



Noel Lusher

581401 Flight Sergeant (Observer), 106 Squadron, Royal Air Force

He died on 26th August 1941 in Denmark, aged 28

Noel is buried at Frederikshavn Cemetery, Denmark

Noel Lusher, born on Christmas Day 1912, was effectively the only son of a man who was himself the only son of his parents

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <u>Gissing St Mary</u> in the County of <u>Norfolk</u> in the years <u>One thousand nine hundred and thirteen and fourteen</u>						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
<i>1913</i> April 6 th	Noel	William Seagon and Florence Emily	Lusher	Gissing	Relieving Officer	W. E. S. Cooper. Rector
No. 433						
1813						

Noel's father, William Seagon Lusher married to Florence Emily Cocksedge in Diss in September 1905. Six years later they appeared in the 1911 census with just one child, Geoffrey, a year old. When young Noel was barely 2 years old, in early 1915, his older brother Geoffrey died up in the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital; there were to be no further children, so Noel was raised as an only child.

LUSHER—February 19th, at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Geoffrey, elder son of W. S. and F. Lusher, aged 5 years.

Noel's father, William Seagon Lusher had not had the easiest of starts in life, his father was 61 when William was born, the result of a late union between him and Susan nee Seagon in March 1871. Susan, the daughter of Thomas Seagon, a Roydon gardener, was a spinster, William Snr was a widower.

1841. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Roydon in the County of Norfolk

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
107	March 24 th	William Lusher	full.	Widower	Carpenter	Roydon	George Lusher	Carpenter
		Susan Seagon	full.	Spinster	Dressmaker	Roydon	Thomas Seagon	Gardener

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church by Licence by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, William Lusher } in the Presence of us, William the Clerk }
Susan Seagon } Agnes Seagon }
Agnes Seagon } Thomas Seagon }
Thomas Seagon }

Going all the way back to 1841 and William Snr, a carpenter (and a son of a carpenter), was in his home town of Wenhaston (although this varies slightly in later censuses) with his first wife, Lucy and a 3 years old son. Lucy died before the 1851 census, which left William Snr with at least two motherless sons to raise. Conveniently, Eliza Cattermole nee Knowles, a baker, was in much the same situation but in her case with at least 4 sons to raise – a lot of boys between them!

1847. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Diss in the County of Norfolk

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
189	6 th July 1847	William Lusher	offage	Widower	carpenter Carpenter	Diss Norfolk	George Lusher	Carpenter
		Eliza Cattermole	offage	Widow	Baker	Diss Norfolk	Thomas Knowles	Gardener

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church by Licence by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, William Lusher } in the Presence of us, James Paines }
Eliza Cattermole + her mark } Rebecca Paines + her mark }

The couple married in Diss in 1847, the town that was to be their home for many years to come. Unlike both her new husband and his previous wife, Eliza Cattermole nee Knowles was illiterate, having to mark her name with a cross, however she did have the very useful trade of baxter or female bake.

No children resulting from this marriage appeared in any censuses. By 1861 only one of the Cattermole boys, along with his wife, remained at home; this lad, Isaac had taken over the bakery side of the business which he was operating with his step-father William Lusher Snr who was then combining carpentry with baking!

Sadly Eliza, who was a few years older than her husband died before him. In 1871, 59 years old carpenter William Lusher Snr appeared in Roydon, it was his with his third wife Susan nee Seagon - twenty years his junior. younger. It may have caused a slight surprise when William Seagon Lusher appeared 2 years later; dressmaker Susan would have then been in her early 40's, William Snr in his early 60's. Young William would have had half-brothers but 30 years or more older than him, they would have been more like uncles. His father's step children, the Cattermoles, were the same age or even older than his half-brothers so to all intents and purposes William Seagon Lusher was an only child.

By 1881, the family had moved back to Diss, but by then the 69 years old William Snr was blind and the family were relying on Susan's earnings— it must have been a struggle to make ends meet and this may be why the family eventually returned to Roydon, Susan's home parish, for help and support from her family. Old William Snr died there in 1884 at the perfectly respectable age of 73, leaving Susan with an 11-year-old lad to raise a job she did remarkably well; William Seagon Lusher must have been a bright lad but must have been both hard working and personable to improve his lot as much as he did.

