

CHARLTON KINGS
LOCAL HISTORY
SOCIETY

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CHARLTON KINGS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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The Society does not hold itself responsible for statements in papers, but invites additions and corrections, which will be printed in Notes and Comments.

Cover Picture

K. Venus

INTRODUCTION

This issue is devoted to two main topics. The first is the manor of Ham and all we have so far discovered about the history of Ham Court and Ham House. The second is education in Charlton Kings, the development of our schools, and what it was like to grow up here in the early years of this century. In addition, we follow up two subjects from Bulletin I, the 1826 parish workhouse and the wandering London road.

Many of the papers are based on work done at Gloucestershire Record Office during 1979-1980 and at the Local History Centre in Cheltenham in 1980; and we are very grateful for the opportunity to use this material in the evenings.

We thank all who have helped with contributions, comments, queries or recollections. Gratitude is especially due to Eric Armitage, who has photographed and drawn ground plans for every old house on London Road, abstracted two Ashley manor will books, taken all Charlton names from the Cheltenham Annales, and transcribed from microfilm the greater part of the parish registers. We have all benefitted from his work.

We also thank Gloucestershire Record Office for permission to reproduce Quarter Sessions plans, the Headmaster of Charlton Kings Junior School for allowing us to use his "Book of Proceedings", the Vicar of St. Mary's for access to registers and papers in the Vestry, and Mr. Masling for lending records of Cooper's Charity and Higgs' Night School. Title deeds have proved very helpful, especially those of Mr and Mrs J.W. Hayward of Grove House, Mr and Mrs J.B. Buss of Linden Lawn, Mr and Mrs McDevitt of 16 School Road, Mr French of 34 Horsefair Street; the actual site of one of our schools was discovered from title deeds now in possession of Cheltenham Borough. Old photographs have been generously lent for copying by more friends than can be listed here, and Mr Kilby's 1858 Rate book is an invaluable guide. At last the jigsaw is beginning to take shape!

This Bulletin is twice the usual size, but the price has been raised by 30 pence only, the rest of the cost being met from donations.

THE EDITOR

1. ONE SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Have you ever been called upon to assist the police in the execution of their duties? Its a perfectly legitimate request on the part of the police and one every good citizen knows he should honour. But it is rarely used by the constabulary - yet I have been present when it has happened - in this most peaceful of villages and on a Sunday afternoon!

Round the beginning of the century any sunny Sunday afternoon, after the MERRY had closed down and the ROYAL had shut, a silence descended on this village which was the nearest approach to the oriental siesta hour one could get in this "green and pleasant land". The heavy mid-day dinner had been disposed of, the children packed off to Sunday School, and the parents settled down to the undisturbed nap which made such a difference from the normal toil of the week and peace settled for a short while on the village. But on this particular Sunday afternoon, the tranquility was shattered.

The policing of the village was in the hands of Serg. WHITE and his new and rather raw Constable P.C. ROGERS. Serg. WHITE was a past master and knew the village like the back of his hand. ROGERS was less knowledgeable. He was new, raw, and he wasn't even a CHARLTONIAN. In retrospect it seems to me their job was a bit of a sinecure. I remember no crime. Occasionally some drunk expressed his euphoria a little too noisily for his neighbours and had to be quietened, an unpaid dog-licence had to be chased, or an affiliation order straightened out. Possibly the most onerous duty was the nightly delivery of cards to the outlying "gentrys' houses" as proof that the property had been patrolled and inspected and that all was well. No, as far as I remember, their standing order was controlling the after-dark activities of small groups of super-charged adolescents who, when the street lamps were lighted, roamed the village upon their unlawful occasions. Unlawful! I become hyperbolic and inaccurate. There was no burglary, no larceny, no vandalism. I doubt if I knew the word until I started to read some Roman history. No, their worst crime, I think, was exhibitionism.

But Sergt. WHITE could deal with these, and some of his methods were highly individualistic. In the evenings he always carried a cane and it was widely believed he wore rubber shoes. He had a few simple rules but he applied them with considerable success. He misread his New Testament "Where two or three are gathered together -- scatter 'em. They'll be up to no good". "When you get up with 'em, strike first and argue later". If one was caught in some minor infringement, take him by the scruff of the neck round to his father, and settle the matter there and then. No, I don't suppose the Law Society would have approved of some of his methods, but it kept order, troubled no magistrates, produced no names in the paper, and nobody complained. His method of summary jurisdiction was recognised and accepted. In other words -- it worked.

But this Sunday afternoon was a bit different. This was no exhibitionist adolescent display. The ROYAL by repute sold "singing beer", the MERRY "fighting beer". I never knew of any pronounced belligerent effects of Stroud Ale, but "the wisdom of our ancestors --", that was the tradition. That Sunday, as the MERRY was turning out, we children were on our way or waiting to go into the Baptist Chapel Sunday School. But it was obvious that something more exciting was afoot. A small crowd formed, as it will, and then burst apart as by some internal explosive force. We danced up on the pavement to get a better view. Yes! it was a fight! This was going to be good -- But who were the combatants? Then we saw. It was Frank Peacey and Dudley Bates.

We were used to occasional village running fights -- you know, two hits and once round the churchyard. They were amusing but seldom devastating. But this was no running fight, they were at it seriously. They came to a halt just past the Chapel and in front of MRS TIMBRELL'S shop. Here the pavement was wider and afforded not only more room for the combatants to manoeuvre but much more room for us children to see the fun. We were a blood-thirsty lot. No one was taking a step toward Sunday School until this bit of excitement was over. We pushed and shouted, criticised and encouraged, and the crowd, mostly of excited children, swayed and swung as the antagonists sparred for position. I do not propose to record a blow-by-blow description of the fight. I am no sports commentator, and remember, this was seventy-five years ago -- and what was I? A kid of twelve! But it was a foregone conclusion. Dudley hadn't an earthly. Frank was the village blacksmith. No shirehorse in the village had got the better of Frank and it wasn't likely Dudley would. There wasn't a pennyworth of science between the two of 'em but when it came to sheer beef, poor old Dudley wasn't a speck on the horizon. So as they battled on, brave as he was, Dudley began to wilt.

But help was at hand. Starting his afternoon beat, coming down Church Street was P.C. ROGERS. He saw the fracas and dived straight in to effect his mission of separation and the preservation of the King's Peace. I do not recall his prefacing his arrival with "Hello! Hello! Hello!" as any good stage policeman should, but he plunged straight in, and was surprised to find himself the focus of attention of both antagonists. Immediately they dropped their personal differences and concentrated on interfering authority. Constable ROGERS lost some dignity when his helmet went flying, but he was no weakling (he stood a good six feet) and certainly no coward. He battled bravely against the increasing odds.

I may have given the impression that all the spectators at this free Sunday afternoon entertainment were children. Certainly all the ring-side seats were taken by them, and most of the others. But there were some adults. Among these was HARRY ATTWOOD. He was leaning against MRS TIMBRELL'S shop, hands in pockets, and was quietly amused at the unscientific antics of the two performers. He was taller than ROGERS and a sort of village athlete. He did not play for the village, soccer or cricket, he did not run with the BIRCHFIELD as Soldier Smith did, but when the annual walking race from the CLARENCE LAMP to the Ryeworth Inn took place, you could be pretty certain that the first man home would be HARRY ATTWOOD.

To return to the fight - now that ROGERS found himself the centre of attention of both battlers, he sensed that his power to maintain the King's Peace was dwindling. Fighting a lone battle, his initiative was slipping. Reinforcements must be brought up, and he had a right to enlist them. "Help!" he cried, "I need help!" but there was no response. He tried again with the same result. Then he caught sight of Harry and he named him. "Attwood!" But HARRY did not move.

Now this was surprising because not only was HARRY ATTWOOD as good a citizen as the next man, but it was unlike him to pass up a bit of legitimate rough and tumble if it came his way. Something was wrong. Then we discovered what it was.

There had been something very wrong with the approach. To the satisfaction of HARRY, the forms had not been properly observed. To be temporarily enlisted in the service of his country was one thing, just to help a raw constable out of trouble he should never have got into was quite another. There was a more formal way in which he should be enlisted, and if this constable didn't

know the niceties, he'd teach him. He stood up, took his hands out of his pockets, squared his shoulders, and called "In the name of the Law, Rogers?" "In the name of the Law, Attwood" came back the reply. Honour was satisfied. The rest was a matter of seconds. Harry took a few paces forward, opened the crowd with a large pair of hands, pulled Dudley by the scruff of his neck, gave Frank a hefty push in the chest, and the fight was as good as over.

So that was that! P.C. ROGERS picked up his helmet, dusted it, and straightened out the dent. Anti-climax had set in, and we crept sheepishly back to Sunday School. It was 3 o'clock and we were half-an-hour late. We were met by a disapproving bunch of teachers and a rather glowering Superintendent. We should only have half-an-hour's school but there was little pleasure for me in that. Neither did I look forward to the usually pleasant Sunday afternoon tea. You see, that Superintendent was my father.

G. Ryland

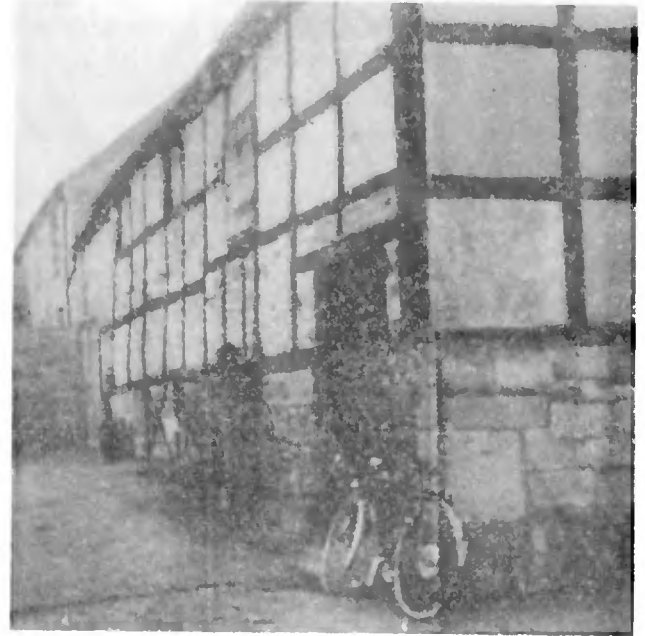
2. THE SITE OF THE FIGHT! Church Street as it looked then -

Mrs. Timbrell's sweet shop was the second past the Chapel. All these houses except the one next to the chapel have been demolished. Enlargement from a photograph lent by Mr. Fisher.



3. HAM COURT

House and Barn



THE MANOR OF HAM AND HAM COURT

The manor of Ham was an offshoot of the great manor of Cheltenham, which returned to the King after the dissolution of the monasteries in 1539. Ham was held of the crown as of the manor of Cheltenham in free socage, a mode of tenure typical of the period, and paid a yearly rent of 15s. It seems to have been granted to Robert Goodrich of Ham gentleman after 1564, for in that year a list of holdings showed Robert as tenant of no more than 48 acres "under the hill", and the Goodrich family (Robert, Giles, Thomas, Rouland and Walter) as having altogether no more than 149 acres in their possession. (1)

By 1574, at all events, Robert Goodrich and Edith his wife, Richard the son and Elizabeth his wife, were possessed of the manor of Ham, 8 messuages, 3 cottages, 1 water-mill, 2 dovehouses, 10 gardens, 10 orchards, 100 acres of land, 100 acres of meadow, 300 acres of pasture, 6 acres of wood, 10 acres of furze and heath and 2s in rents, in Ham and Charlton Kings. The figures must not be taken too literally, for they are so given in a fine, a fictitious lawsuit intended to break the entail. On 20 July 1574, Thomas Packer of Cheltenham (tenant in 1564 of 3 acres in Ham) had agreed to pay £400 for the property, payment to be completed by Michaelmas 1581.

In fact, Packer was able to pay the whole consideration after 2 years, and on 2 October 1576 was enfeoffed in "all the manor and capital messuage or Farme of Hame in Charlton Kings within the parish of Cheltenham" (2) We presume that the capital messuage or farm was Ham Court.

From Thomas Packer, the manor passed to Arthur Packer who died in London in 1608. He left a widow Ellyn who then married Thomas Lott. According to the custom of the manor of Cheltenham, widows were entitled to all their late husband's property for their lives and 12 years afterwards, an unusual custom which many thought unfair to the next heir. In this case the heir was Arthur's brother Alexander aged 30. He felt it worth his while to buy out Ellyn's interest, paying for it in 1611 as much as Thomas had given in 1576. In that year, Alexander Packer married Rose (born 1595) daughter of William Grevill (who died in 1603).

