

PART 8: THE LATE SIXTIES (1965-1969)

Chapter 87: Diary Improvisation

For most of this period, mum and grandad used the five-year diaries that they had started in 1964.¹ At the end of 1968, grandma went into Norwich to try to buy grandad a new five-year diary. But, she was unsuccessful as most of the ones she found had locks² and they considered the prices high. She went back the following day and bought a small ledger book to use as a diary. The cost of this was 7/3 and grandad noted that mum and dad were giving it to him for his birthday.

It was a Denbigh commercial book³ and these details and notes of grandad's address and the dates of his diary are included inside the front cover.



LOOK FOR THE NAME **DENBIGH**

Commercial Books

Ref. No.	Size	Leaves
D. 618/60	5½" × 3½"	60
D. 18/64	6¾" × 4"	64
D. 18/90	6¾" × 4"	90
D. 38/90*	7" × 4½"	90
D. 38/140	7" × 4½"	140
D. 68/90†	8" × 5"	90
D. 68/140*	8" × 5"	140 ✓
D. 34/90	9" × 7"	90
D. 34/120*	9" × 7"	120
D. 64/120*	10" × 8"	120
D. 124/120*	12½" × 5¾"	120
D. 124/160*	12½" × 5¾"	160
D. 1/50*	12½" × 8"	50
D. 1/100*	12½" × 8"	100
D. 1/140*	12½" × 8"	140

Ruled Faint, Faint and Single Cash.
*Faint & Double Cash.

Indexed All Sizes.
Faint Ruling only.

When re-ordering this book ask for number:—

D68/140 FAINT

If this book is indexed, please state INDEXED with the above reference.

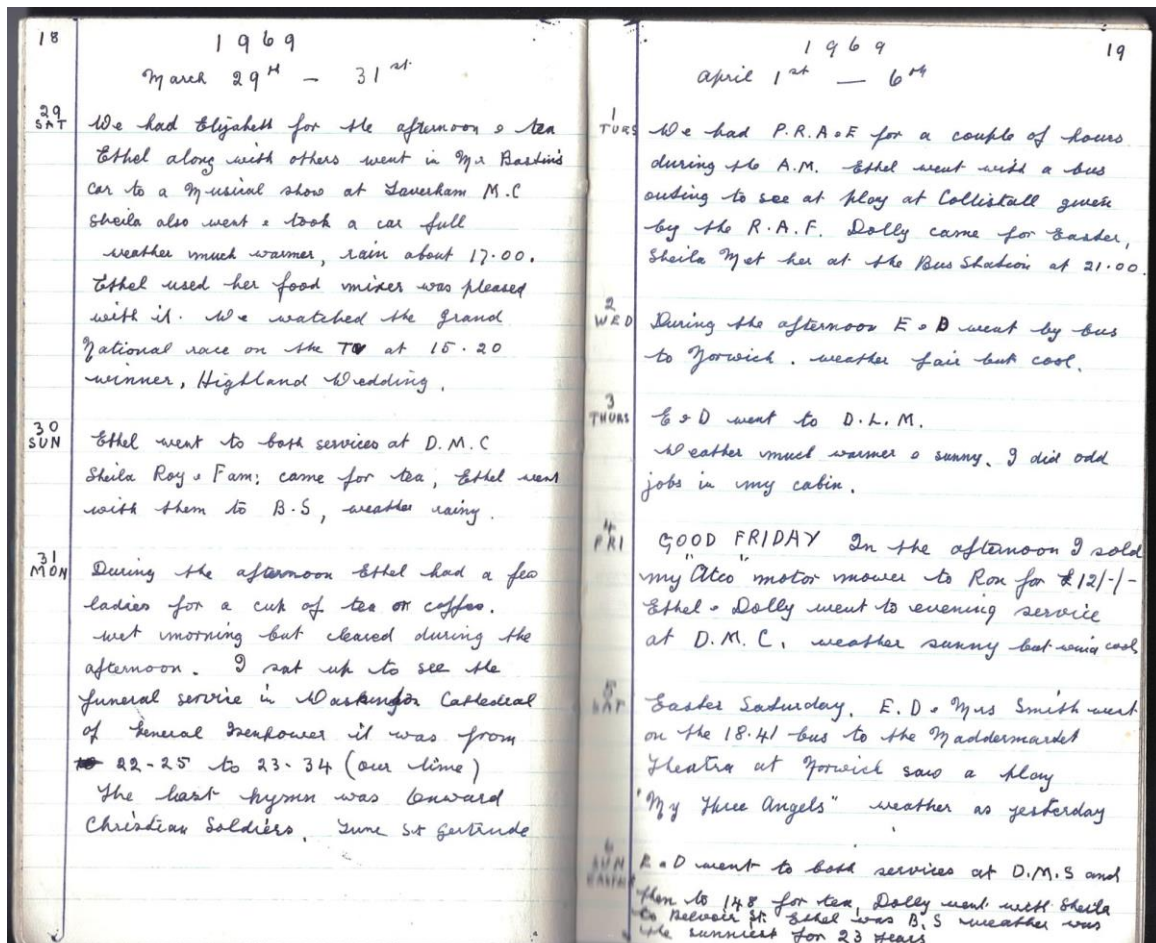
DIARY OF
CHARLES GORDON PARKIN
FOR THE YEARS
1969 — 1972