<i>William Lusher</i>	<i>Roydon</i>	<i>August 2nd</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>J. C. Hode</i>
No. 616.		<i>1884</i>	<i>year</i>	<i>Rector</i>

In 1891, Susan and young William were living alone in Roydon, William aged at age 18 was described as a 'School Pupil Teacher'. Selected school pupils would assist their teacher and eventually, after 5 years qualify as teachers themselves. Today, teachers starting training at 18, (when these Pupil Teachers would qualify) or convert a university degree at the age of 21. Learning on the job from age 13 years old up was just a logical extension of the century's old tradition of apprenticeships. I am sure that in small rural schools where one teacher, or may be two, were expected to teach a group of children ranging widely in age, often within a single room, such apprentices were essential.

Susan, didn't send her son out early to work in order to garner much needed income but managed to launch her son into a good steady clean job. Susan Lusher nee Seagon was one of the children of Thomas Seagon, a gardener, and Lydia, a laundress. In spite of this humble background, her slightly younger sister Mary went on to become the Roydon school mistress where William would have served his apprenticeship. His Uncle Edward Seagon, having started off as a gardener (like his father) somehow managed to transform himself from a seedsman in 1881 to a Law Clerk in 1891 - I rather feel this was a family of application and intelligence. Aged 66, Susan was buried at Roydon on Valentine's Day, 1898, she did not survive long enough to see how much her only son finally achieved.

<i>Susan Lusher</i>	<i>Roydon</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>J. C. Hode</i>
No. 769.		<i>11th</i>	<i>year</i>	<i>Rector</i>
		<i>1898</i>		

By the 1901 census, William had moved to Diss, where he appeared with Aunt Mary Mattholi nee Seagon, the former teacher in Roydon. This had been a late marriage for both participants, in early 1877 when Mary, school teacher, had been 42, her groom had been the same age and a bachelor.

1901 was to be a pivotal year for William, still only an assistant School Teacher. The Depwade Union, a sort of halfway house between the early Parish Welfare and later National Welfare organisations were advertising for a Relieving Officer for the Northern Region of the Union. This job involved a wide range of duties from enforcing Small-pox inoculations (and Diss was a

notorious hot bed of conscientious objectors to this process), supervising the Workhouses, chasing up recalcitrant individuals who were failing to provide support for dependants or, on occasion, reporting on households who were simply failing to cope. 32 applications were received for this wide ranging and demanding job. W.S. Lusher of Roydon made it to the short list of five before being selected.

Eastern Daily Press
28 Aug 1901

sider the appointment at the next meeting. The Chairman said they had received 32 applications for the post of relieving-officer for the Northern Division of the Union. A small committee was appointed to go through the applications, and they selected the following candidates, viz., Mr. George Samuel Ducker of Aylham; Mr. Frederick Starr, Long Stratton; Mr. Wm. R. Palmer, Long Stratton; Mr. Albert T. Pitt, Norwich; and Mr. W. S. Lusher of Roydon. The Rev. J. H. White proposed, and the Rev. L. B. Radford seconded, that the number be reduced to three for the purpose of attending the Board. Mr. W. J. Robertson moved, and Mr. A. W. Goldsmith seconded, as an amendment, that the five selected candidates be requested to attend the Board. Upon a division 15 voted for the amendment and 9 for the motion, and the amendment was carried. The

This respectable job with a decent salary enabled William to woo and marry Florence Cocksedge. - not a local family at all, having originated from Kirton in Suffolk. Widowed mother Susannah was, most unusually, the manageress of a Corset factory. Susannah had been the second wife of her husband and inherited a clutch of five children from his first marriage to which she added 6 of her own; a big leap from being the widow of a village blacksmith to becoming a factory manageress. Her oldest daughter Florence was a clerk in the factory, and another was a draper's assistant, the two younger were Pupil Teachers, training in the same way as their future brother-in-law had done some 25 years earlier – a household of competent women.

Susannah must have excellent at her job as 10 years later, when her two younger daughters were both Elementary School Teachers, she, at age 66, was still the manageress of the corset factory!

Splendid Susanna lived to the grand age of 95; when she died in in 1940, Noel and his parents (unable to attend) sent a floral tribute.

Diss Express
29 Mar 1940

THE LATE MRS. S. COCKSEGE.

The funeral took place at the Cemetery yesterday (Thursday) of Mrs. Suzanna Cocksedge, who died on Monday at the age of 95 years.

