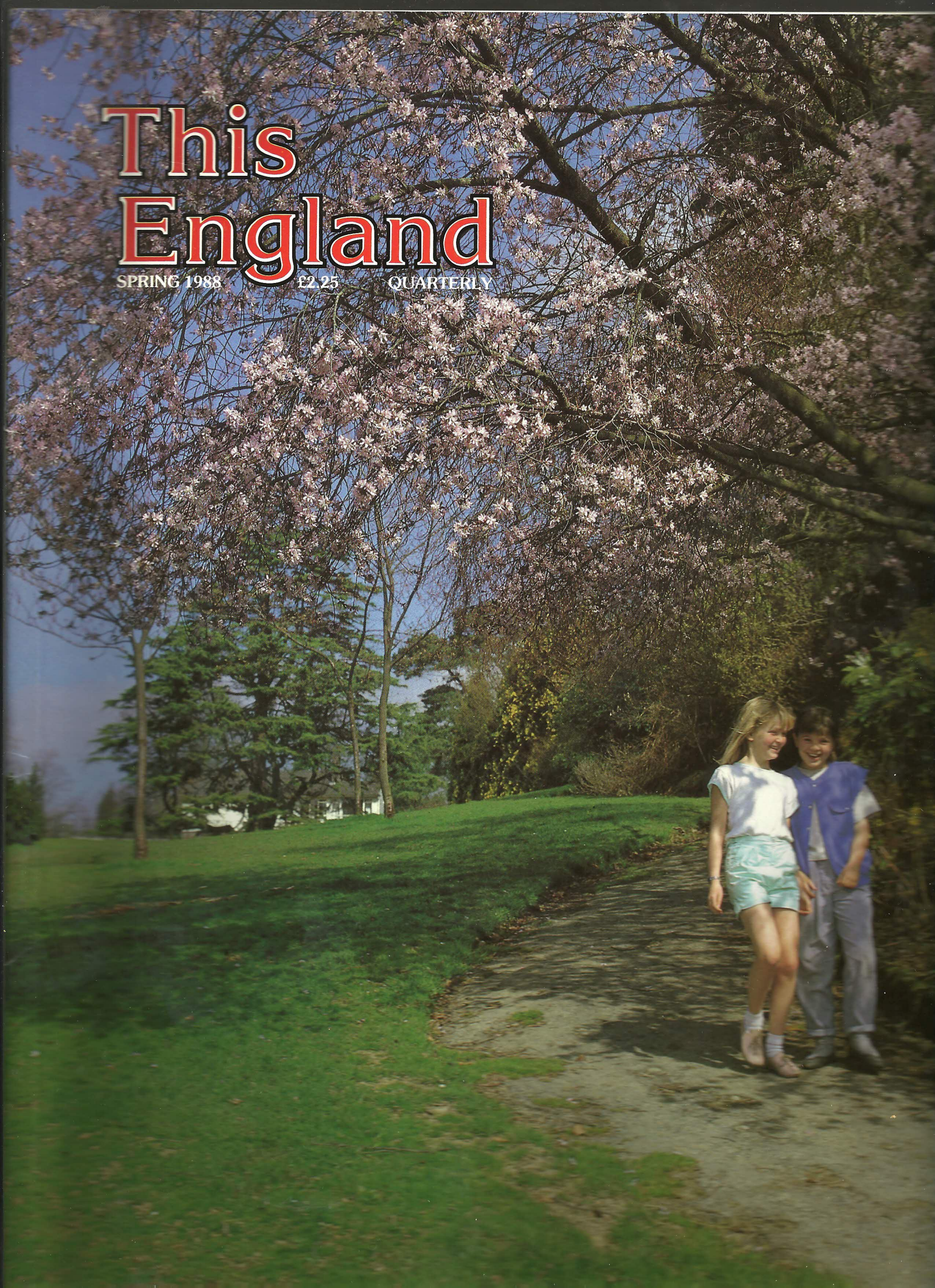


This England

SPRING 1988

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QUARTERLY





When This England first had the idea of awarding a "Silver Cross of St. George" to people whose spirit and enterprise in preserving and promoting the English way of life deserved special recognition, we little realized the tremendous response we would receive from readers eager to nominate worthy individuals in all walks of life whom they felt merited the Award. Our only regret is that it is not possible to give out more Awards, for a great many deser-

ving cases have been brought to our attention. Nevertheless, since the first Silver Cross was despatched in Spring 1982 the number of people to receive this unique Award has been steadily growing and now numbers more than 30 men and women from all parts of the country, and overseas. To remind readers who these valiant Crusaders are, here is a full list of previous winners, together with brief details of their inspiring achievements. See also Page 67.

