

# Madge Worthington

A look into the history of Margaret Baird Whittow (1913-2005)

High Priestess of the Whitecroft coven  
in Beckenham, Kent, England



William Wallworth

The Exile's Publications ~ March 26, 2026 ~ W-037 Edition A

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A report on Margaret Baird Whittow (1913-2005)

The High Priestess of the Whitecroft Coven in Beckenham, Kent, England

Researched and compiled  
by William Wallworth

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Whittow and Worthington family

## Margaret Baird Whittow (1913-2005)

Wife of Thomas Scott Worthington



**MARGARET BAIRD WHITTOW** was born 9 November 1913 at 45 Linden Gardens in Kensington, London and was baptized 13 December 1913 at St Matthew's, Bayswater, Westminster, London.

Father: Richard Whittow

Mother: Eirene Frances Stewart Tweedie

~ 9 November 1913

From the birth certificate:

Registration District of Kensington.

1913. Births in the Sub-District of Kensington, Central in the County of London.

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

420 / Ninth November 1913 45 Linden Gardens / Margaret Baird / Girl / Richard Whittow / Eirene Frances Stewart Whittow formerly Tweedie / Export Merchants / R. Whittow Father 45 Linden Gardens / Thirteenth December 1913 / R. J. Martin Registrar.

Image of part of the record:

Registration District KENS.						
1913 BIRTHS in the Sub-District of KENSINGTON, CEN						
Columns:— 1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6						
No.	When and Where Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.
420	Ninth November 1913 45 Linden Gardens	Margaret Baird	Girl	Richard Whittow	Eirene Frances Stewart Whittow formerly Tweedie	Export Merchants

From the London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms:

St Matthew's, Bayswater, Westminster

Baptisms 1913 - Page 197 No. 1574

*When Baptized. / Child's Name and Birthdate. / Parent's Name. / Surname. / Abode. / Profession. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.*

1913 Dec 13. / Margaret Baird 9 Nov<sup>r</sup> 1913 / Richard & Eirene Frances Stewart / WHITTOW / 45 Linden Gardens / Merchant / F E Murphey Vicar.

Image of the record:

1913	Margaret Baird — 9 Nov 1913	Richard of Eirene Frances Stewart	WHITTOW	45 Linden Gardens	Merchant	Fuller N. Carr
No. 1574						

From the newspaper, London Evening Standard, Wednesday 12 November 1913:  
BIRTHS.

WHITTOW. --- On the 9th Nov., at 45, Linden-gardens, W., the wife of Richard Whittow, of a daughter.

Image of the record:

**WHITTOW.—On the 9th Nov., at 45, Linden-gardens, W., the wife of Richard Whittow, of a daughter.**

### ~ About the parents before Madge was born

In 1910, Madge's parent were married on 10 December 1910 in Colombo, Ceylon.

From the newspaper, The Times, Tuesday, December 13, 1910:

#### MARRIAGES.

WHITTOW : TWEEDIE. --- On the 10th inst., at St. Michael's, Colombo, by the Rev. William Henley, Rector of the Parish, RICHARD WHITTOW, son of the late William Summers Whittow, to EIRENE FRANCES STEWART, daughter of RICHARD WALTER TWEEDIE, of Ashurst-hill, Kent, and 45, Linden-gardens, London.

Image of the article:

**WHITTOW : TWEEDIE.—On the 10th inst., at St. Michael's, Colombo, by the Rev. William Henley, Rector of the Parish, RICHARD WHITTOW, son of the late William Summers Whittow, to EIRENE FRANCES STEWART, daughter of RICHARD WALTER TWEEDIE, of Ashurst-hill, Kent, and 45, Linden-gardens, London.**

In 1911, R. Whittow was mentioned of having the rank of Secretary in the Masonic Lodge of St. George in Colombo, Ceylon.

From the book, The Freemason, 25th March 1911:

Page 614

### **COLOMBO, CEYLON.**

At the G. O. H. the members of the St. George Lodge, No. 2170, held their annual installation banquet. Preceding the evening's function there was a meeting of the Brethren of the Lodge at the Victoria Masonic Temple, when Bro. R. W. Williams was installed Worshipful Master for the present year, the ceremony being performed by Bro. J. S. Collett. The following officers were invested: Bros. T. Leese, S. W.; W. C. S. Ingles, J. W.; R. W. Forbes, Chaplain; A. B. S. Dixie, Treasurer; R. Whittow, Secretary; A. S. Collett, S. D.; A. N. Galbraith, J. D.; R. W. Battams, D. C.; H. W. S. Thornton, Org.; T. H. V. Wilkie, L. C.; W. H. Smallwood, O. Tonks, Stewards; and H. Jago, Tyler.

Image of the article:

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### **~ 1909 to 1953**

Richard Whittow was a member of the Freemason St. George Lodge No. 2170 in Colombo, Ceylon from 1909 till his death in 1953.

From a report from the Museum of Freemasonry, February 13, 2026:

“We were able to discover the following information in the archives of the United Grand Lodge of England and material held in the Museum of Freemasonry.

## **Richard Whittow**

St. George Lodge No. 2170, Colombo, Ceylon

Initiated: 29/4/1909                      Age: 27

Passed: 10/6/1909                      Address: Colombo

Raised: 10/3/1910                      Occupation: Merchant

Member until his death in December 1953

Offices held: Senior Warden 1913, Worshipful Master 1916

District Grand Lodge of Ceylon

District Grand Secretary 1920-1922”

“Initiation (Entered Apprentice), Passing (Fellow Craft) and Raising (Master Mason) are the three degrees of freemasonry that every freemason has to go through before they can take an office in their lodge, receive a certificate from the United Grand Lodge, visit other lodges or join any other masonic orders. They are often called Craft Freemasonry, Craft degrees or just the Craft and are administered by lodges under the United Grand Lodge of England.”

“Richard became Senior Warden of his lodge in 1913 and then waited until 1916 to become Worshipful Master.”

“We have two histories of the lodge in our collection. Richard appears in all of them in the list of Masters at the back. In the year he was Master (1916) he presided over 14 meetings of the lodge ... of which 4 were initiations, 6 were passings and six were raisings. His name is listed correctly as Whittow in the lodge histories and is also recorded correctly in the correspondence received from the lodge (annual returns of members, requests for certificates etc.) and in the United Grand Lodge of England’s register of lodge masters and Wardens. As you noticed, it is incorrectly recorded as Whitlow in the membership registers up to 1921. It also is on the register that covers 1922-1958, which we haven’t digitised (there are living members on these registers). There is also no record that Richard joined any other lodges in Ceylon or in Devon and Hampshire. The membership registers are cross referenced. He paid his lodge dues up until his death but we won’t know how often he attended.”

“The United Grand Lodge of England is the governing body of freemasonry in England and Wales but lodges outside of London are further organised into Provincial Grand Lodges, mostly based on the old counties. These would be ruled over by a Provincial Grand Master who would appoint Provincial Grand Officers to oversee different tasks.”

“English lodges and chapters overseas are organized into District Grand Lodges and District Grand Chapters.”

“Richard was the District Grand Secretary of Ceylon, which meant that he would have had both an administrative role and ceremonial in the meetings and activities of English freemasonry in Ceylon. He did this role for two years.”

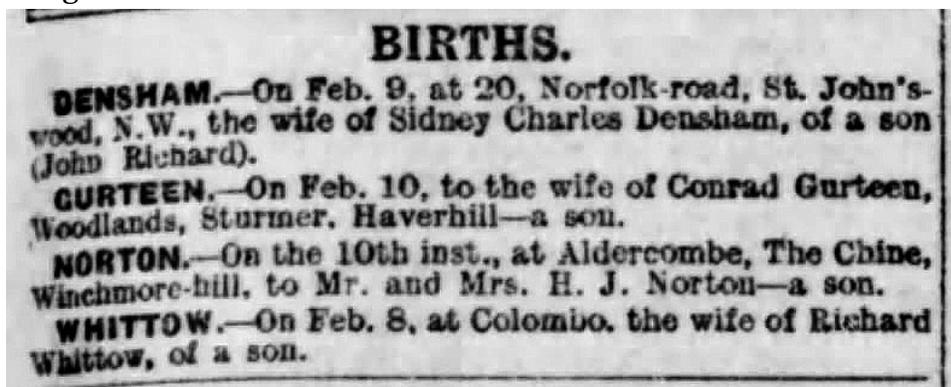
### ~ 8 February 1916

A son to Richard Whittow and his wife was born 8 February 1916 in Colombo, Ceylon. From the newspaper, The Daily Telegraph, Saturday, February 12, 1916:

#### **BIRTHS.**

WHITTOW. --- On Feb. 8, at Colombo, the wife of Richard Whittow, of a son.

Image of the article:



### ~ 1 April 1916

In 1916, Madge's maternal grandfather, R. W. Tweedie, died and it was mentioned in an obituary.

From the newspaper, Bayswater Chronicle, Saturday 1 April 1916:

#### **THE LATE MR. R. W. TWEEDIE.**

We regret to record the death of Mr. R. W. Tweedie, of 45, Linden Gardens, Notting Hill, who passed away last week, after a short illness, in his 83rd year. Mr. Tweedie was one of the oldest practising solicitors, being admitted in 1856. He continued his professional work up to a few days of his demise. He was a partner of Messrs. A. Y. and R. W. Tweedie, of 5, Lincoln's Inn Fields. Mr. Tweedie was a prominent Freemason and a director of the Law Times Insurance Co., Ltd., and of the Legal and General Insurance Co., Ltd. A man of charming personality and always hale and hearty, he endeared himself to all he came in contact with, and his death is much regretted. The funeral took place at Ashurst Kenet.

Prior to the burial a service was held at Ashurst Church, conducted by the Rector, the Rev. E. H. Cox. The choir came from Tunbridge Wells and rendered the musical portions consisting of the hymns “Peace, Perfect Peace,” “Now the Labourer’s Task is O’er,” and Psalm 90. At the conclusion of the service the Dead March in Saul was given on the organ by Mr. Starmer (of Tunbridge Wells).