The service was conducted by the Rev. B. M. Goodwins (Rector of Roydon) assisted by Capt. H. W. Ager, C.A., and the immediate mourners were as follows: Mr. F. Cocksedge, son; Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Batch, son-in-law and daughter; Mr. W. S. Lusher, son-in-law; Miss J. Cocksedge (grand-daughter); Mr. and Mrs. H. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Ives and Miss M. Scutts.

Miss E. M. Cocksedge, Mrs. W. S. Lusher (daughters) and Mr. R. Batch (grandson) were unavoidably absent.

Floral tributes were received from: Miss E. M. Cocksedge; Mr. and Mrs. F. Cocksedge and Joan and Betty; Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Lusher and Noel; Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Batch and Ron and Jean; Mr. and Mrs. Batch, sen., Norwich; Mr. and Mrs. Ives; Mr. and Mrs. Jones and the Misses Scutts; Mrs. Bartington; Mr. and Mrs. Shrubsall and Joyce (Bedford); Mr. and Mrs. Sturgeon (Diss); Mrs. W. Hoolhouse.

Diss Express Norfolk, England
7 Apr 1911

THE CENSUS.

The Diss sub-division was in charge of Mr. W. S. Lusher, Victoria-road, who also had the superintendence of the work in a number of outlying parishes altogether being engaged. Diss was divided into four districts, the enumerators being: Mrs. W. S. Lusher, Mr. A. Alden, Mr. F. Cocksedge and Mr. D. Maling. The weather, although bitterly cold, was more favourable than that experienced on succeeding days, and the work was carried out under fairly comfortable conditions. As far as can be ascertained from the returns sent in, the enumeration has been carefully and efficiently carried out.

William Lusher was in charge of the 1911 Diss census, roping in his wife, Florence and brother-in-law Frederick Cocksedge to assist. Employing a woman for such a demanding job indicates William to be as confident about women's abilities as the rest of his wife's family! In spite of bitterly cold weather, it was considered the team did a good job.

Florence's younger sister, Cicely, married in 1919, which would have automatically ended her teaching career, older sister Ellen remained unmarried and carried on teaching in Diss for years to come. Indeed, during the early 1920's both Noel and his aunt Miss Cocksedge attended the Diss Church School, one as a pupil and one as a teacher of the infants. In 1923 when Noel was winning the slow bicycle and the 100 yards race, Aunt Ellen was in charge of the infants Maypole Display. The next year Noel earned an academic prize for second place in his class – a bit of an all-rounder!

As well as organising census returns and chasing up smallpox inoculations, some of William Lusher's work was harrowing. Then, as now, some parents struggled due to no fault of their own, wives were abandoned by husbands and left to raise children in conditions we cannot imagine today, other families fell prey to drink, ignorance or poverty. Exactly when the family moved from their previous home on the Victoria Road, Diss, is not easy to determine but they were certainly in town by early 1929 when 16 years old Noel, along with young Bill Drake, brother of John Drake, an outstanding player, were part of a Cricket team that took on and beat the Harleston Banks!

Harleston Town C.C. v. Harleston Banks.
 The Town C.C. defeated the team raised by the local banks on the Recreation Ground on Thursday week by 61 runs. The scores were. Banks.—S. C. Smith b Sadd 0, D. Taylor b Youngs 3, L. W. Radford c Sadd b Youngs 4, F. A. Summerlin b Sadd 3, B. N. Owen run out 0, G. R. English c Allured b Youngs 0, G. Goodchild (capt.) c Simpson b Sadd 10, S. J. Cross b Sadd 5, V. M. Harrison b Drake 7, E. H. Smith not out 0, H. F. Coy c Youngs b Drake 0, extras 2, total 34.
 Harleston C.C.—P. Stimpson c English b Taylor 13, F. Stacey c Smith b Taylor 14, G. Sadd b Owen 1, W. Allured b S. Smith 27, V. Alderton b Owen 4, N. Lusher b Summerlin 11, W. Drake c Cross b Summerlin 0, A. Marshall b Summerlin 0, S. Youngs c E. Smith b S. Smith 7, H. Spelman b Owen 8, F. W. Drake not out 0, extras 13 total 95.

Diss Express
 6 Sep 1929

News reports indicate that not only was Noel's father William a keen green bowler but that he also played for the Diss Cricket team in the early years of the 20th Century. Looking at the match reports, it appears that he was bit of a tail ender in the batting order but a more than competent bowler. Noel continued to play for Harleston right up to the eve of war although, like his father, he seems to have been a more consistent bowler than batsman!

