

# Mrs. Edith Woodford-Grimes

The Witch of Highcliffe, Hampshire, England  
History and Genealogy



William Wallworth

The Exile's Publications ~ June 18, 2025 ~ W-034 Edition A-1

# Mrs. Edith Woodford-Grimes

The Witch of Highcliffe, Hampshire, England

In this Edition A-1:

A report on newspaper articles that mentioned her.

In a later update, will be added the genealogical information on her, but wanted to get this part out.

Researched and compiled by

William Wallworth

W-034 Edition A-1 was done on June 18, 2025 Wednesday 10:21 PM.

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## **~ 28 March 1925**

Edith Woodford-Grimes was in the banishment scene in a Shakespearian play.

From the newspaper, Southampton Times and Hampshire Express, Saturday, March 28, 1925:

### **Evening Schools.**

#### **Distribution of Certificates at Mount Pleasant.**

Further striking successes were recorded at Mount Pleasant Girl's School, on Monday evening, when the annual distribution of certificates to the students of the Central Districts Evening Schools took place. ...

(long article, only the relevant parts transcribed)

#### **"Students' Entertainment"**

"The banishment scene from "As You Like It" (Shakespeare), in which the characters were taken by Doris Dene, Edith Woodford-Grimes (Bronze Medalists. L.A.M.) and Minnie Taylor, was another well-executed item."

#### **"Women's Evening School."**

"London Academy of Music. --- Elocution: Edith Woodford-Grimes (bronze medal)."

## **~ 6 March 1926**

Mrs. Woodford Grimes was on a scenes in the Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night."

From the newspaper, Hampshire Advertiser, Saturday 6 March 1926:

### **UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**

#### **SOCIAL EVENING.**

After tea the gathering adjourned once more to the College Hall for a very enjoyable social evening, which included community singing, dancing, and some excellent solo items.

(among many names mentioned)

"Mrs. Woodford Grimes and Miss Doris Dene, both students of the English class under Professor Evans, gave a delightful interpretation of scenes from Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night." Later in the evening Mrs. Woodford Grimes and Miss Dene further delighted the company with individual items."

## **~ 11 December 1926**

E. Woodford Grimes won a certificate of Merit.

From the newspaper, Daily Echo, Saturday, December 11, 1926:

### **AWARDS.**

The awards were given as follows: ---

Class A (above 18): Certificates of honour --- Miss E. Slott, Miss G. Addison, and Mr. J. Claridge. Certificates of merit --- Misses M. Knapman, E. Woodford Grimes, ...  
(article with many names mentioned, not transcribed here)

### **~ 5 March 1927**

Mrs. E. Woodford-Grimes mentioned as a student in one of Mr. Acton Bond's classes.  
From the newspaper, Hampshire Advertiser, Saturday 5 March 1927:

#### **THE MUSICAL FESTIVAL AWARDS.**

THURSDAY.

Mr. Acton Bond's Classes.

Elocution --- Ladies (Adults).

(among other names listed not transcribed here)

"...Mrs. E. Woodford-Grimes, 83. 78.; ..."

### **~ 25 February 1928**

Mrs. Woodford-Grimes was a speaker at Bitterne Park, a suburb of Southampton, Hampshire.

From the newspaper, Hampshire Advertiser, Saturday 25 February 1928:

The Adult School Movement.

(among other subjects mentioned)

\* \* \*

#### **NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKERS.**

Sunday. --- Freemantle: Miss C. Dearloye, B.A. Bitterne Park: Mrs. Woodford-Grimes.

Wednesday.--- Freemantle Women: Mr. O. L. C. Findlow (Industrial Christian Fellowship).

Thursday. --- Ordnance Road: Miss C Dearlove, B.A. Freemantle Young Women: Mr. A. Mosley (vice-president, Hampshire Union). Portswood United: Social Evening, Supply.

\* \* \*

Image of the article:



### **~ 8 June 1929**

In the Music Festival, Mrs. Woodford Grimes was mentioned in elocution.

From the newspaper, Hampshire Advertiser, Saturday 8 June 1929:

**HAMPSHIRE ADULT SCHOOLS.**

Musical Festival.

(long article, only the relevant part transcribed here)

“Mr. D. C. Williams, F.R.C.O., was the adjudicator for the music, and Mrs. Woodford Grimes for elocution. Mrs. Starling (secretary, Rowlands Castle School) and Mrs. E. Towers were responsible for the arrangements for the hall and tea. Mrs. K. Burgess (president, Hants Union) was in the chair.”

### **~ 23 June 1931**

Mrs. Woodford Grimes of Southampton is the local representative on behalf of the Poetry Society.

From the newspaper, Daily Echo, Bournemouth, Dorset, England, Tuesday, June 23, 1931:

**THE POETRY SOCIETY.**



Reporting on the summer term examination in verse-speaking for the Southampton and Bournemouth area, for which Mrs. Woodford Grimes of Southampton is the local representative on behalf of the Poetry Society (Incorporated), the unique authority on this important work in which there has been great development in recent years, the Chevalier Kyle passes a high tribute to the vocal qualities of the candidates who have developed resonant voices with a bell-like clearness, illustrating physical vitality and mental alertness combined in the older candidates with the rarer qualities, essential in verse-speaking, of agreeable and properly placed inflexions, intelligent phrasing and some regard; for the metre and rhythm of the poems, producing the peculiar pattern of each poem, indicating the developing artistio sense grafted on to a technical vocal culture.

### **~ 5 March 1932**

Mrs. Woodford Grimes was at a dinner-dance event for the Mayoress of Southampton. From the newspaper, Hampshire Advertiser, Saturday 5 March 1932:

#### **MAYORESS OF SOUTHAMPTON.**

##### **Her First Public Speech.**

Southampton Dynamo Club held their twelfth anniversary dinner-dance in the South-Western Hotel, Southampton, at the week-end. The Mayoress of Southampton, Mrs. F. Woolley, who is the president of the club, received the company. The Mayoress was accompanied by the Mayor (Councillor F. Woolley, J. P.).

Mrs. F. Murray, the chairman of the chub, presided at the dinner.

Mrs. Murray submitted the loyal toast, and afterwards proposed the health of the president.

The toast was accorded musical honours.

The Mayoress, who confessed it was her first speech in public, said: "I am old-fashioned enough to think the chief sphere for the work and influence of woman is the home.

"This does not mean that other interests should be excluded. On the contrary, women can be better mothers and better housewives as a result of contacts outside the home, provided, of course, a proper sense of proportion is maintained.

"In our lifetime we have seen an expansion of women's activities to such a degree that no avenue of occupation or of social or public service is now closed to them, excepting only in one or two directions, such as combatant services in the forces of the Crown and the navigation of ships and so on.

"In the development that has taken place, I think it will be conceded by all observers, including our masculine friends, that women have acquitted themselves well, and brought, by their wider outlook, much benefit to the community." (Applause.)

So a body as the Dynamo Club was to be commended, because it afforded opportunities for social intercourse, for the exchange of views, as well as for direct educational value afforded by the programme of addresses and lectures dealing with matters of current interest and importance.

“Therefore, I am glad to be your president, and I wish continued success to the Dynamo Club and its members,” added the Mayoress.

Mr. F. G. Binning proposed the toast of “The Club.”

Mrs. Murray, responding to the toast, said the Club was inaugurated on March 5, 1920, and had made steady progress.

Mrs. Woodford Grimes proposed the health of “The Visitors.”

“Surely we live in a topsy-turvy world,” remarked the Mayor at the outset of his reply to the toast. “Traditionally, hospitality has been the privilege of men; to-day, hospitality is claimed as the privilege of women, and after the delightful entertainment that we men are enjoying we will never again make the stupid blunder of denying that privilege to women.”

Following the after-dinner speeches there were dancing and whist. Mr. and Mrs. Owen Gilbert were M.C.s for the dancing, and music was played by Marius B. Winter's London band. The whist drive was arranged by Miss Pither and Mrs. M. Koefod.

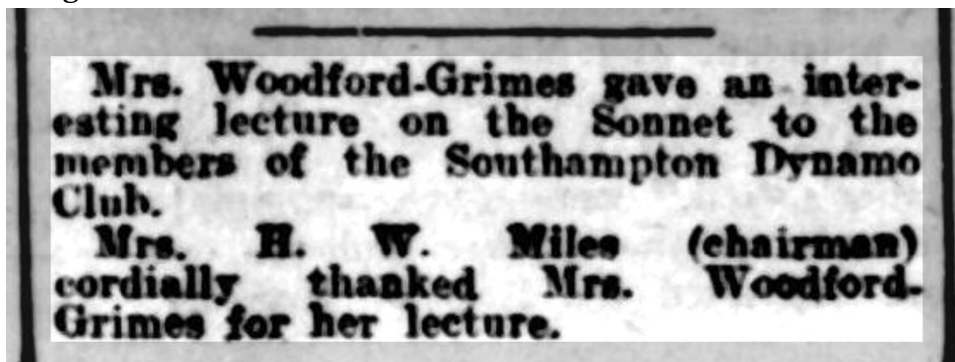
### **~ 10 December 1932**

Mrs. Woodford-Grimes gave a lecture on the sonnets to the Southampton Dynamo Club. From the newspaper, Hampshire Advertiser, Saturday 10 December 1932:

Mrs. Woodford-Grimes gave an interesting lecture on the Sonnet to the members of the Southampton Dynamo Club.

Mrs. H. W. Miles (chairman) cordially thanked Mrs. Woodford-Grimes for her lecture.

