

Eric Clipson's Chicken Farm at Lincoln Road, Branston.

In 1932 a newly married couple named, Eric Clipson and his wife Joyce, took up residence in a semi-detached house in Lincoln Road, Branston. The two houses were situated next to a stone cottage on Lincoln Road commonly known as 'The Halfway House', and Eric and Joyce occupied the left hand house of the two semi-detached houses. There were also two semi-detached bungalows next to their house with an adjoining field at the side and rear. At the time Eric was in full time employment with an engineering company named Foster Gwynnes in Lincoln.

It was sometime in 1934 that Eric and Joyce decided to create a chicken farm in the nearby field with the intention of selling the eggs. A number of chicken sheds, usually about 30ft x 15ft approximately, were purchased and set up and the necessary livestock purchased and so the plan came to fruition. The occasion when the first eggs were produced was a very proud moment for both Eric and Joyce and the event was recorded for posterity in a photograph taken at the time which shows Eric and an unknown friend sitting on the running board of Eric's Morris 8 car at the entrance to the chicken farm and Eric is holding the precious eggs in the palms of his hands.



Man named A.Andrews and Roy Clipson, brother to Eric, outside chicken hut. Circa 1935.

Eric continued in his full time employment which meant that during the week his wife Joyce had the responsibility of running the chicken farm, with Eric taking over at the weekends. There came a period when Eric was seriously ill from the effects of sunstroke and during this time Joyce had to run the chicken farm continuously on her own. The fact that she could do this was a godsend for it was their only source of income during Eric's illness. Upon his recovery he returned to his full time employment in Lincoln and the business continued to thrive. In fact it could be said that egg production was prolific with at times up to 90 dozen free range eggs being produced each week and sold to various outlets, namely John Truswell Ltd. Provision Merchants of Sheffield, Mr Downey at Branston Egg Packing Station, Scothern Dairy Company, and also local shops on a regular basis. Eric was also involved in the buying and selling of chickens which added to the work on the farm.



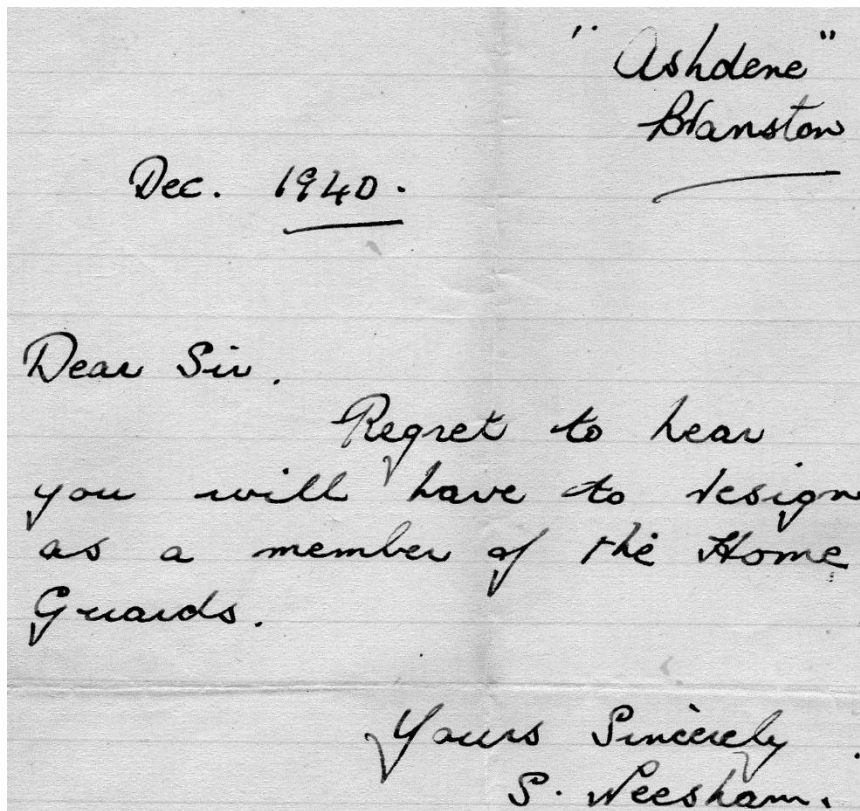
Eric Clipson photographed near one of his chicken huts. Circa 1935.



STAN NORVELL + WIFE JOYCE + ERIC
CLIPSON.

Friends Together - Stan Norvell and his wife, and Joyce and Eric Clipson arm in arm somewhere on Lincoln Road, maybe at the farm. Circa 1935.

In 1938 their first daughter named Patricia was born, then in 1939 came the Second World War and this resulted in Foster Gwynnes becoming involved in work supporting the war effort and subsequently Eric's employment was designated as a reserved occupation. Like many others Eric joined the Home Guard. It was during this period that Joyce was finding it extremely difficult to look after the chicken farm each day and to give the necessary care and attention to bringing up their daughter. At the same time there were the ever increasing demands of Eric's employment at Foster Gwynnes. This obviously led to some serious soul searching and by the middle of 1940 they had decided to close the chicken farm. As a result the chicken huts and attendant materials were sold off. Later that year, in December 1940, again because of the demands at work, Eric found it necessary to resign from the Home Guard and this fact was acknowledged by Mr S. Neesham in a letter to Eric dated December 1940.



"Ashdene"
Branston

Dec. 1940.

Dear Sir,

Regret to hear
you will have to resign
as a member of the Home
Guards.

Yours Sincerely
S. Neesham.

They continued to live at the Lincoln Road address during the ensuing years and in 1943 their daughter Patricia commenced her education at Oxford House School in West Parade, Lincoln, the Head Teacher being a Miss Branna. Then, in 1945 she attended Branston village school, and this, being some considerable distance from her home meant she had to either walk or cycle the distance each day. Mr. Williams was the Headmaster at that time.. In that same year, 1945, their second daughter named Susan was born and then in the following year, 1946, Eric, Joyce, and their two daughters left Branston and took up residence in Lincoln.

Mrs Pat Wilkinson nee Clipson is in possession the chicken farm accounts and anyone wishing to peruse them can do so by contacting her at her home in Cherry Willingham.

The information and photos supplied by Mrs Pat Wilkinson nee Clipson