

November 1943

Xways Ludham Norfolk

Tues 9 11.1943

Dear Billee

Today after getting home from Potter has been mainly devoted to Chrysanthemums. The Croquet Box rests under the window of your bedroom and is decorated with large pots of Chrysants. I also turned out 4 big pots and took up out of the garden the most shapely plants and potted them. They are now resting in the semi darkness of the garage after being tied up and watered. I hope they will suffer less than the Braeside efforts which look as though they had been shaken out and put in small pots and put in a room in which fires made a dry atmosphere. A sad trial for the poor plants.

We went over there for Bridge in evening and I had the most horrible luck being 2470 down as the result of 3 rubbers and 3 different partners. We got home about 11.20 and sat by the fire until the 12 o'clock news. Then went to bed and had an undisturbed night. There was a nice fire as I came away after Sandwich time and made it up.

We were duly introduced to their shelter. I wonder how long it will be before the rust reasserts itself.

Wed 10.11.43

Had a lazy morning and did not get up until after 9 and 'M' has been trying to catch up all day. Washing in the morning after going to the village then washing again in the afternoon and reckon that she had a busy day. She was very pleased to have felt so fit.

I have been giving finishing touches to Chrysants and then did a bit on the semi-circular margin of the 'wood'. I was glad when five o'clock came and to come indoors out of the wind which although from the South was inclined to be cutting.

We listened to 'can I help you' after the six o'clock news and at 7 turned on 'The World Goes By'. Very interesting when not interrupted by a station blaring out on both sides.

There has been a lot of activity here this evening and we spent best part of an hour and a half in the shelter. There was a procession of heavy machines above the clouds going North and being probed by the search lights. Only heard one report and that a distant one but it rattled the front door.

The bird bath has been successfully got out of the bowl with a good sharp tap on the tiles and now looks quite important and neat opposite the kitchen window in the garden.

Mrs Vidler called and left an envelope containing a pound note for the Evan's Testimonial so the total is slowly creeping up and the £30 may be reached.

Thur morning 11.11.43

The Anniversary of the Armistice of the last war, how good it will be to reach such a climax of this one. Churchill in his City speech was evidently doing his best to keep everyone right up to scratch and as usual although cheerful outlined all kinds of things that may happen but it looks as though Germany is hard put to carry on under and on the water or land and in the air.

Nothing from you this morning so will close this up and you should get it before the weekend.

Cheerio and best love Pa

Crossways Ludham Norfolk

Thur 11.11.43

Dear Billee

It has been a bright cool day and I have been trimming up grass margins. They seem an almost interminable job and 'M' came out in the afternoon and gave a hand but we did not have time to finish the semicircular edge of the 'wood'. Have had to keep close to the bungalow as I had developed diarrhoea which turned me out of bed during last night. Cannot think how I could have got it for we have both had similar food and 'M' has no trouble.

Fri 12 .11. 43

After a very disturbed night again I did not get up till a quarter past twelve and did practically nothing for the rest of the day, felt somewhat slack.

Sat 13.11.43

A bit slack again this morning but sparked up a bit in the afternoon and brought in some Chrysants which I had lifted and potted. They seem to have stood the uprooting pretty well after 3 days in the dark to recover. The cool days no doubt had a deal to do with that. Have also brought in Cyclamen which are throwing up for bloom. The first one is above the foliage and being in the Dining room where we have fires should not belong in making a show and long before Chrysants are over. The Arums I am leaving in the lounge where there is more room.

We have had no frost yet but may get one any time now and then goodbye to Dahlias etc in the garden.

'M' had her War Savings at home, and much more comfortable I should think. The sky was very threatening in the afternoon and I had to pack up a bit early.

Stomach a bit easier and slept well all night.

