

MY FAMILY AND THE ROYAL FAMILY

On Monday 16th March we were going to find out how Jane Evans had 'connections' to the Royal family but she hastened to add that she was not related to them.

The first connection was through her grandmother, Henrietta Baker, who was from Sweffling. Jane knew that Henrietta was a pastry cook, a very good one, and she said she worked for King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra at St James' Place.



Henrietta Baker, pastry cook in London



Pieces of the dinner service



The Crest of Viscount Althorp

Jane had learnt from family discussions that there were some items of fine crockery in her kitchen at home from 1903 as well as a very splendid soup tureen with a crest on them. Careful research by Jane identified the crest as the coronet of a Viscount and further investigation proved it to be that of Viscount Althorp (of the Spencer family). So, her china was from when the Viscount became Earl Spencer and a new dinner service was bought with the old service given out to members of staff.

The next connection was Jane's Aunt Dorothy where during the Ideal Home Exhibition at Olympia in 1949 Dorothy was working as a Nursery Nurse in the crèche and behold there was Queen Mary!



Aunt Dorothy bending over working at Olympia when Queen Mary visits

The final connections were that Jane's mother Doreen worked on the Coronation switchboard for Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953 and was awarded a Coronation medal and attended a Coronation rehearsal. Lastly that her daughter had met and spoken with Zara Phillips at Burley one year and had her photo taken with her!