1982: Mrs. Fiona [unclear] of Highampton, Devon [unclear] Denis Howell of [unclear] Sussex, for valiant [unclear] the compulsory [unclear] into [unclear]

1982: Mrs. Mary [unclear] of the National [unclear] and [unclear] Assoc- [unclear] tirelessly cam- [unclear] the lowering of [unclear] on television

1982: Lord Denning [unclear] Master of the [unclear] of steadfast [unclear] English judicial [unclear] Kasparian [unclear] who con- [unclear] measures [unclear] despite the [unclear] for not [unclear] law.

1982: Captain Peter [unclear] QED, who [unclear] lived with [unclear] board to [unclear] being the [unclear] Dr. Paul [unclear] served the [unclear] Stanley in [unclear] and on [unclear] Day since [unclear] the flag [unclear] the village

[unclear] spreading [unclear] on both [unclear] broad- [unclear] of [unclear] prog-

ramme, *Your Hundred Best Tunes*, and Ray Sonin of station CFRB in Toronto, Canada, whose *Calling All Britons* broadcast provided English exiles with a cherished link with the land of their birth.

Summer 1983: Commissioner Catherine Bramwell-Booth of the Salvation Army, a lovely lady whose sharp mind and non-stop service in the Christian faith were an inspiration to us all. She died in 1987 at the age of 102.

Autumn 1983: A Sussex couple from St. Leonards-on-Sea, Richard and Pat Duce, whose spirit and enterprise led them to produce "The Britain We Really Want" — a printed statement which they inserted as a display advertisement in their local newspaper calling for "unselfishness, sacrifice and heroism" in daily life.

Winter 1983: "The Two Dorothys" — Mrs. Dorothy Evans of Lurgashall, Sussex, and Mrs. Dorothy Piddock of Kingswinford in the West Midlands, both of whom had spent a great part of their lives tirelessly working for charity.

Spring 1984: Mr. Alf Strange, the village blacksmith at Welsh Frankton, Shropshire, who raised money for a local hospital by demonstrating his craft in the Victorian smithy that he had restored himself; Mr. George

Ernest Teal of Walkington, Yorkshire, for tremendous work and enterprise in bringing new life and activity to his village.

Summer 1984: Mr. George Cushing, for years of patient work and loving care in collecting and restoring old steam engines and fairground organs to create a living museum at his farm in Thursford, Norfolk.

Autumn 1984: The first Silver Cross of St. George to be awarded posthumously went to Barbara Chick, "The Angel of the Falklands". She was a nurse in the hospital at Port Stanley and lost her life while rescuing patients from a terrible fire which swept through the building.

Winter 1984: Miss Margot Knowles of Cheam, Surrey, whose imaginative "We Care With a Chair" scheme led to seating being made available for the elderly and disabled in shops, post offices and banks right across the land; Mr. Len Inwood of Woking, Surrey, a long-serving member of the St. John Ambulance Brigade who preferred to be out helping people than spending Christmas Day at home.

Spring 1985: Mr. Jack Francis of Nutfield in Surrey, a remarkable 92-year-old who had been organist at his local parish church since 1920; Mr. Reg Adsett, a postman from Hassocks in Sussex, who

walked hundreds of miles to raise funds for the preservation of old windmills.

Summer 1985: Mr. Raymond Cloud, landlord of the "White Hart" public house at Stoke in Hampshire, who built a village hall so that local residents would have a meeting place for dances and games.

Autumn 1985: Two crusading churchmen — Mr. Fred Pettie of Bradford in Yorkshire, a 93-year-old who had been sidesman at St. Augustine's Church for 65 years; and Mr. Thomas Hodge, Captain of the Ringers at Cardinham in Cornwall, who has served his church loyally since 1919.