We know more about Packer's estate from the survey of Cheltenham manor in 1617 (3), which included Ham. These are the enclosures then held by Packer, with (where possible) an identification from the tithe map or OS map, and information from Mrs. Heathcote.

Mansion barn garden orchard dovecote le Pighaye (1a) Burton close, meadow (3a)	Ham Court TM 137 malthouse and orchard 138 homestead etc 139 Close (Total 9½ a) (This area may include Ham Orchard (6a))
Warden hill and le Paddocke with les Bancks as far as le Breach Langest (5a)	Warden or Wanders Hill TM 123-4 1.1.37 and 4.1.5 (total 5.3.2)
Le Grove and lez Copies (8a)	Grove Close TM 131 (7.3.20)
2 closes meadow or pasture le Cowleasowes (11a) Le Riddings (13a)	TM 130 Cow Leaze (6.3.24) The Reddings (TM 125, 126) (6.0.21, 6.0.20) and adjoining untithed parcel total 18a. (NB Cow leaze plus Reddings=24½a Cowleasowes plus Riddings=24a)
Le Peaselands (4a)	
The Slopes (8a)	
Broadsuch and Bancrofte (16a)	TM 108 Broad Sick (9.0.22) 107 Broad Ditch (6.0.29) total 15.1.11
Millerds Hege (1a) Le Millpond close (5a)	TM 104 Miller's Hay (½a) OS 6457 Mill Meadow (4.54a)
Longhaye peece (3a)	Long Ground OS
Le Upper Allies (3a) King's Allies (2a)	Top Alleys OS 5730 (4.01a) Bottom Alleys part of OS 3428

Little Whorne, with house (2a) Kenrickes Whorne (2a) Great Whorne (8a)	The Herne OS 7343 (3.96a) (with site of Glenfall farm and part of next field)
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Picked Oaklies divided into three (5a)	TM 109 (4 $\frac{1}{2}$ a)
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Chaselege (6a)	
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Watermill with millpond and le Langnetts lying together (50a)	perhaps TM 106, 105, 101-3 total 31 $\frac{1}{4}$ a and 3 non-titheable fields along the stream.
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Arable in Ham furlong and Chastlefield (20a)	TM 91 Ham Furlong (5.2.14) and land above not titheable; TM 89 Hop Yard (2a) (part of Castlefield lay on the north of the Chelt)
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closes divided in divers parts called Brierye Hill (10a), let to Giles Parrye and William Gregory	TM 127 Briery Hill and 129 Briery Hill Slade (4.2.3 and 2.1.36) with TM 128 in between (5.3.33) total (12 $\frac{3}{4}$ a)
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messuage in Ham occupied by Thomas Goodrich senior (10a)	perhaps Old Ham farm, Wadleys, and Ivy Cottage?
messuage called St Quintans in Ham and lands adjoining (5a) occupied by Thomas Thame senior	
messuage and lands in Ham (4 a) occupied by Edward Kemmett	

Alexander Packer also held lands listed separately. These were Huddcroft near Coxhorne (1 acre), a messuage and close occupied by Thomas Lewys senior (3a), Hom Archard (6a), Penny Breach in 2 closes (8a), Paddock at Ludmont (3a), arable in Castlefield (6a), le Hitchins (2a), Middlefield (4a), Lower field and Naunton field (6a), and a parcel of Cheltenham demesne land in the upper part of Ockleye Wood called The Lords Leynes.

The manor and estate acquired from Goodrich did not comprise the whole of Ham. Several other tenants held messuages and land under Cheltenham; and there was also Northfield, accounted by some as a separate manor, and valuable because it had an extensive sheepwalk on Northfield Down. It was the property of Richard Phelps, who devised part to his nephew Thomas Phelps the younger and part to Thomas Nicholas of Stratton. Packer tried to buy the Phelps' share in 1615, but after agreeing, Thomas the elder withdrew his consent; and sold to Thomas Nicholas instead. For £200 he bought pastures called the Banbreaches and closes called Hyermore, Cuttom Butts and Silly Holts, reckoned as 40 acres of meadow, 20 acres of pasture and 4 acres of wood in the part of Northfield which lay in Charlton Kings. Cutham Butts is the tithe map TM 118 next to Freeman's Ground above the Iron Moors. Little Holt is TM 116.

According to the 1617 survey, the land called Northfield held by Thomas Nicholas, late Richard Phelps, measured 65 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres, besides two-thirds of the 300 acre pasture called Northfield Down (Robert Hawthorne a customary tenant holding the other third) and a coppice of 50 acres in Oakley Wood.

In 1633, however, Thomas Nicholas sold the whole of Northfield to Alexander Packer. There was a messuage (formerly occupied by John Peare or Pearse, and then by Thomas Free) and meadow or pasture land called Bervilles or Brevills, Banbreach, Soudley, Shockbreach, Great and Little Ancotts, Three Corner Piece, Over and Nether Lamb Leasowe, Paddock, two groves with a meadow formerly coppice, and the pasture called Northfield Hill, partly in Charlton Kings and partly in Cheltenham. None of the Charlton names can be found on the tithe map, for by 1848 they were all tithe free. It is interesting to note that some of the closes were "formerly arable", though by 1633 all were down to grass. With Northfield, Packer also bought Puckham farm and the whole purchase cost him £2000.

Having added to his property in this way, Alexander Packer did not want to see a foolish heir make ducks and drakes of it. He died at Charlton Kings (presumably at Ham Court) on 11 July 1638. (4) By his will dated 28 June 1638 he left his son and heir Arthur an annuity of £50 a year provided he caused himself to be admitted to the Middle Temple to study law and did not without just cause discontinue his study there for the space of three months together. In lieu of a marriage portion, the testator's daughter Margaret was to have all his lands in Ham, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, and Sevenhampton, and the remainder of his leaseholds, for a term of 21 years (subject to payment of that £50 yearly). Among legacies, he left £100 to the churchwardens of Charlton Kings for the use of the poor and £50 to the Churchwardens of Cheltenham. He forgave his brother Toby a debt of £58 and left £40 each to Toby's sons Andrew and Arthur. Toby Packer and cousin Lodowicke Packer were to be overseers of the will and help Margaret in her work as executrix and in her choice of a husband. After the 21 years, the land was to revert to the testator's grandson Alexander, son of his said son Arthur, and Alexander's heirs.

This will is recited in the inquest on Alexander's property held on 22 September 1638. The heir Arthur was of age, though his father had placed no trust in his ability to manage an estate and had cut him out of it altogether. It must have been Margaret and her husband Bradley who were holding Ham during the Civil War and supplied 3 geldings, a mare, hay, and straw, to Prince Rupert's troops. (5)

Alexander Packer the grandson inherited in 1658 and seems to have taken after his shiftless father rather than his prudent grandfather. He spent his life mortgaging parts or the whole of his property. His will dated 27 December 1682, proved 1685, appointed his wife Dorothy executrix. Their son Alexander (of age by 1681) died childless in his mother's lifetime, leaving 4 sisters to share what could be salvaged from the estate. Winifred married James Ingram gentleman in 1689 and must have been portioned. Forty years later, Mary's daughter received £13.2.6 and Margaret's son £100 respectively as their shares.

Sir William Dodwell of Brockhampton Manor in the parish of Sevenhampton and of Sandiwell Park who died on 22 September 1724, left an infant daughter Mary or Marian, under the guardianship of four trustees who were instructed to lay out money in the purchase of landed property in Gloucestershire or nearby. They considered Ham, and Francis Elde barrister informed the Court

of Chancery that in his opinion the estate called Ham Farm late of Alexander Packer and now of Andrew Percival, would be a good bargain. It had been surveyed by Mr William Winds, clerk, parson of Guiting, "who for several years hath been used and accustomed to Measures and Values, Lands and Timber." "He knows the estate and believes it is worth £70 per annum if lett to a tenant and that the Timber trees now growing there (exclusive of several hundred young Oaks, Ash and Elm under the value of 5s each) are worth the sums of £451.6.6 (so he thought) and that he and one Mr Nettleship did last October measure and value them at that sum. And he said that the Executors and Trustees of the will of Sir William Dodwell having treated with Mrs Percivall for the purchase of the said estate, she had agreed to sell at 24 years purchase at £70 p.a. amounting to £1680, together with the enclosure lett now to Tanty £73 -- and Mr Percivall has agreed to allow £50 for repairs of house to be deducted from the £2131.6.6 to be paid to him. I consider this a proper and convenient purchase for the Trustees --"

A particular of the property was annexed to the opinion.

"Ham Farm

The House, barns stables and orchards about six acres	0. 0. 0.
Eighty Acres of meadow and pasture enclosed and some land in the Common field sett at per annum	£60. 0.00
2 closes formerly Theyers now sett with the Farm	£06.10.00
Some Lands once sett to Mr. Buckle, now lett with the Farm at per annum	£01.07.00
A coppice in the Close adjoining to the house to be at every Ten Years worth communibus annis	£01.10.00
A small coppice ditto per annum	£00.10.00
A piece of Woodland called Briery Hill per annum	£00.10.00
Two houses called the Long House and orchard per annum	£01.10.00
	<hr/>
	£71.10.00
 Quit Rents	
Hooper for a house and ground for ever	£00.10.00
Danford for a House and Ground 5s 4d and Two Capons or 3s	£00.08.04
 Reversions	
A close of pasture ground called the New Inclosure lett to - Ward by lease dated Augt 1675 for 99 years (now let to William Tanty) he paying per annum	£00.05.00
	<hr/>
Total	£73.06.04
	<hr/>

731 trees not valued
 528 Oaks
 234 Elms
 290 Ashes
 Total 1042 valued at £451.6s.6d."

Northfield was not included in the sale, completed in 1732.

By that date the 16-17th century house was in need of modernisation. It was still a narrow, two storey timber-framed building (the 8 hearths on which "Mr Packer and tenants" were taxed in 1672 belonged to Ham Court and other houses on the estate). In the 18th century, the roof was raised and the south front clad in brick; the north front extension is modern.

By 1848, the estate had been broken up into a number of small farms. John Burrows owned and occupied Ham Court as homestead (1.0.25), malthouse and orchard (1.1.39), close (7.0.20) - total $9\frac{3}{4}$ acres.

- (1) Glos. R.O. D 855 M 68
- (2) D 444 T 6,12
- (3) D 885 M 7
- (4) Gloucestershire Inquisitiones Post Mortem pp 119-121
- (5) Mrs. Robinson. The statement cannot yet be traced to source.

HAM COURT



South Front

North Front



4. HAM HOUSE

Our cover picture shows Ham House (now demolished), in 1826. It was built c.1800 by Richard Haines of Grove Cottage, Cudnall, a cordwainer, later yeoman. (1) He bought a copyhold messuage at Ham from William Tombs and Betty his wife; and then from Thomas Higgs, Mary Robins, and Ann Pearce was able to purchase another copyhold messuage standing in a close called Hacketts Orchard (2 acres). Haines' property now extended from Ham brook on the west almost to Ham Lane on the east, while on the north it adjoined $\frac{3}{4}$ acres of copyhold land held by John Grevill and Mary his wife, which Haines eventually acquired. He demolished the old houses and built a new mansion standing in its own grounds, just short of 5 acres, very suitable for a gentleman's residence or for a school, which is what it became. All the land belonged to the manor of Cheltenham.

The name "Ham House" was given by Richard Haines, as he tells us in his will dated 17 January 1806. This was not drawn up by a solicitor, Richard himself speaks in it. "It is my will also that if its required by my survivors that I give them privildge (sic) to sell (or) Mortgage Ham House and orchards has I call it, this privildge I give to my wife Elizabeth Haines".

The money so raised was to be for her sole benefit. Following these instructions, Elizabeth did mortgage Ham House, with other property, in 1808, but her husband's affairs had been left in such a state that they were never cleared in her lifetime. About 1818 the Ham property was purchased by Conway Whithorne Lovesy, who let the house as a school.