Image of the article:





## ~ 9 December 1933

Mrs. Woodford Grimes gave a brief sketch of Sir James Barrie's play, "What every Woman Knows" at the Southampton Dynamo club.

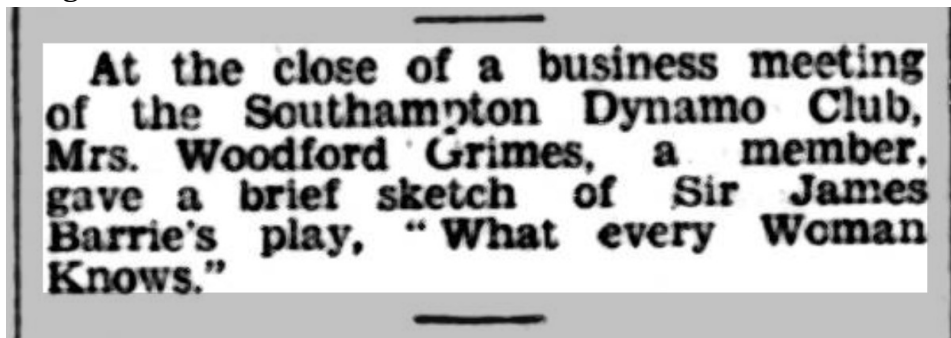
From the newspaper, Hampshire Advertiser, Saturday 9 December 1933:

### **Town and Country News in Brief**

(among or news)

At the close of a business meeting of the Southampton Dynamo Club, Mrs. Woodford Grimes, a member, gave a brief sketch of Sir James Barrie's play, "What every Woman Knows."

Image of the article:



## ~ 10 March 1934

Rosanne Woodford-Grimes was in school learning Elocution (the skill of clear and expressive speech).

From the newspaper, Hampshire Advertiser, Saturday 10 March 1934:

### **MUSICAL FESTIVALE SCHEDULE**

Being Well Maintained

(long article, only transcribed the relevant parts)

"THURSDAY"

#### **"Mr. Alban Jeynes' Classes"**

"Elocution, Girls, 12-14 years. Test pieces: "Sea-Form" (Horley) or "The Kingfisher" (Davies)."

"Third - class certificates. --- ..."

(among others)

"... Rosanne Woodford-Grimes ..."

## **~ 26 May 1934**

Mrs. E. Woodford Grimes gave a lecture recital on “Customs of Past Days” at the Southampton Sisterhood.

From the newspaper, Hampshire Advertiser, Saturday 26 May 1934:

### **Town and County in News Briefs**

(among other items of news)

#### **At the Sisterhood**

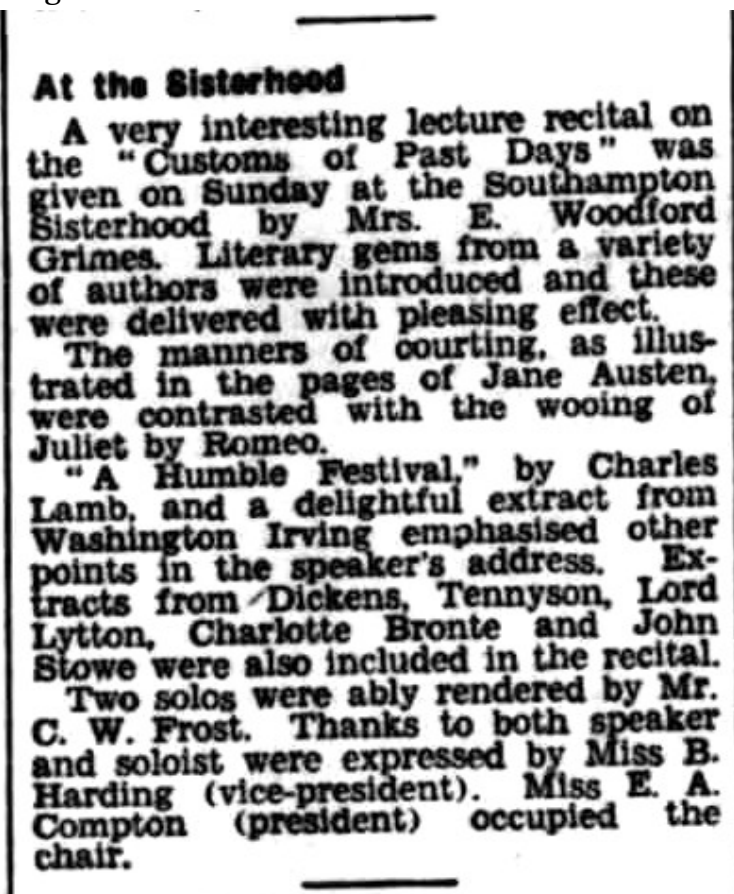
A very interesting lecture recital on the “Customs of Past Days” was given on Sunday at the Southampton Sisterhood by Mrs. E. Woodford Grimes. Literary gems from a variety of authors were introduced and these were delivered with pleasing effect.

The manners of courting, as illustrated in the pages of Jane Austen, were contrasted with the wooing of Juliet by Romeo.

“A Humble Festival,” by Charles Lamb, and a delightful extract from Washington Irving emphasised other points in the speaker's address. Extracts from Dickens, Tennyson, Lord Lytton, Charlotte Bronte and John Stowe were also included in the recital.

Two solos were ably rendered by Mr. C. W. Frost. Thanks to both speaker and soloist were expressed by Miss B. Harding (vice-president). Miss E. A. Compton (president) occupied the chair.

Image of the article:



## ~ 8 December 1934

Mrs. Woodford Grimes gave an address about "Browning" at Freemantle Women's Adult School.

From the newspaper, Hampshire Advertiser, Saturday 8 December 1934:

### **ADULT SCHOOL MOVEMENT**

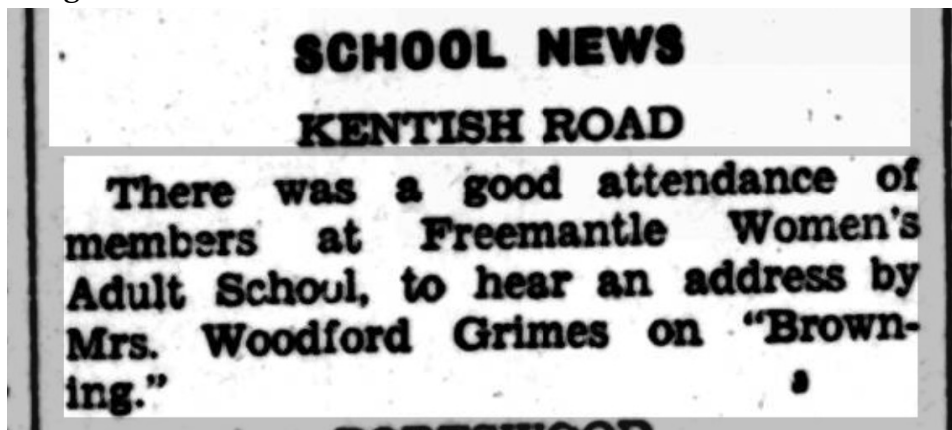
(among other items not transcribed here)

#### **SCHOOL NEWS**

#### **KENTISH ROAD**

There was a good attendance of members at Freemantle Women's Adult School, to hear an address by Mrs. Woodford Grimes on "Browning."

Image of the article:



### **~ 6 April 1935**

Mrs. Woodford-Grimes' team of Southampton competed in the Hampshire Drama Festival.

From the newspaper, Hampshire Advertiser, Saturday 6 April 1935:

#### **HAMPSHIRE DRAMA FESTIVAL**

##### **Contests at Shawford**

Eliminating contests in connection with the Hampshire Drama Festival have been held in various centres this week, with the object of stimulating drama in the villages.

(only the relevant part transcribed here)

"The senior teams competing at Shawford were the Heathcote Players. St. Denys Girls' Club. Mrs. Woodford-Grimes' team (Southampton); The Would-be-Good Players. Petersfield; and Liss Women's Institute."

### **~ 29 February 1936**

Mrs. E. Woodford Grimes gave a descriptive monologue.

From the newspaper, Hampshire Advertiser, Saturday 29 February 1936:

#### **EVENING INSTITUTES' STAFFS**

##### **HOLDS A DINNER**

(long article and only the relevant parts transcribed here)

"The fourth annual dinner of the staffs of the various Southampton Evening Institutes."

"The remainder of the evening was devoted to a musical programme, songs being contributed by Mr. B. C. Ellery and Eva Thorne, a descriptive monologue by Mrs. E. Woodford Grimes, and clever blackboard caricatures, "White Lies and White Lines," by Mr. E. W. Gadd."

**~ 18 April 1936**

Freemantle Women have a full plan for the next three months. Mrs. Woodford-Grimes has chosen for her subject "X=O."

From the newspaper, Hampshire Advertiser, Saturday 18 April 1936:

## **HAMPSHIRE ADULT SCHOOLS**

### **Future Activities**

It is pleasing to note the effect of the undated handbook upon the local schools, for it has made each group definitely plan ahead. In many cases the handbook subjects are adhered to, but in a few, some unusual subjects are chosen. Here is an abbreviated review of three local schools' programmes:

Freemantle Women have a full plan for the next three months. Mrs. Woodford-Grimes has chosen for her subject "X=O," and this is followed by Mr. Robert Hughes on "Law." A night is devoted to "Milk," and the lecturer is Miss Stockman. Alderman Vincent and Councillor Tolfree are also booked, and other meetings are down for Mrs. K. Burgess and Miss E. A. Compton.

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.....

**~ 18 December 1937**

Mrs. Woodford Grimes gave a lecture; "Shakespeare from the Occult Standpoint," at the Bournemouth Psychology Centre.

