"The Shrubbery" — Westbury, Shropshire

*The wartime house. Compiled 16 August 2026, and **substantially revised the same day**: the Will identified the house from the village imagery, exactly as Elizabeth said he would.*



The house, from the air — a large red-brick house of two and a half storeys with tall brick stacks, set among mature trees above the village. Identified by Will, 16 August 2026.

*Google Earth oblique imagery, captured 16 August 2026. **This is a low-resolution crop and the identification is Will's, not a documentary one** — see "What is and is not established" below. © Google and its imagery partners — held for family reference, not for republication.*



The setting — the house in its wooded plot above the village, with St Mary's church tower bottom centre, the lane curving past, and open country beyond. This is the frame the house was picked out of.

Google Earth oblique imagery, captured 16 August 2026. © Google and its imagery partners.

What was known before 15 August 2026

"The Shrubbery" appeared exactly twice in the whole archive, both times in one letter, and never with an address. The letter is **Kenneth Sutherland's to his sister Ella, 23 October 1939** — seven weeks after war was declared, just after her husband Charles had enlisted. He opens:

> *"Dear Ella, We were very glad to hear from you & to hear that you are all settled at the Shrubbery."*

And his wife Barbara adds on the last page:

> *"Please give my love too to all at the Shrubbery and to Charles when you write next."*

That was the lot. No street, no town, no envelope. Grandpa's will of May 1939 has the family at **46 Marsworth Avenue, Pinner**; by 1943 they are at **"Mossgiel", Sweetmans Avenue, Pinner**. The Shrubbery sat in the gap.

What Elizabeth supplied, 14–15 August 2026

By email, 14 August 2026, unprompted — she volunteered the name herself before being asked:

> *"Could you find The Shrubbery, Westbury?"*

and then:

> *"If you get the village on google I will find it. **It is 9 miles from Shrewsbury.** I was there **approx 1939/40/42 ish.**"*

On the recording, 15 August 2026 (`the_old_coach_house_2`, *from 00:19:18)* she answered the question the archive had not been able to:

> *"So we moved to the shrubbery in Westbury." — "That's interesting, because it says the gang and things like that in the shrubbery. So it could be that that was owned by somebody else." "Well, it's **Auntie Con**, who was my mother's first cousin. And her best friend, really." — "So they would have been there already, probably." — "Of course."*

This closes question C5 of the interview questionnaire. The Shrubbery was not taken by Ella. It was **Auntie Con's house**, and the Wynnes went to family at the outbreak of war. That is why Ken writes about *"all at the Shrubbery"* and sends love to *"the rest of the Bunch"* — it was a full house of relatives, not a household of three.

† A PHOTOGRAPH OF THEM — the first, added 7 September 2026



Auntie Con, Uncle John and Ella — two women and a man beside a saloon car in a garden, a house behind them through the trees.

Photographed from the original print by Will on 6 September 2026 during the third recorded session (iPhone 13, 11:26). Identification is Will's, from Elizabeth. Original at `C:/Users/willb/iCloudPhotos/Photos/IMG_0831.HEIC`*; the archive copy is rotated upright and cropped to the print.*

Why it matters. Until now the archive held **no image of anyone in the Shrubbery household**, and only two of Ella at any age. This is the first sight of Con and John, and a third of Ella.

? **Which woman is which is not established.** Will gave the order as "Con, John and Ella", which would put **Con on the left** in the printed dress and **Ella on the right** in the jacket — but that is an inference from the order of three words, not an identification. **Elizabeth will know her own mother instantly**; the archive also holds the colourised wedding photograph of c.1933 for comparison.

? **Not established:** where it was taken, or when. The car and the clothes read as **late 1940s or 1950s**, which would be after Westbury, not during it — so this is probably not the Shrubbery, and that is worth asking too.

