

# NAN READMAN

Mrs Nan Readman, then Annie Walker Kerr lived for many years in Kelso at Maxwell Place in Maxwell Lane. At the beginning of the First World War she was employed at Musselburgh, making aircraft parts at Bruntons wire and rope works. It was probably Bruntons connections that led her to join the Air section of the Army. Many women were trained to become mechanics and, as she was, as drivers. The RAF was formed on April 1st 1918 and the Womens Royal Air Force on the same day. Her unit was amongst the first to be issued with the new Airforce Blue uniforms which they all actively disliked, preferring the traditional khaki.

Elsie Knocker the Baroness de T'Serclaes was famous in the First World War as a heroine of Pervyse who set up a dressing station near the front line. She was brought in to become head of the Motor Transport Section at Hurst Park (Molesey, Surrey); they were billeted in the mews at Hampton Court Palace where their accommodation in the Stable block overlooked the famous Maze.



The WRAF was disbanded in 1920 and Nan returned to civilian life marrying another veteran of the war Hardie Readman. They moved to Kelso and lived at Croft House and Hardie ran a fishing tackle factory in Havannah Court.

Nan was later one of the early recruits to the WRVS and was a driver for the Kelso Meals on Wheels service into her eighties where she delivered meals to what she called "the old people".



*Nan and friends at Aircraft Works*



*WRAF comrades*