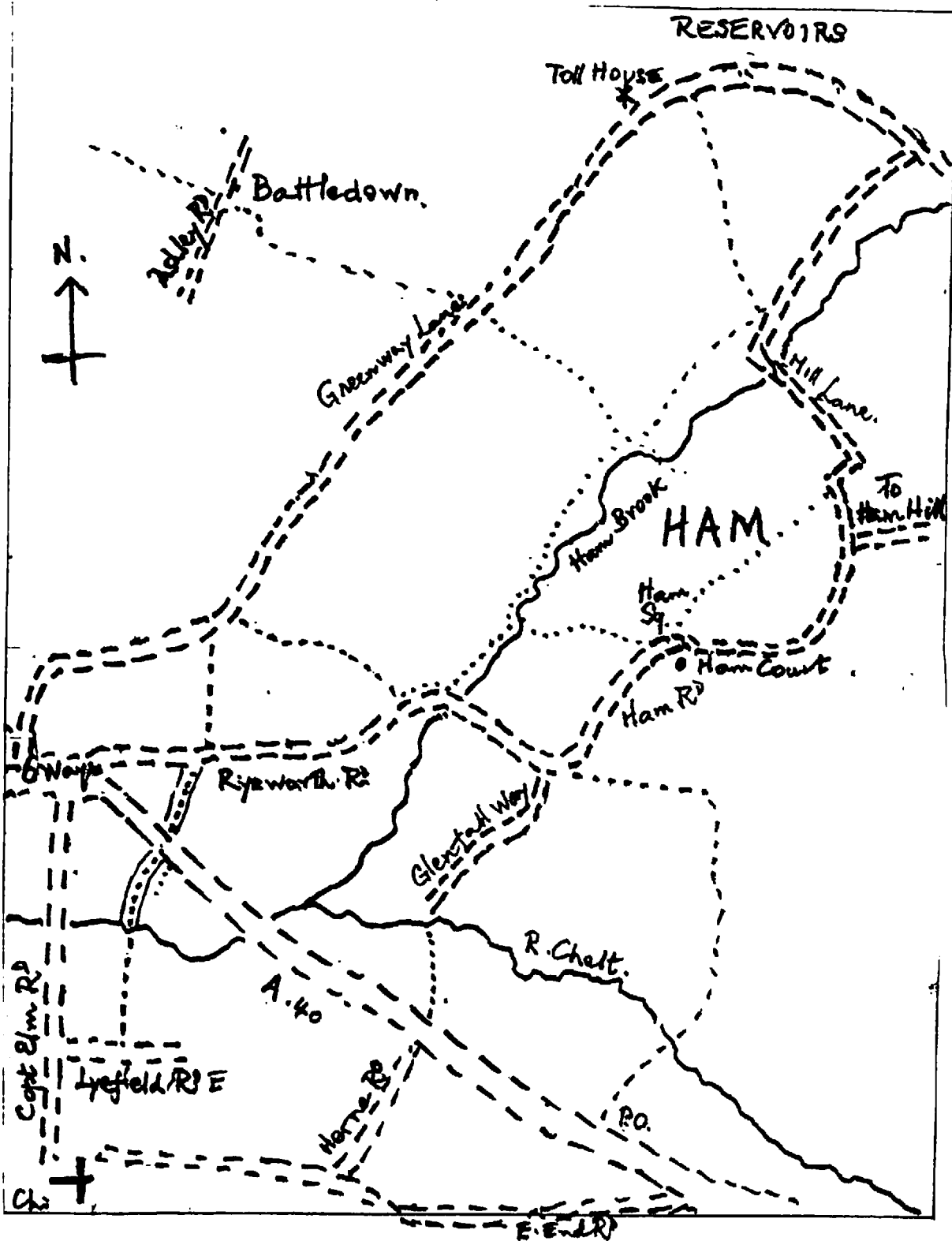
By his will in 1838, (2) Lovesy left Ham House (occupied by the Revd John Tucker at a yearly rent of £126) and other property to his daughter Elizabeth and her male heirs, with reversion to his own children or his right heirs. The will did not come into effect till 1848, and the tithe apportionment of that year refers to Ham House as owned and occupied by Lovesy's representatives. The estate consisted of house, offices, and pleasure grounds (0.2.4), orchard (2 acres), orchard and buildings (2.1.21) - TM 93-5. The strip of garden TM 92 (1.1.0) against Ham Lane was owned by the Revd. John Tucker himself.

An advertisement in the Cheltenham Journal of 15 July 1839 (3) describes Ham House school as "established twenty years", which takes it back to 1819. It was "conducted by the Revd. John Tucker with the assistance of a Mathematical Tutor from Cambridge" and offered a Classics/Maths course. In 1830, however, Tucker advertised "a course of instruction in Persian and Hindustanee Language to prepare candidates for admission to the Civil Service of the United East India Co" and later advertisements suggest that the school catered for boys from India who had to be boarded for the whole year. Parents were told that "The House which has been enlarged and fitted up at considerable expense, is well adapated to promote health and comfort. Attached is a play ground of three acres, with a spacious gravelled court and convenient sheds for recreation in wet weather. The situation is so salubrious that Pupils of extremely delicate constitution, at the time of entrance, have been benefitted and confirmed in health by a few years' residence. The strictest discipline without severity, is preserved by admonition and parental kindness --"

Besides his school, Tucker was the absentee incumbent of Hawling and Charlton Abbots. His son William Guise Tucker was curate at Charlton Kings in 1835, and may have acted as "Mathematical Tutor" at the school.

Tucker's successor was the Revd. Frederick Gowson Potter MA, who conducted a "boarding school for young gentleman" at Ham House from c.1858 to 1881, combining it from 1871 with being vicar of the new Holy Apostles church. He was followed in school and church by the Revd. F.H. Neville; his "Academy for Young Gentlemen" lasted till c.1886.

- (i) Deeds of Grove House.
- (2) Ashley Manor will book I no 40, Glos R.O. D 109
- (3) Bridgeman typescript vol 3 p.29; Cheltenham Journal 3 May 1830;
Cheltenham Annales



ROADS and PATHS around HAM.

Rivers ~~~~~

Roads === (Sometimes taking line of former foot-path)

Footpaths

5. ROUTES TO HAM

This small hamlet of Charlton Kings of about 30 houses many of visible antiquity, appears to have had a variety of routes communicating with Charlton Kings.

A possible reason for this lies in the fact of the two brooks practically containing Ham, one or other of which must be crossed to reach the village. The Ham brook could and can still be crossed at intervals by tree-trunk bridges and was possibly so crossed at the dip in Ryeworth road, though later the Charlton Kings Vestry was made responsible for the building of a bridge at this point, obviously constructed for larger traffic.

After that, if one wished to visit the village proper for business or social reasons or for attending St. Mary's church, maybe with a corpse on a wheeled bier, the route down Ryeworth road and Sandhurst road to the ford at Spring Bottom would be practical.

Our present roads have often originated as footpaths (eg Hearne road, School road originally Mill Lane down to the ford) and were made long after the original footways were established. Ryeworth road seems to have been used c.1800 as a main road leading to the steep ascent of Ham Hill, to gain access to towns above the escarpment as a "London" road. At some later time, the winding road through Ham called Mill Lane, with its awkward bends, was diverted to the west up the straighter and better graded Greenway Lane, (surely from its name a promoted footpath?) which shows a toll house building at its north end before turning NE to reach Aggs Hill. It is interesting to note how the widened Green Way overlies the path running from the Hambrook to the top of Battledown and how this same path can be seen, crossed by Ashley road, to descend the hill in the section now called Jacob's Ladder.

Nowadays we come from the direction of the church to the present Spring Bottom bridge by a footway, Church Walk, and continue up to A40 by School Road. Up to comparatively recent years, there was a footway running beside Charlton Mill and through the site of the recently-built house next to the bend of the Chelt, emerging opposite to Sandhurst road. Its entry can be seen, though now blocked. Sandhurst road itself has a small diagonal cut on the right to join with Ryeworth road.

To the south of the Ham, there is now a fine road, Glenfall Way, leading down to the Chelt. Ten years ago this was a very muddy tree-lined track, leading from the junction of the Ryeworth and Ham roads to a field gate and well-marked footpath with a curve West-East, cutting the present road line twice and joining the path called the Ledmores from the A40. This track apparently joined with the present Hearne road.

As a postscript, we must thank the vision of the Surveyor of this new road for a wonderful view of Charlton Kings church, which in earlier days was completely screened by a spreading elm at the field top.

H.M.C. Bennett

6. HAM BRIDGE AND HAM LANE

In 1821-2, the Surveyors of highways in the parish of Charlton Kings paid £10.15.8 out of the rates to John Humphris for work on Ham bridge - oak posts,

elm planking, elm rails, and a coat of white paint to finish the job. This bill proves that Ham was not a bridge maintained by the County, and so was never on a major road.

When we look at the tithe map, it is plain that, at any rate from the Aven and Hambrook Street down to the bridge, the present road has been cut across strips in the common field called the Ryeworth field - it cannot have followed a footpath. In fact, the earliest reference so far found to this road, either as Ryeworth road or as Ham Lane, is in 1778.

The tithe map further suggests that there was formerly a road from Ham Green to Ham mill, which crossed the stream there (possibly on the mill bank) and came out in Greenway Lane above the Aven. That would have been the way to Cheltenham. The "coffin way" or "dead man's way" to Charlton church is said to have been the continuation of the road past Ham House, which went over Ledmore Knoll, up the bank to the Hearne and so into East End road. (2)

- (1) Papers in the vestry, St. Mary's.
- (2) Information from Mr. R. Robinson of Ham Lea

The Surveyors of the Parish of Charlton Kings
 1821
 To John Sumpster
 For work Done at Ham Bridge £ 35 0

Feb 2	To 2 Oak Posts 8 feet long 6 by 6 ft. at 5/-	1 0 0
	To 3 D ^o 6 1/2 feet long 5 1/2 by 5 1/2 ft. at 5/-	1 5 0
	To 11 feet of Nail 7/6	18 11 1/2
	To 16 Elm Pales 8 1/2 by 4 of Nails	5 0 0
	To 1 Oak Piece 8 feet long 8 by 3	6 8
March 15	To 2 Men 2 1/2 Days preparing & putting up	11 6 0
	To 2 Oak Posts 8 feet long 6 1/2 by 5 1/2 ft. at 5/-	1 10 0
	To 1 D ^o 6 1/2 feet long 5 Squire 1 1/2 ft. at 5/-	1 1 8
	To 5 1/2 feet run of Oak Nails 3 by 1 1/2	1 2 6
	To 1 1/2 Bottom rail 8 1/2 feet long 3 by 3	7 0
	To 2 Elm Pales 4 1/2 by 4 of Nails	13 6
	To 2 Men 3 1/2 Day preparing & putting up	11 6
	To 2 D ^o of Nails	0 8
1822	To 1 1/2 of white Paint 11/-	10 1
Feb 20	To 9 D ^o of 2 1/2 by 1 1/2 of 6 1/2 by 1 1/2 of 1 1/2 by 3/4	12 9
		<u>10 15 8</u>

7. THE BOY VISITOR

When I was a boy living in Charlton Kings, I remember a rite or custom associated with New Year's Day that must have been very old and possibly extended back into ancient times. This was quite different from the custom of "First Footing" much used in Scotland (dark men carrying pieces of coal etc being given libations of whiskey, accompanied by good cheer and plenty of merriment, usually very early on New Year's Day; something similar is done in Wales and would seem to be associated with Celtic antiquity.) The purpose of these customs was to bring good luck to the house and its occupants.

The Charlton Kings custom was called The Boy Visitor. He came to "visit" us every New Year's Day (as part of his round of "Visitations") at 1 Lyefield Villas (later "Grayshott", now 70 Copt Elm Road), since my Mother wanted to encourage an old custom. The modus operandi was as follows. On New Year's Day morning, the boy had to stand in the middle of the house or in the hall, and shout at the top of his voice the following words

"Old Year Out, New Year In, Coo-ee!"

He had to enter the house by the back door and leave by the front door, both of which were purposely left ajar. Where the back door was not convenient, he had to climb in through a back window (via a ladder, I remember, in one house that was visited!)

A silver coin was left out for him - usually a two shilling piece (10p) for his "fee". In our case, this was left for him on the hall table, and I remember seeing him take it on several occasions.

The time of the appearance was immaterial as long as it was sometime during New Year's morning. For instance, one year I remember asking at breakfast "Has HE been?" and the answer was "No", and then a few minutes later I heard him walk through the house and shout. Then I heard the front door shut, and when I went to the hall, the silver coin left for him had gone.

Another year, he visited us well after breakfast, somewhere about 11 am. This was when I had started at the University. A year or two afterwards, about 1933, I heard from my Mother that there had been no "Visitation" that year. I heard no more about it thenceforward, so it must have died out about that time.

There may have been two lines shouted before "Old Year Out" but I cannot remember them.

There was a variation of this custom in the village. Very early in the morning, groups of children would go round, shouting the same words through letter boxes, and knocking. In response, the door was opened, a hand containing the coin was thrust out, and the money given to the children. The door was never opened, so the donor and the children never spoke to or recognised one another.

As stated previously, the purpose of the Visitation was to bring good luck for the New Year to the house and its occupants. But this was completely destroyed:-

- a. if the coin were not silver, or if there were more than one
- b. if anything was said by the boy to anybody as he passed through the house, or by any of the occupants accidentally meeting him as he passed

through. Strict silence had to be maintained!