Sun 14.11.43

Going to church was out of the question today but 'M' went at 11am and was pretty well drenched coming home. The weather is pretty awful. Cold, rain, hail, thunder all the good things at once and the wind in the N.W. which keeps the dining room pretty cold until the curtains are drawn but we could hear the wind, rain and hail at times during the evening and it continued all night with a total of 0.54" rain.

M heard today that Rene has been in bed with lumbago but is getting better now.

Have finished your 'South Sea Diary' today, quite an interesting description of some of the Pacific Islands and their customs.

We had settled down for tea and about 20 minutes to six Nel Halcon arrived with a request for knitting wool so that's another recruit, it remains to be seen whether she works expeditiously.

Mon 15.11.43

My stomach seems to be a long time getting bac to normal but I am feeling no bad effects now except being kept a prisoner. It's been another stormy night with a total of 0.44" of rain. The lawns are like a sponge although there has been a drying wind this afternoon which has improved matters a little. The barometer is inclined to rise but the wind still remains N.W. with an ugly sky although some gorgeous effects on masses of cumulus in the East just before sunset, great golden humps of golden orange where the sun caught it through a rift in the West and now 8.15pm the rain is battering the bay window. Have lifted more Chrysants and should have plenty for Xmas. Your bedroom window is full up now.

Tues 16/11/43

Your letter came this morning so I will answer it right away. Glad to hear the flowers travelled well, they should last a good time.

The parcel arrived safely as no doubt you will have heard before you get this. After all I suppose out of 30 that some will be away during the winter, some are not so young as they used to be, but it is a bad job regarding (Steer) hope it's not very serious.

With regards to fire watching does this relieve you of ARP duties or is it extra.

I assume that 9o'clock train means A.M. and you will be home by evening time.

The optimism about the war seems to have been emphasised in last Sunday's 'Observer' – will have a look for 'Halle' article.

'M' was at the vicarage on Monday afternoon and heard that they would be going about 5 days before induction which is on 18<sup>th</sup> and they go about 5 days before Pickford is doing the job of removal for £60 and transit will take about 10 days. Rene had got over her Lumbago and was busy about the house. The collection should be over £30. 'M' got £12.19.0.

£60 seems a lot but I expect he will find some fund out of which he will get some assistance. Parsons usually find a way over financial stringency.

Its simply appalling this morning cold, heavy rain, and dark. Our weather has been atrocious these last few days. I thought it was clearing up a bit when I went to bed but stars were suspiciously bright and the barometer jumped up rapidly, not too good an omen

Cheerio and best love

Pa

Xways Ludham Norfolk

Tues 16.11.43

Dear Billee

There was little to write about after 'M's exhaustive epistle. We still had no frost but as I want room to plant tulips, for if not planted soon they will not do so well. So, I had a turn round in the garage to make a temporary home for the Dahlias. The small repair after the bomb has not improved the main roof covering and its just a mess in there after the rain. Still, I shall have to make do somehow. The evening was filled with novels (I finished one and started on another) and listening after the news at 9 to a talk on the London plan of reconstruction, didn't know much more when it was finished'

Wed 17.11.43

Did not get up until 12.15 after being turned put 3 times during the night and I cannot think of any cause except a chill perhaps or a Post Office pork pie. It certainly has not been quite so terrible during the day and I hope it is getting better.

M has discovered that a reading lamp beside her in the dining room would be an improvement so I have lengthened the lead of your lamp and the lamp stands quite nicely on the (wagon/ way in) just beside her. Have been getting the more tender plants indoors and the window boards are looking fuller but it makes a lot of shifting for black out in the dining room. The Cyclamen are doing fine. The corm that I cut seems quite happy and they are all showing flower buds even the little piece I cut out and the seedlings except perhaps the very smallest. I shall be well off for cyclamen.

Thursday 18.11.43

Have felt able to go outdoors to the village. It's the first time for 9 days that I have felt able to risk it and I think I shall be quite OK again shortly. The spots that 'M' told you about do not seem likely to cause any more trouble, how are yours getting on you do not say.

