

## Members

**Percy Melville Chessell**, a 1<sup>st</sup> trombonist in the 1930s lived at 175 Birkbeck Road, Beckenham. (The adjacent road to St Angel's & St Michael's Church, & the house next door to where Heather lived – Heather's dad remembers Percy's second wife).

Percy was born 28 March 1889 in Woolwich, living in Canada in 1910s with his parents and siblings, and married Catherine E Fox in 1917 in Bromley. He served with the Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment Labour Corps from March 1917 for two years. There is little information about Labour Corps as it was not required for war diaries to be written about their activities; most records that did exist were destroyed in a fire in 1940. The Labour Corps were made up of men who were not fit to fight due to age, poor fitness, or an injury, and were responsible for the cooking, cleaning, and carrying for the front line soldiers, as well as building roads and railways, carrying the wounded, and burying the dead. Percy was awarded the Victory Medal and the British War Medal.

In August 1915 he left for Quebec on the ship Corinthian, returning on the same ship in November 1915. After the war, he left for Quebec in August 1922 with his family as an electrician. He arrived back to 27 Marlow Road, Anerley, in October 1923. He had two children Lionel James and Doris Grace.

Catherine died in 1929 and he married Sarah Maud Knight in 1930. Unfortunately Percy died only eight years later on 17 March 1938 at Beckenham Hospital. Sarah lived at 175 Birkbeck Road until her death in 1973.

The MD from 1948-1953, **Harry G Lawn** lived with his first wife Margaret at the Banstead Residential School, Fir Tree Road, Banstead. He was born on 31 October 1884 and played in the band in the 1950s. There is no record of his death. He was a retired Publisher and Exporter in 1939, living at 18 Crescent Way, Croydon with his (inferred) wife Ethel and daughter Lilian. His letter to the band dated 8 February 1989, has him living in York.

**Ivan Barton Blagden** was born on 16 December 1901 in Tottenham. In 1911 he was living with his parents and six siblings at 80 Ridsdale Road, Anerley. He married Rosamund Alice Walden in 1932 in Croydon. They had one son Laurence (1941-1980). After her death in 1987, he married Kathleen S Soper in January 1991 in Thanet. In the 1950s he was recorded as living in Dulwich. He died in 1996 in Canterbury.

**Arthur Irons** born in 1891, Dunbartonshire, Scotland, and later moved to Sydenham by 1901. In 1911 he is living with his parents James Govan and Clara Jane at 65 Chestnut Road, West Norwood. His occupation was Bank Clerk at the Coutts Bank. His father was a Stock & Share Seller at the Stock Exchange.