The assembly present included the Misses Winifred and Muriel Tweedie, Mr. and Mrs. Weir, Mr. and Mrs. H. Whitton, Major-Gen. and Mrs. Michael Tweedie, Miss Ida Tweedie, Col. and Mrs. Maurice Tweedie, Col. J. L. Tweedie, Mrs. Gybbon Money Penny, Mrs. Money Penny (Leonard Gybbon), Mr. Michael Forbes Tweedie, Mr. Maurice Tweedie, ...

(long article, only the above was transcribed here)

It is not known if the “Mr. and Mrs. H. Whitton” was an error for Whittow.

Also note that Madge’s grandfather, R. W. Tweedie, was mentioned as a “prominent Freemason”. So this means so far that Madge’s grandfather, father, and uncle were Freemasons.

Image of part of the article:

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~ 5 October 1917

Richard Whittow was mentioned as one of the executors for the Will of Francis Leonard Clements of Colombo, Ceylon.

From the newspaper, The Times, Friday, October 5, 1917:

FRANCIS LEONARD CLEMENTS deceased. Pursuant to the Statute 22 & 23 Vic. Cap. 35 Notice is hereby given that all persons in this country having any CLAIM against the ESTATE of FRANCIS LEONARD CLEMENTS of Colombo in Ceylon Merchant deceased who died on the 9th day of September 1917 are hereby required to send the particulars, in writing, of their claims to us the undersigned, the Solicitors acting in this country for Richard Whittow the acting Executor in this country appointed with Leslie William Frederick de Sarum as Executors of the deceased by his Will made in Colombo and dated the 17th May 1916, on or before the 10th day of November 1917.

Dated this 20th day of September 1917.

RADCLIFFES & HOOD 28, Old Queen Street, Westminster, S. W. Solicitors.

Image of the article:

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Dated this 20th day of September 1917.  
RADCLIFFES & HOOD 28, Old Queen Street,  
Westminster, S. W. Solicitors.

HENRY VICTOR MOTTE de la...

~ 20 July 1919

Madge Whittow's sister was born on 20 July 1919 at 5, East-terrace in Budleigh Salterton, Devonshire.

From the newspaper, The Times, Wednesday, July 23, 1919:

#### **BIRTHS.**

**WHITTOW.** --- On the 20th July, at 5, East-terrace. Budleigh Salterton, the wife of Richard Whittow, R.G.A., of a daughter. Ceylon papers, please copy.

Image of the record:

**WHITTOW.**—On the 20th July, at 5, East-terrace. Budleigh Salterton, the wife of RICHARD WHITTOW, R.G.A., of a daughter. Ceylon papers, please copy.

## ~ About Budleigh Salterton, Devonshire

From Wikipedia:

“Budleigh Salterton is a seaside town on the coast in East Devon, England, 15 miles south-east of Exeter. It lies within the East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.”

“Budleigh Salterton lies at the mouth of the River Otter, where the estuary includes a bed of reeds and a grazing marsh, which form a haven for migratory birds and a Site of Special Scientific Interest for bird watchers. It has a designated area for naturists.

The village is crossed by the South West Coast Path, with clifftop routes eastwards to Sidmouth and westwards to Exmouth. The pebble beach and cliffs are part of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site.”

## ~ 19 January 1921

Major R. Whittow was in the wedding of Ceylon’s governor in Colombo, Ceylon.

From the newspaper, The Sketch, Wednesday, January 19, 1921:



THE MARRIAGE OF THE GOVERNOR OF CEYLON : HIS EXCELLENCY SIR WILLIAM MANNING, K.C.M.G., ETC. ; HIS BRIDE, MISS SEFTON-JONES ; AND GUESTS.

The marriage of his Excellency Sir William Manning, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.E., Governor of Ceylon, and Miss Olga May Sefton-Jones, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Sefton-Jones, took place in Colombo. It was a unique ceremony, as it is the first occasion in the history of Ceylon that a Governor has been married there. Our photograph shows (left to right, standing) Captain L. F. Lerway Day; Captain L. Holbech; Major B. W. Bawa; Paymaster-Lieutenant E. A. Symes, R.N.; Major

H. Greer; the Hon. R. Trefusis; Captain C. E. Sherwin; the Maha Mudaliyar; the Bridegroom; Captain F. R. S. de la Cour; Captain C. Owen; Major O. Tonks; Major R. Whittow; Captain G. L. H. Doudney; Captain E. O. Mackwood. (Seated, left to right), Hon. Sir Graeme Thomson; Mrs. Sefton-Jones; the Bride; Miss Morse; Hon. Mrs. Trefusis. The bridesmaids were Miss Caroline Stanton and Miss Helen Trefusis.—[Photograph by Platé, Lt.]

THE MARRIAGE OF THE GOVERNOR OF CEYLON : HIS EXCELLENCY SIR WILLIAM MANNING, K.C.M.G. ETC. ; HIS BRIDE, MISS SEFTON-JONES; AND GUESTS.

(Madge's father, Major R. Whittow, would be in the men standing behind, third one from the right.)

The marriage of his Excellency Sir William Manning, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B., Governor of Ceylon, and Miss Olga May Seton- Jones, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Seton- Jones, took place in Colombo. It was a unique ceremony, as it is the first occasion in the history of Ceylon that a Governor has been married there. Our photograph shows (left to right, standing) Captain L. F. Lerway Day; Captain L. Holbech; Major B. W. Bawa; Paymaster-Lieutenant E. A. Symes, R.N.; Major H. Greer; the Hon. R. Trefusis; Captain C. E. Sherwin; the Maha Mudaliyar; the Bridegroom; Captain F. R. S. de la Cour; Captain C. Owen; Major O. Tonks; Major R. Whittow; Captain G. L. H. Doudney; Captain E. O. Mackwood. (Seated, left to right), Hon. Sir Graeme Thomson; Mrs. Seton- Jones; the Bride; Miss Morse; Hon. Mrs. Trefusis. The bridesmaids were Miss Caroline Stanton and Miss Helen Trefusis. --- [Photograph by Plate, Lt.]

### ~ **30 August 1929**

Madge Whittow and her brother, R. Whittow, were in the Exmouth Juvenile Tournament played at Exmouth, Devon.

From the newspaper, Exeter and Plymouth Gazette, Friday 30 August 1929:

#### **LAWN TENNIS.**

#### **Annual Tournaments in Devon.**

Exmouth Juniors.

Play was continued yesterday in the Exmouth Juvenile Tournament.

Details :---

(long article, from here only the relevant parts is transcribed here)

“Open Mixed Doubles, Level.”

“Second Round. ---”

“Monique Chauvel and R K Harris beat Madge Whittow and V. Street, 6-1, 6-0”

“Boys' Open Singles, Handicap.

Second Round. --- J D H Hes beat R. Whittow, 6-4, 7-5”

“Open Mixed Doubles, Handicap.”

“Molly Dartnell and V Watts beat Ursula Street and R. Whittow, 7-5, 6-2”

### ~ **18 October 1930**

Mrs. Whittow was one of the judges at the Carnival in Budleigh Salterton, Devonshire.

From the newspaper, Western Morning News, Saturday, October 18, 1930:

## CARNIVAL-DAY

### ANOTHER SUCCESS AT BUDLEIGH SALTERTON

Budleigh Salterton carnival on Thursday was favoured with fine weather, and was again a success.

Dr. T. C. C. Evans, the president, supported by a list of prominent vice-presidents, and a representative committee of the town, with Messrs. W. J. Connett as chairman, and H. P. Perriam, vice-chairman, took a leading part in the carnival, while Mr. J. R. Cornish (hon. secretary) proved a capable organizer. ...

(long article, only the relevant transcribed here)

“ ... The judges were: --- Afternoon parade --- Mrs. Garrick, Mrs. Whittow, Mrs. Evans, Maj. Grey-Simpson, and Mr. Hicks. ...”

### ~ 17 September 1932

Miss M. B. Whittow sailed on the ship “Orontes” from London to Colombo, Ceylon.

According to the passenger list of 17 September 1932, She stated that Ceylon was her next intended future permanent residence.

From the UK and Ireland, Outward Passenger Lists:

Name of Ship - “Orontes”

Steamship Line - Orient.

Date of Departure - 17th September 1932.

Where Bound - Australia.

Names and Descriptions of BRITISH Passengers Embarked at the Port of London.

*Contract Ticket Number. / Names of Passengers. / Last Address in the United Kingdom. / Class. / Port at which Passenger have contracted to land. / Occupation. / Age & Sex / Country of Last Permanent Residence. / Country of Intended Future Permanent Residence.*

R9 / Whittow Miss M. B. / The Lawn, Budleigh Salterton. / 1st / Colombo / Nil / 18 Female / England / Ceylon

Images of the record:

50	✓ Townsend	Mr R.G.	83, Ladbroke Road, W.11.		
R9	✓ Whittow	Miss M.B.	The Lawn, Budleigh Salterton.		
"	Colombe	Hotel Mangr.	33	1	Ceylon
"	do	Nil	18	1	do

## ~ 22 March 1933

An advertisement from Mrs. Whittow.

From the newspaper, Western Morning News, Wednesday, March 22, 1933:

### **HORSES, CARRIAGES FOR SALE.**

PERFECT CHILD'S PONY, 14.2, 9 years, regularly hunted with the East Devon Hounds, outgrown by girl; good home, at reasonable price. --- Mrs. Whittow, The Lawn, Budleigh Salterton.

Image of the advertisement:



## ~ 1935

R. Whittow was listed as working for Cumberbatch & Co. on Slave Island in Colombo, Ceylon.

From the book, All about Tea, Vol. 2, by William Harrison Ukers, 1935.

Page 149

“The firm of CUMBERBATCH & Co., estate agents, Ambawatte House, Vauxhall Street, Slave Island, Colombo, was established in 1884. The present partners are: Messrs. A. J. Denison, C. C. Durrant, R. Whittow, J. A. Loram, and J. A. S. Agar, Mr. S. T. Pearce is visiting agent for the firm.”

## ~ 31 July 1935

Mr. R. Whittow and Miss M.B. Whittow were on the ship “Otranto” that sailed from Colombo to Plymouth according a passenger list dated 31 July 1935.