The boy had to be unknown to the household.

The boy had to be small, the smaller the better. Whether he were fair or dark did not matter.

To set the whole operation in motion, my Mother used to drop word in her shopping expeditions to the village that she would like to have her house "Visited" on New Year's Day, and the rest was then worked out secretly. I believe the choir boys at St. Marys, as well as local schoolboys, were involved, they realised they were on to a good thing!

I remember that a Curate at St. Mary's, the Revd. A. Gardiner, was very interested in this "Visitation" ceremony - he thought it had links with practices the Romans performed at the New Year, he had heard of something similar round Cirencester and in the Cotswolds (but not in the Vale or the Forest of Dean which might have indicated a spread from Celtic Wales). I've done a bit of First Footing myself, being dark, but I never heard of any custom like the Charlton Kings one elsewhere, and I think it is a pity it has died out.

John Williams

Comment by Mrs. Bennett - A curate of St. Mary's, the Revd. Parkinson, used to live at 1 Lyefield Villas in the early years of the century. The custom of Visiting that house may have been started by the choirboys in his day.

BUFF BLOWING

This was the local name for the Charlton Kings custom when boys came round very early in the morning, any time between 4.30 and 6 am, before the milk, and chanted their rhyme at the door. The "tune" was a chant, mainly on two notes, somewhat akin to the Cheshire Soul Cake song. They were given money or mincepies or apples, and the older boys sometimes got wine or cider. Mr. George Ryland remembers this version of the words:-

Buff blow
Fare well
God send
Ere well
Every spring
And every spray
Apples and nuts
To give away
On New Year's Day
In the morning
Coo-ee!

The Gloucestershire district of the English Folk Dance and Song Society printed two variants (1), one George Maisey's (died 1978) which wished the householder "A bushell of apples to give away"; and the other Gerry Protherough's (died 1979), in which he was to have "Apples to roast, Nuts to crack, A barrel of cider ready to tap". In both these versions the final shout is given as "Shoo-ee". It is also remembered as "Choo-ee!" At that point in the proceedings, the boys hammered on the door, and if not answered at once would add,

"The Old Year's Out, the New Year's in
Please open the door and let me in. Shoo-ee!"

or more briefly "Old Year out, New Year in, Choo-ee!"

The references to apples and cider would be appropriate in this parish where every farm house and cottage once had its cider apple or perry pear orchard.

(1) Folkwrite 6 and 7, 1979

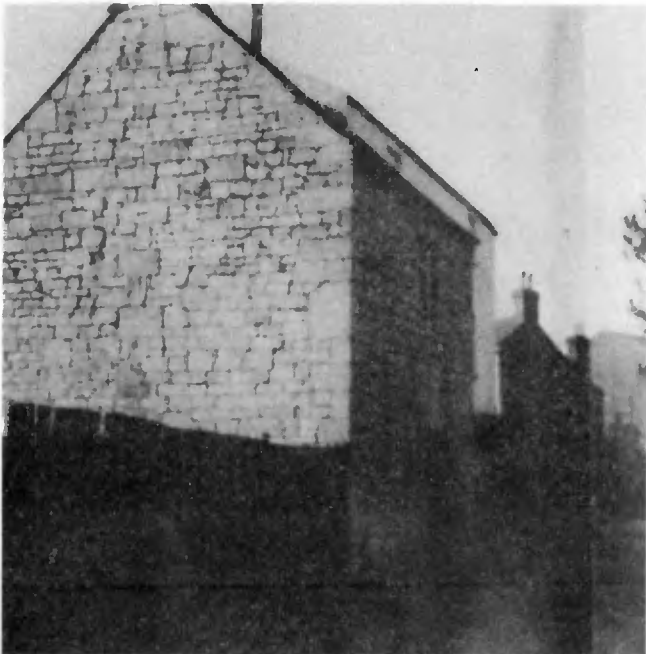
8. EDUCATION IN CHARLTON KINGS - THE SCHOOLS

1. Cooper's Charity School

The earliest school we know about was established under the will of Samuel Cooper of Charlton House, proved on 18 May 1743 (1). He left a freehold pasture called Cutham Butts (purchased of Mrs. Wright) and two closes of pasture called Battledown-est ie east (purchased of Thomas Waite) to four trustees, John Prinn clerk, Robert Gale senior, Edmund Welsh, and Edward Gale, all of Charlton Kings, the income to be used to help the poor and to teach children of the poor. Six were to be taught for two years, and after that their places filled by another six whether the first group had learnt to read or not!

There is reason to think that Cooper's school was established in the stone cottage behind Morris's shop in Church Street. The cottage has a large window on the west side, looking into a yard, but no window at all on to the lane! It would be quite large enough for six children and a mistress.

This is only a hypothesis; but some Charlton residents say their grandmothers were taught at the cottage.



(2) Mill Lane School (2)

The Perpetual Curate of Charlton Kings, the Revd. J.F.S. Gabb, and some other influential householders of the village, (William Bayliss, Samuel Gale, Sir Francis Ford, the Revd. John Tucker, William Meall) became interested in the idea of a "school for poor children" and bought a small piece of ground on Mill Lane (later called School Road).

This site had been bought in 1820 from William Hunt Prinn, lord of the manor, who sold it for £105 to John Powell of Whitehall Yard, London. John Powell's father, Joseph Powell, lived in a small house on part of the half acre, which was bounded on the north by the house and land of Joseph Powell, on the South by a house and land of William Fletcher, on the east by land of Mrs. Lovesy and on the west by other land of Prinn's.

On 7 July 1835, John Powell (now retired to Penrhyn) sold this piece of land to the Revd. James Gabb and his friends, reserving to himself and the occupants of some houses which he had built on part of the site, their approach from the lane by a footway 4 ft wide and 41 ft long to the back of the cottages. All other rights passed to the buyers.

The original body, Gabb, Gale, Ford, Bayliss and Meall (Tucker had moved from Charlton Kings) were joined by others, Smith Mercer, Shapland Swiney, Nathaniel Hartland and Charles Cook Higgs, all of Charlton Kings. Subscriptions were invited for the building of a school and school house for the "education of poor children -- in their religious, social, and moral duties". The school was to be approved by the Perpetual Curate of Charlton Kings and to be supported wholly or chiefly by subscriptions and donations, and managed by the Perpetual Curate and inhabitants who formed themselves into a Trust with power to make contracts and deeds.

The members of the Trust should hold meetings to which the subscribers were to be invited "by post if their residence be known", and donors of £1 or upwards should have the right of one vote for every £1 they had subscribed. A little later, further donations were made (the original list was rather thin!) Mr. Bayliss paid £200, so he was evidently a power in the land.

A new Trust deed took effect on 25 January 1850.

(3) The National School (3)

In 1825 a Sunday School was started in Charlton Kings, and in 1831 this developed into a Weekly School, held at the Poor House in Church Street. The school was at first for boys only, though girls were admitted to the Sunday School which was still run in association with it.

This school got a chance to expand because a more suitable building became available. In 1828 a group of 9 Cheltenham men bought land in Church Piece, on the corner of Grange Walk, for a chapel. It measured 22 ft x 74 ft. But to raise funds for building they had to mortgage, and in 1837 the mortgagee foreclosed. A meeting of parishioners in June 1837 determined to erect or purchase a schoolhouse and raised the £200 required to purchase the chapel, partly from donations, and partly by grants of £50 from the National Society and £10 from the Treasury. So on 12 August 1837 the chapel was conveyed to the Revd. James Frederic Secretan Gabb (the Vicar), William Bayliss, Samuel Gale, and Joseph Cooper Straford, all of Charlton Kings.

The chapel had consisted of a meeting room and vestry. The room, reckoned large enough for 84 boys, measured 25' 7" x 20' 3"; and 63 boys moved in on 18 September 1837. Another room for girls, 18' 9" x 20' 6", was ready by February 1838.

The first trust deed was not drawn up till 18 October 1843, when Gabb, Bayliss, Higgs, and Straford declared the school "to be in union with the said Incorporated National Society". The trustees were empowered to sell the property if directed to do so by a general meeting of subscribers.

The great problem was lack of money for improvements. Some funds must have been raised in 1855, enough to earn a grant from the Committee of the Privy Council; and the room was furnished with parallel desks. A meeting of subscribers on 14 August 1855 decided that the Trust should be reconstituted as a legal charity and adapted to admit the control and inspection of the Government. A new trust deed was signed on 30 October 1855 and enrolled in Chancery on 11 December.

From 1855, the school seems to have been for boys only. The girls appear to have gone to Mill Lane.

4. The New Schools in Mill Lane

On 11 January 1872 (4), the Revd. J.F.S. Gabb wrote to the Charity Commissioners, explaining that "A scheme for the extension of popular Education on the Voluntary principle is on foot in the said Parish, embracing

- a. the purchase of a new site for the National Boys School adjacent to the Mill Lane School and the erection of a New Building for the National Boys School,
- b. The Sale by the Trustees under the Deed of 1855 by direction of a General Meeting of Subscribers of the present Boys School House in Horsefair Street and (with the sanction of the Incorporated National Society) the application of the proceeds to the new School Premises in Mill Lane,
- c. The other Funds for the Building to be supplied by private Donations, Government Grant, and gifts from the Diocesan Association and Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge,
- d. The new School site and Building to be conveyed to the surviving Trustees of the adjacent School Premises held under the Deed of 1850, upon the Trusts of that Deed and not of the Deed of 1855,
- e. The Trusts of the Schools being thus amalgamated, Application to be made to the Charity Commissioners for the Order of Incorporation usually made by them on behalf of National Schools ---"

The new site was on the north side of the footway reserved in the purchase of 1835. The land had belonged to William Fletcher, as part of the garden of the house known as Joyces (Charlton Cottage) on the east side of Trigmerry or Frigmary Lane, the older name of Mill Lane or School Road. By a series of mortgages and sales it had passed into the ownership of James Chidgey, who for £155 sold on 15 March 1871 a plot measuring 198 ft against the footway, 55 ft frontage to the road, and 214 ft on the south side where it adjoined the rest of Chidgey's property. On the east, it went down to the Hearne brook, with land of Hugh Smith Mercer of The Hearne on the far bank of the stream.

The new schools in Mill Lane were erected by a local builder, William Cleevly (5), during 1872. Gas was installed on 9 January 1873 and the schools opened on 15 January 1873, a date commemorated for some years after by a school treat (6). The playgrounds were not ready for another six months - between March and June work was going on to level and extend the school yards and put in drainage. Samuel Barnett charged the Trustees £14.15.7 for this and for "filling up the Old ally with the spare dirt and putting gravel on the ally, raking and rowling yards"

Although the schools were now managed by the same trustees under like Trusts, the Girls and Infants' school (on the north of the footway) and the Boys' school (on the south) were still treated as separate, with separate accounts and reports.

The Horsefair School was sold in 1878 to Henry James of Charlton Kings, a builder, for £60 (consent to the sale having been given by the Secretary of State, Home Department, on 18 April 1877). James built two cottages on the site and they were ready for sale to Elizabeth Baker by 31 July 1879; in 1974 they were demolished to make way for the car park.

5. The Board School

Again and again in his Parish Magazines, the Revd. Leslie Dundas, Gabb's successor, warned his parishioners that unless they were prepared to contribute more generously to the upkeep of the Schools, a School Board and School Rate would be foisted upon them. This prediction was fulfilled in 1883-4; the draft deed of transfer was approved on 26 November 1883 after a brief period when (since subscribers would no longer pay up and there was no money for current expenses) the Schools were actually closed (7).

By 1884, however, the Schools built in 1872 were becoming inadequate. In 1891 there is a conveyance (8) of more land to the Trustees from Anthony Peacey of Mill Lane wood dealer. We are practically in modern times. The land is no longer described solely through its neighbours but is referred to as "Land Certificate No 423 of the Land Registry". It was a piece of land 1 rood 31 perches, bounded on the north by a plot bought 'lately' by Mary Amelia Mills, on the south by a piece bought by Randall, on the east fronting Mill Lane with a frontage of 131 ft 9 inches, on the west by land lately bought by the Trustees of the Working Mens Club. On this land, a new Boys School was built. The former Boys School became the Girls School, leaving the rest for the Infants.

