen McGaw / 23 / Spinster / ----- / 9 Trafalgar Square / William McGaw / Traveller

Married in the Church of St Peter according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church after Banns by me, H. G. Prescott Curate

This Marriage was solemnized between us, {

Cecil Crowther

Mary Helen McGaw

in the Presence of us, {

William Boardman

Edith Wheatcroft

Image of part of the record:

1	2	3	4	5
When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.
April 14 th	Cecil Crowther	23	Bachelor	Optician
1906	Mary Helen McGaw	23	Spinster	—

Mary Helen McGaw was born 16 September 1882 in Kirkmaiden, Wigtownshire, Scotland.

~ 17 December 1910

An advertisement of Cecil Crowther's business that came out before Christmas.

From the newspaper, Wimbledon News, Saturday 17 December 1910:

Concerning Presents.

Has it ever occurred to you what a suitable gift a pair of Spectacles or eyeglass make? There is nothing that can be more acceptable or better appreciated than good vision or relief from eyestrain.

We are Specialists in Dainty Rimless Eye-wear

Accuracy in Sight-testing. Perfection in fitting and Moderation in Price are the distinctive features of our work.

For convenience in giving Spectacles as Christmas Presents, we will fit temporary lenses to any style of mounting selected, afterwards testing the recipients' eyes and making the necessary alterations, without extra charge.

CECIL CROWTHER, D.B.O.A., Eyesight and Spectacle Specialist, 5, St. George's Rd., Wimbledon.

Image of the advertisement:

Concerning Presents.

Has it ever occurred to you what a suitable gift a pair of Spectacles or eyeglass make? There is nothing that can be more acceptable or better appreciated than good vision or the relief from eye-strain.

**We are Specialists in
DAINTY RIMLESS EYE-WEAR**

Accuracy in Sight-testing, Perfection in fitting and Moderation in Price are the distinctive features of our work.

For convenience in giving Spectacles as Christmas Presents, we will fit temporary lenses to any style of mounting selected, afterwards testing the recipients' eyes and making the necessary alterations, without extra charge.

CECIL CROWTHER,
D.B.O.A.,
Eyesight and Spectacle Specialist,
5, St. George's Rd., Wimbledon.

~ 24 January 1911

Another advertisement for Cecil Crowther's business.

From the newspaper, Croydon Express, Saturday 21 January 1911:

DO YOU NEED GLASSES ?

Don't entertain doubts on matters pertaining to ..
DEFECTIVE VISION.

Consult

Cecil Crowther, D.B.O.A. , Eyesight Specialist, Member of the British Optical Association.

5, St. George's Road, Wimbledon (Near Railway Station)

Image of the advertisement:

DO YOU NEED GLASSES?



DON'T ENTERTAIN DOUBTS ON
MATTERS PERTAINING TO . .

DEFECTIVE VISION.

CONSULT

Cecil Crowther,
D.B.O.A.,
EYESIGHT SPECIALIST,
Member of the British Optical Association.

**5, ST. GEORGE'S ROAD,
WIMBLEDON**
(Near Railway Station).

~ 1911

Cecil Crowther was living at 112 Alexander Road in Wimbledon, Surrey.

He was listed as an Ophthalmia Optician.

From the 1911 census of Wimbledon:

No. of Schedule – 205

Number of Rooms in this Dwelling – 6

Signature - Cecil Crowther

Postal Address - 112 Alexander Rd. Wimbledon

Cecil Crowther / Head / 28 M / Married / 5 / 2 / 2 / 0 / Ophthalmia Optician - Own
Account / Hertfordshire Ware / British Sub. by Parentage

William M^c Ghee / Boarder / 22 M / Single / -- / -- / -- / -- / Telegraph Operator -
Worker / Wigtownshire Kirkmaiden / British Sub. by Parentage

Also in 1911, Cecil Crowther's wife and children were living at his father in law's place at
8 Station Road in Openshaw a suburb of Manchester, Lancashire.