The whole family threw themselves into the life of the town, by 1933 Florence was the Honorary Secretary of the Harleston Women's

Conservatives; a very vibrant Association, she continued to be involved for years after. William Seagon Lusher, who had previously been on the Saracens Head bowling team, transferred to the Swan team, appearing there in the 1930's alongside the Drakes who were to lose John (Harry) Drake in the same conflict as Noel Lusher.

As well as being a keen cricketer, Noel was also a rather good footballer, playing for the very successful Harleston / Jays Green team in the mid 1930's. Conditions were quite different in those days; leather balls became water logged on boggy pitches – one match report refers to 'mud-larking' and how the ball become heavy and hard to move. The strong Norfolk winds could also add an extra dimension to matches but in spite of all these hazards, Lusher was a regular scorer during the 1935 season

FOOTBALL.

In a friendly match played against Halesworth on Thursday the Jay's Green team succeeded in winning by 6-2. Four of the Harleston team's six were scored by Youngs. Bacon scored one and Lusher one.

The ground was in an extremely bad state owing to the weather and, as one player put it "there was a good deal of mudlarking." The ball became very heavy and difficult to move.

The following was the team: Bond; A. Oakley, Symonds; W. Cook, F. Stacey, B. Brown; Bacon, Bond, N. Lusher, S. Youngs, Francis.

Match reports from the 1935 season.

FOOTBALL.

A record kick was made by C. White when the Jay's Green team visited Norwich on Thursday week for a match against the Norwich Banks. Kicking the ball from the Harleston goal mouth, he landed the ball right over the line at the other end of the field. Unfortunately White can hardly claim the triumph as his own as it was the wind that did it. There was a very strong wind blowing and it took away a good deal of the enjoyment from the game.

Apart from this the match was an excellent one, Harleston winning by 2-0. In the first half they were against the wind and a goal was scored by N. Lusher. In the second half J. Yallop scored from a penalty kick.

The team was: C. White; G. Brown, S. Youngs; L. Cook, Lovett, H. Henery; J. Ohsten, R. Francis, N. Lusher, F. Stacey, J. Yallop.

Life was not all sports for Noel, rather sweetly he assisted in creating the centre piece for a Congregational Church fund raiser in 1934, this was a mock-up of a boat to go with a 'Treasure Theme and Noel and another lad had been responsible for the rigging. £200 was raised – a very impressive sum.

Diss Express Norfolk, England
26 Oct 1934

Life was good for the hard-working Lusher family. Both William and Florence had strong widowed mothers who against all odds had prioritised education and hard work to enable their children to aspire to and achieve lives far removed from the daily grind so many of their contemporaries were destined to follow. The family were living in Old Bank House, a substantial and impressive building with a venerable history in the middle of Harleston. Education really was the key to this family, William had started as a teacher, an aunt and two sisters in law had also followed this calling.

However, 1937 was a terrible year. Florence had been assisting in the Coronation celebrations that were taking part in the Corn Exchange. As part of the Entertainments Committee, she had been helping with the children's afternoon tea. Although she was very familiar with the main part of the Corn Hall, having often attended Conservative meetings there, she was less familiar with the small back room and what she certainly did not know was that under the linoleum, normally covered in chairs and benches, lurked a trap door giving access to the cellar.

In the cellar were stored the trestles required for the festivities, the chap who was meant to be guarding the trap door got distracted, Florence went hunting for a jug and, unawares, stepped backwards and tumbled into the cellar.

FOOTBALL.

With one match still to be played, the Jay's Green team has won the top place in the Norwich Thursday League, being five points ahead of the runners-up.

This happy result was ensured on Thursday week when the team entertained Watton and were victorious by 2-0. Yet Harleston were lucky to win as there is no doubt they were not up to their usual form and put up a poor fight. The goal scorers were J. Yallop and N. Lusher, Yallop scoring from a penalty kick.

The team was: C. White; C. Youngs, A. Oakely; Brown, Lovett, L. Cook; E. Cowell, J. Yallop, N. Lusher, F. Stacey, J. Ohsten.

HARLESTON

TREASURE SHIP AND SEASIDE BAZAAR.

The Corn Hall was a hive of activity yesterday afternoon during the progress of a bazaar in aid of the Congregational Church funds. Trade at the stalls was fast and furious, while at the side-shows, as the stock market reports say, a brisk business was done.