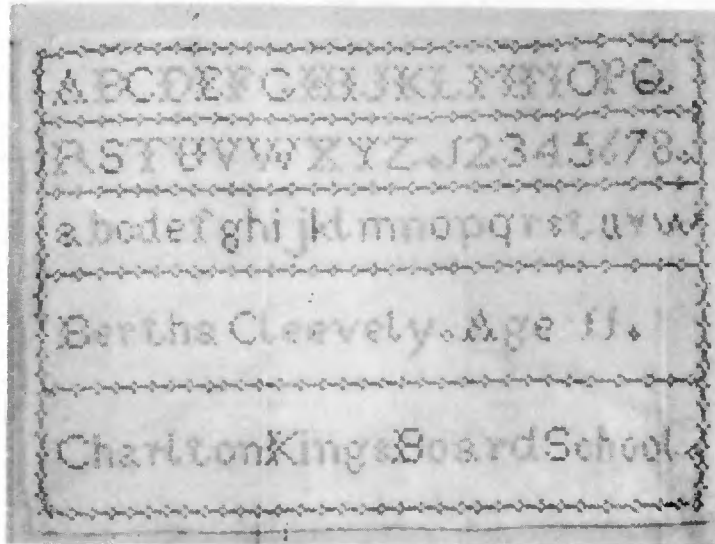
This arrangement continued until the present Schools were built at East End; and the Boys School of 1891 is still in use as the Infants School (9). The old Infant School is once again the site of a house, and the old Girls School survives as St Mary's School Road Hall.

6. Higgs' Night School (10)

In 1855, the Horsefair Street school committee considered the question of a night school, without coming to any decision. Such a school was eventually established by Samuel Cook Higgs, who built East End Hall and a master's cottage on his own land, a field called Great Breach. This school seems to have been operating before the formal trust deed of 13 November 1880.

For some Charlton children, the instruction they got at the Night School was all the education they ever had.

THE WORK OF ONE CHARLTON KINGS PUPIL ~ Bertha Cleevely



From the original in possession of Mrs and Miss Bick



"BOSS" FRY, Headmaster of the Boys' School and Master of the Night School from 1897. From a group photograph taken c.1923-4, lent by G. Ryland (see Bulletin I)

The school was open from November to April between the hours of 7 and 9 each night except Saturday and Sunday, to give children or adults instruction in religious and useful knowledge, reading, writing, and arithmetic. Boys under 16 paid 3d a week and those over 16 paid 6d, but there was a scheme whereby punctual and regular attendance earned a bonus of half the fees at the end of the session and books to the value of the other half.

From 1882, the day school master Mr. Folley was paid £20 the half year to teach at the Night School, so the adjoining cottage was not needed for a master and was let. The rest of the income came from the land (9 acres) let out as allotments.

Education was made compulsory in 1880. By 1894 attendance at Night School had dropped from 18 to 7, and in 1897 the trustees decided to introduce some advanced subjects, giving the new Master Mr. Fry "power to make such changes in the system and subjects taught as he may think desirable for the success of the school". Numbers rose dramatically; in 1903 the General Class (Reading, Writing, Mathematics and Grammar) attracted 39 scholars, Drawing 47, Shorthand 24 and French 10. The Hall was not big enough. The trustees decided to work the school in conjunction with Grammar School evening classes and move the venue to the Boys' School or the Grammar School. On 1 August 1905 the East End Hall was let to Mr. R.W. Edwards "for the purpose of a lads' reading room and Club at the yearly rental of £2.10.0, the tenant paying all rates and taxes and keeping the building in good repair". This club occupied the hall until September 1914, when it was immediately re-let to Charlton Kings Scouts and St Mary's Lads Club jointly. It has continued to be the Scout Headquarters and was sold to the Scouts in 1954.

H.M.C. Bennett and M. Paget

- (1) Ashley manor will book I no 27. GRO D 109/
- (2) Deeds and papers relating to Charlton Kings Schools, GRO DC/E 14/1/2-3
- (3) "Book of Proceedings" 1831-1855, by kind permission of the Headmaster, Charlton Kings Junior School; title deeds for the Horsefair Street site (now part of the car park) held by Cheltenham Borough, and chapel insurance policy (Royal Exchange).
- (4) Papers in St. Mary's Vestry; deeds GRO DC/E 14/1/2-3, and title deeds of 16 School Road.
- (5) Information from his grand-daughter Miss Bick.
- (6) The custom is mentioned Parish Magazine February 1877, and the separate accounts and reports for the schools were printed in the Magazine yearly
- (7) Vestry papers.
- (8) GRO DC/E 14/1/2-3
- (9) With much extended playground -
The parallel desks bought in 1855 may have been the ones (with iron supports stamped National School) which were discarded in 1919, found their way into the ownership of the short-lived Charlton Kings Tennis Club, and so ended up in the field of Glynrosa, which the Club rented!
- (10) Records of Higgs' Night School, especially copy of trust deed and Trustees' minute book 1882-1957.

9. THE "BOOK OF PROCEEDINGS" - A STUDY OF EDUCATION IN THE HORSEFAIR STREET SCHOOL 1831-1855

The first Sunday School in Charlton Kings began in 1825. Robert Raikes had founded his first school in Gloucester in 1780, so it appears that it took 45 years for the idea to travel some twelve miles! Not a rapid rate of progress. Those early Sunday Schools, of course, instructed their pupils in the Faith, but they also taught reading, so that the children could read Holy Scripture for themselves. The Bible was, normally, the only text book, and there are references to special 'large type' Bibles being printed for the purpose. The use of the Bible as a primer for small children was nothing uncommon - a letter from Mrs Wesley to her son Charles makes it clear that she taught all her children to read from it, using the 'look and say' method.

Sundays were chosen for instruction because on any other day, many of the children would be at work. There was as yet no minimum age and no maximum hours for child labour, and when these were introduced, they applied only to textile mills.

In 1831, it was decided to add 'weekday instruction for boys who attended Sunday School if their parents desired it. This school met in the Poor House. The parents were to pay a penny a week for each child, and for this he was to be taught to read. If the parents wished him to learn to write, that was an extra penny, and so it was if they wished him to learn arithmetic. How many did learn these extra subjects we do not know, but certainly in the mid-19th century, many people could read who had never learnt to write or cypher, and too much education for the working classes was considered dangerous - it might make them discontented!

The rules and regulations for this first school survive. "The Master is to set a pious and good example, to be regular in observing School Hours, to abstain altogether from Public Houses, gambling etc, and to have a careful regard to the Children's conduct out of School. To make and keep the School Books in a correct, neat, and clear order. To collect Subscriptions, aided (if necessary) by the Mistress. To receive at the rate of One Penny per week for each Scholar (besides the Sunday pay) from the Visiter (sic), to be reckoned according to the ratio of attendance. To receive from each Child's parents One penny per week and One penny additional for writing and arithmetic".

The master was certainly in no danger of being over-paid. At that time the school was for boys only, but the mention of a mistress suggests the trustees were looking forward to adding girls to the establishment when there was accommodation. It is possible that she helped in Sunday School, where, presumably, girls were admitted.

The rules next deal with school hours. "Children must attend regularly and punctually." Regular attendance was always a problem in schools of this date, and for many years afterwards, as school log books often show. There was a great temptation to keep the elder children at home when extra help was needed, particularly at hay-making and harvest. The children are to be "clean-washed, combed, and with clothes well mended". Obviously, since these are, by definition poor children, no one is so hopeful as to expect anything other than well-worn and patched clothes.

The hours were "From Nine to Twelve O'Clock in the Morning and from Two to Five in the afternoon, between Lady Day and Michaelmas, and from half past One to Four in the evening between Michaelmas and Ladyday. On Sunday at Nine in

the Morning and at Two in the afternoon". The change in time-table from summer to winter is a reminder that there was no artificial light in the school except candles. Those are long school hours, particularly when it is remembered that these are young pupils. It is most unlikely that more than a very few were over the age of ten. The reason for this concentration of effort is that the school life of the pupils was so short. Few were at school for more than two years.

"A Register is daily kept of all children present and absent, whether with leave or without; also a cash Book of weekly payments. If any child be absent for a whole Week, or the Parents fail to pay weekly on the Day appointed, such Child will be suspended or dismissed". This provision is less harsh than it sounds, for the next paragraph makes it clear that cases of sickness or accident, if notified to the Master or Mistress, did not fall under the ban, "and any reasonable leave of absence at the request of a Parent will be granted. No Child shall be admitted into the School, nor dismissed from it, except by the acting Visiter (sic). It is particularly expected, that no Parent will take a Child away without giving notice to the Visiter and acknowledging the Benefits received". One wonders what form that acknowledgement was expected to take. It could hardly be in writing.

"If a Parent has found cause for complaint, or is dissatisfied with a Child's treatment or progress, it is highly desirable, that the Visiter may be made acquainted with the cause of offence, in order, that if he think it just, means may be taken to have the fault amended; or, if not, that he may at least obtain the benefit of so much experience".

Nowadays, it is frequently assumed that a school has no responsibility for its pupils out of school hours. This school certainly held no such view. "Disobedience and Immorality (such as bad words, lying, cheating, stealing, or wilful trespass and mischief) at all times, and playing at football, or any other noisy, and riotous game, on a Sunday, will be punished in School; and if persisted in, such Child will be expelled. Parents are desired to instruct their Children to come and go, to and from School, in a quiet and orderly manner - to treat every body but especially their bettors, with respect - and in short, as these Rules throughout have no other object in view than the temporal and eternal welfare of their own offspring, it is hoped they will have then strictly observed". It will be seen that "temporal and eternal welfare" in this context are clearly allied to sober conduct and respect for the existing order of society. It is said, in another context, that when a boy asked "Please, Sir, who are my betters?" he got the brief answer "Everyone".

This was a "one teacher" school. That is, one master faced the task of teaching all ages and classes, at the same time in the same room. Anyone who has tried to do this, knows how difficult it is, though many such schools continued into living memory, and very good results some of them had. In March 1831 there was an effort to overcome the problem by appointing twelve monitors, who were to receive extra instructions every Saturday morning from ten to eleven o'clock, and who would then attempt to pass on what they had learnt to small groups of pupils given into their care. It was a system of instruction much favoured at the time, and one of its organisers, Mr. Lancaster, claimed that by using it one master could instruct 1000 pupils. Naturally, such instruction was mere rote learning but it probably worked after a fashion. A full and very amusing account of this system may be found in The Bleak Age by Mr and Mrs. Hammond.

Our first monitors were

1. George Clapton
2. Joseph Page
3. Robert Hamlett
4. William Harris
5. William Moulder
6. John Moss
7. William Greening
8. John Wilks
9. George Wilson
10. Thomas Cleevely
11. William Timbrell
12. Henry Bond

Thomas Stait appears as reserve.

Masters did not stay long in Charlton Kings. William Dyke was the first Master and he resigned on Sunday 18 September 1831. On his resignation, John Harford Jarman of Eye, Herefordshire, was appointed. He was very well recommended, but he resigned in the following March and went to Bishop's Castle, Salop. This was nearer his home and the school was at that date housed in a small stone building which was at least purpose-built. Next James Bradley of Titley was appointed on the recommendation of Lady Coffin Greenly.

The annual account dated 28 April 1832 shows that £83.19.7½ had been received, £80.12.2½ had been spent, which left a balance of £3.7.5. Between Easter 1831 and Easter 1832, 40 boys had been admitted, and 15 had left the school. There were 91 boys in school altogether, 23 of whom were Sunday Scholars only, 68, Weekly Scholars. There were 80 girls attending Sunday School, but as yet, no other provision had been made for them.

The really big development in the history of this school was the opening of the new schoolroom for boys in Horsefair Street on 18 September 1837. There were 63 on the books, and the Master was John Bennett. He received a salary, paid weekly, of £25 per annum, in addition to the children's pence, 1d a week each for general instruction, 2d extra for writing and arithmetic. The Master was authorised to procure and sell copybooks to the children. Pens and ink were provided by the treasurer. By February 1838 a schoolroom for the girls had been added, though it will be noticed that the charges for them were double those for boys, 2d a week for reading and 4d for the extras, an odd piece of sex discrimination.

We have a considerable amount of information about this school because of a return to an official questionnaire, made on 6 August 1838. The school was well-built of brick, dry, airy, and well-ventilated, but "The School-House sounds very much, Probably from it having a flat ceiling". There was accommodation for 84 boys and 58 girls. The boys' room was 14 ft high, 25 ft 7 ins long, and 20 ft 3 ins broad. The girls' room was the same height, 18 ft 9 ins long, and 20 ft 6 ins broad. There were no other class-rooms. There was no play-ground, but the whole premises were fenced in, with room for coal, wood, and other necessary offices (ie earth closets).

The average number of pupils on the books was 70 boys and 56 girls, and the average daily attendance about 55 boys and 25 girls. The Master was 27, and the Mistress, Caroline Freeman, was 19. They had both been trained for their posts - four weeks at the National School, Cheltenham. The question "what Schoolmaster's Manual or other book do you consider most useful for the Guidance or assistance of the School-Master in his duties?" was left unanswered! Both were employed full-time and did no other work. The Master received a

fixed salary of £25 and the boys' pence - about £50 a year. The Mistress received a fixed salary of £10, made up to £28 from girls' pence and other sources. Money for the school was raised by subscriptions and by a yearly sermon.

