



GOING HOME: Edith Moody, sole survivor of family of 19, returns to place of her birth 2A/3667E

Inn for a ton of fun

THE DAUGHTER of a former landlord of The Gate Inn will celebrate her 100th birthday by returning to the Canterbury pub where she was born.

But the table Edith Moody will sit at with family and friends will no doubt be a lot smaller than the huge table she remembers when the pub was her home.

It used to seat not just her mother and father, Charles and Mary Louisa Brickenden and the then little Edith, but also her 16 siblings.

Mrs Moody, of Holt Street, Nonington, spent her childhood at the pub in New Dover Road which had been in her family since 1848.

She said: "It was a lovely time we had as kids. We would all pile into a cart when it was wet to be taken to school and at mealtimes would sit around a table that opened up to about 6ft.

"We were never allowed in the public house. We were allowed ginger beer in the kitchen but never in the bar."

She remembers a kind but strict father and mother who was nimble-fingered with a needle.

She said: "There was no half marks with him but all my brothers ended up with a trade. A lady used to come in to do the washing but mother made all our clothes. She was very good at sewing."

Mrs Moody's father's high standards paid off with her as well, for she has been able to present Bridge Primary School with her own medals for good attendance for its museum.

From the time she left school in 1912 until she married Bernard Moody in 1924, Mrs Moody worked in domestic service.

Sadly Mr Moody, who worked at Snowdown Colliery, died 26 years ago from pneumoconiosis caused by inhaling coal dust but his wife kept up their Nonington home, moving to a nursing home in Adisham only two months ago.

She is the only surviving sibling of her parents' 17 children.