

Monks Eleigh The 1939 Register

War was declared on 3rd September 1939 and on 29th September the Government carried out a survey of the civilian population (military personnel were not included) with several aims.

The information was used to produce identity cards and, once rationing was introduced in January 1940, to issue ration books. Information in the Register was also used to administer conscription and the direction of labour, and to monitor and control the movement of the population caused by military mobilisation and mass evacuation.

There are quite a few blanks in the transcription where entries have been redacted. When it was made public in 2004, anyone who could still be alive was redacted unless their death had been registered. They used the 100 year rule for this.

You may also notice that some females show their married names even if they were married after 1939. This is because since 1948 the Register had also been used by the National Health Service, who continued updating the records until 1991, when paper-based record keeping was discontinued.

The Register is particularly important because the 1931 census was destroyed by fire during the war and there was no census taken in 1941. The 1939 Register is therefore the only record we have between 1921 and 1951.

It is also important because there are still people in the village who will remember some of these people. Any memories out there?

Remembering the limitations of the Register, the following tables show the numbers in each:

Occupation: The top occupation was 139 Unpaid Domestic Duties. This is the first time that Housewives have been given an Occupation in any British Census. Followed by 28 Farm Labourers, 14 Horsemen, 13 General Labourers and 9 Farmers.

Surnames: with 24 Greens, followed by Fosker, Reynolds, Partridge and Game.

First Names: with Frederick the most popular amongst the Men and Boys and Ann amongst the Women and Girls.

1939 Register Occupations

Occupation	Number
Unpaid Domestic Duties	139
Farm Labourer	28
Horseman	14
General Labourer	13
Farmer	9
Gardener	4
Housekeeper	4

Steam Plough Driver	4
Thatcher	4
Cowman	3
General Servant	3
Innkeeper	3
Poultry Farming	3
Shop Assistant	3
Stockman	3
Tractor Driver	3
Butcher	2
Carpenter	2
School Teacher	2
Bootmaker	1
Bricklayer	1
Builder	1
Carter	1
Chauffeur	1
Clergyman	1
Companion Help	1
Cook	1
Cook	1
Cycle Agent	1
Dispenser Medicine	1
Errand Boy	1
Grocer	1
Motor Mechanic	1
Painter & Decorator	1
Ploughman	1
Police Constable	1
Postmaster	1
Poultry Dealer	1
Steam Roller Driver	1
Stoker Air port	1
Sweet Manufacturer	1
Tailor	1

1939 Register Top Surnames

Surname	Number	Households
Green	24	12
Fosker	22	7
Reynolds	12	3
Partridge	10	5
Game	10	4
Richardson	9	3
Gage	8	3
Keeble	8	3
Hollox	7	4
Hines	7	3

Watts	7	2
Gardiner	7	2
Butcher	5	2

1939 Register Top Names

Male		Female	
Name	Number	Name	Number
Frederick	16	Ann	16
Charles	13	Mary	9
William	12	Ellen	9
George	9	Rose	9
Arthur	9	Elizabeth	6
Alfred	7	Ethel	6
John	6	Florence	6