Everywhere in the Hall there was evidence of willing work and great artistic taste. The stalls were attractively decorated, while as a background to the speakers at the opening ceremony was the treasure ship, a small boat with beautifully coloured sails for the preparation of which Mrs. Lewis and Noel Lusher and Peter Reeve were responsible. Mrs. Lewis had made the sails and the two boys had seen to the rigging. The presence of a number of people in nautical dress completed the picture.

Sidney Denny who both owned the Corn Hall and happened to be in the cellar, claimed Florence Lusher had been negligent in failing to notice the flap was open. The judge was not having any of it and placed the blame fair and square at Denny's door. Poor old Florence, 57 at the time of the accident, received injuries to her spine and hip such that she had to spend eight to ten weeks in a plaster-of-paris bed, had been a hospital outpatient for ten months and had shrunk almost 4 inches in height. Florence's local G.P., Dr Wade said that prior to the accident Florence had been in good health but now could not bend her spine, suffered from sleeplessness, headaches and nervousness; in Wade's opinion she was permanently incapacitated. The damages that were awarded to her in early 1939 were appropriately substantial, almost £1,100 but I am sure Florence would have preferred her previous good health.

Only a few months after the court case, war was declared and a register, not a full census, was taken of all the inhabitants of the UK.



This 1939 register actually reveals that the Old Bank House, home of the Lushers, was also home to a married school master and his wife and two unmarried school mistresses – continuing the educational theme of this family. William and Florence's son, Noel, still 26, had already joined up and was being trained at the No7 Elementary Flying Training School, RAF Desford, specifically as an Air Observer. His records describe him in 1935 as a Direct Entry Class F reservist, I suspect that like the Drake boys, he had been in the ATC prior to the war.

© IWM CH 7940 Instructor of No. 7 Elementary Flying Training School briefing his pupils on a Tiger Moth trainer aircraft. Note the Wellington IV (Z1248) of No. 305 Polish Bomber Squadron in the background. RAF Desford, 24-26 November 1942.

Old Bank House
The Lusher's family home.



HARLESTON

WEDDING

A wedding of considerable local interest took place at Redenhall Church on Saturday between Mr. Noel Lusher, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Lusher, Old Bank House, Harleston, and Miss Hylda Beatrice Bush, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Bush of the Magpie Hotel, Harleston.

The bridegroom is a sergeant-observer in the R.A.F., and the bride gave up a commission in W.A.A.F., just prior to her marriage.

The ceremony was performed by the Rector (the Rev. B. M. Pickering), and Mr. A. C. P. Browne of Norwich, was the organist. The hymns were "Love divine, all loves excellent," and "O perfect Love."

The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a gown of white moire taffeta, with veil and orange blossom, and carried a bouquet of red roses. Her youngest sister, Miss Jeanne Frances E. Bush, was bridesmaid, and she was attired in a blue satin dress with blue net over, and Juliet cap. She carried a Victorian posy.

The bridegroom's cousin, Mr. Ronald Batch, was best man, and the ushers were Messrs. Peter Reeve and Ian Reeve.

Afterwards a reception was held at the Magpie Hotel, Harleston. On leaving for the honeymoon the bride travelled in a powder-blue crepe frock, navy coat, with squirrel and navy accessories.

Diss Express
6 Dec 1940

In late 1940, Noel managed to get together both leave and a marriage, to his childhood sweetheart Hylda 'Binky' Beatrice Bush. She too had a commission, but in the WAAF;



Hilda Bush
Noel Lusher
c 1941

Hylda's parents were Mr and Mrs Albert Bush, the proprietors of the Magpie Hotel, standing on the Market Square barely a stone's throw from the Lusher's home at the Old Bank House. It looks like their wedding photo was on the Magpie Bowling Green.



Kate and Arthur Bush (landlord of the Magpie) with daughters Jeanne and Hilda, 10 years older

Sadly, Hylda and Noel's marriage was to be of short duration. On the 26th of August 1941 a Hampden AE301 from 106 Sqn Bomber Command took off at 10 pm from Conningsby to lay mines in the western Baltic Sea. They flew to close to Hals, Denmark and at two in the morning of the 17th of August, flying low at only 70 to 100m altitude the plane was fired on by German anti-aircraft guns and crashed into the 2.5m depths of the Limfjord close to land.