I could not wait any longer and cleared space to plant my tulips this afternoon, frost or no frost rain started when I had nearly finished but did not give up until I had accomplished my aim and now as soon as the surface is a bit dry, I'll get going.

There was an entertainment of liveliness this evening 7-7.30. It has been ugly and threatening all day but the sky cleared as the sun went down so Jerry thought it good enough to come by starlight. They must get some good weather information to be so quick on it. The stars looked remarkably clear and the Milky way quite bright. M wondering whether it indicates more rain as the barometer seems to have stopped rising and wind died right away, looks like a possible fog before the morning.

Have had a letter from Gertie this morning says C started work a week ago but has to have the afternoon off twice a week to go to the hospital for his injection. The course will last another 5 weeks, but in the meantime, he is not to do any night work.

Effie still seems to be causing Gertie a lot of annoyance. I think she chews things over a great deal too much for her piece of mind, a four sheet letter was 3 parts taken up with Effie's misdoings.

Over the way they have had a good long form to fill up about their air raid damage and after the first effort it came back for more precision and Madge comes over just before dinner to solicit my help, Dale, the builder was responsible for the first attempt.

Well, I've nothing more to add just now but if anything special occurs I shall start a second sheet tomorrow morning.

Cheerio and best love Pa

Crossways  
Ludham  
Gt Yarmouth  
Tues Nov 16<sup>th</sup>

Mt Dear Babs

By now Miss S will have had my letter thanking her for the B.M. and dates all very acceptable for we had just managed to scrape with marge with enough for Monday's breakfast ad now I have a week in hand. I enquired at Throwers today for dried fruit and was told the next would come about 13<sup>th</sup> Dec. Still, I have a good supply in hand for those days.

We saw nothing at all of the Evan's last week and on Sunday morning as we got up to come out to church Miss Broom told me that when she called there on Sat. aft. She found that Rene had been in bed with lumbago and had only got up that day. I told him he ought to have let me know for we might have been able to do something to help. Anyhow I called in on Monday aft. (I would have gone Sunday but it rained hard best part of the afternoon) I found Rene much better although she had not got rid of it and was installed in the study making up curtains. He was in the chair by the fire doing sweet nothing, but grumbling about the cold and wet. I learned that as Pa has told you the Induction is on the 18<sup>th</sup> so they hope to see the furniture out about the sixth and after that both Mrs. Morris and Mrs Brown have offered to put them up for a day or two, then they will leave Ludham so as to get to Ugborough about a couple of days before the stuff is due to arrive. It rather looks as if they will be lucky to get it before the 18<sup>th</sup>. It is costing £60 and insurance. Still the gift will be at least £30 so that will be a good help for them. They both spoke about them not seeing you before you left last Tuesday and he said he was sorry but they had Pickfords man coming to give an estimate and he ( ) about over him and suddenly realised it was too late to see you but they both spoke of seeing you down there some time. I was shown the plan which is pinned up on the study wall and told Rene I thought she would find plenty of work but Ted didn't think so. I don't think Rene realises that the place is about twice the size of this and even bigger. Miss broom brought 2 sweaters on Sat so I have a good big parcel ready to send off and as Pa has told you Nell came along for some wool for herself and Mrs. Bush on Sunday evening. She wants me to speak about it at the Institute tomorrow but I don't intend to be worked off against Mrs Adcock. She said Mrs. A never got any wool now and there were several people who would be glad to do some knitting, but if Mrs. A is at the meeting I shall have a talk to her and then use my own discretion about asking for helpers.

About the schoolmaster I'm sure you will be interested to know now a Village S.M. is chosen. Burton told me on Saturday that they made their choice the previous Sat from the applications and sent the name thro' to the Education Authorities who promptly sent it back and told them they must have an interview: so, they were interviewing the man last Saturday afternoon and considering the members of the committee I should say the chap would have an easy passage. What do you think.