According to the list Madge was a permanent residence of Ceylon as well as her father. Madge’s future permanent residence was listed as England. The father’s was Ceylon.

From the UK and Ireland, Incoming Passenger Lists:

Name of Ship - “Otranto” Port of Arrival - Plymouth Date of Arrival - 31st July 1935.

Steamship Line - Orient Steam Nav. Co. Ltd. Whence Arrived - Brisbane

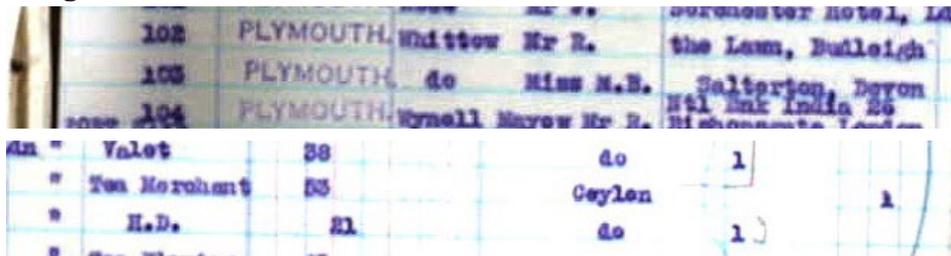
Names and Descriptions of BRITISH Passengers.

*Port of Embarkation. / Port of which Passengers --?-- --?-- / Names of Passengers. / Proposed Address in the United Kingdom. / Class. / Occupation. / Age & Sex / Country of Last Permanent Residence. / Country of Intended Future Permanent Residence.*

Colombo 102 / Plymouth / Whittow Mr R. / The Lawn, Budleigh Salterton, Devon / 1 / Tea Merchant / 53 male / Ceylon / Other parts of the British Empire

Colombo 103 / Plymouth / do Miss M. B. / “ “ “ “ “ / 1 / H. D. / 21 female / do / England

Images of the record:



~ **27 August 1935**

Miss M. B. Whittow won 1st prize in the Twelve-Foot Exe Dinghies race. She beat out five male competitors.

From the newspapers, Western Morning News, Tuesday, August 27, 1935:

**DART AND EXE DINGHIES.**

(only the relevant part was transcribed here)

“Twelve-foot Exe dinghies. Prizes £2, £1, and 10s.

Entries:--- Kestrel, Mr. E. Pattison; Ace, Mr. G. E. Carpenter; Ripple, Miss M. B. Whittow; Wren, Mr. W. Gunn; Judy, Mr. W. L. McClellan; Dartt, Mr. D. R. Cox.

Finishing times:--- Ripple, 2.27.52 (winner); Kestrel, 2.29.7 (second prize); Wren, 2.29.34 (third prize); Judy, 2.29.45; Ace, 2.30.5; Dartt 2.30.47.”

Image of the article:



### ~ 12 September 1935

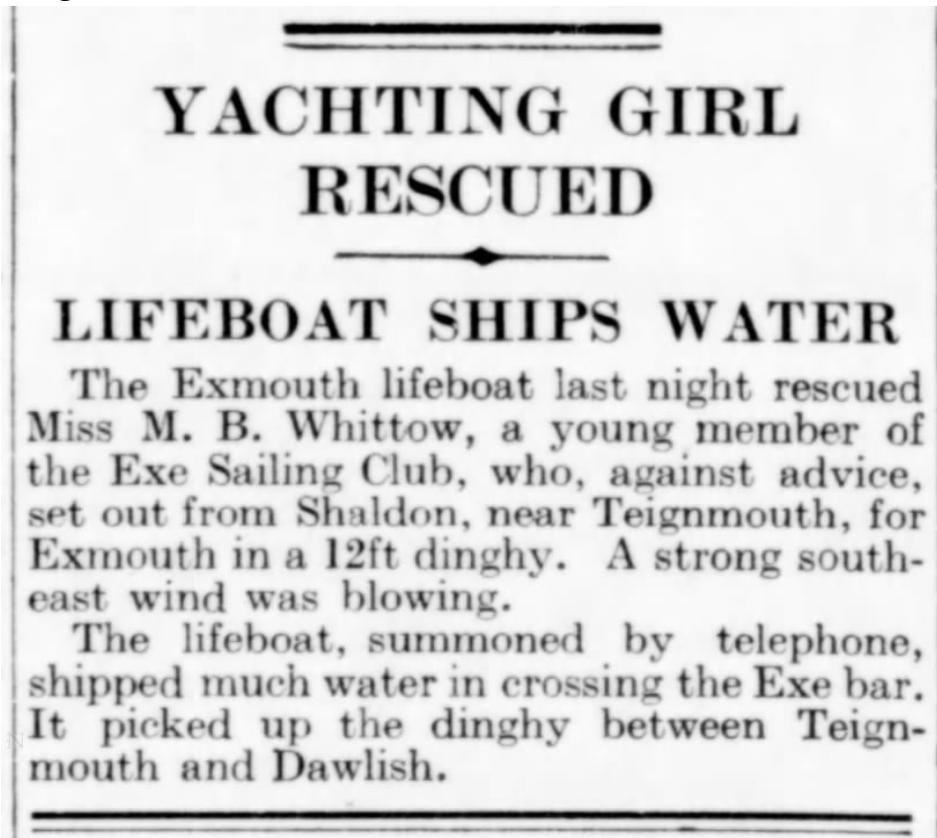
In a London newspaper, Miss M. B. Whittow was mentioned rescued by a life-boat. From the newspaper, The Daily Telegraph, Thursday, September 12, 1935:

#### **YACHTING GIRL RESCUED LIFEBOAT SHIPS WATER**

The Exmouth lifeboat last night rescued Miss M. B. Whittow, a young member of the Exe Sailing Club, who, against advice, set out from Shaldon, near Teignmouth, for Exmouth in a 12ft dinghy. A strong south-east wind was blowing.

The lifeboat, summoned by telephone, shipped much water in crossing the Exe bar. It picked up the dinghy between Teignmouth and Dawlish.

Image of the article:



**~ also on 12 September 1935**

In another newspaper is a longer article. Miss M. B. Whittow was rescued by a life-boat when she was trying to return home after finishing second in the Shaldon Regatta boat races. People concerned called the life-boat as the tides was ebbing and there were strong winds with darkness falling.

From the newspaper, Herald Express, Thursday, September 12, 1935:

**IN OPEN SEA**

**Sailing Back To Exmouth**

**AFTER SHALDON REGATTA**

**Lifeboat Goes To Rescue Of Young Lady**

Shortly after Exmouth lifeboat had been housed after returning from Seaton, where it had assisted at the Royal National Lifeboat' Institution flag day, a message was received

from Teignmouth yesterday stating that a girl competitor at Shaldon had set out in a twelve-foot dinghy to return to Exmouth, and fears were expressed for her safety owing to the state of the tide and the wind.

The lifeboat was launched, with Coxswain T. Horn in command, and after a stiff fight with a strong tide and a cross sea, picked up the young woman on the Exmouth side of the Parson and Clerk, about two miles off Dawlish. She was taken aboard and her boat towed back to Exmouth.

### **IN HEAVY SEAS BEFORE.**

At the lifeboat station she refused to volunteer any information regarding herself other than that her name was Whittow and she was a member of Exe Sailing Club. She was confident that she could have returned home safely without the assistance of the lifeboat, and remarked: "I have been in heavy seas before."

Mr. Horn pointed out that as the tide was ebbing the sea would have become rougher, there was a head-wind, and night was falling, and Miss Whittow replied: "Oh, I had a torch with me."

Experienced fishermen stated last evening that with the tide at its present state --- almost at the height of the equinoctial tides --- and the wind, it was doubt whether Miss Whittow would have reached the Fairway buoy, and even then she would have had to contend with the outgoing tide and river.

It was later ascertained that the girl was Miss M. B. Whittow, daughter, of Mrs. R. Whittow, of The Lawn, Budleigh Salterton. She competed at Shaldon Regatta on Tuesday, when her dinghy Ripple II. was second in the race for Exe, Dart, and Teign dinghies for the Lock Cup.

Miss Whittow seemed in no way concerned by her experience, expressing annoyance at the fact that she found it difficult to escape the people who had gathered to watch the return of the lifeboat.

Mr. Morgan Giles, of Cliffside, Shaldon, who is a Teignmouth shipyard owner, and who gave the alarm, stated last night that Miss Whittow had, with her small sailing boat, raced with the Shaldon Club in the afternoon.

"At the conclusion of the race," added Mr. Giles, "she expressed her intention of sailing back to Exmouth. This was about 6 p.m. Darkness was coming on, and there was an increasing easterly wind.

"Everybody tried to dissuade Miss Whittow from carrying out her intention, but she seemed unwilling to take this advice. I had just finished my race a little later, when someone shouted. 'You see, that girl has gone out, after all.' There was surprise at this, and I and another put out in our boats in the hope of inducing her to return. We headed after her as far as we dared, but the sea was so rapidly increasing as the ebb began to strengthen that we had to come back. One of the harbour motor launches put out, but also had to turn back.

### **LIFE-BOAT CALLED.**

“The obvious thing to do next was to dash back and get in touch with the Teignmouth and Exmouth coast-guards. I got Exmouth first, somewhere about 6.30 or 6.45, and they undertook to get hold of Exmouth Life -boat people right away. A few minutes after that a call came to tell me that the life-boat had been launched to search for the young woman, the idea being to locate her before dark, and next I was informed that the life-boat was accompanying her towards Exmouth.”

Mr. Giles said Miss Whittow was evidently accustomed to racing, and knew how to handle a boat, but he was not sure that she had much experience of the open sea.

Images of the article:

## **IN OPEN SEA**

### **Sailing Back To Exmouth**

#### **AFTER SHALDON REGATTA**

### **Lifeboat Goes To Rescue Of Young Lady**

Shortly after Exmouth lifeboat had been housed after returning from Seaton, where it had assisted at the Royal National Lifeboat Institution flag day, a message was received from Teignmouth yesterday stating that a girl competitor at Shaldon had set out in a twelve-foot dinghy to return to Exmouth, and fears were expressed for her safety owing to the state of the tide and the wind.