One of the crew of four men, Flt Sgt Powell, although badly wounded, survived the crash was taken prisoner and finally liberated and repatriated at the end of the war. The body of the pilot, Michael J C Harwood DFC, an experienced flyer, was brought ashore the same day and the next day Wireless Operator / Air Gunner Oastler MID was found. Both were buried at Frederikshavn on the 30th of August. Observer Noel Lusher's body was retrieved from the sea on the 7th of September and he was finally laid to rest beside his comrades the following day.

Lusher's plane being retrieved from the shallow seas.

As the plane had crashed into shallow water, less than 10ft, the German's were able to easily retrieve it along with radio code books, signal codes, logbook and maps as well as a 325 kg mine with an attached parachute that was taken to Keil for examination.



There then followed a series of communications, initially that Lusher was reported missing and then missing, believed killed in action and then the final confirmation that his body had been found and buried in Denmark. At the same time Lusher's death was confirmed so was the that of Sgt Daniels, a fellow pilot, a close neighbour, living on Broad St and a member of the same cricket team

HARLESTON

REPORTED MISSING

News was received on Wednesday by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Lusher, of Old Bank House, that their son, Sergt. Noel Lusher, an Observer in the R.A.F. was reported missing.

Sergt. Lusher who joined the R.A.F. in August, 1939, married in December last Miss Hylda Bush, the elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Bush of the Magpie Hotel, Harleston.

LOCAL AIRMAN BELIEVED KILLED

News has just been received by his wife through the International Red Cross that Sergt. Noel Lusher, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Lusher, of Old Bank House, Harleston, reported missing in August, is now believed to have been killed in action. Sergt. Lusher was an observer in the R.A.F., which he joined just prior to the outbreak of War. Previously he had been a popular member of several local sporting organisations, and for his wife and parents much sympathy is felt in the town and district.

LATE FLT.-SGT. N. LUSHER, R.A.F.

The wife and relatives of Flight Sgt. Noel Lusher, R.A.F., have been informed through the British Red Cross, that the body of Flight Sgt. Lusher, previously reported believed to have been killed in action, was washed ashore at Hals, Denmark, and that he was buried in the Military Cemetery at Frederikshaven. The Society added that the two remaining members of the crew, who also lost their lives, were buried at the same cemetery. Flight Sgt. Lusher's parents reside at Harleston, and in December, 1940, he married Miss Hylda B. E. Bush, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Bush, of the Magpie Hotel, Harleston.

DEATH PRESUMED

News has also been received from the Air Ministry that in view of the lapse of time and the absence of any further news regarding Sgt. A. F. Daniels, since the date on which he was reported missing, they must regretfully conclude that he is lost, and his death has now been presumed for official purposes to have occurred on 5th November, 1941. Sgt. Daniels' parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. Daniels, reside at No. 4, Broad Street, Harleston.

Diss Express
30 Nov 1945

Diss Express 19 Jun 1942

CRICKET CLUB REVIVED

The revival of the Harleston Cricket Club on a peace-time footing following a lapse of over three years due to the War, was unanimously decided upon at a largely attended meeting held at the Magpie Hotel, Harleston, on Friday week, when the President of the Club, Mr. A. Lombe Taylor, presided. Before business commenced, the meeting stood in silence for the following past members of the Club who had been killed in action, namely, Squadron Leader Mathewson, R.A.F., Lieut H. J. Drake (Army), F./Sgt. N. Lusher, (R.A.F.), Sgt. Pilot B. G. Barker (R.A.F.) and Sgt. A. F. Daniels.

After being re-elected President, on the proposition of Mr. W. H. Stacey, seconded by Mr. J. C. Edwards, Mr. Taylor said he always felt it an honour to hold that position, and was always very glad to do anything he could for the Club. He could not say how long it was since he was first appointed President, following his father, the late Mr. Alfred Taylor. The family connection went back a very long time.

Doubtless many families in the town had mixed feelings as the war finally drew to an end and normal life was slowly resumed, The Cricket club which had gone into abeyance in the mid 1940's was revived in late 1945 when the inaugural meeting stood in silence for Squadron Leader Mathewson, Lieut H.J. Drake, Flt Sgt N Lusher, Sgt Pilot B G Barker and Sgt A F Daniels all of whom were former players and had been killed in action. Wilfred Drake, the father of one of these men was appointed to the committee.

