

CARPENTERS, Shaws Lane

Winston Churchill was a frequent visitor of Wilfrid Scawen Blunt at Newbuildings in Shipley parish. His wife, Clementine, came to Southwater in 1909 to convalesce after the birth of their first child. She joined her mother, Lady Blanche Hozier, and her sister, Nellie, who were staying in a small house called Carpenters on Wilfrid's estate. In one of her letters to Winston during this time, Clementine wrote:

"Sunday morning 29 August 1909

My Darling,

It is quite wild, savage and altogether delightful here. The house is quite as rough as the shanty on the desert island in The Admirable Crichton

The butter is yellower, the cream thicker & the honey sweeter (the neighbour keeps a bee) than anywhere else in the world. Mother, Nellie, Alice and the faithful Minnie all wait hand & foot on the Kat who is purring loudly - Occasionally she gives a plaintive mew for her Pug & P.K. (especially for her Pug), but except for that she is very happy...

Goodbye my Best Beloved I love you and send you countless kisses - I hope my sweet Pug is having a delightful Sunday. Your telegram just arrived this second -

Your loving

Clem-Pussy-Bird

(You haven't called me that for a long time)"

"Speaking for Themselves, the personal letters of Winston and Clementine Churchill" edited by their daughter Mary Soames.