Top - Mum's and grandad's diaries 1964-72
Left - Denbigh sticker inside front cover of grandad's "diary" 1969-1972
Above - Details written inside grandad's "diary" 1969-1972. Note that the address - Elstow, 166 Drayton High Road, Drayton, Norwich, NOR 52X which is hard to read was done with an embossing stamp

¹ See [Chapter 74](#).

² I don't know why grandad did not want a diary with a lock. Perhaps, as he felt he did not need it, having one would have been an unnecessary expense.

³ Details were on the inside front cover. It was a D68/140 which meant it was eight inches by five inches and had 140 leaves. It was described as "faint" in type which meant it had single lines and was not laid out as a cash book. These books were [originally published](#) by Waverley Stationery and are [still commercially available](#) although I could only find the D68 with 90 leaves. I am sure grandad would have commented that this now costs £4.79 when he only paid 7/3 for his and he got more pages!



Above - extract from grandad's diary in 1969 showing the homemade layout
Below right - grandad's diary index for 1969

Grandad laid out this diary himself. He ruled off a margin and wrote the date and day of the week in that. He wrote the year and dates covered at the top of each page. Because of this approach, he was able to vary the length of entries depending on what had happened and what he wanted to record. He numbered each page sequentially, 1-69 for 1969. In this diary, the years follow on from each other rather than having five years of a particular date on the same page as in a five-year diary.

Grandad used the page numbers to create what he called an "index". This was organised by page number and summarised what was on each page. For example, the extract above is summarised as "Dolly came Good Friday".

Grandad used the back of the diary to summarise their main bills including rates, water rates, gas and electricity.⁴ The details of the gas bill are interesting as this shows that the amount they