No dwelling-house was provided, but coals and candles were found for the school. No rewards were paid to monitors, although in many schools of the period monitors did receive 1d or 2d a week. As this was not a charity foundation, no clothes or shoes were given to the children. £2.19.11 had been spent in fitting up the school-room, £2.17.5 for stationary, slates and pens, and £2.16.3 for fuel and lighting. The total, £8.13.7 does not seem excessive for the running costs of a school this size, but even this sum is said to be above average.

The school taught Reading, using as its only text books The Bible, Mrs Trimmer's abridgement of the Bible (discourses, miracles, parables) published by the SPCK (undoubtedly these books were used in the Sunday School also); Writing (running hand); Arithmetic as far as practice; Geography using Pinnock's Catechism which I believe begins "What is an island? An island is a piece of land entirely surrounded by water" - these answers were, of course, learnt by heart - in addition to Pinnock, the school possessed three maps, of Palestine, England, and Gloucestershire (this was rather advanced!); History - the history of England, no book mentioned) and Paul's Voyages (which well taught are exciting enough). No "Works of Industry" were taught to boys, but girls learnt "writing, marking, and plain sewing" - the writing, presumably, to enable them to stitch identifying marks on linen.

There was no lending library attached to the school.

The rapid change of Master^s continued. On 3 September 1840 George Saxton was appointed as successor to Bennett, with a salary, paid monthly, of £22 a year (£3 less than Bennett so perhaps he was untrained) and the childrens' pence which were to be made up to £16 a year from the general fund if they fell short, if not, the Master gained, an inducement to him to be efficient so that parents would wish their children to attend this school for there was another in Mill Lane, Charlton Kings.

About ten years later, Mr Perry was receiving a salary of £42 and all pence over £12; and when he left on April 1853, he was given a present of £3.2.7 in acknowledgement of his services. It appears that under his rule the school had done well, with an average weekly attendance of 49, a larger number than had attended for many years, and the normal discipline had been greatly improved. There had been a falling off, it would seem, during the 1840s.

By 28 March 1854, the school had a pupil teacher about to take his examination and the trustees were afraid he might not be continued to the School. A pupil teacher was a young man who was apprenticed to the school master as a youth might be apprenticed to any other craft. In the days before Teacher Training Colleges, this was the best way open for training and the system continued for a very long while. Those who survived it often made excellent teachers. The school was examined in April 1854 by an H.M.I. Mr Bellairs, who reported that the school had improved since his last visit (of which there is no note) and the Managers "had every reason to believe that the result on the occasion of the examination of the lad who was apprenticed to the Master as pupil teacher will also prove satisfactorily. This will not only be a credit to the School but enable both Master and Pupil to receive rewards allowed by Government". These rewards were only a matter of a few pounds, but in those days they were a considerable addition to the very low salaries.

In the same minute, it is noted that the use of monitors had lately been introduced. In fact it was a re-introduction, as we have seen they had been used in the very early days of the school. The scheme was said to be working well; but the Managers were hampered by lack of funds and therefore "earnestly solicit increased support from their fellow Parishioners". It seems this school at that date received no government grant, although such grants were made to the National Society.

In 1855, improvements were made to the school which was furnished with parallel desks which "much facilitate the preservation of good order and effective teaching". It is possible that before this, the children sat on benches. The desks were bought with the aid of the "Committee of Council" (The Committee of the Privy Council for Education).

By August 1855 negotiations had begun to "consider the reconstitution of the Trust as a legal Charity and the adaption of the Trust to admit the control and inspection of the Government and the renewal of the Trustees".

It will be seen from the foregoing account that far more attention was paid to the education of boys than of girls. This was probably because of the demands of future employment. Most girls at that date would go into domestic service and it did not matter greatly if they were literate or not. But many boys would hope to be employed in shops and small-scale manufacturing, in which case the ability to read, write, and do basic arithmetic was greatly to be desired.

J. Paget

11. GROWING UP IN CHARLTON KINGS IN THE 1900s.

Father came from Leamington Hastings. He left school at 11 and for some years worked on the land, at a big house. Then he told his mother he was going to look in the paper for a job away. His mother said "Yes, and you'll be back!" but he never went back but once. He got a job as a porter at Cheltenham General Hospital.

One day he saw several girls who worked there, as they went through a door, and said to himself, "That last one is the girl I'd like to marry!". She was Beatrice Turner from Charlton Kings, a ward-maid. But at the Hospital they weren't allowed to have "followers", and she wouldn't agree to meet him secretly. So after a bit she decided to leave, and went to Mrs Bagnold at Bafford House - and it was "no followers" there too! - but she could meet him at her home. He left the Hospital and got a job with Cyphers the big nurserymen in the Lansdown Road. (He worked for them 40 years altogether - he was there 20 years; then he went on his own, working for various big houses on Cleeve Hill and Battledown, including Lord Kinsale's, and at Dr Howell's in Imperial Square, and at Mrs Grundy's; afterwards he went back to Cyphers). Father and Mother were married when she was 26 and he was earning 15s a week.

I was the only child, and so Mother would never let me out of her sight, even to go round to see the grandparents, who lived in Elm Cottage just behind us, Church Street. But there was a ladder on each side of the dividing wall and I used to climb over to go to my grandfather because I was fond of him; and after grandmother died, we moved into that house behind us.

Father and Mother were great readers, they used to read to each other in the evenings while I played with my doll or looked at a book. I never had a proper doll's pram and I only had a little doll - then, when I was almost too old to use them, I was given two dolls, one a very big one with curly hair, and I used

SCHOOL GROUPS AT CHARLTON KINGS



Mixed Infants



and Girls, with Miss Emily Statham and Miss Daniels.
Annie Hopkins is the end child on the second row.

my own baby pram to push them in. I used to play with the flower pots, making sand pies. All the children had big wooden hoops in those days.

Miss Roberts was the Infants' Governess, and Miss Daniells the Mistress. In the Girls' School there was the one big room and one classroom, and a separate playground - we weren't Mixed after the infants - the Boys were across the road. We started school each day with prayers and hymn and Bible reading. then we had reading, writing, arithmetic, singing (songs like John Peel or The Cuckoo is a Pretty Bird), sewing and knitting. I don't remember any geography. We had slates when I first went to school. At playtime we used to play hopscotch or skipping (alone or with several others) or marbles or tops or tug-of-war.

At school we had to wear black stockings and button-up boots, and pinafores over our frocks. We made the pinafores ourselves in school. Two of the girls were sent to get the material for the pinafores at Scotland House, a draper's shop by Hales Road, now pulled down. I used to take my school pinny off when I got home - I had made myself one at home, a pretty one! I had to wear my hair in plaits on weekdays, but loose on Sundays - wasn't I pleased when Sunday came to have it loose! It was very long, I could sit on it.

We didn't have any homework.

One day in school Dolly Daniells, Miss Daniell's niece (there were two Dolly Daniells in the same school) ran me round the room with the blackboard dish-cloth and I caught her, and then Miss Daniells caught me, and she didn't say anything to Dolly but stood me in the corner. The Vicar, Mr Hodson, came in and when he went out again, I opened the door for him and he said "thank you". After he had gone, Miss Daniells said "You were put to stand in the corner, not to open the door!"

At that time Miss Daniells lived with her mother in Buckles Row, in the first or second house.

We had lessons on the mandolin from Miss Daniells. And we did cooking up in St. Clair Ford Hall when I was a big girl, almost ready to leave. In the evenings some of us went up to Miss Emma Smith, who lived in the big house up Balcarras Lane, and had lessons in wood-carving. She had the chisels etc. She was a teacher in the Sunday School and her sister too.

In the holidays I used to go to a cousin's house at Woodmancote and walked the 2½ miles along the Woodmancote Lane from Southam. I would only go on condition I came back on Saturday night to go to Sunday School next morning. I loved it. Every Saturday night, Father would say to me "What have you got to learn?" and I had to say the collect or catechism to him and had to know it. When it came to Confirmation classes and I went to the Vicar to be questioned, he didn't know what to ask me! he had given me a book for answering in church. The Sunday School met in the Girls' School. I was in Miss Heberden's class and was so fond of her, I wouldn't go up to Miss Emma Smith's Bible class, but stopped with Miss Heberden till they made me a teacher. There were classes for the Sunday School teachers. Miss Rosa Hay and Miss Brenda taught in the Sunday School too.

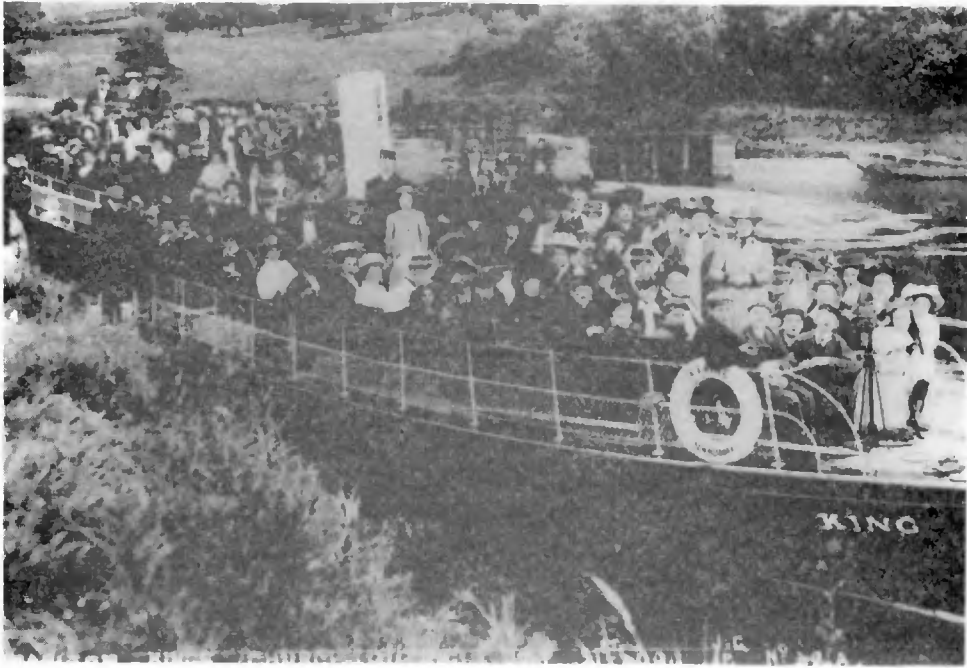
Every year there was a Sunday School treat, going round the village with a band, the little ones in farm carts and the older ones walking. We used to finish up on Horace Edwards' ground behind Herbert Villa (Orchard House) where he had swings and roundabouts etc; and when he sold them, we went once to Bishop's Cleeve. And we had outings in brakes up the country - we went to Oddington once, where Miss Heberden came from. Another time there was an outing on the Thames with Mr Neale.



THE MANDOLIN GROUP



FETE AT THE LILLYBROOK
Father won a prize.



CHURCH OUTING ON THE THAMES 21 JULY 1909



"KINGS MESSENGERS" PAGEANT AT THE GRANGE

While I was at school I had everything that was going - diphtheria when 10 - I went into Hospital a week before Christmas and Elsie after me and then Hilda White, daughter of Mrs Annie White. Once Mother took me to Dr Richard Davies with a temperature of 105° - he told me to take a taxi and go straight home to bed, but I didn't - Mother went to the chemist to collect the perscription (no chemist in Charlton Kings in those days!), and I went home by tram and had to hang on to the church railings all along Church Street to get home. I had pneumonia. When I was getting better, Miss Heberden came every day to read a chapter of the Bible to me. She was nice - no wonder I wanted to stop in her class and wouldn't go into Miss Smith's. (When Miss Heberden left Charlton Kings and went to live in Prestbury, I did a crocheted cloth for her which in her last illness she used for Communion).

A lady in Charlton Lane, Mrs Hine, once gave Mother and me a library ticket for a year. And I used to play draughts with Father.

At 13 or 14 I was confirmed and at 14 I left school.

After I left school, I was allowed to go with Mother to the parish Conversaciones we used to have at St Clair Ford Hall in the big upstairs room. An evening affair, with best dresses - really nice. It happened in October, in Dedication Week. The ladies of the parish had their own tables and provided their own food and we didn't pay anything and didn't take anything, and there was an entertainment after. Mother and I always used to try to get on Mrs Bagnold's table. Mrs Bagnold and Mrs McLaren had one table; Mrs Vassar-Smith and Miss Vassar-Smith another; then Mrs and Miss Heberden; the two Miss Smiths; Mrs Lord and her daughter; the two Miss Hays; Mrs and Miss Bullock; the Dobells; Miss Wilson and another lady who lived together in Lyefield Road; Mrs Painter who lived in the London Road; and I think Mrs and Miss Willis. They all had to be ladies. These Conversaciones happened during Mr Neale's time - perhaps in Mr Hodson's too but I wasn't old enough to go then.