> *!! **"AUNTIE CON" IS NOT "AUNTIE KOHN", AND THE ARCHIVE SHOULD STOP WONDERING.** On 7 September 2026 the possibility was raised here that Con might be the **Kohns** of the friends list, the two being homophones and the name having reached the archive through a mangled transcript. **Will ruled it out: they are different people.** Auntie Con is Ella's first cousin and belongs to the Sutherland/Sheen side; the Kohns are family friends of the Camberley years and belong on the friends list in the interview brief. **Recorded so the idea is not raised a third time.***

The people in it

- **"Auntie Con"** — Ella's **first cousin** and, in Elizabeth's words, *"her best friend, really."* Not yet matched to a name in the tree. As Ella's first cousin she is a **Sutherland-side descendant**, which narrows the search considerably.
- **"Uncle John"** — Con's husband. *"They're both very charismatic people. I loved them both."* He was **in the RAF** during the war and **came to Westbury** — Elizabeth is explicit that she saw him there when she did not see her own

father. *"They both smoked continually."* They later lived at **Hale Barns**, Cheshire, and at one stage in **Chesterfield**, at a big house.

> **His surname appears to be KENT, and part 3 contradicts part 2 about his work.** In part 2 he is *"CEO of DeMaria/Dumourie cigarettes"*, which was read as Du Maurier. In part 3 he is *"a prominent person in Shrewsbury, had the freedom of Shrewsbury"* who **had an antique shop in Shrewsbury** — and the long settle in Will's house came from him. The surname comes from Elizabeth overhearing Con spell it on the telephone: *"she said Kent, Kent, the Duchess of."*
>
> **DO NOT MERGE THESE INTO ONE STORY.** A tobacco executive and a provincial antique dealer with the freedom of his town are different lives. They may both be true at different dates, one may be a mis-transcription, or two men may have been conflated. **Both are recorded, neither is graded above unverified, and reconciling them is an open question.** If the surname is Kent, a John Kent with the freedom of Shrewsbury and an antique shop there is a findable man.

- **Patrick** — their son, and Elizabeth's playmate. *"Always great friends with Patrick."* Part 2 adds that he later dealt in antiques out of a large old van — **the same trade as his father**.
- **"Aunt Em"** — †† **identified 16 August 2026 from part 3, and she is NOT Emmie Kilner.** She was **a sister of Annie Sheen**, Ella's mother, and **she lived at the Shrubbery with them**: *"It was Auntie Con and Aunt Em's house… I didn't know Annie, but I knew her sister who was called Aunt Em because she lived with us in the shrubbery. And I knew her very well."* Asked directly whether this was the Em who looked after her grandfather, she is emphatic: *"No. No. No. No, that was Emmy the Kilner."*

  > **This answers the question the archive had carried since Ken's letter was first read** — *"Love to Aunt Em & the rest of the Bunch"* — which had been assumed, wrongly, to point at Emmie Kilner.

How Con is Ella's first cousin — the line, from part 3

> *— "What's the relation between Auntie Con and Granny?" — "First cousins, and very great friends." — "Who's the sibling?" — "**Her mother's sister was Auntie Con's mother.**"*

So **Annie Sheen had at least two sisters**: one was Auntie Con's mother, the other was Aunt Em. **The Sheens are a line this archive has barely opened** — the standing task `genealogy-annie-sheen-cumberland` records that Annie was carried for years as a bare married name with no origin. **Two named sisters and a niece is the most that has ever been held on that side of the family**, and it arrived in one sentence.