From the newspaper, Daily Echo, Sat, Dec 18, 1937:

**Bournemouth Psychology Centre**

**Digby Chambers, Post Office Rd.**

Sunday, 6.30; Healing Meeting, Mrs. Melville Brown 8.15; Lecture, Music Refreshments.

Monday, 8; Lecture, Mrs. Woodford Grimes; "Shakespeare from the Occult Standpoint."

Tuesday, 3; "At Home," 8; Dance.

Wed., 8; Lecture, Mr. Edmunds.

Thursday, 8; Dance.

### **~ 24 December 1937**

The Ashrama Hall open its doors at Somerford, Christchurch, Hampshire. E. Woodford Grimes played Bridget, the new cook, in the play "The Window of Hudson's Pagoda."

From the newspaper, Bournemouth Times and Directory, Friday 24 December 1937:

#### **Somerford Hall's Premier**

The Ashramn [sic] Hall at Somerford, Christchurch, opened its doors on Saturday when two performances were given in the dainty little theatre. Attendances were largely confined to friends of the promoters and performers.

The two attractions were of the mystery variety. The first "The Window of Hudson's Pagoda," described as a thriller in three acts, was a little involved, dealing with the occult in a manner which mystified the average spectator. Mr. Kenneth Stubbs as Dooley Hudson's butler - batman - boxer - servant was good, and the acting of E. Woodford Grimes as Bridget, the new cook, provided enjoyable humour.

A curtain-raiser, "As Ye Sow" with four characters concerned an author whose characters came to life to punish him for creating them.

The proceeds of the performances were given to the Mayor's Christmas Cheer Fund.



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The proceeds of the performances were given to the Mayor's Christmas Cheer Fund.

**~ 17 June 1938**

The new Garden Theatre in Somerford Way in Christchurch, Hampshire opens its doors.

E. Woodford-Grimes, M. Beasant-Scott, Mrs. C. E. Chalk, Mr. W. Forder are names that were mentioned in Philip Heselton's books.

"The Astral Messenger," was played by E. Woodford-Grimes; and "The Master," was played by M. Beasant-Scott.

From the newspaper, Bournemouth Times and Directory, Friday 17 June 1938:



Players in the one act play presented at the opening of the Garden Theatre. Seen at the stage door, they are Dr. G. A. Sullivan, E. Woodford-Grimes, Francesca Keen and M. Besant-Scott.

News of the Priority Town.

### **Garden Theatre Opens Its Doors**

Ambition of Twenty Years Realised

First Play Presented

CHRISTCHURCH people who have watched the new Garden Theatre in Somerford Way taking shape were amongst those who entered the new building on Wednesday to witness the opening ceremony. They found that it more than fulfilled their expectations, and that it justified the merits claimed for it in last week's "Bournemouth Times."

First Rosicrucian Theatre to be opened in this country, it is identified with the Academia Rosae Crucis in Britain, the purposes of which were also outlined in last week's issue, and which, amongst other things, has found the utility of drama an expression of its ideals. At present the auditorium of the Garden Theatre has seating accommodation for 361 persons.

Wednesday's opening ceremony was performed by the Mayor of Christchurch, Coun. H. E. W. Laphorne, who was accompanied by the Mayoress, and with him was Dr. G. A. Sullivan, Ph.D., Ps.D., Chancellor of the Academia Rosae Crucis in Britain.

Others present were Mrs. C. E. Chalk, of Christchurch, who is musical director of the Theatre, Ald. and Mrs. J. W. Tucker, Ald. and Mrs. P. E. H. Cawte, Coun. E. Russell Oakley, Coun. and Mrs. F. D. Lane, Mr. J. B. Fogaty, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Owen, Mr. and Mrs. Street, Mr. J. Eric Putnam (director of "Bournemouth Times" Ltd.), Mr. Philip Miles (Priory Church organist), Mr. W. Forder, and Mr. Bryant, the builder of the theatre.

### **A Benefit to the Borough**

Following the playing of the National Anthem, Dr. Sullivan, who writes and acts under the name of Alex Mathews, introduced the Mayor, who said that it was easy to realise what a benefit to borough the erection of a building such as that could be.

His Worship spoke in appreciation of Rosicrucian Society, and of its willingness to help in the cause of charity, saying that he particularly wished to thank the Society for its great help with the Christmas Cheer Fund.

"I am sure," he continued, "all will admire their vision and their courage in building a theatre such as this. Christchurch has shown considerable conservatism in the past and I think it shows great courage on the part of the Society in constructing this theatre. I wish it all success and have very great pleasure in declaring it open."

### **No New Idea**

"The idea of a theatre in Christchurch, was conceived many years ago, and the idea of having a Rosicrucian Theatre was conceived twenty years ago," said Dr. Sullivan. "Then our time came to purchase land so that the theatre could be built, and it is the first theatre of the Order"

He thanked the Mayor for the kind things he had said of the Rosicrucian Society and expressed appreciation of the Council's friendly attitude towards them in the building of the theatre. The Society had been connected with Christchurch, he said, for the past eight years, and had formerly met in the small hall adjoining the theatre and before that at the King's Arms Hotel.

### **Filling a Shakespearean Gap**

"We hope the theatre will be a great addition to Christchurch," said Dr. Sullivan. "Our object is to present classical plays --- not only Shakespeare, but other plays that will be entertaining and instructive. We shall shortly produce 'Pythagoras,' a play dealing with

the life of the philosopher, and also 'Henry VII.' There is a gap in the Shakespearean plays and we have attempted to fill in that gap with a play in two parts depicting the life of Henry VII.

“ ‘Out of the Depths’ presents in a novel way how Christianity was introduced into Ireland, and we even propose to give you a thriller. ‘The Window of Hudson’s Pagoda.’ This afternoon a one act play of a mystical character will be presented. It seeks to show what has happened to a soul that has passed from this world into the next. All that I can say is that the Rosicrucian Society for six centuries made investigation into the problems of life and death and the play is based on that philosophy.”

### **“The Building We Wanted”**

“We have done our best,” the doctor concluded. “The builders have given us the building we wanted. It is possible to see from any part of the auditorium. To-night ‘The Merchant of Venice’ will be presented as we think it would have been in the time of Queen Elizabeth.”

The first play was then presented. It was “The Master Beyond,” and astral experience by Alex Mathews. Played behind a veil of gauze, it was for the greater part a duologue between “The Awakened Soul” and “The Master.” The cast was: “The Awakened Soul,” Francesca Keen; “The Astral Messenger,” E. Woodford-Grimes; and “The Master,” M. Besant-Scott. Singing in the wings added to the dialogue of the play.

## **~ 5 August 1938**

The Summer Festival of the Rosicrucian players commenced in the Garden Theatre in Christchurch, Hampshire.

In the play, “Pythagoras,” Ernest Mason played Cylon, the Tyrant of Crotona.

E. Woodford Grimes played Theano, wife of Pythagoras.

In the play, “King Henry VII,” E. Woodford Grimes played Lambert Simnel.

From the newspaper, Bournemouth Times and Directory, Friday 5 August 1938:

### **Rosicrucian Players Summer Festival This Week**

Summer Festival of the Rosicrucian players commenced on Monday at their recently opened Garden Theatre at Christchurch. The plays presented this week have been enjoyable to watch. One wished there were larger audiences.

No appeal is made at the Garden Theatre to the fans of Robert Taylor and Carole Lombard, but there must be many people who would find a visit well worth while. The Theatre is situated only a few minutes walk from the bus station at Purewell Cross and is equipped with modern Amenities.

### **“PYTHAGORAS”**

THE Festival opened on Monday with a performance of "Pythagoras" by Alex. Matthews. The play deals with the life of the Greek philosopher who lived in the 6th century B.C.

It should not be thought, however, that its interest is merely antiquarian, for the history of 6th century Greeks contains much that is applicable to our own time. For instance, it was an age of tyrants, or dictators, whose policy of large public works and aggrandisement has obvious parallels to-day. The life of Pythagoras was one of resistance to these subversive doctrines, and the belief which he expressed might well be put into practice in the 20th century, for his philosophy was a simple one, namely that men should be just, pious and honourable.

We can then eradicate from our minds the notion that Rosicrucian productions are not relevant to the present time. As their programme says, they present

"Plays, Satires, Masques and Mime, Plays dealing with present time, And fitting to this age and season Which give you cause to pause and reason."

The name part was played with consummate skill by Alex. Matthews. Here we have a mature actor, who knows the value of clear enunciation and significant gesture. His presentation of the philosopher in his youth was not quite so happy as his interpretation of advancing age, though he was always convincing.

As the King of Egypt, G. F. J. Galloway revealed considerable abilities, though he hardly had the dignity necessary for the part; the Queen (Irene Lyon Clark) on the other hand was truly regal.

An outstanding performance was given by J. Donaldson Palmer as Lysimachus, a "debunker" who became converted to the doctrines of Pythagoras. His words were always remarkably clear and he has a good stage-presence.

Ernest Mason played Cylon, the Tyrant of Crotona. In appearance he was indeed machiavellian, but his voice was not entirely suited to the part. He could not make it sneer effectively enough.

E. Woodford Grimes played Theano, wife of Pythagoras, with tenderness and charm, and Ailsie D. Hall was impressive as Cleobulina. The acting generally reflected great credit on the producer.

The staging can hardly be too highly praised, and there was a proper measure of restraint. The scenery, designed and executed by Irene Lyon Clark, was first rate; one backcloth of a garden deserves special mention. Lighting, too, was in very capable hands, and the electricians were responsible for an excellent rendering of a burning house. Technically the Rosicrucians have little to learn, though with more experience they will move properties more silently.