Winter 1985: Eric Ball and Harry Mortimer for their dedicated work in the field of brass-band music which has brought joy to millions.

Spring 1986: The oldest person to receive a Silver Cross of St. George, Mr. Sydney Shaw, a 106-year-old English gentleman who lived in a home for retired people in Queensland, Australia. By his caring, Christian attitude, Sydney was a glowing example to everyone he met.

Summer 1986: Mr. Simon Garrett of Thornford in Dorset, for his sterling work as a Master Thatcher, an ancient English craft.

Autumn 1986: A man who had been blind since boyhood,

Mr. Andrew Millar, of Stanway in Essex. Not allowing his disability to hold him back, he became town guide of Colchester, and Senior Physiotherapist at a local hospital.

Winter 1986: Mr. Arthur Dalby who has devoted most of his life to caring for the survivors of his battalion, the "Leeds Pals", which was almost wiped out at the Battle of the Somme in 1916.

Spring 1987: A former Second World War RAF pilot, Mr. Robert Boldys of Uplyme in Devon, for initiating his "Create and Care" scheme which filled the towns of England with beautiful roses.

Summer 1987: Mr. George Stafford, a butcher from Stanley Common, near Derby, whose traditional black puddings have been voted "the best in the world". They are enjoyed by many thousands, including the Prime Minister and members of the Royal Family.

Autumn 1987: Mrs. Hilda Maidment of New Eltham, London, for raising over £1 million so that her local hospital could install a much-needed body scanner.

Winter 1987: Father Kenneth Loveless, the "Padre of the Morris Ring", who has been one of the most important people in ensuring the survival of English morris dancing.



Lord Denning

Catherine Bramwell-Booth

Alan Keith

Barbara Chick



A Silver Cross for the Headmaster who liked children's story-papers



One of the greatest joys experienced by English children during the first few decades of this century was the weekly appearance of their favourite story-paper. On that red-letter day everything else would be forgotten as excited youngsters caught up with the latest adventures on the pages of the *Gem*, the *Magnet*, *Schoolgirls' Own*, and numerous other eagerly-awaited publications. Thousands of boys and girls spent a precious part of their pocket money so that they could follow the exploits of characters like Billy Bunter and Betty Barton, and the values of tolerance and fair play that shone from the pages stayed with them throughout their lives.

Sadly, as the world changed and children's entertainment became more sophisticated, one-by-one these charming story-papers fell by the wayside, so that any good quality copies found today would probably be valuable collectors' items. But for all the distance in time that separates papers like the *Magnet* from today's colourful, glossy comics, they have certainly not been forgotten, and one of the people who has been most responsible for keeping their memory alive is Eric Fayne of Crookham in Hampshire.

For nearly 30 years from 1959 until the beginning of 1987 Eric Fayne was the Editor of the *Story Paper Collectors' Digest*, a non-profit-making journal devoted to the old story-papers and containing interesting articles on all sorts of matters relating to them. Under Eric's dedicated guidance the *Digest* attracted subscribers in every corner of the globe, its pages enlivened by his own introductory column, "A Word from the Skipper", which struck a sympathetic chord with a great many people. He recognized how the children's story-papers had been an important influence on the lives of countless young people, playing a vital part in setting them off on the right road in life, and through the pages of his magazine he crusaded tirelessly

to keep their ideals of decency and understanding alive, extending the sphere of the journal beyond the bounds of mere book and story-paper collecting. The following passage, which he wrote for the Summer 1979 number, was typical of his deep-rooted concern:

When I was young, people did not live in the past. They used to tell me how lucky I was to be living in what was the present, then. The best is still to come, they used to say, and you will reap the benefit of it. We hadn't the money then; we hadn't a car in a garage; Dad didn't give us a "music centre" then to compensate for Mum being out all day; we didn't have meals laid on at school, or free buses to take us to our seats of learning; we didn't have television in the lounge or a refrigerator in the larder, or a latch-key in our pocket. Yet "You don't know how lucky you are!" the adults would say to us.