The lifeboat was launched, with Coxswain T. Horn in command, and after a stiff fight with a strong tide and a cross sea, picked up the young woman on the Exmouth side of the Parson and Clerk, about two miles off Dawlish. She was taken aboard and her boat towed back to Exmouth.

**IN HEAVY SEAS BEFORE.**

## **IN HEAVY SEAS BEFORE.**

At the lifeboat station she refused to volunteer any information regarding herself other than that her name was Whittow and she was a member of Exe Sailing Club. She was confident that she could have returned home safely without the assistance of the lifeboat, and remarked: "I have been in heavy seas before."

Mr. Horn pointed out that as the tide was ebbing the sea would have become rougher, there was a head-wind, and night was falling, and Miss Whittow replied: "Oh, I had a torch with me."

Experienced fishermen stated last evening that with the tide at its present state—almost at the height of the equinoctial tides—and the wind, it was doubt whether Miss Whittow would have reached the Fairway buoy, and even then she would have had to contend with the outgoing tide and river.

It was later ascertained that the girl was Miss M. B. Whittow, daughter of Mrs. R. Whittow, of The Lawn, Budleigh Salterton. She competed at Shaldon Regatta on Tuesday, when her dinghy Ripple II. was second in the race for Exe, Dart, and Teign dinghies for the Lock Cup.

Miss Whittow seemed in no way con-

Miss Whittow seemed in no way concerned by her experience, expressing annoyance at the fact that she found it difficult to escape the people who had gathered to watch the return of the lifeboat.

Mr. Morgan Giles, of Cliffside, Shaldon, who is a Teignmouth shipyard owner, and who gave the alarm, stated last night that Miss Whittow had, with her small sailing boat, raced with the Shaldon Club in the afternoon.

"At the conclusion of the race," added Mr. Giles, "she expressed her intention of sailing back to Exmouth. This was about 6 p.m. Darkness was coming on, and there was an increasing easterly wind.

"Everybody tried to dissuade Miss Whittow from carrying out her intention, but she seemed unwilling to take this advice. I had just finished my race a little later, when someone shouted, 'You see, that girl has gone out, after all.' There was surprise at this, and I and another put out in our boats in the hope of inducing her to return. We headed after her as far as we dared, but the sea was so rapidly increasing as the ebb began to strengthen that we had to

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### **LIFE-BOAT CALLED.**

"The obvious thing to do next was to dash back and get in touch with the Teignmouth and Exmouth coast-guards. I got Exmouth first, somewhere about 6.30 or 6.45, and they undertook to get hold of Exmouth Life-boat people right away. A few minutes after that a call came to tell me that the life-boat had been launched to search for the young woman, the idea being to locate her before dark, and next I was informed that the life-boat was accompanying her towards Exmouth."

Mr. Giles said Miss Whittow was evidently accustomed to racing, and knew how to handle a boat, but he was not sure that she had much experience of the open sea.

### **~ 13 September 1935**

Miss M. B. Whittow was mentioned in the results of the sailing races at the Shaldon Regatta.

From the newspaper, Exeter and Plymouth Gazette, Friday 13 September 1935:

#### **SHALDON REGATTA SUCCESS.**

Fair Entries Despite Lateness of Season.

118th Anniversary.

Shaldon Regatta, opened on Monday--- Despite the lateness of the season, there was a fair entry in the sailing events, which took place over the salty course at the mouth of the River Teign.

Three of the four sailing events were handicaps, but in no case were the handicaps notified or corrected times issued at the end of the day. The figures given below are therefore finishing times only, and must not be accepted as indicating the winners.

There was a south-easterly breeze to help the sailing, but conditions were inclined to be chilly for onlookers on account of the absence sunshine.

Rowing also formed part the programme, and in an event for men over 60 the oldest competitor was Mr. W. Easterbrook, aged 73, who finished fourth.

This was the 118th anniversary the regatta, ...

(long article, and from here only the relevant parts transcribed here)

“Second Day.

The weather improved for the second day’s events, and there was an interesting afternoon of sailing and rowing.”

“Sailing.”

“Exe, Dart, and Teign dinghies, handicap, for Lock Cup. Start 4.24: 1, Primula (E. Drew), 5.12.0; 2, Ripple (Miss M. B. Whittow), 5.18.55; 3, Kestrel (E. R. Patterson), 5.20.5; 4, Piccolo (Major C. Brooke), 5.24.45.”

## ~ 1935 to 1936

The Whittow family moved from Budleigh Salterton, Devonshire to Brockenhurst in Hampshire around 1935 to 1936.

## ~ 27 July 1936

The engagement of Lt. T. S. Worthington, R.N. (Retd.) and Miss M. B. Whittow was announced.

From the newspaper, The Daily Telegraph, Monday, July 27, 1936:

### **FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES**

**LT. T. S. WORTHINGTON, R.N. (RETD.) AND MISS M. B. WHITTOW**

The engagement is announced between Tom Worthington, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Worthington, of Westwood, Eltham, and Madge Whittow, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. Whittow, of Muryn, Brockenhurst.

Image of the article:

**LT. T. S. WORTHINGTON, R.N. (RETD.)  
AND MISS M. B. WHITTOW**  
The engagement is announced between Tom Worthington, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Worthington, of Westwood, Eltham, and Madge Whittow, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. Whittow, of Muryn, Brockenhurst.

**~ 19 December 1936**

Margaret Baird Whittow married **THOMAS SCOTT WORTHINGTON** on 19 December 1936 in the church in Brockenhurst, Hampshire.

From the marriage certificate:

1936. Marriage solemnized at The Parish Church in the Parish of Brockenhurst in the County of Southampton.

No. - 222

When Married - December 19<sup>th</sup> 1936

*Names / Age / Condition / Profession / Residence at the time of Marriage / Father's Name / Father's Profession*

Thomas Scott Worthington / 25 / Bachelor / Electrical Engineer / 111 Great Road Eltham / William Scott Till Worthington / Produce Banker

Margaret Baird Whittow / 23 / Spinster / ----- / Brockenhurst / Richard Whittow / East India Merchant

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the church of England after banns by me, Thomas Crick Chaplain R N [-----]

This Marriage was solemnized between us, {

Thomas Scott Worthington

Margaret Baird Whittow

in the Presence of us, {

William Scott Till Worthington

R. Whittow

Image of part of the record:

1936 . Marriage solemnized at The Parish Church of Brockenhurst in the County of Southampton						
No.	When Married	Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Residence at the time of Marriage
222	December 19 <sup>th</sup> 1936	Thomas Scott Worthington	28	Bachelor	Electrical Engineer	116 Court Road Eltham
	1936	Margaret Baird Whittow	23	Spinster	—	Brockenhurst

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England by

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Thomas Scott Worthington in the Presence of us, William Scott Tom Worthington and Margaret Baird Whittow R. Whittow

From the newspaper, Hampshire Advertiser, Saturday 26 December 1936:

### MISS M. WHITTOW

#### Married in Brockenhurst Church

The marriage took place at Brockenhurst Parish Church on Saturday afternoon of Miss Margaret Baird Whittow, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. Whittow, of "Murnyn," Brockenhurst, the bridegroom being Mr. Thomas Scott Worthington, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. T. Worthington of "Westwood," Eltham, Kent.

The Rev. T. Crick officiated, assisted by the Vicar of Brockenhurst (the Rev. W. A. Haslam). The hymns sung were "Lead us, Heavenly Father" and "The King of Love, my Shepherd is." "God be in my head" was also rendered, and the organist, Mr R. H. Prosser, played the Wedding March from "Lohengrin."

The bride, who was attended by her younger sister, Miss Rosemary Whittow, wore a dress of silver lame, with wreath and veil. She had diamond moonstone ear-rings, and she carried a sheaf of Madonna lilies. She was given away by her father, and Mr. Roger Worthington acted as best man. The bridesmaid wore a green velvet dress cut on Tudor lines, and carried a posy.

Guests to the number of about 120 were entertained at "Murnyn," and later when the bride and bridegroom left on their honeymoon the bride wore a green and silver costume and a squirrel fur coat.

Image of the article:

---

## MISS M. WHITTOW

---

### Married in Brockenhurst Church

---

The marriage took place at Brockenhurst Parish Church on Saturday afternoon of Miss Margaret Baird Whittow, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. Whittow, of "Muryn," Brockenhurst, the bridegroom being Mr. Thomas Scott Worthington, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. T. Worthington, of "Westwood," Eltham, Kent.

The Rev. T. Crick officiated, assisted by the Vicar of Brockenhurst (the Rev. W. A. Haslam). The hymns sung were "Lead us, Heavenly Father" and "The King of Love, my Shepherd is." "God be in my head" was also rendered, and the organist, Mr R. H. Prosser, played the Wedding March from "Lohengrin."

The bride, who was attended by her younger sister, Miss Rosemary Whittow, wore a dress of silver lame, with wreath and veil. She had diamond moonstone ear-rings, and she carried a sheaf of Madonna lilies. She was given away by her father, and Mr. Roger Worthington acted as best man. The bridesmaid wore a green velvet dress cut on Tudor lines, and carried a posy.

Guests to the number of about 20 were entertained at "Muryn," and later when the bride and bridegroom left on their honeymoon the bride wore a green and silver costume and a squirrel fur coat.

---

~ 1937

R. Whittow was listed as a partner in the Comberbach Co. at Slave Island, Colombo, Ceylon in 1937.

From the British India, Directories:

1937

Alphabetical List of Residents in Ceylon

Whittow, R, ptnr, Cumberbatch & co, Ambewatte house, Slave Island, Colombo

Image of the record:

**Whittow, R, ptnr, Cumberbatch & co, Ambewatte house,  
Slave Island, Colombo**

~ 1938

Thomas Scott and Margaret Baird Worthington were listed at 21 Upper Berkeley Street in St. Marylebone, Westminster, London in 1938.