#### **"KING HENRY VII."**

ON Tuesday the Players presented King Henry VII, part one. Conscious as many other have been that Shakespeare left off his chronicle plays at an unfortunate stage, Alex.

Matthews has attempted to continue the series after Richard III. He has based the action of his play upon Holinshed's Chronicle, thus following Shakespeare's main source. And he has had the courage to write blank verse, and rime is used to good effect in some scenes.

The play opens with the Battle of Bosworth Field, and in the first part traces the history of King Henry's reign down to the overthrow of the Earl of Lincoln and Lambert Simuel of Stoke. Henry has reached the peak of his power. There is plenty of action; indeed, the battle-scenes are presented with a gusto that is rare on any stage. All of us have visions of absurd combats with wooden swords, which serve for battles in so many productions. But anyone who visits this theatre need have no such qualms, for many of the Rosicrucians are adept fencers.

The part of King Henry is played with dignity and restraint by A. C. Whitehorn. He may not appear a very dominating figure, but we must remember that the historical character was very different from the dashing Henry V; and the actor's opportunities are therefore more limited.

W. Sawkins made an all too brief appearance as Richard III, for his deep resonant voice is exactly suited to the traditional interpretation of that king. J. Donaldson Palmer gave to the Earl of Northumberland and the Earl of Buckingham the same vigour which he had imparted to Lysimachus the previous evening. E. Woodford Grimes made Lambert Simnel a really sympathetic figure; she has a remarkable ability for playing men's parts without appearing incongruous.

No play of this nature would be complete without representatives of the common people. Scabbard, Mistress Scabbard, Pikle and Piker are the counterparts of many of the devotees of the Boar's Head Tavern and of Mistress Quickly and Fluellen. And Scabbard seems to have some kinship with Sir John Falstaff. The humour within its limits is sufficiently effective, forming an adequate relief to the more serious scenes. Rhona Perreau (Piker) and W. L. Newby-Stubbs (Scabbard) merit special mention.

Again it is a pleasure to compliment those responsible for the scenery and lighting (though there appeared to be a little uncertainty at times as to which lights should be on, but no doubt this will be remedied at subsequent performances).

Images of the article:

# Rosicrucian Players

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**"PYTHAGORAS"**

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As the King of Egypt, G. F. J. Galloway revealed considerable abilities, though he hardly had the dignity necessary for the part; the Queen (Irene Lyon Clark) on the other hand was truly regal.

An outstanding performance was given by J. Donaldson Palmer as Lysimachus, a "debunker" who became converted to the doctrines of Pythagoras. His words were always remarkably clear and he has a good stage-presence.

Ernest Mason played Cylon, the Tyrant of Crotona. In appearance he was indeed machiavellian, but his voice was not entirely suited to the part. He could not make it sneer effectively enough.

E. Woodford Grimes played Theano, wife of Pythagoras, with tenderness and charm, and Ailsie D. Hall was impressive as Cleobulina. The acting generally reflected great credit on the producer.

The staging can hardly be too highly praised, and there was a proper measure of restraint. The scenery, designed and executed by Irene Lyon Clark, was first-rate; one backcloth of a garden deserves special mention. Lighting, too, was in very capable hands, and the electricians were responsible for an excellent rendering of a burning house. Technically the

Rosierucians have little to learn, though with more experience they will move properties more silently.

## "KING HENRY VII."

ON Tuesday the Players presented King Henry VII, part one. Conscious as many other have been that Shakespeare left off his chronicle plays at an unfortunate stage, Alex. Matthews has attempted to continue the series after Richard III. He has based the action of his play upon Holinshed's Chronicle, thus following Shakespeare's main source. And he has had the courage to write blank verse, and rime is used to good effect in some scenes.

The play opens with the Battle of Bosworth Field, and in the first part traces the history of King Henry's reign down to the overthrow of the Earl of Lincoln and Lambert Simnel at Stoke. Henry has reached the peak of his power. There is plenty of action; indeed, the battle-scenes are presented with a gusto that is rare on any stage. All of us have visions of absurd combats with wooden swords, which serve for battles in so many productions. But anyone who visits this theatre need have no such qualms, for many of the Rosierucians are adept fencers.

The part of King Henry is played with

th	fencers.	
"	The part of King Henry is played with	T
is	dignity and restraint by A. C. Whitehorn.	m
to	He may not appear a very dominating	C
	figure, but we must remember that the	J
at	historical character was very different	
to	from the dashing Henry V; and the	jud
	actor's opportunities are therefore more	an
	limited.	Ca
as	W. Sawkins made an all too brief ap-	F.
e.	pearance as Richard III, for his deep	Mi
s.	resonant voice is exactly suited to the	Mi
lic	traditional interpretation of that king. J.	C.
as	Donaldson Palmer gave to the Earl of	E.
as	Northumberland and the Earl of Bucking-	
ve	ham the same vigour which he had im-	sp
x-	parted to Lysimachus the previous even-	pr
ce	ing. E. Woodford Grimes made Lambert	Ba
hy	Simmel a really sympathetic figure; she	Jo
ld	has a remarkable ability for playing men's	at
	parts without appearing incongruous.	se
ds	No play of this nature would be com-	ch
ns	plete without representatives of the com-	M
As	mon people. Scabbard, Mistress Scabbard,	Ch
	Pikle and Piker are the counterparts of	an
ie,	many of the devotees of the Boar's Head	Vi
	Tavern and of Mistress Quickly and	
ad	Fluellen. And Scabbard seems to have	
	some kinship with Sir John Falstaff. The	M
re	humour within its limits is sufficiently	Q
he	effective, forming an adequate relief to	wi
ut	the more serious scenes. Rhona Perreau	
py	(Piker) and W. L. Newby-Stubbs (Scab-	P
ce,	bard) merit special mention.	
	Again it is a pleasure to compliment	ga
	those responsible for the scenery and	m
	lighting (though there appeared to be a	
	little uncertainty at times as to which	
	lights should be on, but no doubt this will	
	be remedied at subsequent performances).	

## ~ 12 August 1938

Continuing their Summer Festival at the Christchurch Garden Theatre, the Rosicrucian Players presented several plays.

In the play, "The Merchant of Venice," E. Woodford Grimes played Portia, and her daughter, R. Woodford Grimes, played Launcelot Gobbo.

In the play, "The Master Beyond," the Master was played by M. Besant Scott.

In the play, "Twilight on the Threshold," E. W. Mason did the special effects of the play. From the newspaper, Bournemouth Times and Directory, Friday 12 August 1938: News of the Priory Town.

### **"Merchant of Venice"**

#### **Rosicrucian Festival Continues**

Continuing their Summer Festival at the Christchurch Garden Theatre, the Rosicrucian Players presented "The Merchant of Venice" on Friday and again on Wednesday.

The success of this play has come to depend upon Shylock. Though in Elizabethan times the Jew was almost certainly intended to be a figure of ridicule --- in the manner of Marlowe's Jew of Malta --- to-day he is the "fat" part.

Through succeeding generations of actors he has been developed into a sympathetic character and almost into a hero. Therefore it is quite a common fault for Shylock to be too dominating; on the other hand, John Gielgud has been criticised for going towards the other extreme and presenting a subdued Shylock.

Alex Matthews invites a similar criticism. One felt his Jew was too mild to cut a pound of a living man's flesh. It was possible, perhaps, to accept his interpretation in the first three acts, but in the Court scene it had to be rejected. Although it is always a pleasure to watch an actor of Alex Matthews' ability, we may suggest that in this instance his skill was slightly mis-applied.

E. Woodford Grimes' Portia was wholly satisfying. She conveyed admirably the sophistication of this character, and attained considerable dignity in the Court scene.

Another notable success was the Launcelot Gobbo of R. Woodford Grimes, who gave to the part just the right sauciness and impudence. A. C. Whitehorn and R. Lyon Clark gave good performances as Antonio and Bassanio, and we must not forget the Nerissa and Jessica of Ailsie Hall and Francesca Keen.

The production was of the high standard we expect of this company.

H.M.

### **THREE SHORT PLAYS**

On Tuesday were presented three one-act mystical plays, written by Alex Matthews and designed as expressions of Rosicrucian philosophy. By their nature these plays must have a rather limited appeal, but to anyone prepared to make a little mental effort they are by no means devoid of interest. As drama they suffer from lack of action; for the most part they consist of dialogue. Some compensation for the want of plot is made by the excellent lighting effects which are a feature of this company's productions.

"The Master Beyond" deals with the experiences of a human soul awakening after death. The philosophy relating to the nature of God and life is expounded by the Master

(M. Besant Scott) seems not unconnected in some ways with the Platonism of the *Phaedo*, and there also appear links with the Pythagorean doctrine of the transmigration of souls. The part of the *Awakened Soul* was played with a deep insight by Francesca Keen.

In “*Twilight on the Threshold*” only one character, the disciple, appears on the stage. The phantoms speak and howl off stage, being represented on a blackcloth by grotesque figures projected from a lantern. The effect was certainly uncanny, and E. W. Mason deserves great credit for his ingenuity.

Evelyn Wyatt was very convincing as the disciple who after death is assaulted by the representations of his own mortal passions and desires. Until these are subdued, the soul cannot pass on over the “threshold” into eternal happiness. For the electricians this play is indeed a triumph.

The last and longest of these one-act plays, “*Out of the Depths*” is concerned with Druids.