The young widow Hylda Lusher nee Bush remarried in 1946, to another pilot, holder of the DFC. This chap, Dennis Lunn was part of the RAF Air Sea Rescue Service, the Corps motto being 'The Sea Shall Not Have Them'; achingly poignant in light of how Hylda's first husband died. On this occasion, I suspect in deference to Lusher's family, the wedding took place not in Redenhall but out on the coast and the reception was not held at the Magpie even though Arthur Bush was to remain landlord there until 1962 by which time he would have served 40 years as the landlord. I hope Hylda had a long and happy second marriage.

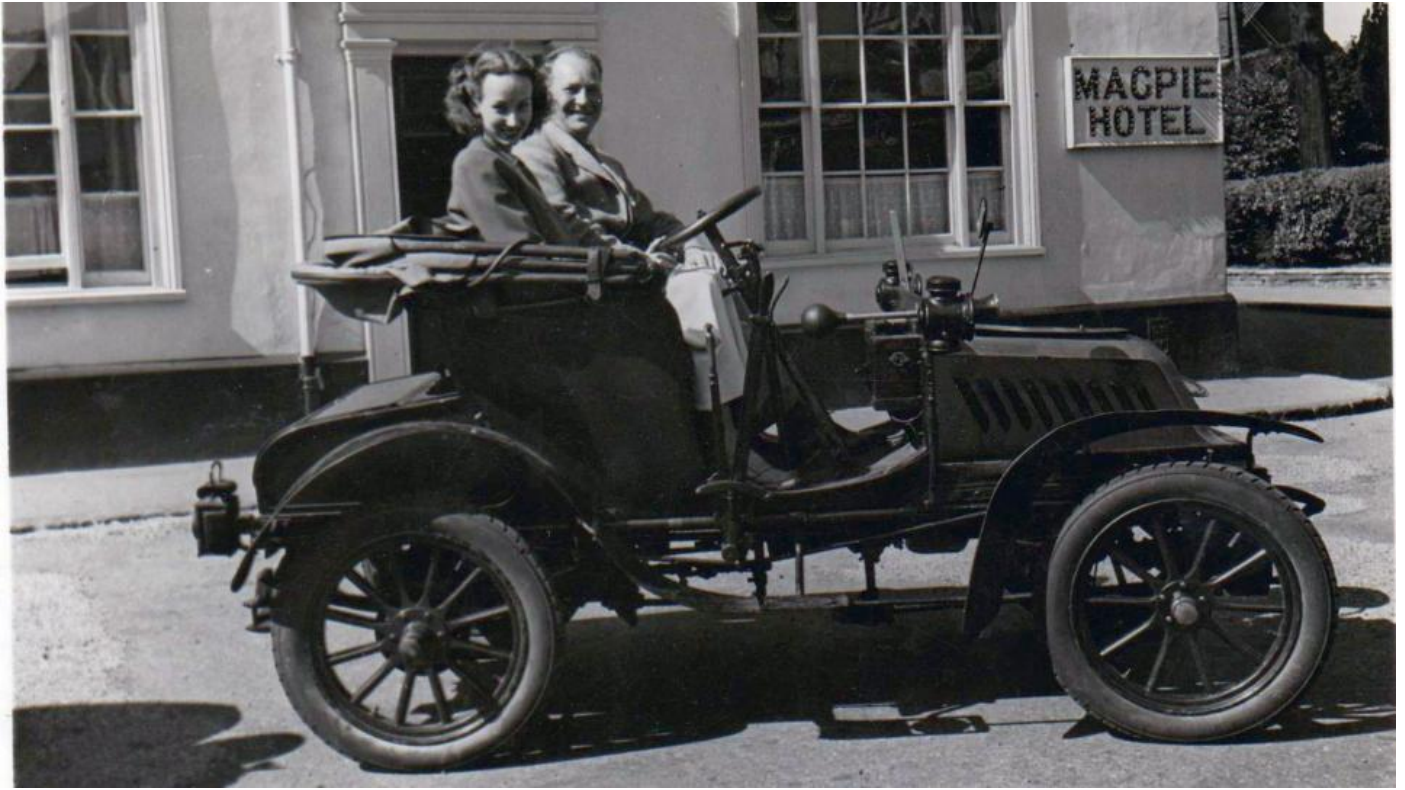
Diss Express
16 Aug 1946

WEDDING

At St. Felix Church, Felixstowe, on Saturday, Mrs. Hylda B. Lusher, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Bush, of the Magpie Hotel, Harleston, was married to Flt. Lieut. Denis Lunn, D.F.C., of Stanmore, Middx. Mrs. Lusher held a commission in the W.A.A.F. during the war.