From the 1911 census of Openshaw, Manchester:

Number of Schedule - 94

Number of Rooms in this Dwelling - 6 rooms

Postal Address - M^r. M^cGaw 8 Station Road Openshaw

*Name / Relationship / Age & Sex / Marital status / Years married / Children born
alive / Children living / Children died / Profession*

William M^cGaw / Head / 64 M / Married / 11 / 3 / 1 / 2 / [Credut?] Draper /
Kirkmaiden Wigtonshire

Elizabeth M^cGaw / Wife / 48 F / " / --- / --- / --- / --- / ----- / Sutton near St
Ellens Lancashire

David M^cGaw / Son / 8 M / Single / --- / --- / --- / --- / ----- / Ardwick
Manchester

Mary Ellen Crowther / daughter / 28 F / Married / 5 / 2 / 2 / --- / ----- /
Kirkmaiden Wigtonshire Scotland

Norman Cicel Crowther / Grandson / 17 mos M / ----- / --- / --- / --- / --- / ----- /
Chatham Kent

Arnold William Crowther / Grandson / 17 mos M / ----- / --- / --- / --- / --- / ----- /
Chatham Kent

Lilley Crowther / Visitor / 51 F / Married / 30 / 1 / 1 / --- / Bedford Town

Image of part of the census:

	1.	2.	3.	4.
1	William McGowan	Head	64	
2	Elizabeth McGowan	wife		68
3	David McGowan	Son	8	
4	Mary Ellen Crowther	daughter		28
5	Norman Cecil Crowther	Grandson	17 Mo	Hand
6	Arnold William Crowther	Grandson	17 Mo	Hand
7	Lillie Crowther	Daughter		57
8				

~ 1921

In 1921, Cecil and Mary Helen Crowther, were living at [40?] Merton Road in Wimbledon, Surrey.

Cecil Crowther was listed as a Sight Testing Optician.

From the 1921 census of Wimbledon:

No. of Schedule - 45

Signature - Cecil Crowther

Postal Address - [4?]o Merton Rd

Name / Relationship / Age, Years - Months / Sex / Marital status or whether parents alive or dead / Birthplace / School / Profession / Question to Married Men, Number of children under age 16 / " " " ", Age at last birthday

Cecil Crowther / Head / 38 - 7 / M / Married / Ware Hertfordshire / ----- / Sight

Testing Optician - Own Account - 8, St. Georges Rd. Wimbledon / 2 / 11

Mary Helen Crowther / Wife / 38 - 8 / F / Married / Kirkmaiden Wigtownshire / ----- / Home duties - At home

Norman Cecil Crowther / Son / 11 - 8 / M / Both Alive / Chatham Kent / Whole time / --
----- /

Arnold William Crowther / Son / 11 - 8 / M / Both Alive / Chatham Kent / Whole time /
----- /

Lillie Crowther / Mother / 61 - 8 / F / Widowed / Bedford Bedfordshire / ----- / Home
duties - At home

Image of part of the record:

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
			years. months.			
1	Cecil Crowther	Head	38 7	M	Married	Ware Hertfordshire
2	Mary Helen Crowther	Wife	38 8	F	Married	Hertfordshire Wigborough
3	Norman Cecil Crowther	Son	11 8	M	Both Alive	Chatham Kent
4	Arnold William Crowther	Son	11 8	M	Both Alive	Chatham Kent
5	Lillie Crowther	Mother	61 8	F	Widowed	Beeford Bedfordshire

~ 1939

Cecil and Mary Crowther were living at 4 Barham Road in Wimbledon, Surrey.

Cecil was listed as an Optician and A.R.P. part time.

A.R.P. was the Air Raid Precautions during World War II.

From the 1939 Register of Wimbledon:

No. of Schedule - 112

Address - 4 Barham Rd

Schedule Sub No. / Name / Sex / Birth Day - Year / Marital status / Occupation

1 / Crowther Cecil / M / 2 Nov - 82 / M / Optician Ophthalmic & Dispensing - A.R.P.
Part time

2 / Crowther Mary H / F / 16 Sep - 82 / M / Unpd. Dom. Duties

3 / Crowther Norman C / M / 6 Oct - 09 / S / Optician Ophthalmic & Dispensing -
A.R.P. Part time

Image of the record:

111						
112	1 Crowther Cecil	M 2 Nov 82	M	Optician	ophthalmic & dispensing	part time
	2 Crowther Mary H	F 16 Sep 82	M	Unpd. dom. duties		
	3 Crowther Norman C	M 6 Oct 09	S	Optician	ophthalmic & dispensing	A.R.P. Part time
						continued on form above

~ 1958

Cecil Crowther died at the age of 75 on 31 January 1958 at 3a Ridgway in Wimbledon, Surrey.