Though there is rather more plot, it was less easy to detect the underlying idea. The situation was clear: the Brehons, an old tribe, are attacked by powerful enemies, and cannot find a leader able to repulse the invaders. They consult the Chief Druid (played with suitable dignity by Alex Matthews), and after prayers to the gods a magic boat sails to their shores containing a mystic cross, which presumably signifies that the gods will see to it that the Brehons prosper in the future.

Probably seeing the play a second time would result in a deeper understanding.

Good performances were contributed by Ailsio D. Hall as the Prophet and by J. D. Palmer as a Druid.

Last night the Rosicrucian Players gave the first performance this summer of “*The Window in Hudson's Pagoda*,” a thriller of an unusual type, which has been written by Alex Matthews.

To-night “*Pythagoras*” is being given and to-morrow the second part of *King Henry VII*.

Images of the article:

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### ~ 13 August 1938

The Rosicrucian Players at the Garden Theatre in Christchurch, Hampshire had several plays.

In the play, "Twilight on the Threshold," ... it gave Mr. E. W. Mason scope for lighting experiment and lantern effects.

In the play, "Out of the Depths," the prologue spoken by E. Woodford-Grimes.

From the newspapers, New Milton Advertiser, Saturday 13 August 1938:

## **Garden Theatre**

### **SUMMER FESTIVAL BY ROSICRUCIAN PLAYERS**

ESCAPE from convention is usually interesting, and to be encouraged in these days of mass thought and centralised ideas, therefore, the Garden Theatre, presided over by Alex Mathews, should be of interest to those who love the theatre and all that it stands for, from an intellectual point of view.

The Rosicrucian Players have arranged a summer festival through August, and the plays selected are drawn from historical, classical, and mystical sources, so you may choose or reject as it pleases you. The I theatre itself is delightful, good-sized auditorium with comfortable seating, acoustics are good and stage well equipped, and the lighting is excellent. It is situated at Christchurch on the main road, turning up Meadow End, near Purewell.

I It was in keeping with tradition that the Rosicrucian Players should open the season with a play based on the life of Pythagoras, the great Greek philosopher, who has come down to us through the ages almost as a legendary character. His wisdom, beauty and great personality live forever as an inspiration to all who would learn of the Mysteries.

Alex Mathews, who was responsible for the text, played the role of Pythagoras. The Egyptian and Greek costumes were most beautiful, and Mrs. R. Lyon-Clark is, indeed, an artist to design them, correctly in every detail. I have never seen better “dressing” in an amateur play as designed and made by themselves they were, in fact, an artistic achievement.

Much of the play was in the style of a ritual, as Greek drama should be, grouping was good and always picturesque. But the weak spot was the actors' voices, with the exception of one or two --- beauty of tone, modulation and correct inflection are essential in all plays, but particularly in this type of play, which depends so much on the spoken word in its appeal to an audience

Alex Mathews has a pleasant low-toned voice, but in characterisation he lacked the inward fire and gift of rhetoric that is attributed to Pythagoras; there could have been more contrast between the youth in his first initiation, and the great teacher of esoteric science. instructing his disciples. The production would have been improved by a more varied choice of music --- Greek dances could have been introduced, for music, dance and drama, should merge in a play of this period.

On the next evening, a group of three mystical one-act plays was presented, also written by Alex Matthews. They were beautifully staged with specially effective lighting effects, and in “The Master Beyond” there was better use of the voice, though the dialogue could have been effectively shortened; Francesca Keen as the Awakened Soul, spoke musically and with a child-like simplicity and, indeed, looked rather like a Botticelli angel newly materialised on an unknown plane --- and dominated this little play with much charm.

I think it was a pity to follow this with “Twilight on the Threshold,” as both plays dealt, as it were, with a similar theme, though from a different approach. However, it gave Mr. E. W. Mason scope for lighting experiment and lantern effects.

In the third play, “Out of the Depths,” the eye was feasted by lovely colours, and beautiful costumes, decor and scenery right up to standard. W. Newby-Stubbs is the scenic artist, but timing was often at fault, and the prompter, too, much in evidence. The prologue spoken by E. Woodford-Grimes was spoilt in this way. Alex Mathews here enacted the Chief Bard, and was excellently suited to this role, his voice, calm and low, suited the part to perfection, gestures and make-up always pictorial.

Other plays in the festival are historical scenes written round Henry VII, in blank verse by Alex Mathews, who, I understand, is a Shakespearian scholar, and there is “Window of Hudson's Pagoda,” billed as a thriller. This I hope to see next week.

The Rosicrucian Players are to be congratulated on their efforts, and we hope to see more original contributions from the players themselves. It is always of greater interest for a dramatic society to draw upon itself than to merely try to imitate a production dubbed a success, which has been produced and acted by well-known actors.

In the Garden Theatre at Somerford are all the accessories for first-class work, and their arrival here amongst us is a welcome innovation. We shall watch their productions with interest and encouragement, for in all their work there is beauty of idea and expression and “a thing of beauty is a joy forever.”

E. M. HERMES.

### ~ 30 August 1938

“The Window of Hudson's Pagoda,” waw presented at the Garden Theatre in Christchurch, Hampshire.

E. Woodford Grimes played Hudson's secretary gives an excellent rendering of a nerve-racked person.

From the newspaper, Daily Echo, Tuesday, August 30, 1938:

#### **CHRISTCHURCH GARDEN THEATRE.**

Theatregoers will find much to interest them in the new thriller “The Window of Hudson's Pagoda,” which is presented at Christchurch Garden Theatre, Christchurch on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of this week at 8 pm.

This excellent play, written by Alex. Mathews, the Shakespearean actor, deals with the struggles of a criminal investigator to combat the machinations of a black magician who holds John Hudson, a retired tea planter responsible for the destruction of an old pagoda in Burma. The play is billed as “giving a thrill a minute,” and this is true, for from the opening to the last scene there are tense moments. The climax is reached when

John Hudson dies in a most mysterious manner in spite of the carefully arranged plans of Arnold Fairfax, the criminal investigator.

Alex. Mathews as Fairfax makes himself at home with this character. Newby Stubbs as Hudson gives gusto to this character, and both have the onus of the play upon their shoulders.

Kenneth Stubbs and Ailsie Hall supply some good humour during intervals when it is welcome as a relief from tenseness. E. Woodford Grimes as Hudson's secretary gives an excellent rendering of a nerve-racked person on the edge of hysteria caused by happenings which appear to have no physical solution.

The thriller is preceded by a one-act play, "As Ye Sow," written by the same author.

### **~ 17 December 1938**

Mrs. Woodford Grimes at the Deanery Evening School led some students in sketches.

From the newspaper, Hampshire Advertiser, Saturday 17 December 1938:

#### **TWO DYNAMO CLUB EVENTS**

The Deputy Mayoress's Hospital Appeal benefited by the bridge drive organised by the Southampton Dynamo Club.

Miss Mortimer acted as M.C., and was responsible with Mrs. Grint for the refreshments. Prizewinners were Miss Ploughman, Mrs. Blenkinsop, Mrs. Morgan, Mrs. Toogood, Mrs. Lapsley and Mrs. Holt.

Students of Deanery Evening School presented an excellent dramatic entertainment on another occasion. Led by Mrs. Woodford Grimes, members took part in five sketches, including an extract from "Night Must Fall."

"The Charm," one of the other playlets attempted, illustrated the superstition still prevailing in out-of-the-way parts of the country, while "As Ye Sow" was the story of a village murder. The other presentation was "The Bible Judge."

Others who took part in the programme were Min Connie Cross [----] sang several songs delightfully [----] Miss Vera Whitworth, accompany[---].

The hostess was Mrs. Petley.

### **~ 8 July 1939**

Mrs. E. Woodford Grimes with Mrs. E. Wyatt entertained students with Shakespearean scenes at Westholme, Highfield, Southampton, Hampshire.

From the newspaper, Hampshire Advertiser, Saturday 8 July 1939:

#### **FETE IN HICHFIELD CARDEN**

A successful garden fete in aid of Dr. Barnardo's Homes was held at Westholme, Highfield, Southampton, by the kindness of Mrs. J. Gale.

The proceedings were opened by the Sheriff (Councillor R. N. Sinclair), and Mrs. Sinclair, others present being the Rev. Keith Collins and Mr S. R. Newcombe. Stalls, teas and sideshows did a good trade.

During the afternoon the pupils of Westmount School entertained the company, while after tea the Highfield Girl Guides gave a play. This was followed by delightful Shakespearean scenes by two clever artists, Mrs. E. Woodford Grimes, A.L.A.M., A.R.C.M., and Mrs. E. Wyatt.

### **~ 13 July 1939**

E. Woodford-Grimes of 27, Dennistoun-avenue, Christchurch posted an ad looking for a situation.

From the newspaper, Daily Echo, Thursday, July 13, 1939:

Situations Vacant.

A.L.A.M. (Eloc.) and Local Representative of L.A.M D.A. for Southampton, desires daily post as Reader in Bournemouth or district. --- E. Woodford-Grimes, 27, Dennistoun-avenue, Christchurch 512.

### **~ 27 July 1939**

In this article, the following people are mentioned that were mentioned in Philip Heselton's books:

E. Woodford Grimes, Ernest Mason, M. Besant-Scott, and Susie Mason.

At the Christchurch Theatre.

In the play, "Pythagoras," E. Woodford Grimes played Theano, Ernest Mason played Cylon, M. Besant-Scott played Cleobulina and Susie Mason played the 1st Elder.

From the newspaper, Daily Echo, Thursday, July 27, 1939:

#### **THE CHRISTCHURCH THEATRE.**

Mr. Alex. Matthews to Present "Pythagoras."

