

53 Wmara,
Waltham,
1-7-81

My dear Pyge,

Time does slip away - I see I've been owing you a letter for about 3 weeks & doubt if I answered your previous one where you asked what it is like to be home. Truthfully it's heaven because of the cold weather & a good fire, & also one's ~~own~~ bed. Don't think from that I didn't enjoy my jaunt away - I did & am re-living it all the time.

What one hears of a time Dick's had & I do hope out of all this putting up with he has derived some benefit & relief. It's such a constant thing to put up with to say nothing of what it does to the sight - poor boy.

Re Ramrose - no I didn't know he'd been adopted, but as you mention he turned up I seem now to remember that he was sent to that sort of Borstal in Kimberley Rd, & Mrs.

R. came & stayed with Tina so she could see him. I might be imagining all this. The outcome of his trial was that his health is so ^ediey (lung trouble) that the judge gave him only 2 yrs. sentence, but it was a suspended one which adds up to none at all.

It was a good thing you didn't come down for Noel's funeral. The weather was bitterly cold & wet when we left here, but not wet in P.N. As you said the roads would be night-marish - they would've ~~you were~~ safer & warmer in your own kitchen. It was a very peaceful service, no hymns, readings from Bible & Tom spoke so nicely of Noel (mainly about his war service & how good he was with the sick). They had R.S.A. poppies & John was first to lay his on casket. The only flowers were on it too & were mainly pink carnations

3.

Sheila has been very brave & noble,
over the whole thing & I do admire
her. We went to the farm afterwards
& I broke the tea-pot so didn't have
much chance to talk around family.

Yes, Lusatleigh was heavenly & I'm
enclosing a snap I had copied for
you of "Primrose Cottage" the tea room
where I lunched. It is an ancient
building but the one next to it is.

That "bloody doctor" or "um" - well, he was
once a car salesman, then a Sgt. Major
in the Conny & then took Orders as they
say. Pity he hadn't taken Strychnine.
The stories my friends told me about
"um" were quite inhuman - how he
got lovely Lusatleigh for an incumbent
God only knows.

Weren't those super photos Ben had
of Nel. & Phil? & his others of the lodges
too? I had to laugh, they knew where
my next stamping ground was, so

Ben took them a days outing there,
i.e. Lustleigh & Chagford.

I had a very long letter today from a
woman I met in a most curious way.
? She has sent me no end of ancient
stories she had about her village
which is the one everything came from.
(wife of Richd P. 1840 & all that !!)

I must quote one -

1731 pd. Thom(as) King for half a pound
of wasted wool to put in Sibbey Stubb's
coffin, 5½d. (Shrouds had to be wool,
by law, to help the wool trade).

These things were millers & had the
mills around, I suppose for ~~sp~~ weaving
spinning wool & grinding corn.

Ask you - why are some members
of the family balmy on old mills &
water wheels ?? Also, they were
substantial land owners around that
area, over the centuries - the village
is about 4 miles from A. G.

I can't get over what I learned on that trip — ancestral gold as far as I'm concerned & a most comprehensive set of photos that for me, knowing nothing about photography, were good. The one of Lutesleigh is disappointing in the reprint (one enclosed) the original is much warmer — I had the reprints done in a different process & was very disappointed. The others enclosed are duplicates in the original printing — I don't know why they did two of a few of them, so you might as well have them.

Been a heavenly day — so much promise of Spring with many buds everywhere — can't wait for it to come — some people are never satisfied — I've already had an extra one this year.

Hope you are all well & surviving what I think a very cold winter.
Lots of love to all. Love