I was sorry to hear that Alf Mattocks wife while romping with the children last Sat week fell over a sack of straw and dislocated both her elbows and broke one arm and is now in Norwich Hospital. She is about 30 Mrs M senior is over at Dereham looking after things while she is away. So with Mrs. Lawson still in hospital in Cumberland the family is full of trouble. I have not seen Madge or Sally since last Thursday when they were rather down hearted about things. I had a letter from Miss Weekley yesterday telling me she had fixed up for a car to call for me on Sat and then go onto Horning to pick up 2 other people and bringing us back after the meeting so I am looking forward to that. My people will come here on Friday afternoon. Your figures are good for the 3 years and my total for 31/2 years that I have been running the Group and the 3 outstanding wks is about £25,000 that is up today. 31/2 years this month, I think that very good don't you after all I have done the work attached to it. Evidently Kitchener sent a boy to the P.O. for £1 worth of 6 stamps yesterday and late on notice appeared in the P.O. 'Lost between P.O. and School 40 6 Saving Stamps. 'The property of a school boy'. Up to 11o'clock this morning they had not turned up.

Thanks for knitting leaflet. I have finished the front and have now done about 6ins of the first sleeve. I have also made a start on the brown coat and have easily got enough off the bottom to make the wider piece for the front by joining. Have taken the sleeves right out so should be able to make a good job of it.

Pa didn't tell you in his letter about his patch of pimples on the top part of his arm a patch about this size (diagram here) and they looked exactly like yours. Anyhow I dosed them with the lotion for a few times and they have dried up, no others have appeared so we hope that is the end of that.

Tues: and another wet cold day. Pa is still troubled with the D\_\_. I have left him in bed. It is much better but I shall be glad when it has quite gone. I have kept him as far as possible this week on Milk puddings but his appetite is good. I cannot understand what could have started it for I have had nothing of the kind.

Sorry I cannot fill up this paper but I want to post as I go for the milk.

Charlie, I believe went back to work last Thursday. I sent of 4 more tins of D.M. on Monday so that should help Gerie over the shortage.

Much love and a kiss  
Mama

Xways Ludham Norfolk  
Fri 19.11.43

Dear Billee

Everywhere dripping wet again this morning and I found something to do indoors, and shifted round some pots of Chrysants, took 3 of the best, a fine pink single, a mauve and a white and stood them in the corner of the dining room alongside the little window. They make a lovely group the white and the mauve being fine large shaggy Japanese. 'M' had her War savings pay in during the afternoon when they were much admired by the callers.

This evening Madge and Sally came over for bridge and likewise admired them. They contrast with the poor plants they had lifted and potted. We had a complete change round of partners result was I 520 up and [poor Madge was on the losing side all the time.

This afternoon the ground had dried up slightly and I was able to plant my tulip, an operation somewhat overdue but better late than never.

There was a certain amount of activity during the early evening but I was unable to diagnose the detonations, were very and in twos, they did not sound like bombs and might have been out at sea.

Sat 20.11.43

As 'M' was going to Norwich at 1.15 and we did not turn out till well after eight there was not a lot of time to spare before dinner. I went to the village, wanted a new torch battery and had to go to Brooks private house for one and came back along School Lane. The place seemed almost deserted just one or two here and there, in fact things are quiet here all round.

'M' left as plan at 1.15 and got back at 5.40 and she will tell you all about it shortly.

I have at last finished clipping all the margins of the drive and the entrances look quite respectable again except for the gates which are getting more decrepit every day. Burton is supposed to paint them I believe but it won't be much use unless they are repaired. Sally came across whilst I was doing the drive and brought a fine head of celery and discovered that the gutter in front of Braeside was littered with leaves so set about clearing them away – doing Kemp out of part of his work. Mist this evening and no sounds to disturb us.

