

# Moving on to Olney and Newbury

After 1916 embroidery, needlework and metal work continued to be carried on in Ickleford for a while under the direction of Mr. Witter's personal assistant, Madeleine Warren, but in 1923 the forging and metalwork side was handed over to Francis Olney and Tom Newbury, two of the earliest pupils at "The Ickleford Industries of Applied Arts". They renamed the firm "Olney and Newbury Ltd" with a trademark 'Hand Beaten, Olbury, English Made' Olbury being a contraction of Olney and Newbury.

Tom Newbury was born in Arlesey in 1886 he married Ethel Northup in 1915, she sadly died the following year and their baby son Ernest died in 1917. After 16 years of widowhood he married May Burrows who was another Ickleford Applied Arts employee. His nephew Harry Dudley also worked at Olney and Newbury.



Francis Reuben Olney was an Ickleford miller's son born in 1889, he married Winifred Emma Izzard in 1913 and their son Leslie was born the following year. He died in 1956 having already been succeeded by his son Leslie who continued to trade until 1979.



## The Workers

Finding employment was difficult for girls and women in rural communities. The straw plaiting heyday of the 1860s had waned; dressmaking and going into service were the only options for most girls. Walter and Marie Witter's Applied Arts business was a great boon to the local economy. The working conditions seemed good and the pay reasonable. Sisters and friends worked together within walking distance of home.

The 1911 census listed 29 local women and three men employed in Applied Arts. The surnames will be familiar today as they recall old Ickleford families.

May Burrows in the tapestry room (below).

Name	Relationship	Age	Particulars	Occupation	Birthplace
Tom Newbury	son	24	single	Art metal works	Arlesey Beds
Annie Izzard	granddaughter	22	single	Art needlework	Surrey
Winifred Izzard	granddaughter	20	single	Art needlework	Surrey
Mabel Mead	grandchild	15	single	needlework	Ickleford
Beatrice Emily Powleydaughter		15	single	Art needlework	Ickleford
Lily Redd	daughter	22	single	Art needlework	Ickleford
Beatrice Waller	daughter	16	single	silk embroiderer	Ickleford
Francis Reuben Olney son		22	single	Metal worker	Ickleford
Winifred Sarah Olney daughter		19	single	Art needlework	Ickleford
Agnes Dorothy Foster daughter		24	single	artist	Ickleford
Emma Elizabeth Farrier	daughter	20	single	embroiderer	
Florence Olney	daughter	18	single	Art needlework	Ickleford
Kathleen Olney	daughter	15	single	Art needlework	Ickleford
Frederick George Shaw	son	25	single	Art metalworker	Islington
Emily Louise Shaw	daughter	24	single	Art needle worker	Islington
Ada Allam	daughter	23	single	Art needlework	Baldock
Mary Allam	daughter	19	single	Art needlework	Baldock
Margaret Allam	daughter	15	single	Art needlework	Baldock
Eva Elixia Fanny Farrier	daughter	20	single	Art needlework	Ickleford
Dorothy Olney	daughter	17	single	Art needlework	Ickleford
Bertha Hollis	Head	36	widow	needlework	Arlesey Beds
Nellie Ethel Munn	daughter	17	single	Art needlework	Sussex
Annie Beatrice Munn daughter		14	single	Art needlework	Sussex
Edith Matthews	boarder	17	single	Art needlework	Loughton Essex
Ena Day	daughter	21	single	Art needlework	Ickleford
Mildred Rose Johnson	daughter	15	single	silk embroiderer	Ickleford
Beatrice Waller	daughter	23	single	Art needlework	Ickleford
Rose May Waller	daughter	17	single	Art needlework	Ickleford
Winifred Primett	daughter	17	single	fancy art worker	Ickleford



Workers repairing the Chelsea flags (above).