

ISOBEL ELLISTON CLIFTON GOES GLOBAL

In January 2020 The Wokingham Paper reported the unveiling of a sculpture in Elms Field dedicated by the Wokingham Society to its benefactor Isobel Jocelyn Elliston Clifton. This article made its way to New Zealand, where it was spotted by Catherine Berrisford, daughter of Isobel Clifton's half-brother Francis Berrisford.

Catherine contacted Peter Must, Chairman of the Wokingham Society, to explain the family connection and to ask for more information to fill in the knowledge she and her relatives had about Isobel and her uncle John Henry Elliston Clifton, who had been Wokingham Town Clerk in the early 1900s.

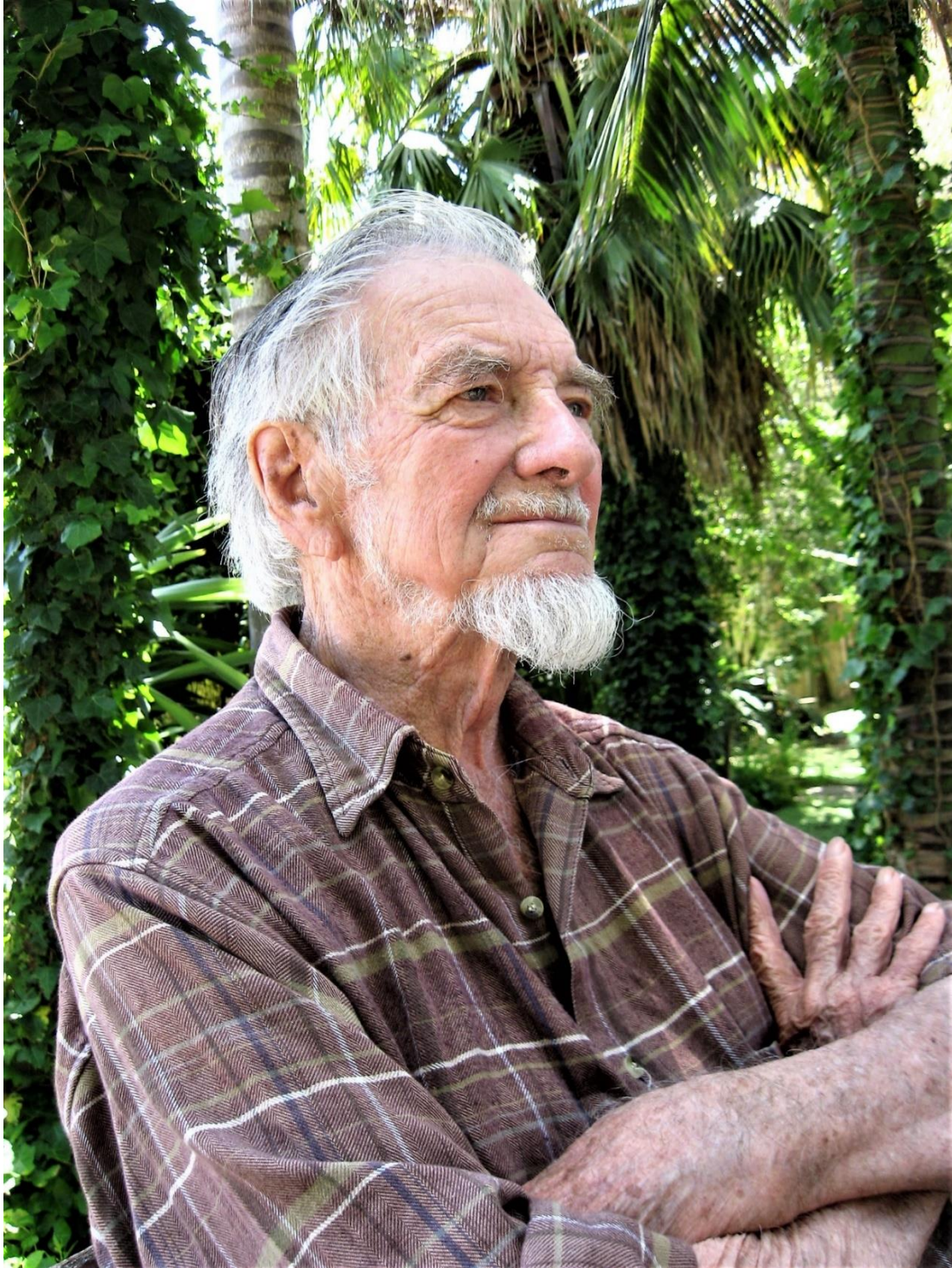
As a result Peter Must was able to send Catherine details about the Clifton ancestry dating back to the 18th century. Catherine passed on this information to her father, who is in his nineties and living in South Africa, and to her four siblings, who live in Canada and South Africa.

Isobel Clifton herself had been born in South Africa, her father Arthur having emigrated to that country and married Jocelyn Isobel Locke-Waters in Cape Town in 1914. Arthur died in 1919 and Jocelyn brought her two daughters Isobel and Marion to Wokingham to be looked after by Arthur's brother John Henry. She returned to South Africa and married Francis Berrisford, Catherine's grandfather. Marion also returned to South Africa in due course, where she married a Miles Crisp in 1943. Catherine has also been able to pass on to Miles's son the details about his English connections.

It is a pleasure to find that our local paper has a global reach and that, as a result, news originating in its pages can spread to New Zealand, South Africa and Canada.

Pictures of Francis Berrisford and of his family are attached.

Pictures of francis



Francis Berrisford



The Berrisford family

Back row: Stephen, Catherine, Francis, Andrew.

Front row: Michael, Gillian, Helen (their mother)