Sun 21.11.43

We both had a good nights rest and did not get up til 10.30. This was the first time for over a week that I was not called out during the night. So, I suppose I am well on the way to recovery. It's a wretched business being turned out during the night in this cold weather.

Owing to our late rising breakfast was practically dispensed with and not a sit down meal and almost before you thought about it was news time and dinner.

It was a miserable, dull and foggy afternoon but we both went to church at 3pm. Ted was a bit late starting and were out by 3.15. What do you think of that. There were only about a dozen present – Miss Grimes was there but apart from the Voluntary her services were not required, no hymns or psalm, no lessons no creed, no address and only a few prayers. As we went out, he seemed very jubilant at getting home again. Dr Brown was there I wonder what he thought about it all- but then he's going away soon.!!

Mon 22.11.43

After a foggy night which was not at all cold the weather has been a little drier under the influence of a westerly wind.

'M' went out fairly early and took a big parcel of merchant navy to the post and later on went up again for a shopping do. She also called at browns and heard that the total for Evan's had reached £32 and may be exceeded. The Sunday School children are giving a concert and it is proposed to make the presentation during the interval, quite a good idea too.

Have not done much outdoors but managed when it was a bit dryer to plant a lot more spring stuff.

Your latter came this morning. As regards myself I have got over my indisposition and the reaction is the other extreme I am afraid. 'M' has had some short attacks but not so continuously as I have. She seems fairly well today I am pleased to say.

I should think that you have done right about the A.R.P. after all your position was not too good.

You still avoid saying how you got on with the rash after you got back. Had you any more trouble with it.

There are one or two points in your letter that 'M' is better able than I am to deal with. She says she will write you shortly and give you the details first hand.

Am too late to post today so will have to wait till Tuesday.

Cheerio and best love Pa

Tues 23.11.43 Another letter from you this morning but I won't stop to reply in detail. 'M' s promised letter should do the needful Pa.

Xways Ludham Norfolk

Tues 23.11.43

Dear Billee

I posted my last letter to you when I went up to the village and among other commissions took the oil drum to Throwers to get it filled so should be OK in that direction for a time. It was a damp misty morning and too wet to do anything in the garden so came home and had a bath. The radiator does make a difference to the place on these cold damp days, feels quite nice as you pass by.

It dried up a bit by the afternoon and I did a bit of clearing away dead or dying plants to make the garden look more tidy.

Spent the evening listening to the brain's Trust and reading 'Murder without Motive' by James Corbett. A most fantastic yarn and the result of a fertile imagination.

Wed 24.11.43

I made a bird table this morning and put it up just outside the kitchen window. It was not too successful though for the Starlings quickly cleared off the bits 'M' put there for the Tits so it seems hanging on a g tree is the best solution. The greedy Starlings don't aspire to acrobatics like the Tits do.

This afternoon I got in some 'also rans' of Tulips. They may not flower next May but should lay the foundation for another year.

We went over to Braeside this evening for our weekly game of bridge and with poor luck was 900 down. Sally did not seem too grand, looked as though she had a nasty cold developing. Madge was quite bright but both seemed tired at the end of the play. We got home about 11.30, but waited for the midnight news.

Thur 25.11.43

Nothing much to relate today. There has been a biting cold wind from between West and North. Alright when you were out of the wind and in the sun. It wasn't too bad when I went to the village but to stoop about with little movement was too cold a job and I gave j up after a very short trial. We hear today that the local school is closed down on account of so many children being away owing to sickness. Its proper catch cold weather just now.

Am reading 'None but the Lonely Heart' by Richard Llewellyn the writer of 'How Green is my Valley'. It's a real good yarn of cockneys and criminals. If you don't take notice of the slang so much used, but if the slang were cut out it would not portray the kind of life it deals with. Some of the language would have stood little chance of being used in Victorian days. 'M' got part way through and gave it up

Fri 26.11.43

We are now getting some frosty weather and I have made a final effort to get tender plants indoors. Dahlia, Nasturtiums, Runner beans, Marrow etc have all gone and after 3 degrees of frost in the early morning the rime persisted where the sun did not reach and there was quite a hard crust on the ground.