His Will was granted on 8 May 1958.

From the England & Wales, Death Index:

Name / Death Age / Registration Date / Registration district / County / Vol. / Page
Cecil Crowther / 75 / Jan-Feb-Mar 1958 / Surrey North eastern / Surrey / 5g / 625

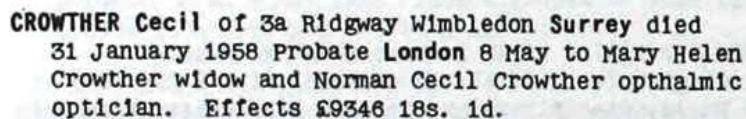
From the England and Wales, National Probate calendar:

Page 696

1958

CROWTHER Cecil of 3a Ridgway Wimbledon Surrey died 31 January 1958 Probate London 8 May to Mary Helen Crowther widow and Norman Cecil Crowther opthalmic optician. Effects £9346 18s. 1d.

Image of the record:

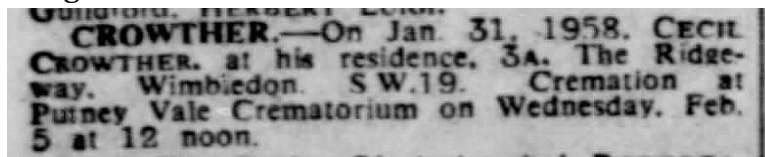


CROWTHER Cecil of 3a Ridgway Wimbledon Surrey died
31 January 1958 Probate London 8 May to Mary Helen
Crowther widow and Norman Cecil Crowther opthalmic
optician. Effects £9346 18s. 1d.

From the newspaper, The Daily Telegraph, Monday, February 3, 1958:

CROWTHER, --- On Jan 31, 1958, Cecil Crowther, at his residence, 3A, The Ridgeway, Wimbledon. S W.19. Cremation at Putney Vale Crematorium on Wednesday, Feb. 5 at 12 noon.

Image of the article:



CROWTHER.—On Jan. 31, 1958, CECIL CROWTHER, at his residence, 3A, The Ridgeway, Wimbledon. S W.19. Cremation at Putney Vale Crematorium on Wednesday, Feb. 5 at 12 noon.

~ 1964

Mary Helen Crowther died at the age of 82 years on 18 April 1964 at 3A, Ridgway, Wimbledon, Surrey.

Her Will was granted on 14 August 1964.

From the England & Wales, Death Index:

Name / Death Age / Registration Date / Registration district / County / Vol. / Page
Mary H Crowther / 81 / Apr-May-Jun 1964 / Surrey North eastern / Surrey / 5g / 440

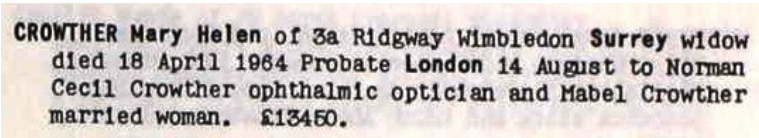
From the England & Wales, National Probate Calendar:

Page 735

1964

CROWTHER Mary Helen of 3a Ridgway Wimbledon Surrey widow died 18 April 1964 Probate London 14 August to Norman Cecil Crowther ophthalmic optician and Mabel Crowther married woman. £13450.

Image of the record:

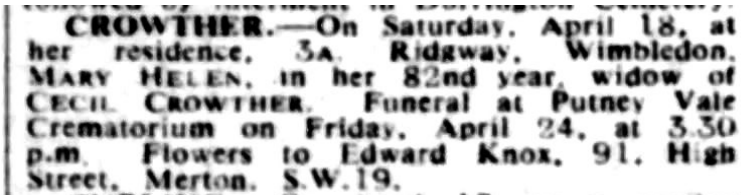


CROWTHER Mary Helen of 3a Ridgway Wimbledon Surrey widow died 18 April 1964 Probate London 14 August to Norman Cecil Crowther ophthalmic optician and Mabel Crowther married woman. £13450.