From the London Electoral Registers for 1938:

Page 151

Polling District F. No. 5, Bryanston Square Ward

Upper Berkeley Street, W.1

7858	Rw	Ow	Grandy, Nancy (Miss)	21
7859	R	O	Lowry, Gerald (Capt.)	21
7860	Rw	Dw	Lowry, May Georgina Janet	21
7861	Rw	Ow	Reeves, Ethel (Miss)	21
7862	Rw	Dw	Worthington, Margaret Baird	21
7863	R	O	Worthington, Thomas Scott	21

Image of the record:

			(Lieut.) (R.N.)	
<b>7858</b>	<b>Rw</b>	<b>Ow</b>	<b>Grandy, Nancy (Miss)</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>7859</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>Lowry, Gerald (Capt.)</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>7860</b>	<b>Rw</b>	<b>Dw</b>	<b>Lowry, May Georgina Janet</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>7861</b>	<b>Rw</b>	<b>Ow</b>	<b>Reeves, Ethel (Miss)</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>7862</b>	<b>Rw</b>	<b>Dw</b>	<b>Worthington, Margaret Baird</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>7863</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>Worthington, Thomas Scott</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>7864</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>Horne, Arthur Smith</b>	<b>21</b>

~ 1939

Thomas Scott and Margaret Baird Worthington were listed at 3 The Moorings, Strand-On-The-Green in Chiswick, London in 1939.

From the London Electoral Registers for 1939:

Page 62.

Polling District G. Chiswick - Grove Park Ward.

Strand-On-The-Green

3483	Rw	Dw	Worthington, Margaret Baird	3 The Moorings
3484	R	O	Worthington, Thomas Scott	3 The Moorings

Image of the record:

3483	Rw	Dw	Worthington, Margaret Baird	3 The Moorings
3484	R	O	Worthington, Thomas Scott	3 The Moorings

~ 29 September 1939

In 1939, Thomas and Margaret Worthington were living at 3 The Moorings in Brentford and Chiswick, Middlesex.

Thomas was the Director at an Electrical Engineering company.

From the 1939 Register of Brentford and Chiswick:

Schedule No. 46

3 The Moorings

*Sub. No. / Names / Sex / Birth, Day - Year / Marital Status / Occupation*

1 / Worthington Thomas S / M / 21 Apr - 11 / M / Electrical Engineerg Co. Director (manufacturing) R. N. Retired - sub. Lieut.

2 / Worthington Margaret B / F / 9 Novr. - 13 / M / Unpaid domestic duties

Image of the record:

1	Tinkell Thomas A	-	M	25 Feb. 03	Commercial Traveller
2	Worthington Thomas S	-	M	21 Apr. 11	Electrical Engineer & Director Manufacturing
3	Worthington Margaret B	-	F	9 Novr. 13	Unpaid domestic duties
4	Bragin Leslie G.	-	M	6 Oct. 98	Director Electrical Research Lab
5	Bragin Mary A.B.	-	F	17 May 04	Medical Research worker

R.N. Retired - sub. Lieut.  
6273  
6638

~ **also on 29 September 1939**

In 1939, Madge's parents, Richard and Eireen Whittow, were living at 'Muryn' in Brockenhurst in the New Forest of Hampshire.

Richard Whittow was listed as a retired East India Merchant.

From the 1939 Register of Brockenhurst, New Hampshire:

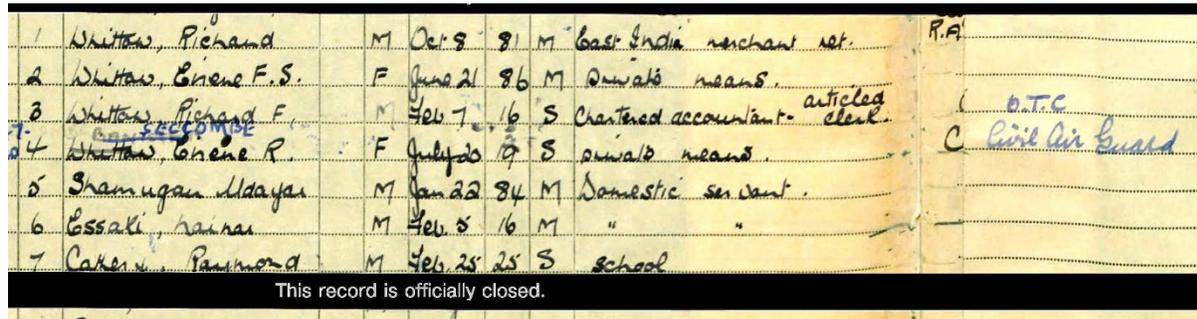
Schedule No. 44

'Muryn' Brockenhurst

*Sub. No. / Names / Sex / Birth, Day - Year / Marital Status / Occupation*

- 1 / Whittow, Richard / M / Oct 8 - 81 / M / East India Merchant ret. - R.A.
  - 2 / Whittow, Eirene F. S. / F / June 21 - 86 / M / Private Means
  - 3 / Whittow, Richard F. / M / Feb 7 - 16 / S / Chartered accountant - article clerk - O.T.C.
  - 4 / Whittow, Eirene R. / F / July 20 - 19 / S / Private Means - Civil Air Guard
- BANISTER SECCOMBE**
- 5 / Shamugau Udayai / M / Jan 22 - 84 / M / Domestic servant.
  - 6 / Essaki, hainai / M / Feb 5 - 16 / M / " "
  - 7 / Cather Raymond / M / Feb 25 - 25 / S / School
  - 8 / [ ---- This record is officially closed. ----- ]

Image of the record:



Madge's sister, Eirene Worthington, was married twice, to a Mr. Banister and a Mr. Seccombe.

~ **21 December 1939**

The engagement of Madge's sister, Eirene Rosemary Whittow, to Sub-Lieutenant Peter Charles McConnel Banister, Royal Navy.

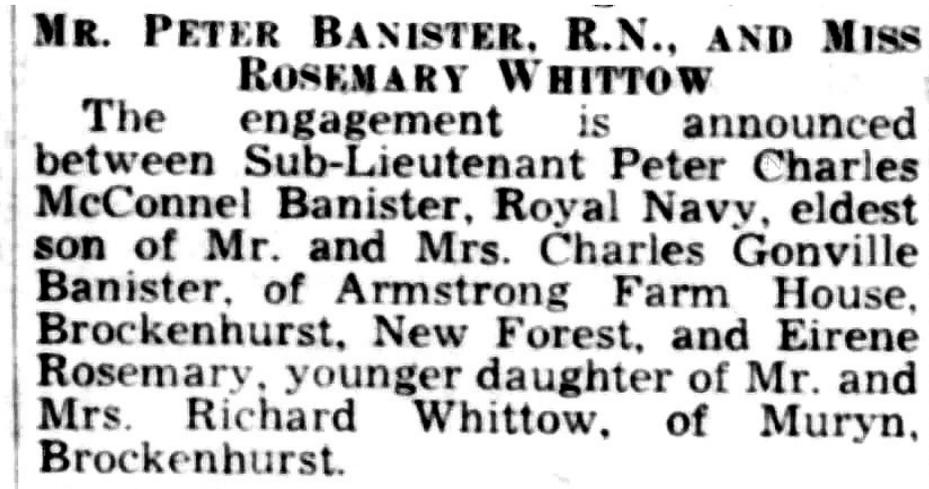
From the newspaper, The Daily Telegraph, Thursday, December 21, 1939:

## **FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES**

**MR. PETER BANISTER, R.N., AND MISS ROSEMARY WHITTOW**

The engagement is announced between Sub-Lieutenant Peter Charles McConnel Banister, Royal Navy, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gonville Banister, of Armstrong Farm House, Brockenhurst, New Forest, and Eirene Rosemary, younger daughter Mr. and Mrs. Richard Whittow, of Muryn, Brockenhurst.

Image of the article:



~ **21 February 1940**

Another announcement of the engagement of Madge's sister Eirene Rosemary Whittow that has a picture of her.

From the newspaper, The Bystander, Wednesday, February 21, 1940:



*Pearl Freeman*

*Eirene Rosemary Whittow*

*Is engaged to Sub.-Lieut. Peter C. McC. Banister, R.N., elder son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Banister, of Armstrong Farm House, Brockenhurst, Hants. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. Richard Whittow, of Muryn, Brockenhurst, Hants.*

Pearl Freeman [Photographer?]

Eirene Rosemary Whittow

Is engaged to Sub.-Lieut. Peter C. McC. Banister, R.N., elder son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Banister, of Armstrong Farm House, Brockenhurst, Hants. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. Richard Whittow, of Muryn, Brockenhurst, Hants.

~ **12 August 1941**

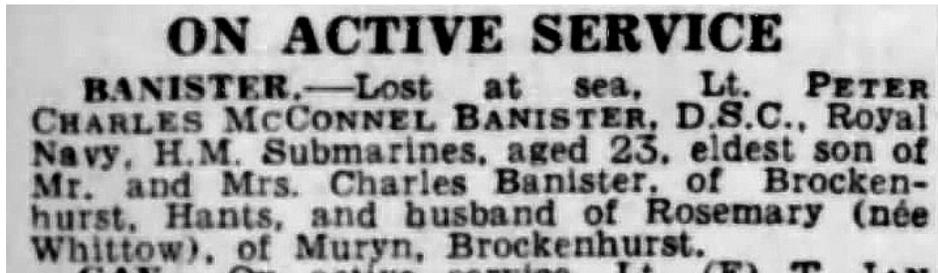
Madge's brother in law, Lt. Peter Banister, was reported loss at sea in World War II.

From the newspaper, The Daily Telegraph, Tuesday, August 12, 1941:

**ON ACTIVE SERVICE**

BANISTER. --- Lost at sea, Lt. Peter Charles McConnel Banister, D.S.C., Royal Navy, H.M. Submarines, aged 23, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Banister, of Brockenhurst, Hants, and husband of Rosemary (née Whittow), of Muryn, Brockenhurst.

Image of the article:



~ **more about Madge's brother in law Peter Banister and her sister**

From a webpage on the internet:

In Memory of

PETER CHARLES McCONNEL BANISTER DSC

Lieutenant, Royal Navy

HM Submarine UMPIRE

Who died on Sunday 20 July 1941, Aged 23



Peter Banister was the eldest son of Charles and Phyllis Banister. He was born on 3 September 1917. He attended West Downs Preparatory School in Winchester and in 1931 joined the Britannia Royal Naval College at Dartmouth as a 13-year-old Cadet. The family moved to the village in 1932, initially into Armstrong Farm House, and later in 1956 built and moved into Armstrong Farm Cottage.