In his series of summer season plays at the Christchurch Theatre, Somerford-road, Mr. Alex Mathews is to present his second play, "Pythagoras," next Thursday, Friday and Saturday, July 27 to 29, at 8 p.m.

If ever any play could be appropriate to the times, this is. We are not introduced to the intricacies of mathematics or the 47th proposition, but to a beautifully written play which shows the struggles of the great Greek philosopher to bring peace to the world and introduce philosophy which is adaptable to all times.

Alex. Mathews plays the name part with his usual ability, and his gradual transformation from a young man of twenty to one of ninety is a magnificent exposition of play-acting. Newby-Stubbs makes a good Pharaoh of Egypt; Robert Sawkins is Kut



Hum, the High Priest, who meets his downfall in a very dramatic manner, with David Brown and John Palmer as other priestly conspirators.

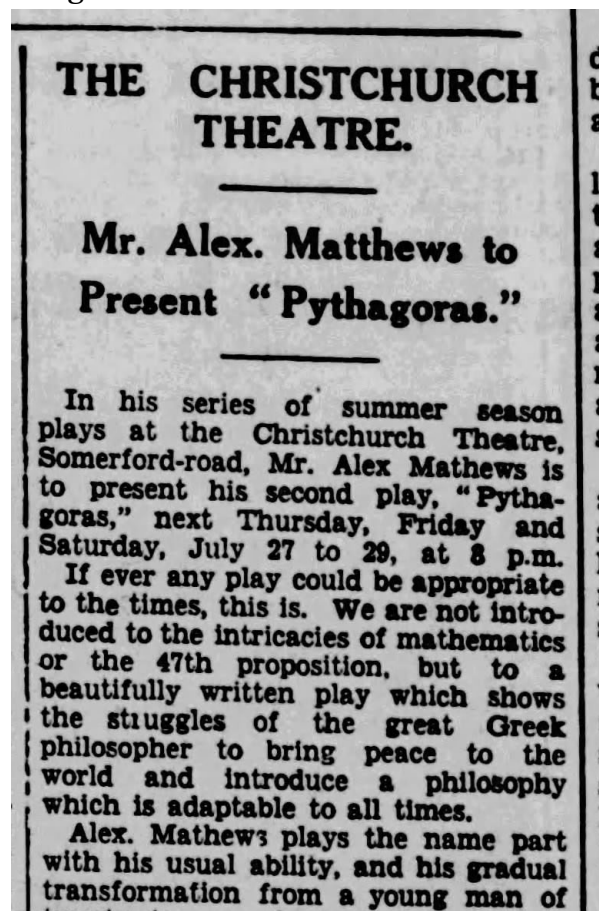
From the second act to the end of the play we are transported to Crotona and Pythagoras is introduced to us in a gorgeous temple scene with cast of thirty. Here the philosopher meets his future wife. Theane, played by E. Woodford Grimes, who displays skill in the rendering of the part. Martin Andrew as Lysimachus and Kenneth Stubbs as Philotas (the love-lorn youth) make an excellent pair in introducing a humorous strain. Lysis (Rhona Perreau), Archippus (Peggy Baker) and Cylon (Ernest Mason) add their quota to the play and put much life into their work.

Damo, daughter of Pythagoras, is played by Francesca Keen, and Cleobulina, enigmatist of Rhodes, by M. Besant-Scott.

Peggy Baker, as Queen Neobule, gives most excellent advice to her son, Enkhenre (Elizabeth Barnes) and such advice could be taken to heart by any youth to day.

Other players are Cyril Barnes, Chief Magistrate; N. Beardwood, 2nd Elder; Susie Mason as 1st Elder; Rhona Perreau as Locrian and M. Paull as the Messenger. All the players work well and prove the excellence of Mr. Alex. Mathew's training.

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## ~ 16 February 1940

Mrs. Woodford Grimes gave a talk on the art of poetry at St. Andrew's Hall, Boscombe a suburb of Bournemouth, Hampshire.

From the newspaper, Bournemouth Times and Directory, Friday 16 February 1940:

### **Bournemouth East Townswomen's Guild.**

--- Mrs. Trim presided at an interesting and successful meeting at St. Andrew's Hall, Boscombe, on Monday. Mrs. Woodford Grimes gave a talk on the art of poetry, and tea was served by Mrs. Baker and Mrs. Smart. On this occasion the tea was given by Mrs. E. Baker. A sketch and monologues were given by Mrs. Fossey and Mrs. Pearmain, and nominations were received for the annual meeting. Speaker announced for next Monday's meeting was Madame D'Alroy.

### **~ 16 February 1940**

Christchurch Townswomen's Guild, among other things, a one act comedy, produced by Mrs. Woodford Grimes, was given by members of the dramatic section.

From the newspaper, Bournemouth Times and Directory, Friday 16 February 1940:

#### **Townswomen's Guilders' Birthday Meeting**

Christchurch Townswomen's Guild celebrated its 10th anniversary on Friday, Mrs. Dunn (chairman) presided over a very brief business meeting and then introduced a new and popular member, Mrs. Woodford Grimes, who officiated at the social gathering.

An excellent programme had been arranged and the Guild enjoyed an elocution recital by Miss Freda Curry, songs by Mrs. Eve Wyatt accompanied by Mrs. Poole, and a monologue by Mrs. Edwards.

A one act comedy, produced by Mrs. Woodford Grimes, was given by members of the dramatic section. Those taking part were Mesdames Burke, Dunn, Frampton, Griffiths, Head, Loveless, Morgan and Warral,

On behalf of the dramatic section Mrs. Dunn presented a bowl of hyacinths to Mrs. Woodford Grimes.

Garments made by Guild members and friends under the direction of Mrs. Llewellyn for men serving in the trawlers were exhibited. The display showed a very satisfactory response to the call for comforts.

Lucky numbers in a draw for a cushion, table runner and gloves, all given by Mrs. Harrison, were held by Mrs. Howard and Mrs. Taylor.

The committee's warm thanks are due to Mrs. Frampton who made the birthday cake and to all those members and friends who contributed to the success of the afternoon. G.L.M.

### **~ 6 April 1940**

Mrs. Woodford-Grimes gave a talk on "The Spoken Word," at the Bournemouth East Townswomen's Guild.

From the newspaper, Daily Echo, Saturday, April 6, 1940:

### **Bournemouth East Townswomen's Guild**

On Monday the Bournemouth East Townswomen's Guild held their monthly meeting at St. Andrew's Hall, Boscombe.

An interesting talk was given by Mrs. Woodford-Grimes on "The Spoken Word."

The bag competition deserved much praise for the beautiful work done by some of the members. A prize was awarded to the winner, Mrs. Franklin, for the best-made handbag.

A portrait competition followed, "Who Am I?" causing much fun and laughter. Tea was afterwards served.

Proceeds from the last two whist drives and generous donations from various sources have credited the Guild funds for more wool to be bought, so as to continue the work of making comforts for the Guild's "adopted" shipmates.

### **~ 13 April 1940**

Mrs. E. Woodford-Grimes produced a play, "The Proconsul," which was played at the Pokesdown Congregational Church.

From the newspaper, Daily Echo, Saturday, April 13, 1940:

### **"THE PROCONSUL"**

Performance by Rosebery Park Baptists

Members and friends of Rosebery Park Baptist Church performed Seaward Beddow's religious play "The Proconsul" on Wednesday, at the Pokesdown Congregational Church. The hall was filled to capacity some while before the programme commenced. The play tells a vivid story of early Christians under persecution in the year 304 A.D. and was performed in the Roman dress of the period. The Baptist minister played the part of the Proconsul, and other characters were played by Mr. Stanley Robinson (Centurion), Mr. Bakewell (Clerk), Mr. A. Jackson (Marcus), Mr. Arthur Cake (Bishop Marcellus), Miss Vera Cowdrey (Lady Helena) and Mr. F. W. Butler (chief jailer). The wardrobe mistress was Miss Doris Cato, and the play was produced by Mrs. E. Woodford-Grimes.

The Rev. J. M. Todd, M.A., minister of the Pokesdown church, highly praised the production, and expressed appreciation to all who had taken part. The next performance will be given at St. Saviour's Church Hall, Iford, on Wednesday, 24th April.

### **~ 25 January 1941**

Mrs. E. Woodford-Grimes, of Highcliffe, Hampshire was interviewed in a newspaper article.

From the newspaper, Daily Mirror, Saturday 25 January 1941:

**Hello to You !**

You are the new line in housewives --- keen, efficient, doing jobs that you've never done before and doing them well.

This page tells your story and is a salute to the new woman of today.

(the article was about several women, not transcribed here)

\* \* \*

Mrs. E. Woodford-Grimes, of Highcliffe, shares a cottage in the country with a bombed-out family.

She was a teacher. Now --- well, read what she. says:

"I have started a spare-time traveller's job, and as I cannot be at home regularly, I have handed the everyday catering over to the mother of the family."

"She is a most capable manager and cook. She shops most efficiently in a district where provisions are not easy to get.

"I see that the ration books are in order, then I need not trouble any further about the butcher or the grocer, and always have well-cooked meals and many tasty surprises.

" I do the laundering for the entire household. I use an efficient washer and I iron by hand, but save much time, as I darn all linen, personal and household, by machine.

"Thus by pooling our labour as well as our resources we are happy and well-occupied.

"I love the garden and keep it tidy, and am digging up a part of the lawn to make a kitchen garden, and have already planted broad beans and spring cabbage.

"I am trying to make enough money to enable me to buy six pullets, a portable hen-house and run, and hoping to supply ourselves with eggs.

