

Chapter 77: Weddings and a Baby Boom

Marilyn Rankin, mum's friend and second cousin¹, married James (Jim) Rankin in Driffield on 2 April 1960. At the end of March, mum had gone to Mansfield with grandma and had bought Marilyn a wooden spoon, presumably as a wedding present.² The day before the wedding, mum had her hair set in the morning. She, dad, Tricia and grandma left Kirkby at 12.50 and collected Auntie Bertha from Mansfield en route. They arrived in Driffield around quarter to four. The wedding took place the next day at Driffield church at 12 noon and mum simply noted that she had a "very nice time". More details of the wedding are provided in a newspaper cutting among mum's papers. Marilyn had five bridesmaids, including Jennifer her sister. Jim was a sergeant in the RAF and Marilyn herself had trained and worked as a radiographer.³



R.A.F. GROOM FOR DRIFFIELD BRIDE



MISS Marilyn Anne Seville, daughter of Mr and Mrs Albert Edward Seville, of Shewood, Beithought Road, Driffield, was married on Saturday at Driffield Parish Church to Mr James Dennis Rankin, son of Mr R. M. Rankin, of Malvern, a Maccocks Road, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

The Rev. A. John Watkins officiated, and the organist was Mr M. Minna.

The bride was given away by her father, and she wore a full length crepe dress of white Nottingham lace over silk brocade, with a tulle bustle. She carried a bouquet of pink roses and white lilies.

The bridal group pictured at the wedding of Mr James D. Rankin and Miss Marilyn A. Seville:

The bridesmaids were Miss Jennifer Margaret Seville, Miss Judith Johnson, Miss Elizabeth West, Miss Lois McConnell and Miss Maureen McConnell.

They wore pillarbox-length dresses of white lace over assorted pastel shades, and carried bouquets of white carnations.

Sergeant Jack Docherty was the best man, and the

usquemen were Mr John Reed and Mr Robert Rankin. A reception was held at Highfold Country Club, and afterwards the couple left for a honeymoon touring London and the south of England, the bride travelling in a powder blue suit, trimmed with fur, with accessories to match the ice creamings.

The bride was a former radiographer at the East Riding General Hospital, and her husband is a sergeant at present stationed with the RAF, Driffield. They will live at Heather Bank, Oswaldwick, York.



Above left – newspaper cutting from Marilyn and Jim's wedding

Top right – Marilyn and Jim cutting the cake

Above right – Jim and Marilyn outside the church

¹ Marilyn's grandmother, Bertha, was sister to grandma's mother – see Chapter 32 for details.

² I confess I found this a slightly odd present given its association for me as a sporting booby prize. However, apparently, there is a [long history](#) of giving wooden spoons as wedding presents.

³ Although it seems to be assumed she would stop working now that she was married.



*Top – Jim and Marilyn with best man and bridesmaids
Above – Marilyn with her bridesmaids*



Top left – mum, grandma and Tricia among those arriving for the wedding. This is two months before I was born so mum was seven months pregnant.

Top right – Jim and Marilyn with Tricia

Above – Jim and Marilyn

At the end of May 1960, mum noted that grandma told her that Marilyn was expecting a baby in September.⁴ On 21 August 1960, mum noted that Marilyn had been taken into hospital because of complications. However, all seemed to go well and James (Jamie) Edward was born on the 23rd weighing 8lbs 7ozs (3.83kg). One year later, to the day, Marilyn had a baby girl, Joanne Munro, weighing in at 8lbs (3.63kg).⁵



Left – Jamie Rankin, Christmas 1960

Centre – later photograph of Jamie and Joanne Rankin

Right – Jim and Marilyn with their four children – Jamie, Joanne, Jonathan and Richard

There were other weddings during this period. In August 1961, grandma⁶ went to see Christine Searson⁷ get married to Peter Nuttall at the Hill Methodist Church.⁸ In December 1961, mum went to see Glenice Blount⁹ get married to Brian Marriott also at the Hill Methodist Church. In April 1962, on Easter Monday, an old friend of mum and dad's, John Overfield, got married to Margaret Franks. Grandad noted¹⁰ that the wedding was also at the Hill Methodist Church as Trinity was not ready. However, the reception was held in the Sunday School building at Trinity. In May of that year, grandad also noted the wedding of Margaret Christian at St Thomas'. As far as I know, he did not know her¹¹ but he did note that she was 16 years and 2 days old!¹² In August 1962, while we were in Kirkby at the time of Alan's christening, grandad noted that grandma and Tricia went on the bus to Trinity Methodist Church for the wedding of Jean Robinson.¹³ Mum noted that she did not go as she looked after Kathryn Leach to allow Mary and Derrick to attend. In August 1963, grandad noted that grandma and Florrie Booth went to Trinity for the wedding of Helen Wright¹⁴ (to John Jay).

