

- AND WE ARE HERE TODAY TO CELEBRATE THAT GIFT OF LIFE WHICH GOD GAVE TO HER. <sup>(3)</sup>
- AS WE HAVE SAID, HER LIFE BEGAN IN REDCAR AND IT WAS THERE THAT SHE RECEIVED HER EARLY SCHOOLING, PASSING TO GO TO ~~THE~~ <sup>SALTBY</sup> GRAMMAR SCHOOL.
- BEFORE SHE WAS ABLE TO FINISH HER TIME THERE, THE FAMILY MOVED TO BURTON ON TRENT.
- HER FATHER WAS A FOUNDER AND DISTRICT MANAGER FOR THE LIVERPOOL VICTORIA FRIENDLY SOCIETY, AND IT WAS THE NATURE OF HIS WORK WHICH TOOK THEM TO BURTON, WHERE ALWYN WAS TO FINISH HER SCHOOLING.
- UPON DOING SO SHE WENT FOR RESIDENTIAL TRAINING AT THE LADIES AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE IN WORCESTERSHIRE AND QUALIFIED AS A GARDENER.
- HER FIRST JOB WAS WITH THE FAMOUS RUGBY SCHOOL (WHICH WAS A LIVE-IN APPOINTMENT), BUT WHICH PAID A MERE PITTANCE. <sup>(4)</sup>
- IT WAS NOT LONG BEFORE ALWYN DECIDED THAT THIS WAS NOT WHAT SHE WANTED TO DO.
- SHE WAS A FORCEFUL YOUNG WOMAN WITH MANY OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF HER MOTHER WHO HAD, (IN HER YOUNGER DAYS,) BEEN A SUFFRAGETTE..... AND SO ALWYN APPLIED FOR (AND GAINED) A PLACE AT TEACHER TRAINING COLLEGE IN CHELTENHAM.
- ALTHOUGH SHE HAD SPENT TIME IN WORCESTERSHIRE, WARWICKSHIRE AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE, SHE STILL CONSIDERED THAT HER REAL HOME WAS WITH HER PARENTS, EVEN WHEN THEY MOVED FROM BURTON ON TRENT TO RIPON.

- UPON COMPLETING HER TEACHER TRAINING SHE TOOK A POST WITH THE WEST YORKSHIRE EDUCATION AUTHORITY NEAR LEEDS. <sup>(5)</sup>
- WANTING TO PROGRESS IN HER CAREER SHE TOOK A ONE YEAR COURSE AT LEEDS UNIVERSITY TO PREPARE HER FOR HEADSHIP.
- UPON COMPLETING THE COURSE SHE FOUND AN APPOINTMENT AT A CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL NOT FAR FROM HARROGATE, WHILST LIVING WITH HER PARENTS IN RIPON.
- WHEN HER FATHER DIED IN 1968, SHE AND HER MOTHER MOVED FROM THE LARGE HOUSE IN RIPON TO A NEW HOME IN HARROGATE WHICH MEANT SHE WAS ABLE TO STAY AT HER SCHOOL.
- WHEN, IN THE EARLY '70s, HER MOTHER DIED, SHE TOOK ON THE POSITION OF HEADMISTRESS AT THE AINDERBY STEEPLE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL AND MOVED TO LIVE IN THORNTON LE BEANS.
- WHERE—EVER SHE HAD LIVED, ALWYN HAD A LOVE OF RURAL LIFE; HER GARDEN; AND HER ANIMALS; WAS PASSIONATE ABOUT THEM AND THEIR WELFARE. <sup>(6)</sup>
- I WAS ONCE TOLD THAT SHE HAD EVEN BEEN KNOWN TO STOP THE CAR FOR A WORM CROSSING THE ROAD, SO THAT SHE COULD GET OUT AND REMOVE IT BEFORE PROCEEDING.
- AND SHE HAD A PARTICULAR SOFT SPOT FOR CATS, AND EVEN MORE SO FOR HORSES - AND THIS DESPITE THE FACT THAT, OVER THE YEARS, SHE HAD SUFFERED FROM VARIOUS RIDING ACCIDENTS.
- ON ONE OCCASION SHE BROKE HER COLLAR BONE - ON ANOTHER SHE TUMBLED OFF AND HIT HER HEAD ON THE PARAPET OF THE BRIDGE SHE WAS CROSSING, FRACTURING HER SKULL AND CAUSING SEVERAL DAYS OF ANXIETY FOR EVERYONE, AS SHE WAS BADLY CONCUSSED.