"I give an occasional elocutionary recital to the women's groups, and an afternoon per week to producing one-act plays given by members of the groups.

"In this district the A.R.P. wardens 'stand by.' We take duty on alternate days, and if the period extends to an all-night 'stand by,' well, we just carry on. A hot bath, and the thought that we are winning the war banishes the tired feeling."

\* \* \*



Image of the article:



I am completely at home  
work and have made many  
things for the kitchen and  
nursery. Gardening holds  
no terrors or mysteries for  
me.

**"By developing and printing my own negatives I can afford to take many photos to send to my husband."**



Mrs. E. Woodford-Grimes, of Highcliffe, shares a cottage in the country with a bombed-out family.

She was a teacher. Now—well, read what she says:

**"I have started a spare-time traveller's job, and as I cannot be at home regularly, I have handed the everyday catering over to the mother of the family."**

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Mrs. Waters, of Redhill, has five evacuees and one son to look after, and this is how they all live happily together.

"I have a small modern house and believe in letting the children have plenty of fun and games, often joining in them myself.

"I am not fussy about the house, so long as it's clean and tidy.

## YOUR SECRET SOUL

It is not the things that happen to you which leave permanent marks on your character or bring about significant changes in the direction of your life; it is the way you feel about the things that happen to you.

If you can understand and manage your feelings you can become a genius in the art of living.

## ~ 7 July 1944

The Historical Association members elected officers for 1944-1945... Mr. Duncan Coomer, M.A., and Dr. G. B. Gardner were elected co-presidents.

Mrs. E. Woodford-Grimes gave a most interesting lecture on the value of historical plays.

From the newspaper, Bournemouth Times and Directory, Friday 7 July 1944:

### A CRITIC OF HISTORICAL PLAYS

BOURNEMOUTH and Christchurch Branch of the Historical Association met on Friday at Unity House, Millham-street, Christchurch, for the annual business meeting.

The hon. secretary reported that the branch had met nine times during the year and that membership was gradually increasing. There had been six lectures, two discussions and a report of the annual meeting in London at which four members of the branch were present.

During the year the branch had sustained several very severe losses occasioned by the death of Mr. F. J. Weaver, official adviser to the branch, and that of Capt. H. Wilton Turner, one of the co-presidents, and by the resignation of Mr. R. K. Cardew, the other co-president.

The hon. treasurer reported on the financial stability of the branch.

Members proceeded to the election of officers for 1944-1945. Mr. Duncan Coomer, M.A., and Dr. G. B. Gardner were elected co-presidents, and Miss U. V. Laidlaw, B.A., was re-elected hon. secretary, and Mr. J. J. Dodds, B.A., hon. treasurer.

### HISTORICAL PLAYS

At the end of the annual meeting, Mrs. E. Woodford-Grimes gave a most interesting lecture on the value of historical plays. The lecturer criticised the fact that many so-called historical plays were lacking in historical truth sometimes to the extent of becoming a burlesque, and asked how far members felt that it was a duty of the Historical Association to see that plays and films based on historical facts should be made available to the public.

Mrs. Woodford-Grimes, by briefly analysing the plot of Shakespeare's "Henry VIII," showed how the events of that reign could be presented successfully in dramatic form and what a valuable insight could thus be obtained into contemporary life and manners.

A vote of thanks was proposed to the lecturer by Mr. J. J. Dodds, and an interesting discussion followed on various historical plays and films seen by members of the audience.



Image of the article:

to land on French soil. share in their pride and their sorrow.

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the lecturer by Mr. J. J. Dodds, and an interesting discussion followed on various historical plays and films seen by members of the audience.

### CHURCH FETE AT IFORD

The fifth annual fete of St. Saviour's, Iford, was rather restricted this year as it had to be confined to the Mission Hall in Denmead-road instead of taking place in the Vicarage garden, where it is usually held. It was opened on Wednesday afternoon by the Vicar, the Rev. W. V. Lambert, and continued until late in the evening.

The first part of the fete was spent in examining the stalls and having tea. There were three stalls—a "bring and buy" in the charge of the Vicar and Mrs. Lambert, a fancy stall of handicrafts made by the Girl's Friendly Society and run by them, and a second-hand clothing stall by the Iford Women's Guild.

Tea and other refreshments were arranged by Miss C. Turner and her helpers, who were very efficient and provided an excellent tea for a very moderate sum. A horticultural section received many entries of flowers, vegetables and fruit. These were sold during the evening, the fruits, which included strawberries, being auctioned in Dutch fashion by a versatile salesman in a top hat.

### MANY USES FOR WOOL

The G.F.S. handicraft stall was well worth attention. Wool was the chief material and it had been put to many uses: flowers, button holes, big balls for babies, and a necklace of black and white balls were all made with it. A small doll had been made by one girl, and a number of matchbox holders in the shape of cats and ornamental boxes were also for sale. Some excellent belts had been knitted by the girls and periodical covers and blotters had been made by crepe paper craft. Many of them were decorated with fancy figures on the front.

The bring and buy stall had an interesting collection of goods. A



~ 28 July 1944

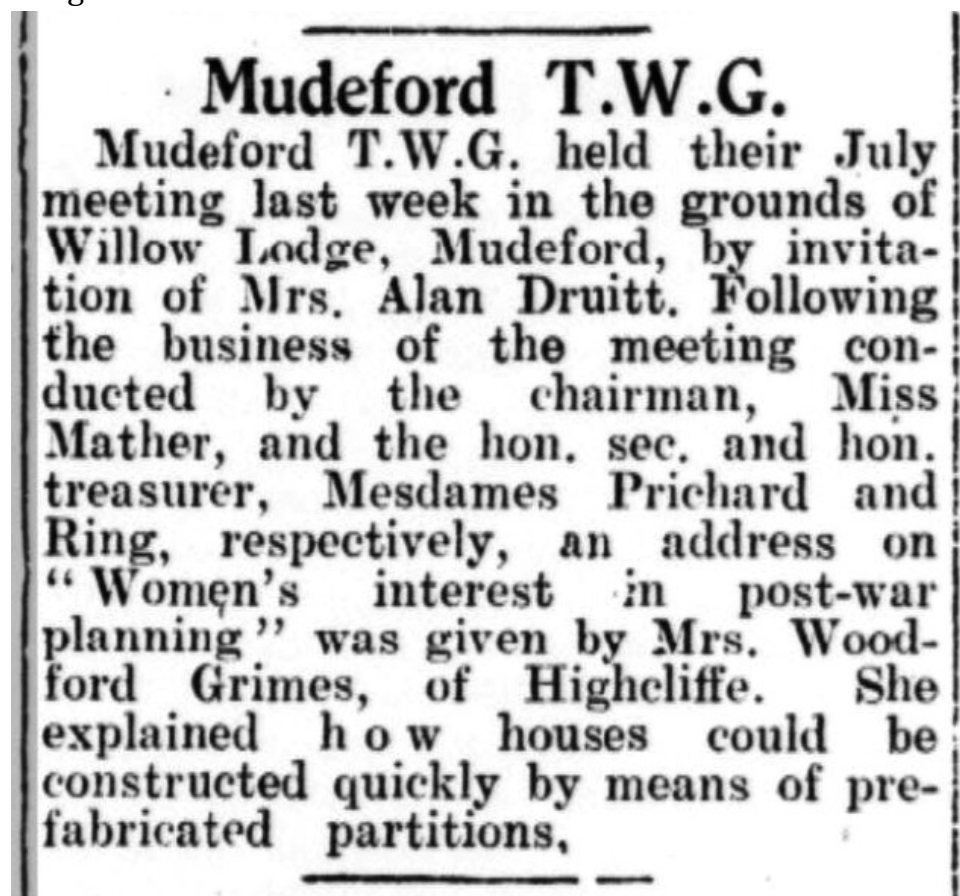
Mudeford T.W.G. held their meeting in the grounds of Willow Lodge, Mudeford, Dorset. Mrs. Woodford Grimes, of Highcliffe gave an address on "Women's interest in post-war planning."

From the newspaper, Bournemouth Times and Directory, Friday 28 July 1944:

**Mudeford T.W.G.**

Mudeford T.W.G. held their July meeting last week in the grounds of Willow Lodge, Mudeford, by invitation of Mrs. Alan Druitt. Following the business of the meeting conducted by the chairman, Miss Mather, and the hon. sec. and hon. treasurer, Mesdames Prichard and Ring, respectively, an address on "Women's interest in post-war planning" was given by Mrs. Woodford Grimes, of Highcliffe. She explained how houses could be constructed quickly by means of prefabricated partitions.

Image of the article:



**~ 28 July 1951**

Edith Rose Woodford Grimes's divorce through the Bournemouth Divorce Court was mentioned.