⁴ It is interesting that Marilyn did not tell mum herself. This may not be significant but you do not need to be a mathematical genius to work out that Marilyn must have been about four months pregnant when she got married in April.

⁵ Jamie, Joanne and their subsequent siblings (Jonathan and Richard) were our third cousins, i.e. we had common great, great grandparents.

⁶ I mentioned this to Christine Nuttall when I was in touch with her concerning her mother's book. She recalled that it was not grandma who attended her wedding but mum. However, on that day, grandad wrote, "*Christine Searson was married at the Hill Methodist, Ethel went as guest also helper*". Mum's diary for that day does not mention the wedding. Indeed, it says she went with dad and friends, Barbara and Dennis Sell, to see Bruce Forsyth in Yarmouth. Christine later wrote to me saying "*you are... correct when you say Ethel Parkin was at my wedding. A group of women did the meal and she was... one of those people*".

⁷ The Searsons were a family that were actively involved in Trinity Methodist Church. They are mentioned several times in mum and grandad's diaries. Edith Searson is also mentioned (p98) in the book by Gerald Ashley, Sylvia Sinfield and Gerald Lee entitled *Kirkby in Old Photographs*. In the 1980s, she wrote a book(let) of her reminiscences entitled "*I remember*". In 2021, I made contact with her daughter Christine Nuttall who kindly gave me a copy of the book(let).

⁸ See Chapter 54.

⁹ I assume this was someone mum knew through chapel. She is mentioned elsewhere once in mum's diary. A decade earlier, in October 1951, she came for tea with Gillian Dulson and Phyllis and Jack Attwood and their sons John and Norman.

¹⁰ Interestingly, mum makes no note of this in her diary.

¹¹ Although her name is included in those who gave a recitation at the Bourne Primary Sunday School Anniversary in June 1951 and she won a prize in the Bourne Sunday School primary prizegiving in 1952 – see Chapter 54.

¹² From FreeBMD, it seems she married a Raymond Mawbey and they had a son Philip born in Mansfield in Q3 1962.

¹³ On FreeBMD, there are details of two Jean Robinsons marrying in Basford in that quarter. One married David Whittaker and the other Samuel Tomlinson. I am not sure which one this was.

¹⁴ I am not sure who this was, presumably someone from chapel.

In mum's photo albums, there is a photograph of the wedding of Marion Slater¹⁵ and Raymond Stephens on Easter Saturday in April 1961. I am fairly confident that mum did not attend this wedding as on that day she was in Norwich hosting a visit from Ron and Barbara Rowe and their daughter Sharon. Presumably, Marion either sent the photo to mum or she may have given it to her on one of our visits to Kirkby, e.g. in June 1961 when mum noted seeing Marion.

In July 1961, mum and dad did attend the wedding of mum's schoolfriend, Shirley Sadler to Lesley (Les) Vryenhoef at [St Jude's](#) in Mapperley, Nottingham. The wedding was at 11am and this meant mum and dad spending the previous night in Kirkby. Tricia and I did not go with them. We stayed with grandma and grandad at home in Norwich. The reception was held at Grange Farm¹⁶ and mum noted that it had been "lovely".



*Top - Wedding of Marion Slater and Raymond Stephens
Above - Wedding of Shirley Sadler and Les Vryenhoef*

¹⁵ I think Marion took over from mum as leader of Junior Sunday School in January 1958. She visited mum regularly from when Tricia was born until we moved to Norwich. She also visited us in Norwich in February 1961.

¹⁶ See Chapter 66.

Also, although it is not mentioned in either mum's or grandad's diaries, Lynne Evans married Barry Price on 16 May 1964 in Kirkby and there are photos of that in one of grandma's albums.¹⁷