His younger brother Robert remembers him at this earlier time as a dashing handsome man; good company, an excellent all round sportsman who was clearly an extremely competent and highly regarded young Naval officer and submariner.

He came to Brockenhurst when he was 15 years old and was quickly a central part of the lively pre-war active social scene whenever he was not away at sea. This included tennis and dancing at “the (Morant) Club”.

He passed out from Dartmouth in 1934 and joined the battleship BARHAM in the Mediterranean as a Midshipman. Five years later, having passed his submariner’s course, he was appointed to SALMON, which later became the first submarine to sink a U-boat.

In December 1939 he became engaged to a Brockenhurst girl, Rosemary Whittow, whom he married in March 1940 in St Nicholas Church.

In April 1940 he went as Liaison Officer to the French submarine ORPHEE, which also sank a U-boat whilst he was aboard. For this he was awarded the Croix de Guerre. He

then went, briefly, as Third Hand to Clyde. This submarine hit the German pocket battleship SCHARNHORST with torpedoes.

Peter then served in CACHALOT as Third Hand from July to November during which time she sank two U-Boats. For this he was Mentioned in Despatches.

In November he joined H 32 as First Lieutenant and then attended the First Lieutenants' course at Rothesay. On completion he was appointed in January 1941 as First Lieutenant of the new submarine UMPIRE then building at Chatham. As soon as she was completed in July UMPIRE sailed for trials and training to the Clyde. Four days before the submarine set sail, Peter received the Distinguished Service Cross

“For good services in HM submarines in recent successful patrols and operations against the enemy”

from the hand of King George VI at Buckingham Palace.

UMPIRE joined a northbound convoy on the 19 July 1941. That night the submarine was accidentally rammed and sunk by a Dutch escort of a southbound convoy.

As the senior officer remaining in the sunken submarine, his Captain having been washed off the conning tower, Peter took charge of the escape drill enabling nearly all who had survived thus far, including Peter himself, to reach the surface. Sadly he was not among those rescued. His story is told in “One of our Submarines” by Edward Young.

After Peter's death Rosemary gave birth to their daughter, Carol, who now lives in Washington DC with three grown children of her own. Rosemary herself subsequently joined the Air Transport Auxiliary as a pilot towards the end of 1943 and ferried about 300 aircraft, nearly half of which were Spitfires and Seafires, from factories to squadrons across the UK.

## ~ 1946 to 1972

Thomas and Margaret Worthington were listed at 3 The Moorings, Strand-on-the-Green, Brentwood & Chiswick in London in 1946.

From the London Electoral Registers for 1946:

Page nineteen

Brentford & Chiswick - Parl. Divn. Of Middx. - Polling Dist. G - Grove Park Ward  
Strand-On-The-Green

3711 Worthington, Margaret B.                      3 The Moorings

3712 Worthington, Thomas S,                      3 The Moorings

Image of the record:

3711 Worthington, Margaret B.  
3 The Moorings  
3712 Worthington, Thomas S.  
3 The Moorings

There were no Electoral Registers made during the years of World War II.

The following years are the same concerning the names and address.

1948, 1949, 1950, 1952, 1953, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965,  
1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972

Starting in 1966 to 1969 there was a Nigel Worthington listed with them.

In 1968 there was also a Robin Worthington with them.

Then in 1970, 1971, and 1972 it was only Thomas and Margaret Worthington listed.  
(1972 is the last year indexed so far at Ancestry.com).

### ~ 16 July 1948

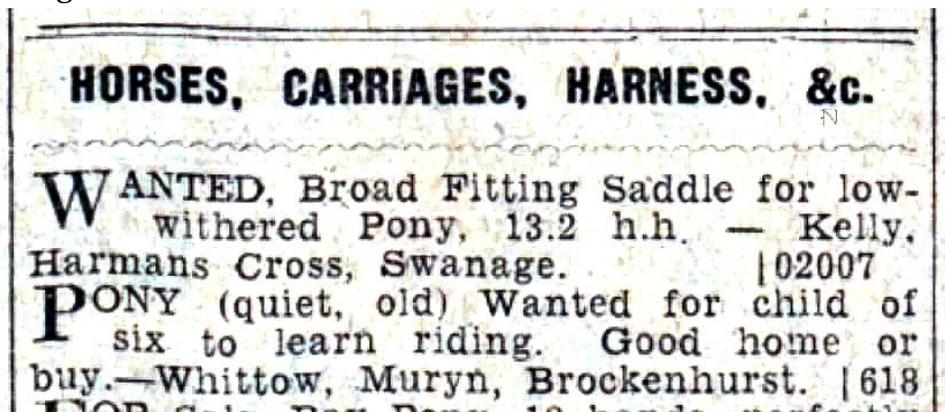
An advertisement of Whittow of Muryn, Brockenhurst wanting a pony.

From the newspaper, Western Gazette, Friday, July 16, 1948:

#### **HORSES, CARRIAGES, HARNESS, &c.**

PONY (quiet, old) Wanted for child of six to learn riding. Good home or buy. ---  
Whittow, Muryn, Brockenhurst. [618

Image of the advertisement:



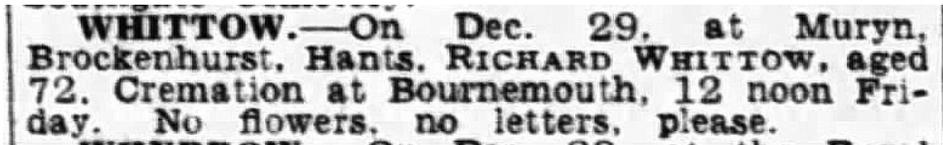
## ~ 29 December 1953

Richard Whittow died on 29 December 1953 at Muryn in Brockenhurst, Hampshire. From the newspaper, The Daily Telegraph, Thursday, December 31, 1953:

### DEATHS

WHITTOW. --- On Dec. 29, at Muryn, Brockenhurst, Hants, RICHARD WHITTOW, aged 72. Cremation at Bournemouth, 12 noon Friday. No flowers, no letters, please.

Image of the article:



## ~ 2 February 1969

Madge Worthington was mentioned in an expose article on Father Basil Prendergast a Roman Catholic priest who was caught trying to organize a Black Mass ritual. He was earlier initiated in Madge Worthington's coven but after other members voiced their discomfort of having a R. C. priest in their coven, he was sent away.

From an image of a newspaper article, in Doreen Valiente's scrapbook, The original scrapbooks are held at the Doreen Valiente Foundation.

"News of the World" Dated 2 February 1969:

### THE PRIEST AND THE BLACK MASS

**High Priestess Madge Worthington  
white witch, but her husband never knew**



This man's name is Father Basil Prendergast. He is a practicing Roman Catholic priest. A member of the Dominican order of monks. AND A WITCH. In his own words, he sometimes reaches an "intensity of dedication to the dark ones."

Father Prendergast, who is entrusted with the education of 300 girls and boys at a school run by an order of nuns in Sussex, has taken part in nude rites at meetings of two witches covens.

He has been "ordained" as a first degree witch.

And until the News of the World discovered his extraordinary double life and confronted him, he was busily preparing to conduct the most horrific of all witchcraft ceremonies -- the black mass.

In this, the vilest of all black magic rituals, a virgin girl lies on an altar holding two lighted black candles.

#### **'A kiss'**

The climax of the ceremony between the "high priest" and the girl in the presence of the congregation cannot be described in print.

The girl is given the “kiss of peace” by the entire congregation.

The man who wanted the role of high priest was, of course, Father Prendergast.

And, again in his own words, not to be an unfamiliar one, the idea, he said, “must have come from our Father Below.” ... It occurred two or three times a year.”

The activities of Father Prendergast, an Irishman who has done pastoral work for the Roman Catholic Church in the Midlands, were discovered by the News of the World in the course of a six-month investigation into the growing cult of witchcraft.

So widespread has the cult now become that Mrs Madge Worthington, the high priestess of one London area coven, claimed confidently a [few] days ago: “By the turn of century, witchcraft will have overtaken Christianity.”

The most astounding facet of witchcraft’s growth is that it is almost always a secret thing.

Wives take part in it without husbands ever suspecting and husbands become witches (contrary to popular belief, a warlock is not the name for a male witch) and no one at home or office ever suspects.

Mrs. Worthington, an erudite attractive woman approaching middle age, has been one of Britain’s witches since girlhood.

Yet, she says, her wealthy husband has never known.

### **Coven**

She lives in a beautiful house beside the River Thames at Strand on the Green, Chiswick, London.

Her coven, which meets at Chislehurst, Kent, at one time included Father Prendergast in its ranks.

As he admitted to us, he was excited by the ritual and nude dancing.

But some of the witches in Madge Worthington’s coven did not like the idea of an R. C. priest at their pagan rituals.

“This kicked me out,” said Father Prendergast.

And he set out to organise his own coven --- and the bestial black masses, which would not be countenanced by “white witches” like Madge Worthington.

Father Prendergast was crossing the “great divide” between white and black magic.

Stepping from a world in which pagan rituals are performed either for sensual pleasure or to do good ... and into an evil world where the result often does harm.

In witchcraft, the black mass is often celebrated to project evil at a chosen victim, who may not even know he has “offended” the witches.

Chalices, altar cloths and even crucifixes are sometimes stolen from churches to be used in the rituals.

Some black magicians claim to be able to cause illness and even death by “programming” the minds of victims. Whether by telepathy or whatever, terrifying mental pressure CAN be brought to bear on insecure, imaginative or impressionable people.

We spent several months amassing a dossier on Father Prendergast. Perhaps the most damning evidence in it is a tape recording of an uninhibited conversation he had with a girl reporter Ann Collins.

We heard that Father Prendergast was looking for a virgin for a black mass, and Miss Collins was introduced to him as a potential recruit.

Most of the verbatim extracts taken from a recording made of the entire conversation (which is in our possession) are such that they cannot be reproduced in print because of the outrageously intimate nature of the subject matter.

Prendergast: Hello, blessings be upon you, my daughter. How are you?

