

BEYOND THE CATISFIELD MEMORIAL

The Stories Behind Each of the Names on the Memorial Plaque at Catisfield Memorial Hall.

This is a Summary of what has been learned So far.



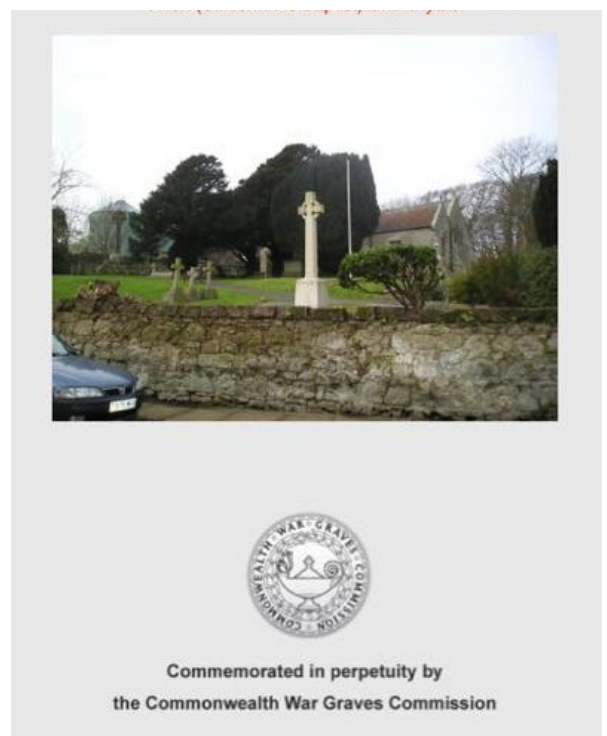
Doug Glading 19/6/2026. Most recent update 3/8/2026

2. The Story of Diana S Biddlecombe

W.R.N.S. Driver Diana Sydney Biddlecombe died 21/10/1944 age 33.

She joined the Wrens in 1940 and was a motor transport driver at HMS Daedalus, Lee-on-Solent, until becoming sick in May 1944

Diana died, from cancer of the oesophagus, at Five Tree Nursing Home Ascot, Berkshire. Her funeral was held at Woking and attended by relatives, Wrens and "the indoor staff of Pennyhill Park". Pennyhill Park was a large house near Bagshot, requisitioned for military use. So perhaps she had been working there.



She was buried at Niton, Isle of Wight, where there is a memorial to her.



Catisfield connection:

She was the daughter of Col. Glendower and Mrs Florence Otley, who for many years resided at Clanconnel, on Catisfield Rd., and niece of Mrs Catherine Fynney (sister of Florence Ottley) .

Her father Major Glendower George Ottley, Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry/Royal Fusilers, was Killed in action on 3 Sep 1916. He is commemorated at the Thiepval Memorial, The Somme.

Mrs Ottley and Mrs Fynney lived together at Clanconnel, (1921 census / 1939 Register). Mrs Fynney's daughter Joan was 5 years older than Diana.

- In 1942 Diana married Pilot Officer (later Fl Lt) Eric Holman Biddlecombe, RAFVR , elder son of the Rev. S. H. Biddlecombe (Rector of Whippingham, Isle of Wight) and Mrs. Biddlecombe at Holy Trinity. The service was conducted by the bridegroom's brother, the Rev. P. H. Biddlecombe (Curate at Holy Trinity), and the reception was at Fairgreen, Catisfield.

Eric became a banker after the war, and died 1986.

Clanconnel was on Catisfield Road , between Appleton Road and the Peak Lane junction..