

Ivy Lilian Habershon. 1892-1962.

Ivy Winter was born in Dum Dum near Calcutta, India, on August 9th, 1892, only daughter of Colonel Herbert Edmund and Mrs Winter, R. A. M. C. She lived in India and Singapore until 1901, when she was sent to live with an aunt and uncle - the Reverend E. P. and Mrs. Alexander at St. Mathew's Vicarage, Stockport, near Manchester. She was educated at the Royal School for the daughters of army officers at Bath. Her parents returned to England in 1910, but later went back to India, where her mother died in Allahabad in 1915. Ivy married Alfred Rix Habershon in July, 1914, at St. John's Church in Blackheath, London. She was 21 years old; he was thirty three. Alfred was the son of John Broadhurst Habershon, a Rotherham steel manufacturer, who lived at Ferham House on Kimberworth Road. The couple set up home in Rotherham, living at Thorn Bank on Moorgate and later at Oakwood Grange. When her husband was elected mayor of Rotherham in 1922, Ivy helped him in this work, fund-raising for many charities. She was president of the Whiston Derby and Joan Club and of the Distaff Club. She was also president of the local branch of the N. S. P. C. C., and Chair of the Church of England Children's Society. She was the organiser of the Rotherham branch of the W. R. V. S. from 1939 to 1958 and in 1943 became a Justice of the Peace.



One of Ivy Habershon's main interests was the Convalescent Home for Rotherham Children in Filey (see previous page). At one time she was the Home's Assistant Secretary. In this she was following a longstanding family tradition. Julie Mary Beatson (who was a great aunt by marriage of Ivy's husband) had worked to help sick children in Rotherham. When she died, it was suggested that a home for convalescent children should be built in Filey, in her memory. The Home was opened in 1903. It remained a children's convalescent home until 1973. After that both its use and its name was changed. It became an educational venue, and was officially opened for that purpose in 1975 by the, then, Mayor of Rotherham, Councillor John Leyden, providing short courses for children from Primary and Special Schools in the Rotherham area. Activities included visits to coast guard stations and lighthouses, and studies in Ecology, Natural History, and Geology. At the same time it was re-named '*Habershon House*'.

In 1955 Ivy was awarded the OBE in recognition of all her work. She died in 1962, aged 70 years. Two years later, a bench, with a plaque dedicated to her was placed in Clifton Park.

What the Papers Said. Rotherham Advertiser 24 Oct. 1953

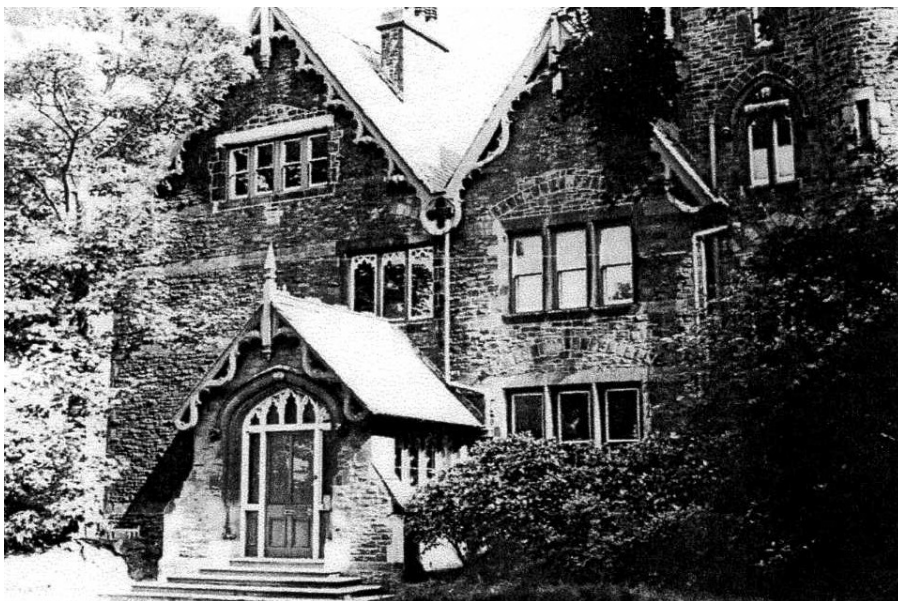
"In tracing Mrs Ivy Habershon there is no need whatever of subtle, sleuth methods to find out wherein her main interests lie. They are apparent to all who know her; and that seems to be everybody in Rotherham and its neighbourhood. Indeed to glance at the many activities with which she is associated is to become aware of the great number of organisations whose function is the service of others. Brought up from the age of eight-and-a-half in a Stockport vicarage, where there was a large family, her early training was essentially that of lending a hand; and she has never forgotten it. Incidentally, too, the industrial background of Stockport made a strong appeal to her when she came to Rotherham, where she instinctively felt at home."

Rotherham Advertiser 11 June 1955

"In the Queen's Birthday Honours List, published on Thursday, there will be general satisfaction throughout the town and district at the inclusion of the name of Mrs Ivy L Habershon, J.P., very properly regarded as the 'Lady Bountiful' of Rotherham"

Sheffield Star 16 August 1962

"The death has occurred of Mrs Ivy Lillian Habershon, Rotherham magistrate and former mayoress, who was probably the keenest social worker the town has ever known."



Oakwood Grange where Ivy lived until her husband, Alfred, died in 1943. She went to live with her son at The Barn House, Guilthwaite, and Oakwood Grange became a children's home.

(Courtesy of Rotherham Archives and Local Studies. Ref No: 05822)