I tried a bit more in the garden this afternoon but though the wind was not quite so keen it was too cold to stay long.

A misty day and quiet night here although the report was of activity on S.E. England.

Sat 27.11.43

The coldest morning yet – 5 degrees of frost and rime like a slight fall of snow. This was the third white frost and it duly turned to a thick drizzle during the afternoon.

Sally has had a day out. George took her in his car and they had lunch, saw pictures and so on. Madge came over just before tea and brought a lovely fat partridge. They had 3 and brought us one which will make us a nice little dinner later on as it had only recently been shot. The rain started about 4o'clock and it was cold with it so dark that I will scarcely see in the garage where I was trying to fix up some shelves on the drier north side for on the south side it leaks worse each rainfall.

Its an ill wind etc and we've had a quiet evening and night.

Sun 28.11.43

By a lucky chance 'M' woke up about a quarter past 7 and we were able to get to early service. It was a pretty dark morning but much warmer than of late. I did not have time for shaving but I don't suppose anyone noticed that in the gloom of the church. Ted risked the lights and had some going although it was before the regulation time. There were only Miss Broom and Mrs Anderson besides ourselves and the Vicar and Verger.

'M' went again at 11 but I stayed at home. Ted wasn't there, a man from Stalham took the service. 'M' said he was like the little effigy we have all demure and prim.

There was another person in the congregation possibly he may be thinking of coming to Ludham and was having a look round.

Shall go up and post this afternoon if the rain is not too bad otherwise it will have to go out on Monday so Cheerio and best love Pa.

Crossways  
Ludham  
Gt Yarmouth  
25.11.43

My Dear Babs

This should have been written a day earlier, but Madge came over yesterday morning to ask us to go over there in the evening and we went so 'the best laid plans o' mice and men' once again. Well M.V S. are going north about Dec 15<sup>th</sup> – and expect they will be there at least 2 months. Mrs Lawson is still in hospital and they rather expect she will be home by then but all reports say it will be

a very long job to get her right again. She is just over 80. What a journey for them to undertake and the work when they get there.

Ted and Rene go about the 12<sup>th</sup> so if you see we go to Welling there will be no one to depend on if anything goes wrong here. in the light of all this it really looks as if we shall all be at home for Xmas. Interruption Ted wanted a warm and has been in for about ½ hour which has just put paid to catching this afternoons post, still I will post it today. A bout the W.I. We all thought that Miss H was hoping she would be persuaded to carry on. It was very funny Miss Parsons gave the Annul Rep. A very good one and exactly well put together and finished up with the Committee meeting at which Nell said she wanted to resign and at which Miss P was invited to be President. It was also mentioned that Rene s was giving up as vice President and Treasurer. Well Nell started off with the first thing to do is to elect another V.P and Treas. Mrs England and Mrs Carter (Weddall's sister from Potter) proposed me and Nell asked me very sweetly if I would. I asked if it was quite in order, shouldn't we first as the Pres had resigned elect a new Pres. Oh says Nell ' I haven't resigned yet' Somebody in the room said 'But Miss Parsons read it out in the minutes' She replied 'Oh well I didn't ask for the job in the first place, I was pushed into it and have kept the thing going for 41/2 years and I think it will be perhaps a good thing if we had a little new blood in the Branch. Then Mrs Farrow prop. Miss Parsons. And I seconded it so that was that. Miss P was elected and Nell followed with the remark that she would be quite pleased to sit in the body of the hall and criticise how Miss P did the job. 'You bet she will' as I said to Mrs Carter who sat beside me. After that I was elected Vice Pres and Treas in Rene's place and Mrs Farrow got Miss Parsons job as Sec. So, she got the new blood alright. Anyhow she stuck to the chair for the rest of the afternoon.