In those days the Church had its Guilds - St Mary's, St. George's, the Holy Name etc. The Vicar used to take them. They met once a month in Church and had special lessons on the Church and the Bible. I belonged to the King's Messengers - we met at the Grange with Miss Heberden every fortnight, on a Tuesday I think. If it was fine, we had a picnic; and if wet, we met in the coach-house. The King's Messengers had big pageants in the Grange garden for Missions - in one I was a maid, and Louie Knight a nurse.

Later I joined the Girls' Friendly Society which Mrs Fry ran - a GFS caravan came once to the recreation ground in Lyefield Road (now part of the school playground). I had nice holidays with the GFS, shouldn't have gone to half the places I did if it hadn't been for the GFS.

Aged 14 - School Leaver



A. Hopkins

12. A PARISH FETE IN THE GROUNDS OF HERBERT VILLA, 1904



Miss Wilkins' photograph

12. "THROUGH THE LOOKING-GLASS" HOUSE - HETTON LAWN, LEWIS CARROLL, AND THE LIDDELL FAMILY

1. It has long been thought that a visit to Charlton Kings stimulated Lewis Carroll's imagination, that a mirror over the mantelpiece at Hetton Lawn was the original Looking-Glass, that during a walk to Leckhampton Hill, Carroll and the children looked down on the chequerboard fields of Looking-Glass land, while a visit to a conjuror suggested the dream-like transformation of the story. Of course nearly every Victorian house had its pier glass over the drawing room fireplace and the view from almost every hill would have included a patchwork of fields. Buy why not accept the conclusion reached by Anne Clark in her hew biography of Lewis Carroll (1), that Charlton Kings did help to produce the beloved masterpiece? She writes "In April (1863) Dodgson was invited to call on the Liddells at Hetton Lawn, Charlton Kings, where they were staying with their grandmother. Although he took a room at the Belle View Hotel, Cheltenham for the duration of his four-day visit, Dodgson spent nearly all his time with the children and Miss Prickett, joining the entire family on excursions and taking most of his meals at Hetton Lawn. It was Easter week, and life was very quiet in Cheltenham, but the Cheltenham Looker-On advertised the 'wonderful tricks and sleight of hand' of Herr Dobler, the famous Viennese magician; 'As there are no other entertainments provided for the amusement of the good people of Cheltenham in the Easter Week' the article ran, 'they will, doubtless, be glad enough to avail themselves of the opportunity to be afforded them of visiting Herr Dobler's "Enchanted Palace of Illusions".' Dodgson, always fascinated by conjurors, attended a performance with the children and the rest of the house party. These were magical days for him and the three little girls (Lorina, Edith, and Alice), and it can hardly be doubted that his stories were as much in demand as ever. Perhaps some of them later grew into episodes in Through the Looking-Glass. Indeed, the house at Hetton Lawn had a special significance, for it possessed a mirror, still in existence, over the mantelpiece, identical to that portrayed by Tenniel in Through the Looking-Glass. Dodgson

reported that the children were in the wildest spirits, and this doubtless helped to fire his creative genius".

The name Hetton Lawn was given to the house by Henry George Liddell, Alice's grandfather, in 1862. It had been called Bolton House or Bolton Cottage.

2. The following account of Henry George Liddell has been written for the Society by Peter Russell Sword of Gateshead, who is researching on him.

Henry George Liddell was born on 22 July 1787 at Ravensworth Castle near Gateshead. He was the son of Sir Henry George Liddell Bt, and so was born into an ancient and illustrious family. It was a family that was deeply involved in coal and railways in the North East of England. In the 19th century it was a firmly established tradition that the first wagonway and second steam-engine to be used in the North East belonged to the Liddell family. According to Charles E. Lee in Archaeologia Aeliana, it is very likely that the Liddells built the first wagonway leading to the River Tyne and the first in County Durham. Henry George Liddell's brother, Sir Thomas Henry Liddell, financed George Stephenson in his project to build the "Blucher", his first locomotive.

On 16 December 1805, Henry George Liddell matriculated to Brasenose College, Oxford, aged 18. In 1809 he gained his BA degree in Literae Humaniores (a four year course). On 20 November 1809 he married Charlotte Lyon at Houghton-le-Spring, by licence. Charlotte Lyon was the 4th daughter of Thomas Lyon, brother of the 9th Earl of Strathmore; she came from Hetton House, Hetton-le-Hole co Durham. Charlotte's uncle, the 9th Earl of Strathmore, married Eleanor Bowes of Gibside co Durham, thus forming the Bowes-Lyon family.

Henry George and Charlotte Liddell moved into Binchester Hall, a gift from her father Thomas Lyon, who had married Elizabeth Wren of Binchester Hall. In 1810 Henry became deacon at St. Andrews, Southchurch, Bishop Auckland. From this time onwards, his incumbencies are as follows:- 1811-1814 Redmarshall near Stockton co Durham; 1814-1829 Boldon; 1829-1832 St Mary the Virgin, Whickham co Durham; 1832-1862 Easington co Durham. From 1824-1828 he was rector of Romalldkirk, Yorkshire, a Strathmore patronage.

Liddell had six children, Henry George born 6 February 1811, Thomas born 1812, Charles born June 1813, Amelia Frances baptised 28 February 1818, Harriet Susan baptised 25 October 1819, William Wren baptised 13 November 1823.

William Wren Liddell was vicar of South Cerney 1862-1870 and rector of Cowley. He ministered a great deal in his father's place at Easington up till 1862. Liddell's eldest son Henry George went to Charterhouse and Christ Church, Oxford. He was co-author with Dr. Robert Scott of the famous Lexicon. and in 1855 he became Dean of Christ Church. His daughters Alice, Lorina, and Edith, went with Duckworth and Dodgson up to Godstow on 4 July 1862, and Alice Pleasance Liddell is "Alice" in Alice in Wonderland.

The Revd. Henry George Liddell retired to Hetton Lawn in 1862. Dean Liddell and his family used to spend Christmas at Hetton Lawn - his biographer Thompson says "After Christmas day, the whole family were accustomed so long as his father was alive to go down to the grandparents' home at Charlton Kings" Alice married Reginald Gervais Hargreaves on 15 September 1880 in Westminster Abbey. They lived in Cuffnells near Lyndhurst, Hampshire. She died in Westerham co Kent 16 November 1934 aged 82.

Henry's wife Charlotte Liddell was buried at St. Mary's 3 February 1871. His daughter Amelia Frances was buried there 30 June 1899.

3. The will of Henry George Liddell clerk in Holy Orders, of Charlton Kings, was copied into Ashley manor will book 2 page 109. It was undated but was in fact executed on 22 November 1871; letters of administration with the will annexed were granted at the District Probate Registry, Gloucester, on 17 May 1873. Liddell died on 9 March 1872.

He confirmed the settlement on his marriage, any gifts in the will to be independent of the settlement. He then left to his son Henry George Liddell, Dean of Christ Church, £10,000, to his son Charles Liddell of Peasmarsh Place, Sussex £7000, to his son William Wren Liddell, rector of Cowley, £2000. All his real property, Hetton Lawn (formerly Bolton House) with land, Ashley House, and a house a little lower down Cudnall Street "which I built on the site of the Wesleyan Meeting House" he devised to his 3 sons absolutely. He left to his daughters Charlotte Mary Elizabeth Liddell and Amelia Liddell annuities of £300 each, Charlotte to receive the whole £600 should she survive her sister, but Amelia if the survivor to be maintained by her brothers; to his daughter-in-law Lovina wife of Henry George Liddell, £1000; to his grandson Edward Henry Liddell, eldest son of Henry George Liddell, £1000, and to the 7 younger children, Livina, Alice, Edith, Rhoda, Violette, Erica, and Lionell, £300 each; to his daughter-in-law Marion wife of Charles Liddell, £1000; to his grandson Charles Lyon Liddell £1000; to his godson John Fellows £50; to his faithful and attentive servants George Newman and James Payne, £100 and £80, and to his excellent servant Sarah Johnson £80; to John Watson of Easington his former gardener and Henry Watson his son, the testator's godson, £10 each.

After gifts to charities and disposal of furniture, horses, and carriages, the remainder of his property was to be divided into 6 shares for his sons, Henry to take 3, William 2, Charles 1. Funeral expenses were not to exceed £60.

The will was witnessed by F.H. Potter and C.C. Higgs. No executor was appointed, and administration was granted to the eldest son.

4. What do we know about the house which Liddell re-named Hetton Lawn? It was a copyhold messuage, held from the late 17th century by the White family, yeomen of moderate standing, who had a house lying butt-end to the road and facing west, with a home close, and land in Ryeworth and on Cudnall Bank. An acre of garden and orchard on the east side of the house was added about 1696.

The last of the Whites was Ann, who claimed her father's holding in 1765. She married John Wood and the property was settled on her heirs in 1773; but the Woods had to borrow money from William Bolton (or Boulton) and finally on 23 March 1785 the mortgagee with their consent surrendered to use of himself. He paid them £177 in addition to the principal due, and for this bought house, garden, orchard, home close, cherry orchard, 2 pieces of arable in Millfurlong, and arable on Cudnall Bank. The Woods retained the arable in Ryeworth, and the heriot payable on the transfer was reduced from £1.6.10½ to 15s 10d.

On Thomas Billings' plan of the turnpike road from Cheltenham to Withington

made in 1798, (3) Bolton's house is still shown as a single block, with what appears to be a stable yard and buildings on the east. Bolton had sold the cherry orchard to his neighbour John Gale, and the arable to Charles Higgs, retaining only the house, garden, and home close for himself. In 1788 he had mortgaged the property for £200. Bolton's widow (occupier in 1798, according to Billings) and daughters added the cross block shown on Mitchell's map of 1806.

According to the custom of Ashley manor, the eldest daughter Elizabeth was sole customary heir, but in 1801 she and her mother joined to surrender to use of all three daughters as tenants in common. The property was still subject to mortgages. Sarah, one of the sisters married twice, having by her first marriage two sons, William Bolton Herbert (a schoolmaster) and John Herbert. It seems to have been W.B. Herbert, who rebuilt Ashley House across the road as a school, putting in gothick windows (one of which survives); he was owner and occupier of it in 1858 (4), while his mother Sarah owned and with her second husband Joseph Hughes then occupied Bolton Cottage, still from its rateable value quite a small house.

The present rusticated stonework exterior and most of the house as it stands, besides the wing that has been pulled down, was the work of Liddell when he bought the property in 1862, and it is very likely that he employed the architect Henry Middleton, who had recently set up in Cheltenham. Little is known about Middleton's antecedents, but he came from the North, and that might recommend him. Middleton used rusticated stone for many of his buildings, the Ladies' College and Holy Apostles' church, to name only two. Unfortunately, the firm's books do not start till 1868, too late to throw any light on the building of Hetton Lawn, though Middleton's successors did minor work in the house in 1907 (5).

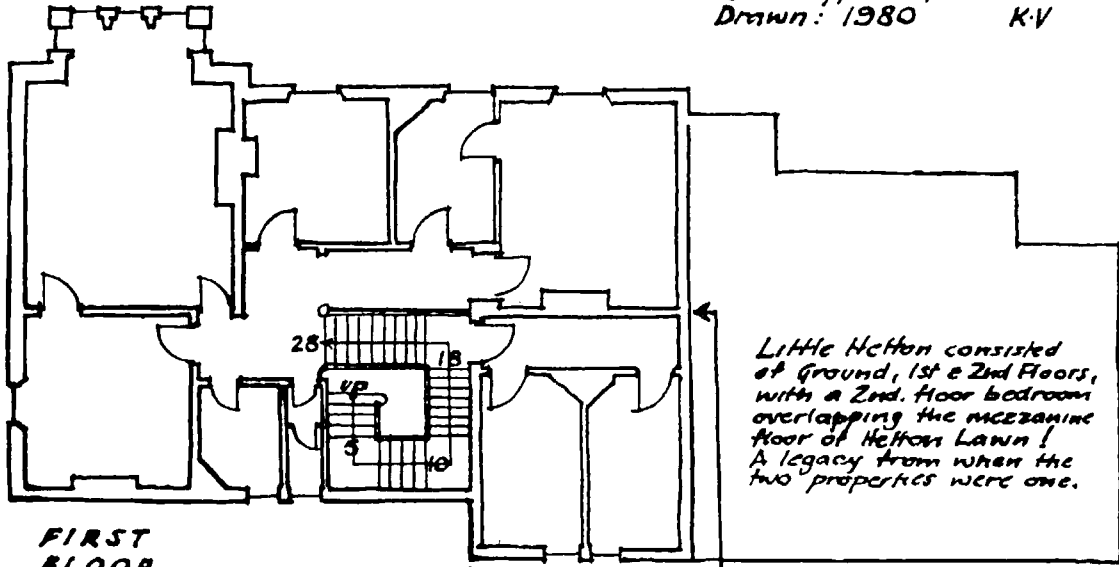
S. Fletcher, P.R. Sword, E. Armitage, K. Venus, M. Paget

- (1) Lewis Carroll, A Biography Anne Clark (1979) p.126
- (2) Ashley manor court book 1742-1811 and original surrenders 13, c 28-9, Glos Record Office D 109/
- (3) Seen by kind permission of Mr. H. Bayley, Vittoria House.
- (4) Rate book 1858.
- (5) Ninety Years Past, a history of the firm by L.W. Barnard (1949); I am grateful for permission to check the firm's books for any Charlton Kings references.

