

## Article 3: What's in a name?

by Ann Raeburn

### MOIR

MOIR Elizabeth Mary (Betty) Peacefully, in her sleep, at her home in Churchdown, Gloucestershire, on Sunday, October 3, 2021, Betty (nee Emslie) (formerly of Marywell Croft, Lumphanan) aged 93, beloved wife of the late Allan (formerly of Brae Farm, Cushnie), adored mother of Allan, Marlene, Barbara and Allison, dear mother-in-law and doting granny and great-granny. Service will be held in Gloucester. Donations are being invited in Betty's memory for Lumphanan Paths Group, Jane Jeffries, The Mill, Lumphanan, AB31 4QT.



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*Betty and her Granny*

On Friday 22nd October 2021, an Obituary appeared in the P&J. There was a photo of a smiling elderly lady in a red jumper with a sunny window behind her. The lady had passed away peacefully in Gloucestershire. I wonder how many people continued to read on or dismissed it as someone with a long forgotten connection to this area?

The photo was taken in Lumphanan at the Meet Again tea shop this year, the lady was 93 years old and she had not forgotten her roots here in our parish.

Betty Emslie was born at the former Peer Hoose in 1928, a mile west of Lumphanan village, just up the hill from the old school. She was raised by her Granny and Grandad Emslie, parents of ten children, who lived at Marywell Croft on the Comply\*. On the five acres of ground Grandad grew potatoes while Granny kept a milk cow and sold eggs.

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\*The Comply is now a [Heritage Path](#) which runs between Roadside, south of the old school, westwards to Milton of Auchenhove.

Betty would have walked to school with the other children from the West side of the Parish, up the Comply, perhaps struggling through snow drifts in Winter but loving the walk on Spring mornings and balmy Summer days.



*Betty in the doorway  
of Marywell Croft*



At the age of 16 Betty met Allan Moir at a village dance. Allan was 18, a farm worker at Upper Tillylair on the West side. The Comply would become the lovers' lane where these two met and it held a special place in their hearts throughout the years. They married two years later in March 1947 at St Finan's Church, with a reception at the Macbeth Arms. It was the year of the fierce winter storms: much snow shifting was needed before they could reach the church!

*Betty and Allan, St Finan's  
Church, Lumphanan, 1947*



*Wedding guests: Francie Donald the Minister is second row up and third from left.*

Allan joined the RAF Catering Corps and there followed a life of moving around the world.

A strong thread of love bound Betty and Allan to the Lumphanan area. Throughout their sixty-eight years together they returned to holiday on Deeside whenever they could. Betty, with her four little children would catch a train, then a bus and walk down the Comply to stay with her Granny. Betty and Allan instilled a love for this area in their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In Betty's 90<sup>th</sup> year, thirty of her family and friends stayed in Glentarnar for their annual holiday!



*Betty and Allan at their 65<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary in 2015. They were married for sixty-eight years.*

Betty's daughter, Barbara has very generously given a donation to Lumphanan Paths Group.

The Group have been touched by the charming story of the Comply being a lovers' lane, just as we announced our plans to clear the track and make it good for use again.

We may all wonder on the many tales this old track has hidden in its past as we wander along the Comply again!



*Marywell Croft -  
a ruin in 1980*



*Betty at her Grandparents' grave in  
Lumphanan, 2021*

All photographs courtesy of Barbara Capener, Betty's daughter.