



Ruth Biron with Miss Amy Hawkins at Barham W.I. Jubilee in 1969

Ruth Biron

Miss Biron's father, the Rev. Henry Brydges Biron, was a keen cricketer in his youth. He had played for Kent in the eighteen fifties and sixties, and was the first man to score a double century in Sussex. By 1914, when Ruth was one of the volunteer nurses at the Elham V.A.D. Hospital, he had retired as Vicar of Lympne and the family were living at Derringstone. After his death Ruth moved with her mother to The Cottage in Cock Lane, which was her home for fifty years. A founder member of Barham W.I., she was involved in many community matters in Elham, including running the Girl Guides. During the war she was the energetic organiser of the Rural Pennies Collections, which raised large sums for the Red Cross and other causes. For many years she was companion to her mother, who was ninety-eight when she died in 1944. Ruth too lived vigorously into her late nineties. She was the main organiser of the historical exhibition held at The Cottage during the 1953 coronation celebrations. Her house always had a pleasant smell of lapsang souchong. When the church bells were recast in 1970, one of them was inscribed with her name.