The brook

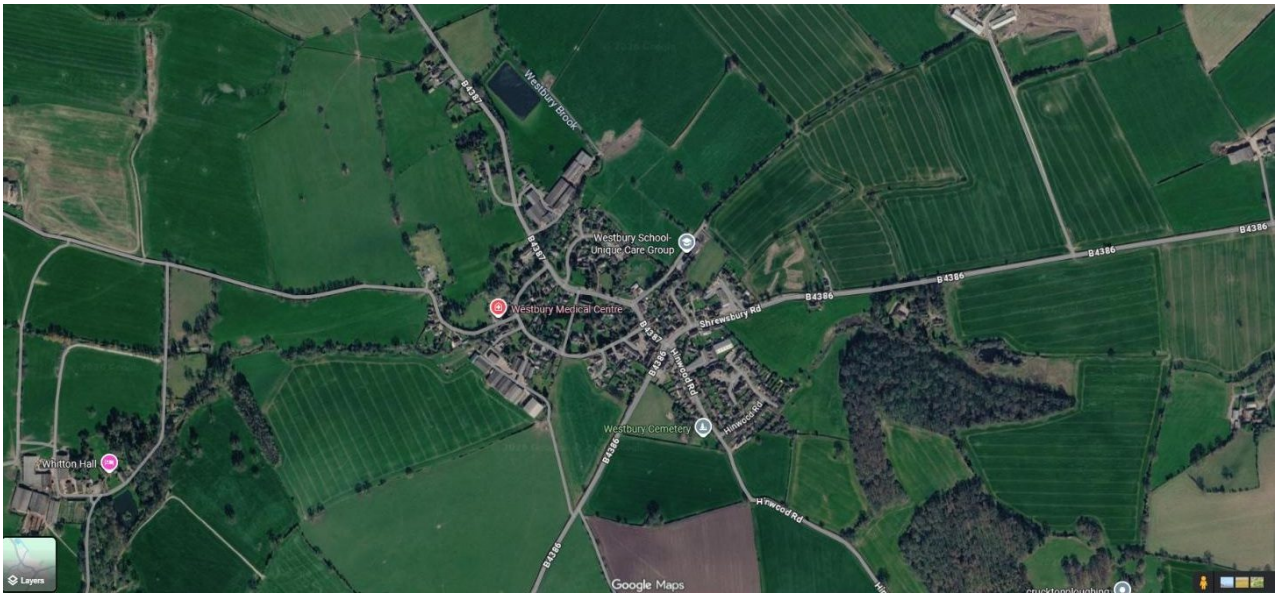
> *"You used to play in the brook down there." — "**In the brook in Westbury, yeah.**" "Patrick had a — historically, he was very naughty and always being sent to his bedroom. And I was not naughty at all and always clean. And he was always filthy."*

Will adds *(16 August 2026)*: she played **in the stream behind the house, in the trees**.

This is a locating detail, not just an anecdote. Whichever house it is, it stands with trees and a watercourse behind it.

The village

Westbury, Shropshire — 52.6791 N, 2.9537 W. **About 8 miles west of Shrewsbury** by the Ordnance Survey; Elizabeth said nine. **Westbury Brook runs straight through the middle of the village.**



Westbury from the air — the wide view. Westbury Brook enters from the north-west and runs down through the centre; the B4387 comes in from the north and the B4386 (Shrewsbury Road) leaves to the east. St Mary's church, the school and the medical centre are in the middle; Whitton Hall is bottom left, Westbury Cemetery bottom centre, Broxton Wood to the south-east.

Google Earth satellite imagery (Airbus, Bluesky, Infoterra, COWI, CNES, Maxar), captured 16 August 2026. © Google and its imagery partners — held for family reference, not for republication.



The village centre on the B4387, looking south-west past St Mary's church — the lychgate and churchyard wall on the left, the parish noticeboards, and the houses of the village centre beyond.

Google Street View, imagery of July 2025, captured 16 August 2026. © Google — held for family reference, not for republication.

These are the two shots Elizabeth asked for. On 14 August she said: *"If you get the village on google I will find it."* That is the intended use of this page — show her these, and let her point.

What is and is not established

Established: the village (Westbury, Shropshire, ~8 miles west of Shrewsbury), the household (Auntie Con's), the people in it, the years, and now **a building, identified by Will from the aerial imagery on 16 August 2026**.

Not established: that the building above is The Shrubbery on any documentary evidence. The identification rests on Will's eye and on Elizabeth's description of a house with trees and a brook behind it. **The name is still not attached to it by any record** — the searches below all came back empty, and they were run before the identification, not after.

The confirmation is cheap and it is the one Elizabeth offered herself: *"If you get the village on google I will find it."* Show her this page.

Where the NAME could not be found — searched 16 August 2026, all negative

Each of these was checked and each came back empty:

- **HM Land Registry Price Paid open data** (SPARQL, every sale since 1995, `paon` containing "SHRUBBERY", town = Shrewsbury): six results, **none in Westbury** — Shrubbery Farm House (Longnor), The Shrubbery (Withington), The Shrubbery 1/2/3 (Loppington), The Shrubbery 4 Shepherds Lane (Bicton Heath).
- **OpenStreetMap / Nominatim**: no feature named Shrubbery in or near Westbury, Shropshire.
- **Google Maps**: "The Shrubbery, Westbury, Shrewsbury" returns nothing.
- **Ordnance Survey Six-Inch, 1888–1915** (National Library of Scotland, examined directly at the village): the named buildings in Westbury are **Brook House, Westbury Bridge, Church, Rectory, School, Lion Inn, P.O., Smithy, Saw Pit, Weir, Old Shafts, Broxton Wood, Woodside**. **No Shrubbery.**
- **Ordnance Survey 25-Inch, 1892–1914** — *added 17 August 2026, and this is the stronger negative of the two.* The 25-inch names far more buildings than the six-inch, and it was examined directly over the village core and its approaches. Named features: **Westbury Bridge, School, St Mary's Church, Rectory, Grave Yard, P.O., Smithy, Lion Inn**, with the numbered OS parcels around them. **No Shrubbery, on the largest-scale Victorian survey of the village.** Taken with the six-inch, that is as far as the pre-war Ordnance Survey can be pushed: if the house existed under that name before 1914, the OS did not print it.
- **General web search**, including Kelly's Directory references and Historic England listings: nothing for a Shrubbery at Westbury, Shropshire. (The Shropshire "Shrubbery" that search engines return is at **Withington**, a different parish east of Shrewsbury, and is not this house.)

What that tells us. The name is not on the six-inch map and has not been attached to a sale since 1995. It was very likely **a house name in ordinary use rather than a mapped one** — the same problem as "Mossgiel" on Sweetmans Avenue, which the archive also failed to number — or the name has since been dropped.

How to close it — cheapest first

1. **Show Elizabeth the two images above.** She offered to do exactly this. She was there and she has already named the householder. **This is by far the cheapest route and it should be tried before anything else.** 2. **The 1939 Register** (taken 29 September 1939 — three weeks before Ken's letter, and the family were already *"all settled"* by then). It lists households by house **name**, and it will name Auntie Con and Uncle John, which in turn identifies Con in the tree. Findmypast / Ancestry, subscription. **This is the single document most likely to answer everything at once.** 3. **Identify Auntie Con from the tree instead of from the map.** She is Ella's first cousin, so she is a granddaughter of one of Captain Edward Sutherland's siblings, or of Annie Sheen's. Her married surname comes with Uncle John, and **it appears to be KENT**. A John Kent with an antique shop in Shrewsbury and the freedom of the town is a findable man; so, separately, is a tobacco executive of that name. **Start with the Shrewsbury trade directories.** 4. **Shropshire Archives** hold Westbury electoral registers and Kelly's Directory of Shropshire for the 1930s and 1940s, which list houses by name. 5. **The Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 plans, 1948–1975 — still not examined, and still the best remaining map.** It is the only OS series contemporary with the Wynnes being there, and rural Shropshire is 1:2,500 rather than 1:1,250. Attempted again on 17 August 2026 and **not reached**: the NLS side-by-side viewer would load the 25-inch and the six-inch but repeatedly

failed to switch to the 1:2,500 A edition layer. **This is a tooling failure, not a negative result — it must not be recorded as "checked".** Retry by hand in the NLS viewer, or order the sheet.

Sources

- **Letter, Kenneth Graham Sutherland to Ella Wynne, 23 October 1939**, with a postscript by Barbara Sutherland — in the spine (`letter_1939_barbara_sutherland_georgetown.json` and the five-generations biography).
- **Email, Elizabeth Hancock to Will, 14 August 2026** — "9 miles from Shrewsbury", "1939/40/42 ish", and the offer to identify the village from an image.
- **Recorded interview, Elizabeth Hancock, 15 August 2026** — Auntie Con, Uncle John, Patrick, the brook. Transcript at `interviews/transcripts/the_old_coach_house_2_medium.en.txt`, from 00:19:18 and 00:22:26.
- **Will, 16 August 2026** — the stream behind the house, in the trees.
- **Imagery:** Google Earth satellite and Google Street View (July 2025 imagery), both captured 16 August 2026.
- **Negative searches, 16 August 2026:** HM Land Registry Price Paid open data; OpenStreetMap Nominatim; Google Maps; OS Six-Inch 1888–1915 via the National Library of Scotland; general web search.
- **Negative searches, 17 August 2026:** OS 25-Inch 1892–1914 via the National Library of Scotland, examined over the village core and approaches — no Shrubbery. The OS 1:2,500 1948–1975 layer could not be loaded and remains unexamined.

Not verified: which building The Shrubbery is; Auntie Con's name, maiden name and exact relationship; Uncle John's surname and his employer's identity (Du Maurier is inferred from the recording, not confirmed); Patrick's surname and dates; the exact months the Wynnes were there.