

## PHILLIPS George & Kathleen – A. 37

The grave of George and Kathleen Phillips, (Father and daughter) stands at the back of the War Memorial, quite near to the Canterbury Road side wall of the churchyard.

The inscriptions read:-

“In loving memory of Catharine Irene Phillips  
who died 9 Feb 1945”

“And their son George Ivor Phillips,  
13 Mar 1902 – 8 Aug 1961”

**“Also of Bt. Lt. Col. C. J. Phillips C.B.E.,  
who was buried at Malta 13 Mar 1936”**  
[the initials should read G. I. for George Ingleton]

“Helen Mary Phillips, 9 Mar 1911 – 3 Feb 1963”

**“In memory of Kathleen Eleanora Phillips  
1905 – 1989”**

George and Kathleen Phillips both made their marks on the village.

George Ingleton Phillips C.B.E., M.A., B.Lit., J.P. lived at ‘Orion’ in Nasmyth Road, Birchington with his wife Catharine and daughter Kathleen. Each summer he came to Birchington from his home in Oxford with his family from c. 1907, renting a house in Alfred Road to begin with. After he bought ‘Orion’, his family lived here permanently and he travelled back to Oxford or London as his law practice demanded. He played a leading role in the life of the church, the Masonic movement and general village life, as well as being a J.P. for the Thanet courts, until his death on holiday in Malta in 1936, where he is buried.

His daughter Kathleen was born in Oxford, but because she had been coming to Birchington since the age of two for several months at a time each year until they bought ‘Orion’, said she always thought of herself as a native of the village. She wrote a diary while she was here in August 1914, which makes fascinating reading, especially remembering that the First World War began towards the end of her stay that year. As a young person she joined the Girl Guides and remained a staunch supporter throughout her life. She eventually became District Commissioner in her later life. She was also made a J.P. and always worked hard for the youth of the community of Thanet. She is considered one of Birchington’s great characters!