1969 INDEX	PAGE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
Patricia, Margaret	4	Summary of Patricia's activities	50
Ethel's accident	5	Patricia started N.H.S.	50
weather	8	Accident in my cabin	51
ceilings & skirting	9	Open tank for Roy	53
Winnies funeral	11	Had new case for the kitchen door	54
Went to Norfolk	12	Buy glass in Sheila's iron	54
Winnies cut a great TV set	16	Tom & Amy came	55
Christmas light at 10.15	17	Ordered new glasses	55
Bought Ford 900cc General Eisenhower died	17	Bought Green	55
Good Friday	19	Had into glasses found Ross for name	56
Bought new	20	Tom & Amy came	59
Bought new	20	Ethel went to A.B	61
Tom came, Budget	21	Had new boots	62
Tom changed from James present	22	Cleaned the Hoover V.C.	65
Tom & Amy came	23	Tom was pleased with from the hospital	65
Had a cold	25	Bought the new looking iron pot	65
Had a cold	25	Had a cold	65
Dolly came	28	Dolly came from hospital	67
Winnies came from hospital	28	Winnies came from hospital	67
Winnies came from hospital	29	Ethel bought bottles	68
Tom came from hospital	29	Tom came from hospital	68
Tom came from hospital	33	Dolly came	69
Tom came from hospital	35	Got Annemarie working	74
Tom came from hospital	36	Gas chains fitted.	75
Tom came from hospital	37	Winnies damaged	78
Tom came from hospital	38	Tom & Amy came	79
Tom came from hospital	43	Ethel went for an eye test at 11.15	81
Tom came from hospital	43	Tom & Amy came	81
Tom came from hospital	45	Ethel went to the bank	83
Tom came from hospital	47	Roy's Road died	83
Tom came from hospital	48	Winnies died for D.M.C	84
Tom came from hospital	49	Winnies died for D.M.C	85

⁴ In the year 1969/70, they paid £41 in rates and a further £5 9 4 for water rates. Their gas bill in 1969 was £55 14s and they paid £16 3 1 for electricity during the same period.

GAS		STANDING CHARGE 2.18.6 PRICE PER THERM 1.8	
AMOUNT	THERMS USED	DATES RECEIVED	PAID
	DOWN METRE READ	A/C RECEIVED	PAID
15.16.0	154.5	30/12/68	3/2/69
22.6.0	232.5	1/4/69	30/4/69
11.10.2	103	27/6/69	25/7/69
6.1.10	38	26/9/69	27/10/69
55.14.0	526		
AMOUNT	THERMS USED	METRE READINGS	A/C R PAID
15.19.4	156.5	5/7/70	26/1/70
2.15.0	Service C.H.	W.H	13/4/70
21.0.2	217	2/4/70	24/4/70
10.4.4	87.50	6 2 3 1	1/5/70
6.1.10	38.00	6 4 0 6	24/7/70
56.0.8	492.9	6 4 8 2	26/10/70
Decimal	Standing Charge	23 Cost per therm 10P	
17.55	175.50	C.F.M.R. 6833	28/1/71
2.75	Service		29/1/71
20.80	178.00	7189	30/4/71
13.85	108.50	7406	2/8/71
7.35	42.50	7491	22/10/71
62.20	504.50		26/10/71
Feb 29. Paid	81.95	for running heater	
Heater 1.95		Standing charge 3.15	
45.52 +	403.50	Price per therm 10.500	6/5/72
16.79	123.00	8298	8/5/72
10.76	72.50	8544	4/9/72
72.02	599.0	8689	1/12/72
+ Two Quarters			5/12/72

16th AUGUST	
19.....	
19.....	
19.....	
19.....	
19.8.2	W.D P. & nummy came back from Hastings
19.....	

Left - details of amounts grandma and grandad paid for gas from 1969 to 1972
Right - mum's last diary entry in August 1967

paid for gas rose from around £56 in 1969 to over £72 in 1972. It also shows the transition to decimal money in 1971.

As noted earlier⁵, mum's diary entries gradually peter out from April 1964. During this period, there are some entries but they are sporadic. The final entry is on 16 August 1967 when she notes that Tricia and grandma had come back from a visit to Hastings. As mentioned earlier⁵, I do not know why she stopped writing her diary at this point but the factors are likely to be the ones considered there. Clearly, she had a busy life with four young children and extensive church and social commitments. I think things were still difficult between mum and dad and clearly her mental health problems had worsened. In February 1967, she saw Dr Fraser, a psychiatrist, at St Andrew's hospital and she received ECT from February to May that year.⁶

Although I am not sure why mum stopped writing her diary, the effect was that the diaries give a less complete picture of what was happening in the family at that time. In addition, there was more focus on things of interest to grandad, such as woodworking tools and making various things!

⁵ See [Chapter 74](#).

⁶ See [Chapter 88](#).