The Partridge Family

'John'

John Partridge was born on 16th October 1892 to Frank & Annie Partridge. He was baptised at Holy Innocents, Highnam on 4th December 1892.

John attended Highnam School and Sunday School. He was awarded a writing box and the book Footsteps of the Master. First prize for completing 100% attendance for his nine years at school. He cherished the book and box all his life.

He was employed as a gardener at Highnam Court when the Great War started 1914-18. John enlisted with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and went to fight in Mesopotamia now Iraq and Russia.

On his return from the war his was very ill and Florence Taylor who was cook at the Court nursed him back to health with good food. When he regained his health, he resumed his employment as gardener at Highnam Court.

He married Florence at Holy Innocents, Highnam on 28th December 1919. They had one son born in 1921 named Vivian Partridge and were living at Linton Lodge then later moved to Beauchamp Cottage the last cottage on Highnam Court Estate (opposite Churcham Garage).

When the Second World War (1939-45) broke out John enlisted with the Gloucestershire Regiment. He was posted to Llantony, Hempsted, Gloucester to guard the fuel installations for which he was awarded the 39-45 Medal.

Approaching 'D Day' on the 6th of June 1944 Royal Navy and American forces were camped in the grounds of the Court. Florence took in washing for them and would knit socks for the soldiers.

They were allowed to keep two pigs at Beauchamp Cottage, one for their own use and one for the Ministry of Food, because after the war food was scarce.
There were no mains water or electricity at Beauchamp Cottage, and they had a galvanised water carrier on wheels which you had to go across the road up from the garage to a piece of ground with a tap for fresh water.

Florence died in 1955 and John 1968 aged 75years. They are both buried in the Churchyard at Highnam (Out of the main door and to the right).

Their son Vivian, lived on at Beauchamp Cottage until the 1980's when he moved into sheltered accommodation in Longford and later Cornwall where he died in 2006.

Vivian Partridge taken at Churcham Garage with the Owners wife, Olwen Pensom. Beauchamp Cottage is behind them.