They had 3 guineas to give away ad I suggested 'The Prisoners of War Parcel Fund' for one then Nell proposed 'Merchant Navy Comforts'?! and they got one and the third to a Seamans Pel. Fund which Mrs Adcock produced a leaflet about so that was that. Miss P is going to give an Xmas party again and as it is to be on Dec 15<sup>th</sup> M and S are bemoaning their fate that they will miss it (a jolly good tea). The Knitters that Nell has roped in are going to be a good help, I think. Mrs Bush for one who has made a pair of sox and a scarf and taken the wool for another scarf all in 10 days.

The gift fund for the Evans has now reached £32 as had on Monday when I saw Mrs Brown but she had written that morning to Mrs Gabriel and Mrs Few and was hoping it would be £35. I suggested to her that Ted should have £20 and Rene £15. Whether that will be done don't know but a lot of people were definite about Rene having something.

The S School are having a concert on Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of Dec and as Rene is working with the children and also singing in it to be given to them then. Mrs Brown then said 'What about the presentation?' I asked her what she thought. She replied that she didn't know if the Dr could get there, he had always done it, she wondered if Riches would come and second it. I said seeing the attitude he adopted in the first place I didn't think he need be considered. So, I left – it- at -that.

The jumper is finished and goes very well. I wore it last evening. I shall now make a fawn one for the tweed costume from the little coat I have. Crowds of bombers going over again. We have seen them every afternoon this week. They come back about 11o'clock. I wonder what Ribbentrop – thinks now about 'Britain fighting'.

The snaps are very good. Janet looks as determined as ever. I like the look of Katherine, a pretty child I think and the baby. Arthurs a fine boy. The suit you made should be just right.

This is all for now. Much love and a kiss Mama

Xways Ludham Norfolk  
Mon 29.11.43

Dear Billee

Your letter arrived this morning. What a to do with influenza and 7 staff away. Must have been a very troublesome experience. I hope by this time they will have got back and that your free times will be reinstated and speech day preparations too. Well misfortunes don't come singly.



I am glad to know that you stand firm over additional jobs. I have a firm belief that your skin trouble was largely attributed to nerve strain and consequently being run down. I have had similar experiences and your mention of sulphur confirms my belief that it was eczema after all.

My recent indisposition may have been the aftermath of the bomb but somehow or other I don't think it was but blame the pork pies from the Post Office.

The weather here has been very nasty lately with a strong cold N.W. wind and gardening is not too enjoyable. The wind seems to blow all the warmth of the body away and have had to put on full winter kit including my nice new warm cardigan and over all my jerkin, but even then, it was only bearable if one had a job involving some movement.

Now that the frost has settled Dahlias, I have been getting some up but it's a sticky business.

Tues 30.11.43

The latest news of the Evans Testimonial is a total of £50. Jolly good isn't it. 'M' called at Mrs Browns this morning and got this bit of news. Still the same old tale regarding the weather and as write this evening the rain or perhaps its hail is rattling down on the dining room window. I shall be all behind with the garden if I go on like this much longer.

We had a long letter from Dick this morning. Said he had been to see Arthur and found mouldy sausage rolls etc. in his locker so he (Arthur) evidently has plenty to eat. Dick says Arthur seems resigned to being in bed and seems very comfortable, looks as though he is much better off there than he would be in a private house. This is rather short but I can't think of any more to say now.