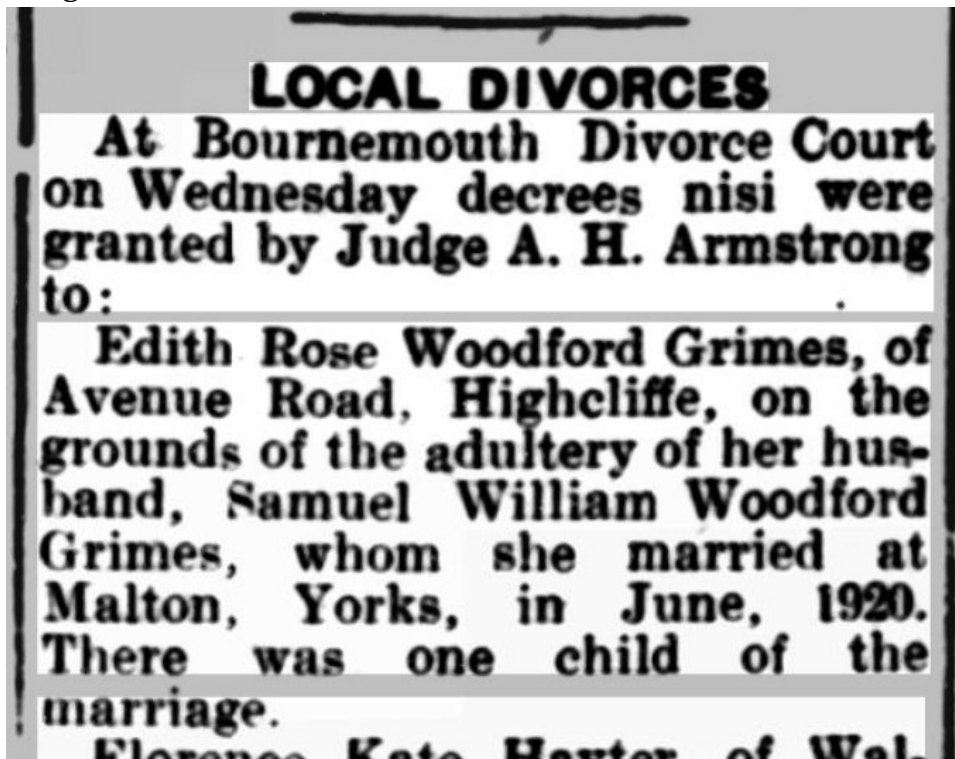
From the newspaper, New Milton Advertiser, Saturday 28 July 1951:

**LOCAL DIVORCES**

At Bournemouth Divorce Court on Wednesday decrees nisi were granted by Judge A. H. Armstrong to:

Edith Rose Woodford Grimes, of Avenue Road, Highcliffe, on the grounds of the adultery of her husband, Samuel William Woodford Grimes, whom she married at Malton, Yorks, in June, 1920. There was one child of the marriage.

Image of the article:



**~ 5 June 1956**

The Historical Association had their election and elected to the committee, Mrs. Woodford Grimes in place of Miss I. K. Lacey, who has resigned.

From the newspaper, Daily Echo, Tuesday, June 5, 1956:

**HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION HAS ALMOST 300 MEMBERS**

MEMBERS of Bournemouth and Christchurch branch of the Historical Association decided at their annual general meeting at the Grand Hotel to send a message to their patron. Lord Quickswood, PC, DCL, thanking him for his continued interest in the work of the branch.

Msis M. G. Key, MA, was reelected president and Mr. J. J. Dodds, MA, Miss U. V. Laidlaw, BA, and Mr. W. Mordey, JP, vice-presidents.

The financial statement was presented by Mr. G. A. Shillidy, CIE, and reviewing last year's activities Miss M. Churchill (secretary) said membership was now nearly 300.

Reelected to the committee were Mr. Shillidy, Miss M. M. Churchill, Mr. W. Borrough, Miss E. A. Beattie, Mrs. Duncan Coomer, Mr. S. James, Mr. F. D. Lane, Mr. A. T. Lloyd, Miss C. Petherick, Mr. V. Tyler and Mr. V. G. Worsfold. Mrs. Woodford Grimes was elected in place of Miss I. K. Lacey, who has resigned.

## **~ 8 July 1958**

Mrs. Woodford-Grimes was re-elected to the committee of the Historical Association.

From the newspaper, Daily Echo, Tuesday, July 8, 1958:

### **Historical Association now has constitution**

MEMBERS of the Bournemouth and Christchurch branch of the Historical Association held their annual general meeting on Saturday at the Grand Hotel, Bournemouth.

Miss M. G. Key (president) said she was sure that all the members were gratified to see Miss Churchill back after her serious illness.

Miss Churchill thanked the members for inquiries and gifts of flowers during her illness.

The principal business was to examine a constitution for the branch. Hitherto the activities of the branch have been carried on informally, but the committee felt that the time had come to have a constitution. The draft was read by Miss Key and adopted with an additional clause governing the funds of the branch, suggested by Mr. G. A. Shillidy and supported by Mr. L.

Arnold and the Rev. R. E. Overton.

Mr. R. H. E. Bishop submitted the hon. treasurer's report which showed a small balance in hand, after which Miss Churchill gave a report of the year's activities.

Miss Key was unanimously reelected president with Miss U. V. Laidlaw, Mr. J. J. Dodds and Mr. W. Mordey as vice presidents. Mr. R. H.E. Bishop (hon. treasurer), Miss M. Churchill (hon. sec.), Mr. W. Borrough, (hon. publicity sec.), were re-elected.

Committee: Miss E. A. Beattie, Dr. E. D. Fountain, Mrs. Goodfellow, Miss I. Hale, Mr. F. D. Lane, Mrs. Locke, Rev. R.E. Overton, Mr. V. G. Worsfold, and Mrs. Woodford-Grimes. The retiring members, under the new constitution, were Miss C. Petherick, Mr. S. L. B. James and Mr. A. T. Lloyd.

### **~ 3 February 1961**

An article mentioning the beginnings of the Student Players in 1926 where Mrs. Woodford-Grimes was its first hon. Secretary.

From the newspaper, Southern Daily Echo, Friday, February 3, 1961:

#### **The Student Players**

To the Editor of the "Southern Evening Echo."

DR. LOBB'S excellent article, "This theatre most certainly is not dead," in which he mentions, among others, the Student Players, prompts me to write, wondering how many people know of the very modest origins of the Student Players or how they come into being.

In October, 1926, the committee of the local branch of the WEA anxious to develop in Southampton an interest in cultural matters (an interest sadly lacking at that time!) founded the WEA Saturday Club, where members met, debated or listened to informal, but very interesting talks, mostly from members of the Academic Staff of Southampton University College.

Mr. R. C. Miller was its chairman, Mrs. Woodford-Grimes its first hon. secretary and I, its. Hon. treasurer. Shortly after the club's inception the hon. secretary had to resign owing to ill-health and for the next fourteen years, I combined her duties and mine. (long article, the rest not transcribed here)

### **~ 22 September 1964**

After his death, Dr. Gerald B. Gardner in his will left £1,500 to Mrs. E. Woodford Grimes, of Avenue Road, Highcliffe, Hampshire.

From the newspaper, Birmingham Daily Post, Tuesday 22 September 1964:

#### **LEADER OF WITCHES LEFT £21,688**

Dr Gerald Brosseau Gardner, of Malew Street, Castletown, Isle of Man, who claimed to be the leader of Britain's witches and was known as the "white witch of the Isle of Man," left estate in England valued at £21,688. He died on February 12, aged 80.

He left £3,000 to Mrs. Arnold Crowther, of City Road, Sheffield; £1,500 to Mrs. E. Woodford Grimes, of Avenue Road. Highcliffe, Hampshire; his shares and interest in Ancient Crafts Ltd. and £1,000 to Mrs. Lois Pearson, of Carlyle Avenue, St. Albans, and £1,000 to Jack Bracelin, of Crossfeld Road. London, N. W. 3.

After various other bequests, he left the remainder of his property to Monique Marie Mauricette Wilson, of Perth, Scotland, the high priestess of a Scottish coven of witches

Image of the article:

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Many Thanks to the following people for their contributions.

## **Philip Heselton**

From his books, the names of the other people I also looked for in the articles while looking for Edith Woodford-Grimes.

## **David Michael Johnson**

For letting me use a photograph of Edith Woodford-Grimes from their website: British Traditional Wicca online at <https://www.britishtraditionalwicca.com>

### Sources:

1. Photograph of Edith Woodford-Grimes. From the website: British Traditional Wicca online at <https://www.britishtraditionalwicca.com>. Searched on June 16, 2025 Monday 12:11 AM
2. 1925 Edith Woodford-Grimes was in the banishment scene of a Shakespearian play. Southampton Times and Hampshire Express, Sat, Mar 28, 1925, Page 3. Online at Newspapers.com. Searched on June 8, 2025 Sunday 12:29 AM.
3. 1926 Mrs. Woodford Grimes was on a scenes in the Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night." Hampshire Advertiser, Saturday 06 March 1926, page 16. British Newspaper Archive, online at [www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk). Searched on June 4, 2025 Wednesday 10:04 PM.
4. 1926 E. Woodford Grimes won a certificate of Merit. Daily Echo. Sat, Dec 11, 1926, page 5. Online at Newspapers.com. Searched on June 11, 2025 Wednesday 1:06 AM.
5. 1927 Mrs. E. Woodford-Grimes mentioned as a student in one of Mr. Acton Bond's classes. Hampshire Advertiser, Saturday 05 March 1927, page 3. British Newspaper Archive, online at [www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk). Searched on June 4, 2025 Wednesday 9:49 PM.
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9. 1932 Mrs. Woodford Grimes was at a dinner-dance event for the Mayoress of Southampton. Hampshire Advertiser, Saturday 05 March 1932, page 13. British Newspaper Archive, online at [www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk). Searched on May 31, 2025 Saturday 10:00 PM.
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12. 1934 Rosanne Woodford-Grimes was in school learning Elocution. Hampshire Advertiser, Saturday 10 March 1934, page 8. British Newspaper Archive, online at [www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk). Searched on June 1, 2025 Sunday 9:16 PM.
13. 1934 Mrs. E. Woodford Grimes gave a lecture recital at the Southampton Sisterhood. Hampshire Advertiser, Saturday 26 May 1934, page 6. British Newspaper Archive, online at [www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk). Searched on June 1, 2025 Sunday 9:50 PM.
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