And I'm sure we were. Most of us, perhaps, would not change our own childhoods for those of the modern youngsters. I know I wouldn't. In a store in the town near my home I saw this morning T-shirts being sold in a boyswear department. Printed across the front of the shirts were the words "I Hate School". It struck a chill at my heart. What kind of land are we making for the next generation?

Eric's marvellous ability to recall how things were in his own childhood (he was born exactly 80 years ago at Gravesend in Kent) was aided by the habit he acquired at an early age of keeping detailed diaries in which he recorded public and private events. For most of his life he was the headmaster of his own private day-school at Surbiton in Surrey, passing on to the children in his care those same admirable principles that he had found in the story-papers and which he was to perpetuate during his editorship days. One of Eric's great interests is English films, and the showing

of these was a regular and extremely popular feature of life at the school.

Eric never married, but after he retired in the late 1950s he continued to be remembered with tremendous warmth and affection by former pupils, many of whom kept in touch with him through visits and correspondence and became like a large family to him. The same can be said of those people who got to know him through the pages of the *Digest*. By his devotion to his subject — hard work which was all done voluntarily, leaving little time for himself — Eric inspired immense loyalty. As interest in the old story-papers revived, more and more people turned to him for his expert knowledge and he was always ready with advice and a helping hand. It was due in no small part to his labours — carried out quietly, a long time before anyone else recognized their true merits — that some of the papers from the Twenties and Thirties have now been reprinted for new generations to enjoy.

It was Mr. Norman Wright of Watford, Hertfordshire, who wrote to *This England* about Eric Fayne, suggesting that he would be a worthy winner of our Silver Cross of St. George, adding: "The *Digest* was a bastion of all things English. Under Eric's editorship it became an oasis for those who lamented the passing of so many of the institutions we hold dear. His aims have always been to uphold those traditions that are so special to England."

Story-papers like the *Gem* and *Magnet* were certainly a quintessential part of English life and in recognition of Eric Fayne's crusade to keep the memory of them alive, we are pleased to award him a Silver Cross of St. George. He becomes the very latest in a growing list of Silver Cross winners, all of whom are recalled in a special "Roll of Honour" on page 13 of this issue. Well done, Eric Fayne! Or as Billy Bunter might have exclaimed: "Good egg!"

NOMINATIONS FOR ENGLISH CRUSADERS

Do you know anyone whose spirit or devotion to preserve or promote the best way of life deserves special mention? This England has commissioned the writing of a hallmarked "Silver Cross of St. George" to be awarded to people at home or abroad who have shown services in the preservation of English traditions or the promotion of English virtues deserving special appreciation. Please send your nominations for this unique award, with details, to the Editor. Please note that the "Silver Cross of St. George" cannot be awarded to a holder of the Cross. A limited number of medals is available as a reward. Price £2.00 (\$4.00) post free. Write to: The Editor, This England, c/o The British Council, 11, Bedford Square, London, W.P. Order them for your family. They should be given on any or every English occasion.

The water and charting a course while they spotted a raft. Two young children were survivors. The lifeboat carried two more survivors and people on board a boat. They set their course and Mr. Lewis was the mother of the children. She had been passengers but she had another child when she had been in the confusion. Just before the boat was spotted by the survivors and the survivors were given information. Lewis gave information about the course and destination that the destroyer was in the position where it had been torpedoed and the survivors were still in the water. Among them was the woman on the raft. Three children saved, three were left behind. To Mr. Lewis seemed a miracle. After an article had appeared in the *Express* in June 1959, the *Express* was grateful for the information. — D.R. HAYES,

... escaped were Mrs. ... of Sussex, and her ... Barbara (19), Sonia ... — Ed.

CHRISTMAS TV

... Letter (Winter ... we have always ... television after the ... Christmas Day. We ... with games like ... the Thimble, ... put on a short ... readings and pieces ... always Christmas ... grandchildren the ... over again. We ... entered ... Day for all the ... — ALTA ROWLAND,

... game called ... Day" — I shall ... next Winter

The Spirit of St. George

by BARBARA JEMISON



A young girl in pensive mood, sits by the mill pond at Swanage in Dorset.

KEN AYRES