Cheerio and best love

Pa

Crossways

Ludham

Gt Yarmouth

30.11.43

My Dear Babs

First of all, we were so sorry to hear about your head, although not so surprised as you might think for we rather suspected from your silence about the matter that things were not too good. Still you should have told us. Anyhow we hope that as you say you have really got the better of it now. Did Mrs S help you with it or how did you manage. What a lot of sickness you seem to have in Keightley. Rene was telling me of one works there where her mother says there are 400 away. It is pretty bad here and the school closed last week. Well, you will want to know about the Testimonial. I called on Mrs B this morning to fix up final matters as the gift is to be made at the S.S concert on Friday evening next – Last Monday when I saw her it was £32 and she was writing to the Fews and Mrs Gabriel. The first named sent £10 5 from himself and wife and one each from his five children and this with other smaller sums made up to £47.18. Mrs Morris rang up to know how it was going on and when she heard said 'Oh we must make it £50, I will bring you in the balance' so 50 it is. We are pleased about it and won't they be. I guess Ted will get a surprise. It is to be given as a cheque to Mr E>B. and Mrs Evans and to be between them. Dr B will make the presentation and say how it is to be used. Rene will see she gets her share. What do you think! In addition, I brought home all the names of subscribers and Pa is going to write them out in alphabetical order and paste them in a nice folder I have had for years. There will be a fine lot for I had just over 100. You perhaps remember the folder. It was a blotter that one of the nurses once gave me and it will be something he can keep. Rene has been having a pretty bad time off and on this last 2 or 3 weeks with Lumbago, bad luck with so much to do. He came in this morning and said she had it pretty bad last night, crying with it in fact but I have offered more than once to help her and she says she can manage. Mrs B has done the same and, in a way, I can understand her for I know when we were moving, I felt we could get on best on our own. The furniture leaves on the 9<sup>th</sup> and they have not much hope of getting it there before Xmas but he says they have had letters from people in the Parish who will put them up til it

comes so you may be sure being Xmas time they should be alright. Rene says he should not have arranged to go before Xmas. She came in for a few minutes yesterday morning.

The meeting at Norwich went off well. A lady came for me and brought me back. She came from Barton Turf, a very nice person. There were a good lot there but not so many as Miss W expected and she explained to the meeting she sent out notices for 72 but only 48 turned up All Group Sec: The letter did not deign a reply and she was ashamed to say there were 9 school teachers among them. A new Committee for Smallburgh was formed and they will n hold 21 meetings. G.Sec for the Area will meet monthly in Norwich (being the best place to get t) and we shall be able to have a say in what goes on for delegates will attend the 21 meetings. This is all to the good as we shall get a voice on when the 'Week' shall be held in each village. We had a grand tea at the expense of the Cambridge Regional, sausage rolls, meat sandwich and several kinds of fancy cakes. The best tea I have seen for a long time and there was any amount left over. Madge ought to have been there! Well, I think that is all about that. The pair at Braeside are off on the 15<sup>th</sup> Dec. I have written and told C and G that I didn't see how we can possibly get there for Xmas. Who is to look after this place and all our plants. Pa has a better and bigger lot than he has ever had here and he counted up yesterday 65 pots to be watered, when the Chrysants are done there will be about 11/2 doz less but the rest will need attention and then there is the possibility of frosts to consider. I have this afternoon picked off a nice bunch to send to you and will pack them up tomorrow to the best of my ability. Hope they reach you in good condition. They should carry on until near Xmas. We have a grand lot and by Xmas we shall have Cyclamen and possibly Arums.

Had a nice letter from Dick today and am sending it onto you. I am writing this against time as I want to reply to him tonight and have M&S over tomorrow night. The we shall be going there once more I expect and that will finish those nice little does for a time. We shall miss them all very much. I took the books to Miss Parsons and thanks for the pins and curlers which I was badly in need of. The W.I. book was most interesting and there were plenty of ideas in it for them to get on with I thought. I want you to get me one of that edition for ( ) for Xmas. Choose one that you think she will like for I daresay you will be able to see a selection of them. They are very nicely got up. I remember the one you had last year from Miss Evans. I don't think there is much more I want to tell you now but if there is it must be continued in our next. The war seems to be going well all around and we have been very quiet lately.

The bathroom has not been done yet but the new pan has arrived so it will be alright. They are still working on Es shed. Much love and a kiss Mama