

roof 'n' roots

The Newsletter of the Methodist Ministers' Housing Society - Winter 2022

Girl power

SHELL BE 102 WHEN MMHS IS 75. HOW BARBARA BRANDOM SURVIVED A MALE-CENTRED CENTURY

David Niven was visiting. But Barbara Brandon wasn't impressed. She was handling the King's signature.

One of the girls said, 'Do you know who's in the corridor?' 'David Niven!' recalled Barbara, who was working in the War Office at the time. 'I wasn't much of a cinema goer, though I knew the name. But I didn't bother to go out and see him.'

The legendary actor was left lingering outside. Barbara quietly carried on copying orders for the movement of officers - signed by King George VI and published in the London Gazette during World War II.

watched the direction of Hitler's flying bombs - with their buzzing sound and exhaust plume.

Barbara was transferred to the War Office - the first female in her branch of the Military Secretary's Department. Her boss's wife was killed in a bombing raid, and he never returned to work. Barbara became section head.

'The section contained a couple of men,' she remembered. One of them got quite cross, because I told him off for doing something wrong. He wasn't going to be told off by a young girl! But he did apologise afterwards.'



MINISTRY PARTNERS: Barbara with her husband Neil-Brandom

WINTER 2022

Description

It's been a long cold season indeed. We hope to offer you a heart-warming read with the [winter 2022 edition of Roof 'n' Roots](#).

roof 'n' roots

The Newsletter of the Methodist Ministers' Housing Society • Winter 2022

Girl power

SHE'LL BE 102 WHEN MMHS IS 75. HOW BARBARA BRANDOM SURVIVED A MALE-CENTRED CENTURY

David Niven was visiting. But Barbara Brandom wasn't impressed. She was handling the King's signature.

'One of the girls said, "Do you know who's in the corridor? It's David Niven!" recalled Barbara, who was working in the War Office at the time. 'I wasn't much of a cinema-goer, though I knew the name. But I didn't bother to go out and see him.'

The legendary actor was left lingering outside. Barbara quietly carried on conveying orders for the movement of officers – signed by King George VI and published in *The London Gazette* during World War II.

watched the direction of Hitler's 'flying bombs' – with their buzzing sound and exhaust plume. Barbara was transferred to the War Office – the first female in her branch of the Military Secretary's Department. Her boss's wife was killed in a bombing raid, and he never returned to work. Barbara became section head.

'The section contained a couple of men,' she remembered. 'One of them got quite cross, because I'd told him off for doing something wrong. He wasn't going to be told off by a young girl. But he did apologise afterwards.'



MINISTRY PARTNERS: Barbara with late husband Revd Harold Brandom

Here are just some of the hot articles:

- the 101-year-old local preacher;
- the 89-year-old wing-walker;
- the award-winning producer who creates our podcasts;
- how to unlock doors to a calmer mind and bring you into the moment.

These stories and more are in the [Winter 2022 edition](#) of our regular news and feature publication.

Category

1. Roof 'n' Roots

Date Created

13/03/2023

Author

cliveprice