Wedding of Lynne Evans and Barry Price in May 1964

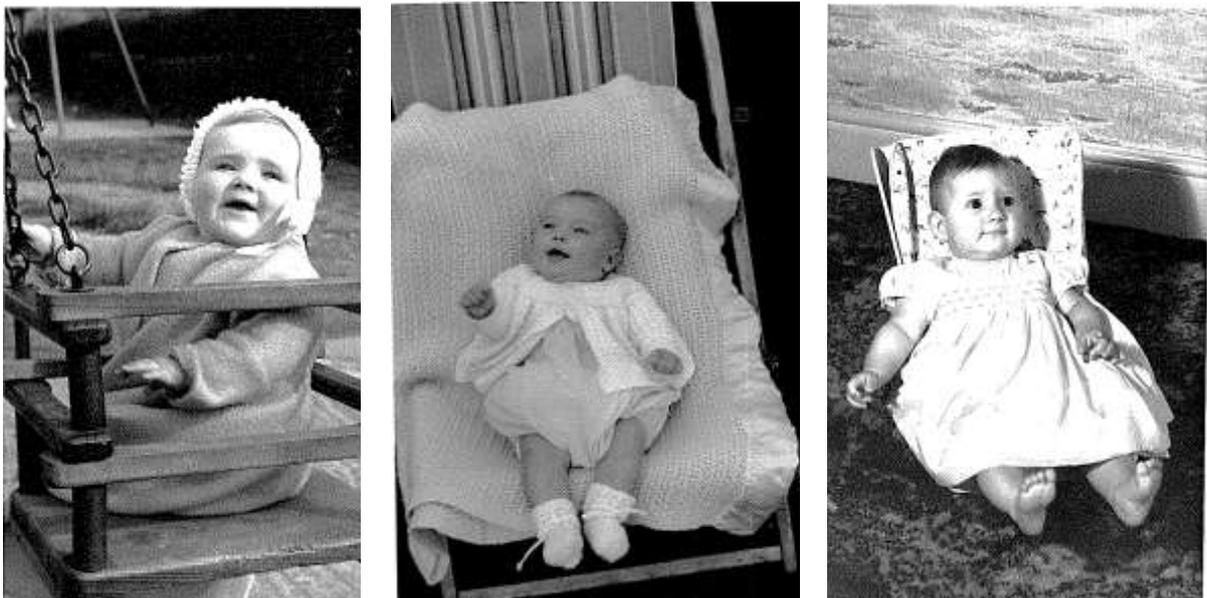
Top left – Barry and Lynne Top right – Barry and Lynne with Tony Pacey and Carole Holland. Carole and Lynne were cousins, that is Lynne's father (Roy) and Carole's mother (Olive) were brother and sister. Tony and Carole married in 1965.

Above – I think Lynne's family are on the right of the photo (to her left). From left to right, I think they are Kath (her mother), Anne (her sister), Tony and Carole, Roy (her father), Alma (see text below) and Eva (her grandmother).

¹⁷ While it is possible that mum or grandma went to the wedding, I don't think this is likely. Grandad recorded that a birthday party for Tricia was held on this day and that grandma went.

I don't know if there is any significance to the way Lynne is dressed. Perhaps they were married in a Registry Office and not in church. Roy Evans, Lynne's father, had married (Kathleen Kemp) in 1941 and they had two daughters, Lynne (born 1944) and Anne (born 1950). In March 1959, Roy's father, Arthur Evans died and Roy is not mentioned again in either diary until August 1962. During that period, his wife Kath is mentioned 33 times. This made me wonder if Roy and Kath had perhaps separated or divorced. This seems to have been the case as, in August 1962, brother and sister, Roy and Olive come to pick up their mother Eva from grandma and grandad's. Olive is accompanied by her husband Alf and Roy by his "friend", Alma. Roy and Alma appear relatively frequently in the diaries after that.¹⁸

There were a lot of babies born during this period.¹⁹ In March 1962, Dorothy Taylor (nee Lofthouse) had a baby daughter, Jill, who weighed in at 1am at 5½lbs (2.49kg). This was Dorothy's second child with Heather having been born in August 1959. In May 1962²⁰, Marion Stephens (nee Slater) had a son, Christopher. In October 1962, Hazel Ward (nee Munns) had a son, also called Christopher. He weighed in at 9.30pm at 7½lbs (3.40kg). Mum noted going to visit Hazel and Christopher on a trip to Kirkby in November 1962. Also among mum's photos was one of Elaine Ollerenshaw the daughter of Robert and Margaret (nee Bostock) who was born in January 1960.²¹ In May 1962, Mary (and Derrick) Leach had a daughter, Kathryn (Mary) weighing in at 7lbs 10ozs (3.46kg).²² In June 1963, Barbara²³ (and Ron Rowe) had another daughter, Nicole. This was their second child with Sharon having been born in February 1957. In November 1961, Rita (and Peter²⁴) Cirket had a third son²⁵ who was also called Peter.



