

Frances Farren

I have recently become aware of this lady, who now lives in Burton on Trent, but was born in one of the thatched cottages that once stood opposite Hall Terrace. She will be one hundred years old early this year and is reputed to be the oldest living Wren (Women's Royal Naval Service) in Britain.

The Farren family were a long-standing family in Carlton and at the time she was born two families of Farrens lived in that row, and her father was born in the same house. She described the house as a living room and kitchen downstairs, and two bedrooms above. The coal was kept under the stairs. One bedroom contained two double beds, one used by her uncle.

Other interesting facts from her:

She used to push Dennis Bream around in his pram when he lived in Hall Terrace.

Her uncle Emmanuel Goddard had a penny farthing cycle which he parked across the road overnight. He walked miles to see his customers as a tailor.

Her grandparents were married in the chapel that stood down Congerstone Lane.

There was illegal cock fighting on Sunday afternoon at Stone House Farm whilst children were at Sunday School.

Mrs Perry wore a man's cap and smoked a clay pipe.

The children danced round the May Pole whilst the teacher played the piano on the green but also the children went door to door singing and collecting money.

Richard Liddington