From the newspaper, The Daily Telegraph, Tuesday, April 21, 1964:

CROWTHER. --- On Saturday, April 18, at her residence, 3A, Ridgway, Wimbledon, MARY HELEN, in her 82nd year, widow of CECIL CROWTHER. Funeral at Putney Vale Crematorium on Friday, April 24, 3.30 p.m. Flowers to Edward Knox, 91, High Street, Merton, S.W. 19.

Image of the article:



CROWTHER.—On Saturday, April 18, at her residence, 3A, Ridgway, Wimbledon, MARY HELEN, in her 82nd year, widow of CECIL CROWTHER. Funeral at Putney Vale Crematorium on Friday, April 24, at 3.30 p.m. Flowers to Edward Knox, 91, High Street, Merton, S.W.19.

Children of Cecil and Mary Helen (McGaw) Crowther

3. **NORMAN CECIL CROWTHER** was born 6 October 1909 (twin) in Chatham, Kent.

4. + **ARNOLD WILLIAM CROWTHER** was born 6 October 1909 (twin) in Chatham, Kent.

He married 1st Mabel A. Barnes and 2nd Patricia C. Dawson.

Sources:

1. 1882 birth of Cecil Crowther in the index. England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915, online at Ancestry.com. Birth Date: Oct-Nov-Dec 1882; Registration Place: Ware, Hertfordshire, England; Vol.: 3a; Page: 381. Searched on January 16, 2023 Monday 12:58 AM.
2. 1882 birth certificate for Cecil Crowther. From the General Register Office. Certificate in PDF file format was downloaded on January 26, 2023 Thursday 11: 51 AM.
3. 1891 census of England, London, St Pancras, Gray, District 14, image 32, online at Ancestry.com. Public Record Office reference RG 12/125, original page no. 31, stamped page no. 49. No. of Schedule 257, Samuel Crowther and family as boarders in the household of William A Gough. Searched on January 14, 2023 Saturday 12:18 AM.
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6. 1910 An advertisement of Cecil Crowther's business that came out before Christmas. Wimbledon News, Saturday 17 December 1910, page 6. British Newspaper Archive, online at www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk. Searched on November 5, 2024 Tuesday 12:44 AM.
7. 1911 Another advertisement for Cecil Crowther's business. Croydon Express, Saturday 21 January 1911, page 4. British Newspaper Archive, online at www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk. Searched on November 4, 2024 Monday 11:42 PM.
8. 1911 census of England, Surrey, Wimbledon, ALL, 07, image nos. 416 & 417, online at Ancestry.com. No. of Registration District – 40; No. of Registration Sub-District – 1; No. of Enumeration District – 7. No. of Schedule – 205, household of Cecil Crowther. Searched on November 3, 2024 Sunday 1:30 AM.
9. 1911 census of England, online at Ancestry.com. Lancashire, South Manchester, Ardwick, 44, images 188 & 189 No. of Registration District 464, No. of Registration Sub-District 2, No. of Enumeration District 44. No. of Schedule 94, the Crowther family in the household of William McGaw. Searched on January 1, 2023 Sunday 2:00 AM.
10. 1921 Census Of England & Wales, online at Findmypast.com. Registration District: Kingston 40, Registration Sub-District: Wimbledon 40/1, Enumeration District: 23. No. of Schedule 45, household of Cecil Crowther. Searched on January 1, 2023 Sunday - New Years Day.
11. 1939 England and Wales Register, online at Ancestry.com. Surrey, Wimbledon Mb, Cnra, image no. 10. E.D. Letter Code C.N.R.A.; Borough, U.D. or R.D. Wimbledon; Registration District and Sub-district 30 - 3. No. of Schedule - 112, household of Cecil Crowther. Searched on November 4, 2024 Monday 12:30 AM.
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