Left Elaine Ollerenshaw, Christmas 1960 Centre Christopher Stephens July 1962 Right Kathryn Leach December 1962

¹⁸ For example, in 1963, when grandma and grandad came to Norwich for the day to see a piece of land, it was Roy and Alma that brought them. I don't know if Roy and Alma ever married. I have not found any evidence that they did. Neither mum nor grandad addressed the issue directly in their diaries. They just seemed to accept the situation. However, following Alma's appearance, Kath, Anne and Lynne only appear once in mum's diaries for this period. This may or may not be of significance as, of course, at this point we were living quite far away from them in Norwich. In mum's 1959-1963 diary, there is an address entry for Lynne and Anne. This is for what was the family home in George Crescent, Riddings. However, there is no mention of Roy or Kath in that entry. Does this perhaps mean that mum maintained contact with Lynne and Anne (aged 15 and 9 in 1959) but not with Kath?

¹⁹ As part of the post-war [baby boom](#).

²⁰ Mum recorded this on 11 May 1962. However, the photo of him in July 1962 is labelled as 3½ months. I have not managed to find any details of his birth in either Q1 or Q2 of 1962.

²¹ From Free BMD, it appears they may have had a second daughter, Susan, in Q4 1965.

²² From FreeBMD, Mary's maiden name was Allen. It appears that Derrick may have been James D Leach and that they married in Blackpool in Q3 1956.

²³ Nee Spencer.

²⁴ Mum's first cousin. His father, Bert, was grandma's brother.

²⁵ The other two were Adrian (b1956) and Bertram (Bertie) (b1958).

Many of mum's new friends in Norwich also had children around this time. Nancy Howe²⁶ had a son, Paul, in June 1961. That same month, Rosemary Howlett²⁷ had a daughter Joanne, weighing in at 8¼lbs (3.74kg). She already had a son, Jonathan, who had been born in January 1960. In November 1962, Joyce Smith²⁸ had a son Richard who weighed in at 5lbs 10ozs (2.55kg). This was Joyce's third child having previously had two girls, Janette (b1957) and Lesley (b1959). In July 1963, Betty Colver²⁹ had a daughter, Ruth. This was Betty's second child with her son, Mark having been born in October 1959. Janet Blyth³⁰ had a daughter, Suzanne³¹, in September 1961. She previously had a son John who had been born in September 1959.³² The diaries refer to a Wendy Stonton born in April 1960 but initially I was not sure exactly who this was. It turns out that she was the granddaughter of Annie Holmes' sister.³³ Vera Frost³⁴ had two sons during this period, Ian born in August 1960 and Martin born in October 1961. She had an older son, Kevin, born in 1959.³⁵



Holiday with the Frosts in Bacton in 1963. Mum has labelled this as showing Kevin, Ian and Adrian Frost with me and Tricia. However, it can't be Adrian as he was not born until 1964. I think the two boys sitting at the front are Kevin and Ian (although the boy in the second deckchair could be me!) and that it is Martin who is standing. This would mean that it is me and Tricia in the deckchairs at the back. Alan is not there as that is the time he was ill and in hospital.

²⁶ Mum has their surname recorded variably as Howe or Howes. According to FreeBMD, it appears to be Howe and Nancy's maiden name was Thirtle.

²⁷ From FreeBMD, her maiden name was Hughes and she married Peter Howlett in Q1 1958. They had a third child Jennefer in Q1 1965.

²⁸ From FreeBMD, her maiden name was Cooper and she married Eric Smith in Q2 1952. Lesley and Richard were both registered in Norwich Outer but Janette's birth was registered in Bury St Edmunds.

²⁹ From FreeBMD her maiden name was (Elizabeth) Dixon and she married Roger Colver in Q2 1954 in Rugby. Mark's birth in 1959 had been registered in Sleaford.

³⁰ Mum spelled this name Blythe but it is Blyth in FreeBMD. Apparently, her maiden name was Deeks and she married Anthony (Tony) Blyth in Q3 1958

³¹ Mum spelled this name Susanne but it is Suzanne in FreeBMD.

³² And apparently there was a third child, David, born in Q2 1965.

³³ Mum refers to her parents as Mr and Mrs George Stonton and she had a brother Ian born on 17 November 1957. A later diary gives their address as 64 Knights Lane, Kingsthorpe, Northampton. According to FreeBMD, Wendy's birth was registered in Northampton. Her mother's maiden name was Letts. However, I could not find details of a Stonton-Letts wedding nor did I see how they connected to mum. But, there is a connection to Letts in Northampton as this was the married name of Mabel Aldridge, the sister of Annie Holmes. It turns out that Wendy's mother was Pamela Stonton nee Letts and the reason I could not find any details of a Stonton-Letts wedding was because his name was mis-recorded as Stanton. Pamela Letts was the daughter of Alfred and Mabel Letts.

³⁴ From FreeBMD, her maiden name was Curtis. She and Brian married in Birmingham in Q3 1956.

³⁵ In Wayland. A fourth son, Adrian, was born in Q2 1964.