Miss Collins: I just wanted to meet you beforehand. I was just interested in knowing more about it and what my part in it was.

### **Candles**

Prendergast: Well, your main function in the ceremony would be to be the altar, you see, nude for most of the proceedings and supporting the chalice ... Ideally, you are holding two black candles in your hands and spreadeagled.

[Collins:] Are they lit?

[P:] Yes.

[C:] Do I hold them throughout the ceremony?

[P:] Yes, throughout the what you might say the centre part of the ceremony ... At communion time I would communicate with you. If you wanted to, you see ...

And we would remove the cup and the bread from you at the end of the ceremony. Now I gather you are intact.

I would suggest --- in fact I would insist --- on a preliminary session beforehand. I had envisaged quite a session this evening before the ceremony began at all.

[It was made clear to Father Prendergast that there was to be no “dress rehearsal”]

Then Miss Collins asked him “what do you usually do?”

Prendergast: When you say usually you suggest that I do it quite often. This is not the case. This is not something we do every week or even every month.

[C:] Two or three times a year?

[P:] Yes. I have, in fact, I will have in fact, warmed up ... beforehand ...

[C:] What would happen afterwards? How long would it take?

[P:] It depends ... You mean how long the ceremony would take? I envisage the ceremony from beginning to end roughly, taking about an hour.

## **Hugging**

It depends on things like the number present and the amount of what shall we say, hugging and that that [sic] goes on before the kiss of peace which is before communion. I have only given you the barest outline, but before we do it we will put you through a detailed rehearsal.

[At this stage another man present during the conversation, known to Prendergast and interested in black magic, asked the priest whether there would be a nun there if he was present. Prendergast replied: "Well, now, I have made a little contact for you. There you are, you see, I have been much more say, efficient in my preparations.

"I don't know her at all really, except that she has written to me to say that she will be in London some time in the New Year."

There followed a conversation about the difficulties of booking up a hotel room as man and wife with a nun in a habit.]

Then Miss Collins asked Prendergast: Do you often hold these (black masses)?

Prendergast: No, not often. You are referring to the celebration. No, this is something that takes a great deal of preparation and it is really only when I get to a certain pitch of intensity of dedication to the dark ones that I come to it. I am a practising priest R.C.

[C:] Do you think it's another path or religion.

[P:] Yes, definitely, and I am quite, what you say, quite calmly determined to go this way.

[C:] Is it the same people who always come or do you hold it in different places each time?

[P:] All different places ... it is purely a matter of circumstances with me, who is interested and who is trustworthy. As you can imagine one breath of this and I would be in major trouble.

Father Prendergast then made a joke about the Pope and the birth pill and asked Miss Collins: "By the way, are you on the pills?"

## **Ritual**

This was, he thought, "necessary" to avoid her becoming pregnant.

And he went on to say of the ritual. "I can only say that (the idea for it) must have come from our Father Below, I am not terribly interested in the history, I just like to do it."

Then the priest returned to the idea of a dress rehearsal: "About this afternoon. Here am I all wound up ... in a state of anticipation."

Miss Collins: Do you usually meet the girls before?

Prendergast: Yes, yes.

[C:] Don't they ever, sort of, want to know anyone?

[P:] Oh yes, I put people in the picture. I had envisaged --- this is my view of the thing now: I had envisaged our going to a hotel now, ordering tea, having it in our room you see.

[C:] A dress rehearsal?

[P:] Well yes, except as undresses! All of us, not just you and a gentle what you might say warm up as well.

[other man:] “You wouldn’t have got the brotherhood (the coven in question) going to the hotel and meeting in a hotel,” said the other man present.

Prendergast: No, we’re not interested in the brotherhood at this point. We are only interested in the brotherhood to form a congregation at the time. It’s as simple as that. You’ve got a chalice?

2nd man: Yes, yes, I’ve got that.

Prendergast: Wine?

2nd man: I’ve got the wine.

Prendergast: I’ve got the bread.

2nd man: I have got no altar cloths though.

Prendergast: I have the altar cloths, beautiful altar cloths for you (Miss Collins) to be on. You have got the candles?

2nd man: Yes, I’ve got the black ones. My part I have done, everything, but there are some things I can’t do.

Near to the end of the conversation, Father Prendergast asked Miss Collins if she could remain a virgin for a “week or so.”

Told that she could, he replied: “Strong character.” And again asked her to go on the pill before the ritual.

Father Prendergast was seen by a reporter at the school where he teaches divinity, the co-educational Convent of Notre Dame at Pound Hill, Sussex.

The school is run by the Sisters of Notre Dame. Most of the pupils are between 4 ½ and 11, but some are up to 16 years old.

At first, he told us: “I have been nothing more than an interested outsider in witchcraft. You realise I should not like to be included even as a random inquirer in any articles?

“I did make an inquiry at Sheffield three years ago --- but it’s old history, that. There have been individuals in the London area who I have been talking to --- but not participating .”

But later he called at our offices and was shown the evidence in our dossier.

Then he admitted “I have attended three rituals, and I was a member of Madge Worthington’s coven.

“But I was thrown out because members did not like the idea of having a Roman Catholic priest in the coven.

“I do not know how far I would have gone on after the Black Mass, bit I would certainly have gone ahead and initiated Miss Collins.”

He claimed that despite what he had said to Miss Collins it would have been his first Black Mass.

What had persuaded him to take the risk of becoming involved in Black Magic? Was it an obsession or infatuation?

“I do not know what it is like to be in love with a woman,” he said. “I suppose it was sheer willfulness that made me attend these meetings.

“I got a kick from seeing people dancing about in the nude. There is no penance for what I have done, but I have always wanted to be a true Catholic.”



The centre house at a famous beauty spot besides the Thames is where Mrs Worthington, lives.



Mrs Worthington ... She condemns black magic but claims that by the turn of the

century witchcraft will have overtaken Christianity. Father Prendergast was once a member of her “white witchcraft” coven

Our next call was on Madge Worthington, the high priestess, at her house.

She stressed what we already knew --- that she was not a “black witch.”

“I think you have circles which are nothing to do with the Wicca (her own form of witchcraft) who go in for sexual kicks,” she said, “I think the people who want sexual kicks go in different circles.

“I would not like to tell my family about the Wicca. It is so different from all the conventional things --- so different from Christianity.

“Eventually it will supersede Christianity --- certainly by the end of the century, if not before. I think Christianity is just about finished.

All my friends’ covens, as far as I know, are thriving. They are turning away people the whole time.

“I should not be surprised to know that there is a coven in every street in London, witchcraft is growing so rapidly. Years ago when I first joined I was told that there was a coven in every village.

“I have come across the black ones. But I did not stay with them long enough. I would not stay with anything black.

“There is absolutely not a peck to choose between Christianity and some of the covens. Honestly, I really could not tell the difference.”

This conversation then followed:

How do you reconcile dancing in the nude at rituals with any form of Christianity?

Mrs. Worthington: I am not even one per cent Christian. I cannot see that being nude or not, or the use of phallic symbols in witchcraft makes any difference one way or the other.

Aren’t they an open initiation to people who are a little bit peculiar sexually to enter witchcraft?”

**‘Strange’**

Mrs. Worthington: I think Christianity has left such a sick mental attitude that a lot of people have got very strange ideas.

Certainly one meets kinky people but you meet them in ordinary life too.

We asked Mrs. Worthington about the “Great Rite” (sexual intercourse) which is performed by most covens at certain rituals.

Mrs. Worthington: After all it is only married people who do it.

Reporter: But they don’t always do it with their husband or wife.

Mrs. Worthington: Of course they do.

Reporter: They don't.

Mrs. Worthington: That is up to them. If they can reconcile themselves with the witch law, That is up to them. I have never been into a sex coven.

### **Degree**

We then asked Mrs Worthington about the "third degree" ritual in the making of a witch. In this the "initiate" is required to have sexual intercourse with the initiator, either "in token" or in actuality.

She replied: Not all covens have the Great Rite. Some covens have more than three degrees and after the Great Rite they have one renouncing sex. People who like that sort of thing can do a lot of exciting and beautiful rituals.

Reporter: Why is there the need for the phallic symbol in all these rituals?

### **Natural**

Mrs. Worthington: Well, the phallic symbol comes in everywhere, doesn't it?

The steeple of a church. There you are. The only difference is really that paganism is a natural and beautiful religion and Christianity is a frustrated one.

I have been a witch more or less all my life. Even as a child I used to have a feeling very much towards all of those things, and one just goes on until one finds it. I was not initiated by my parents but I am not sure whether my grandmother was one (a witch).

I have felt I had a calling ever since I was a child. I can assure you that the witchcraft religion is increasingly very rapidly.

I know there are sex covens around and I believe they do some horrible things but provided that they keep themselves to themselves.

Personally, I don't believe in the curses because you cannot work magic unless you have a completely clear conscience and people who curse --- you know what the Druids say -- - it comes back at you three times strong.

My sons, I hope are going to join soon ... I think they might well join --- it depends. This is not a thing for the young, you know. I don't think one needs religion until one gets older. They are in their twenties.

Reporter: Does your husband know?

Mrs. Worthington: When I first joined I thought I would have no difficulty in telling, but it went on year after year and didn't sort of twig, you know, and now I have got to the stage where I just go on.

He knows I try to do healing and I do the occults. He knows practically everything but he does not know the word witch.



Photograph of Madge Worthington after editing it and colorizing it through an AI program.

Note: the photograph of her on the cover and the top of the article, is from the same photograph and after asking the AI program to remove the surprised or shocked expression of her face.

But I don't know what color eyes she had to tell the AI that information, likewise if her lips were thinner or not.

## ~ 1970

In the early part of 1970 there were some advertisements in the personal section of a newspaper. A white witch coven that had meetings in the London - Kent border area placed some ads of needing females to join their coven.

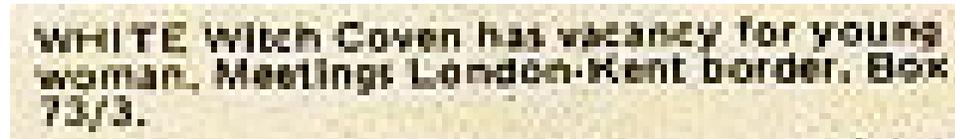
This probably was Madge Worthington and Arthur Eaglen's coven.