The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Father W. Banham, and the bride's aunt, Miss R. Bush, was the organist for the hymns. Mrs. Lusher, who was given away by her father, wore a navy costume with white blouse, navy hat and veil, and carried white carnations. The bridesmaid was Miss Jeanne Bush (sister of the bride) who wore a floral blue frock with blue picture hat to match. The best man was Mr. Arthur Howells, uncle of the bridegroom.

A reception was held at the Orwell Hotel, and later Mr. and Mrs. Lunn left for Stratford-on-Avon and S. Devon where the honeymoon is being spent.



Jeanne with her father Arthur Bush in a rally car outside the Magpie Hotel – early 1950's

Noel's father finally died in 1952, aged 79 whilst his Noel's mother lived to 80, dying in 1964. Both had come a long way and struggled to overcome difficult times in their early years. William's obituary reveals him to have been not only an efficient and effective servant of what was originally the Depwade Union, but also a compassionate and humane one; perhaps he remembered the hard times his family had experienced during his youth.

We can only wonder what their son, had he survived, would have achieved but this makes the family's loss no greater or less than that of the other bereaved families in our town.



MR. W. S. LUSHER (HARLESTON)

The death occurred at Old Bank House, Harleston, on Thursday week, in his 80th year of Mr. William Seagon Lusher, who prior to his retirement in 1938 had been a Registrar of Births and Deaths, and Relieving Officer in the Diss and Depwade District for thirty-four years. Mr. Lusher, who was born at Bressingham, had resided at Diss, Gissing, Starston, and Harleston. His wife survives him. A son was killed on active service while serving as an Observer with the R.A.F. during the war. On his retirement in 1938, presentations were made to him by members of the Depwade Rural District Council, Guardians Committee and his fellow officers. The tributes paid to his efficient and eloquent testimony to the esteem in which he had been held by those constituting the local authority to which he had given thirty-four years' loyal service, and also to the high appreciation that service had won. To a great extent he had seen Poor Law revolutionised, and had witnessed the somewhat crude way of dispensing relief to the poor that was operative when he first commenced duties, give place to the more kindly and sympathetic method of to-day. Mr. Lusher was never of the self-assertive type of official that some were inclined to associate with the post of Relieving Officer, but belonged to that finer school of service, the school that carried out its duties unobtrusively and humanely. He endeared himself to all who knew him, and none more than the poorer members of the community among whom his immediate work laid. Mr. Lusher was first appointed Relieving Officer in September, 1903, for the Diss district. At that time five parishes were added from the Gulltross district and the Depwade Union was divided into three districts with a Relieving Officer for each. In 1912, the Union reverted to two districts again, as old-age pensions had reduced the number of cases. In 1924 Mr. Lusher was transferred to the Harleston District, of which he had charge up to the date of his retirement. It is interesting to note that in Mr. Lusher's first year (1904) the cost of out-relief was £4,040, or £80 per week, and the number of persons having relief was about 400. For the year ending March, 1938, the cost of relief had risen to £7,704, about £150 a week, and the number of persons to about 550. The increase had taken place in spite of National Health Insurance, old-age, and widows' pensions and unemployment insurance.

At Harleston and elsewhere Mr. Lusher had been a keen bowler player, having been a member of the former Harleston Swan Club, and the Harleston Recreation Grounds Club. He had been in failing health for several months.

The funeral service took place at St. Mary's Church, Redenhall, on Tuesday, conducted by the Rector (Canon E. M. Pickering).

The family present were: Mr. and Mrs. G. Batch, Miss N. Cocksedge, Mrs. Hunt, Mr. R. Batch, and Miss Elliott.

Others present included: Messrs. G. S. Scarlett (Clerk), O. D. Payne (Rating Officer), F. L. Ray (Welfare Officer) and S. Fryer (Registrar), representing the Depwade Rural District Council; Mr. Walter Allured, also representing Messrs. Lyua, Burne & Lyua, Diss and Harleston; Mrs. H. Reeve, Mr. Peter Reeve, Mr. E. A. Small, Mr. ...