From the International Times of 1970:

February 12, 1970, Issue 73, Page 26:

WHITE witch Coven has vacancy for young woman. Meetings London-Kent border. Box 73/3

Image of the advertisement:

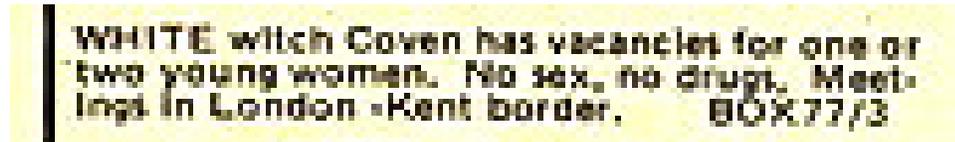


WHITE witch Coven has vacancy for young woman. Meetings London-Kent border. Box 73/3.

April 9, 1970 Issue 77, Page 8:

WHITE witch Coven has vacancies for one or two young women. No sex, no drugs. Meetings in London - Kent border. BOX 77/3

Image of the advertisement:

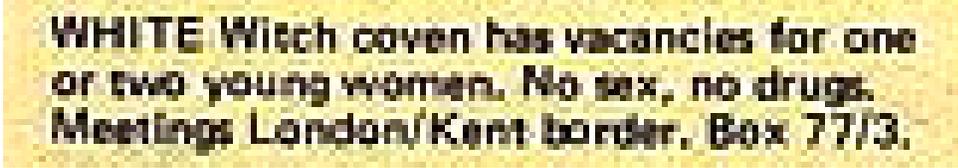


WHITE witch Coven has vacancies for one or two young women. No sex, no drugs. Meetings in London - Kent border. BOX 77/3

April 24, 1970 Issue 78, Page 21

WHITE Witch coven has vacancies for one or two young women. No sex, no drugs. Meetings London/Kent border. BOX 77/3.

Image of the advertisement:

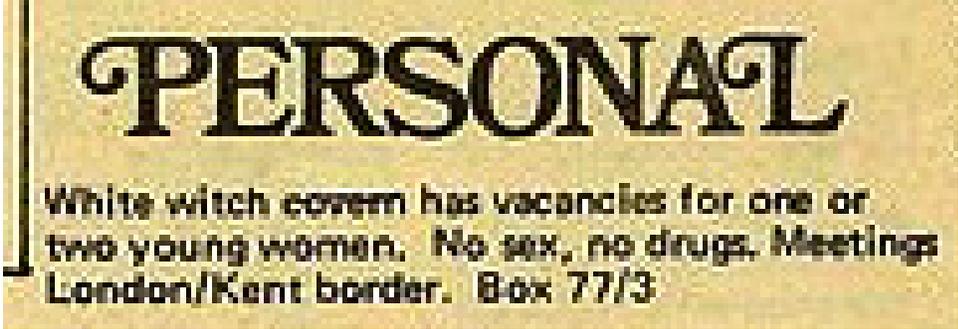


WHITE Witch coven has vacancies for one or two young women. No sex, no drugs. Meetings London/Kent border. Box 77/3.

May 8, 1970 Issue 79, Page 26:

WHITE witch coven has vacancies for one or two young women. No sex, no drugs. Meetings London/Kent border. BOX 77/3.

Image of the advertisement:



**PERSONAL**  
White witch coven has vacancies for one or two young women. No sex, no drugs. Meetings London/Kent border. Box 77/3

There were probably other advertisements but these are what I found so far. The International Times newspapers are not digitally indexed yet, I am still going through them by reading them page by page.

**~ 15 November 1978**

Mrs. Madge Worthington wrote a letter to a newspaper concerning the effect on birds with the laser light display at Christmas time.

From the newspaper, The Guardian, Wednesday, November 15, 1978:

**Bird's eyes**

Sir, --- With reference to the laser light display in Oxford Street at Christmas, I wonder whether the Oxford Street Association has considered that many birds are likely to be blinded by these beams of light --- Yours faithfully, (Mrs) Madge Worthington, London W4.

Image of the article:

## Bird's eyes

Sir,—With reference to the laser light display in Oxford Street at Christmas, I wonder whether the Oxford Street Association has considered that many birds are likely to be blinded by these beams of light.—Yours faithfully,  
(Mrs) Midge Worthington,  
London W 4.

~ 18 August 1984

Thomas Scott Worthington died at the age of 73 years on 18 August 1984 at the West Middlesex Hospital, Isleworth in the London borough of Hounslow.

He was a retired Electrical Engineer and his usual residence was 3 The Moorings, Strand-on-the-Green.

From the death certificate:

DEATH

Entry No. 16

Registration district - Hounslow; Sub-district - Hounslow; Administrative area - London Borough of Hounslow.

*Date and place of death / Name / Sex / Maiden surname / Date and place of birth / Occupation and usual address / [ --- Information not transcribed here --- ] / Date of registration / Signature of registrar*

Eighteenth August 1984 West Middlesex Hospital, Isleworth / Thomas Scott WORTHINGTON / Male / ----- / 21st April 1911 Eltham Lewisham / Electrical Engineer (Retired) 3 The Moorings, Strand-on-the-Green W.4 / [ --- Information not transcribed here --- ] / Twentieth August 1984 / [ h. t ?] Ray Registrar

Image of part of the record:

DEATH		Entry No. 16
Registration district <i>Hounslow</i>	Administrative area <i>London Borough of Hounslow</i>	
Sub-district <i>Hounslow</i>		
1. Date and place of death <i>Eighteenth August 1984</i> <i>West Middlesex Hospital, Isleworth</i>		
2. Name and surname <i>Thomas Scott</i> <i>WORTHINGTON</i>		3. Sex <i>Male</i>
		4. Maiden surname of women who has married <i>—</i>
5. Date and place of birth <i>21st April 1911</i> <i>Iltham, Levensham</i>		
6. Occupation and usual address <i>Electrical Engineer (Retired)</i> <i>3 The Moorings, Strand on the Green W4</i>		
7.(a) Name and surname of informant		(b) Qualification

~ **2004 and 2005**

Margaret B. Worthington was listed as living at 3, the Moorings, Strand on the Green in London for 2004 and 2005.

From the UK, Electoral Registers:

*Name / Residence Date / Address / Residence Place*

Margaret B Worthington / 2004-2005 / , W4 3PG / London, London, England

~ **6 November 2005**

Margaret Baird Worthington died at the age of 91 years on 6 November 2005 at the West Middlesex Hospital, Isleworth in the London borough of Hounslow.

From the death certificate:

DEATH

Entry No. 239

Registration District - Hounslow; Sub-District - Hounslow; Administrative area - London Borough of Hounslow

*Date and place of death / Name / Sex / Maiden surname / Date and place of birth / Occupation and usual address / [ --- Information not transcribed here --- ] / Date of registration / Signature of registrar*

Sixth November 2005 West Middlesex Hospital, Isleworth / Margaret Baird WORTHINGTON / Female / WHITTOW / 9th November 1913 Kensington and Chelsea / Widow of Thomas Scott Worthington Electrical Engineer (retired) 3 The Mooring, Strand-on-the-Green, Chiswick, W4 / [ --- Information not transcribed here --- ] / Seventh November 2005 / Julie Perrin Registrar

Image of part of the record:

<b>DEATH</b>		Entry No.
Registration District	Hounslow	Administrative area London Borough of Hounslow
Sub-district	Hounslow	
1. Date and place of death		
Sixth November 2005 West Middlesex Hospital, Isleworth		
2. Name and surname		3. Sex
Margaret Baird WORTHINGTON		Female
		4. Maiden surname of woman who has married
		WHITTOW
5. Date and place of birth		
9th November 1913 Kensington And Chelsea		
6. Occupation and usual address		
Widow of Thomas Scott WORTHINGTON Electrical Engineer (retired) 3 The Moorings, Strand-on-the-Green, Chiswick, W4		
7 (a) Name and surname of informant		7 (b) Qualification

She died a few days before her 92 birthday.

Her usual address was given as 3 The Mooring, Strand-on-the-Green, Chiswick. The family lived there since 1939.

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38. 1953 death notice for Richard Whittow. The Daily Telegraph, London, Greater London, England, Thu, Dec 31, 1953. Page 8, Online at Newspapers.com. Searched on January 17, 2026 Saturday 11:59 PM.
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40. 1970 advertisements from a white witch coven. International Times newspapers. Online at International Times Archive website at <https://www.internationaltimes.it>. February 12, 1970, Issue 73, Page 26; April 9, 1970 Issue 77, Page 8; April 24, 1970 Issue 78, Page 21; May 8, 1970 Issue 79, Page 26. Search started on January 28, 2026 Wednesday 11:28 PM.
41. 1978 Mrs. Madge Worthington wrote a letter to a newspaper about birds and laser lights display at Christmas time. The Guardian, London, Greater London, England, Wed, Nov 15, 1978, page 14. Online at Newspapers.com. Searched on February 17, 2026 Tuesday 2:01 AM.
42. 1984 Death certificate of Thomas Worthington. From the General Register Office, PO Box 2, Southport PR8 JD2, United Kingdom. Received and then scanned on January 19, 2026 Monday 1:10 AM.
43. 2004 and 2005 Margaret B. Worthington was listed in Strand on the Green in London. UK, Electoral Registers, 2003-2010, online at Ancestry.com. Residence Date: 2004-2005; Address: 3, the Moorings, Strand on the Green, W4 3PG; Residence Place: London, London, England. Searched on March 14, 2026 Saturday 10:59 PM.
44. 2005 death of Margaret Baird Worthington in the index. England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916-2007, online at Ancestry.com. Death Age: 92; Birth Date: 9 Nov 1913; Registration Date: Nov 2005; Registration District: Hounslow; County: London; Register Number: 44A; District and Subdistrict: 237/1A; Entry Number: 239. Searched on March 11, 2025 Tuesday 8:39 PM.
45. 2005 death certificate of Margaret Baird Worthington. From the General Register Office, PO Box 2, Southport PR8 JD2, United Kingdom. Received on March 24, 2026 Tuesday evening.