The gardens, sloped gently towards the Chert with mature trees and spacious lawns, giving a fine view of St. Mary's Church on the rising ground.

NOTES:

Staircases shown with † on bottom step and * on top step. Numbering on stairs shows number of risers at each landing or floor.
 Scale: approx. 1/16" to 1"
 Drawn: 1980 K.V



Little Hetton consisted of Ground, 1st & 2nd Floors, with a 2nd. floor bedroom overlapping the mezzanine floor of Hetton Lawn! A legacy from when the two properties were one.

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

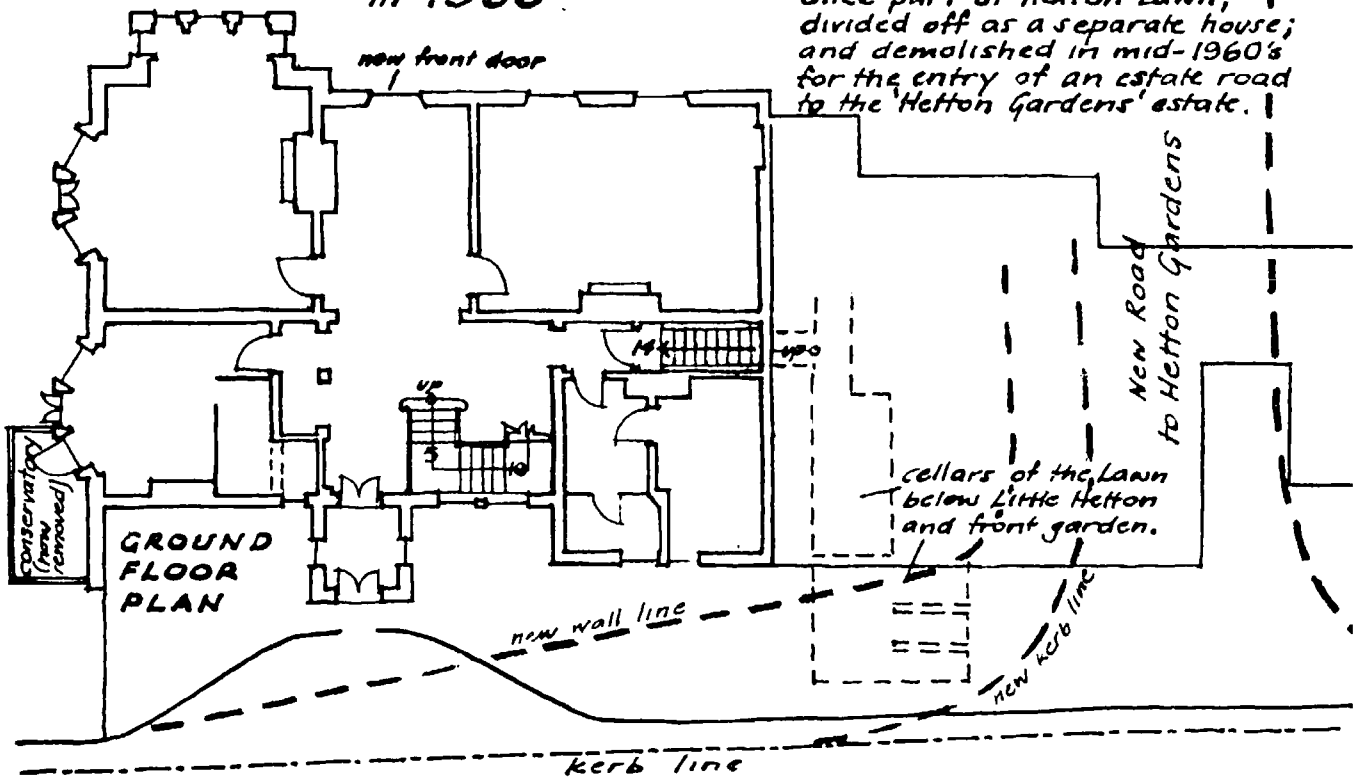
CEILING HEIGHTS
 Ground Floor; Main rooms 13'0"
 " " below mezzanine 9'0"
 Mezzanine Floor 8'6"
 First Floor 11'0"

MEZZANINE FLOOR
 (entered from landing at step 18 on main stair)
 This area was reduced at the time of the demolition to Ground Fl. only and finished with a hipped roof.

HETTON LAWN in 1966

LITTLE HETTON

once part of Hetton Lawn, divided off as a separate house; and demolished in mid-1960's for the entry of an estate road to the 'Hetton Gardens' estate.



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

Cudnall Street

kerb line

Ashley Ho. (now 47)

The Nook

Overbury Street

13. GROVE COTTAGE, NOW GROVE HOUSE, CUDNALL

This was a freehold house which originally belonged to the Lawrence family. We can trace it in Ashley manor court books because from 1706 (or perhaps earlier) a small parcel of copyhold land was inclosed in its garden and that 1/8th acre had to be surrendered and heriot paid on it with every change of tenant.

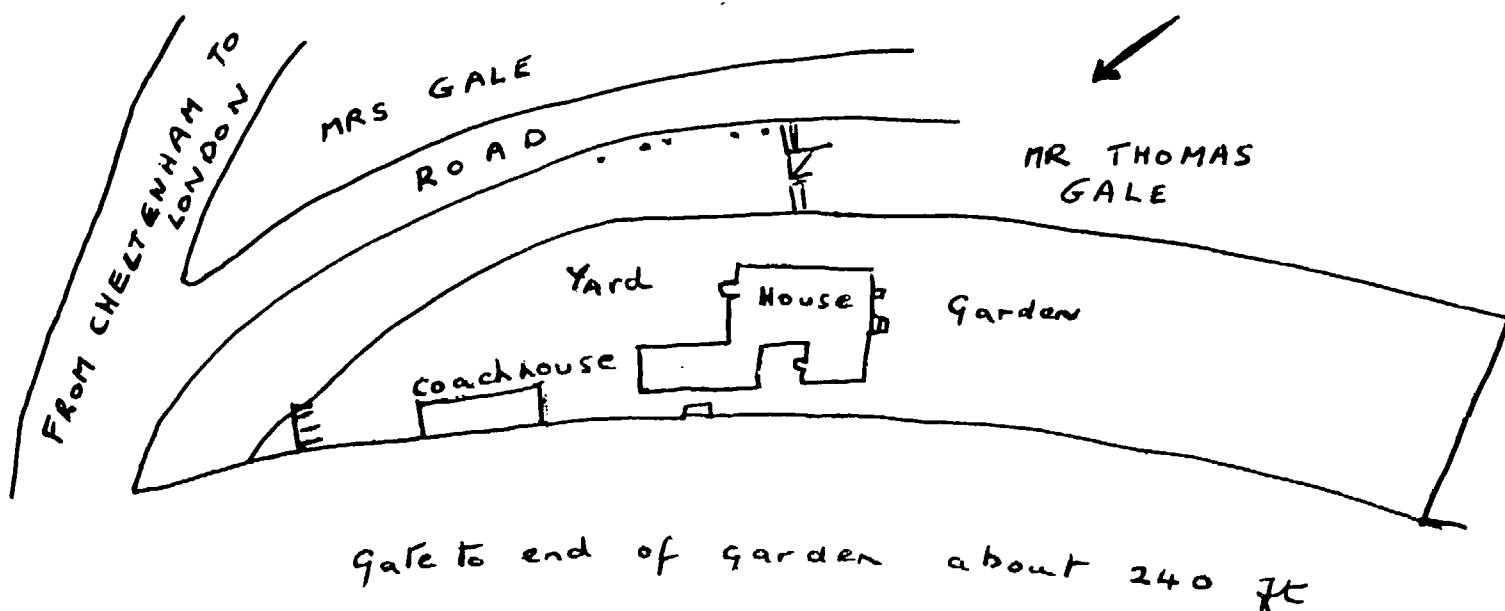
On 30 December 1706, Thomas Mansell and Anne his wife (who lived in the Cudnall beedle messuage) and Thomas their son surrendered to use of Thomas Lawrence the younger the 1/8th acre lying in his inclosed garden. The rest of his garden was on the west of this strip of land, and land of John Tanty (of Tanty's Cottage in Spring Bottom) on the east. (1) The Tanty family inter-married with the Gales, who among much else held a close of land stretching down the hill from Cudnall Street towards the Chelt, the site of our Copt Elm Road; consequently by the 19th century, Tanty's land east and south of Grove Cottage had become Gale's.

William, son of Thomas Lawrence, inherited Grove Cottage and land in 1713 (2); and John son of William in 1757 (3). On 27 May 1763, John Lawrence and Elizabeth his wife surrendered the copyhold butt to use of Richard Haynes of Charlton Kings cordwainer, his heirs and assigns. A few months before, on 28 and 29 October 1762, John alone by lease and release had conveyed to Richard his messuage or cottage with the garden and orchard thereunto adjoining, in Cudnall, and also half an acre of land in Ryeworth field. This change of ownership explains the date 1763 still visible on the big chimney stack of the house. Richard's first act was to modernise the old building for himself and his first wife.

In 1784, Richard Haines widower married Elizabeth Clay of Bushey spinster, and soon afterwards improved the house again. He certainly encased it with brick and added a good sitting-room on the south side. He may have done more. After his death it was spoken of (4) as "a freehold new-built brick messuage or tenement with the coach-house, stable, outbuildings, garden, and premises adjoining" and one deed talks of a "cottage or tenement on the scite whereof a messuage or tenement with coach-house and stables had then lately been erected". The house itself, however, suggests that Richard did no more than up-grade an existing dwelling, and the old barrell well in the kitchen, said to be at least 300 years old, was still there in 1972. The size of Richard's coach-house and stable has made people think the house must have been an inn, but there is no evidence for this belief.

Richard and his second wife had five children, baptised at St. Marys, Betty 1785, Richard 1786, William 1780, Anna Leueza 1794, and Mary Ann 1796; and on 17 January 1806, when Richard wrote his will with his own hand, he left Grove Cottage (but not his Ham House) to his 5 children by Elizabeth, giving his daughter Johanna (apparently the only child of his first marriage) £100 in 5 instalments of £20 a year.

Richard the son was a baker in Prestbury, and by 1810 his mother had gone there to live with him. Grove Cottage was mortgaged and probably let. After Elizabeth's death, the surviving children sold the house for £900 in 1829; and the purchaser was the very well-known architect Robert Smirke (who among many other public buildings designed the British Museum, the General Post Office, and the Shire Hall in Gloucester). There is a plan of the property on the back of the deed.



Sir Robert Smirke died at Cheltenham on 18 April 1867. By a will dated 20 September 1861 (5), he left his house and garden at Charlton Kings to his brothers Edward and Sidney on trust for his late wife's sisters. They were to continue to reside in the house, rent free, while they remained unmarried. But by 1867, only one sister, Cecilia Freston, survived. She decided to live in Cheltenham, and the trustees now held in favour of Robert's daughter Laura, wife of Thomas Lambert of Canterbury.

So on 26 March 1868, for £500, freehold and copyhold were conveyed to John Dobell of Charlton Kings, a wine-merchant (father of Sidney Dobell the poet) who immediately enfranchised the copyhold part of his garden. He also effected an exchange with David Simmons, a Charlton Kings builder, who (subject to a mortgage) had acquired the Gale land on the east. By surrendering the southern end of the garden (102 ft x 57 ft) and paying £60 to equal the exchange, Dobell got 664 sq yards on the east of the house which was an obvious advantage. He had a promise from Simmons that no building of any so should be erected on the land to the south and this restrictive covenant was repeated in 1877 when that parcel having come into the hands of James Bownes of Hambrook House who died 14 April 1873, was sold by his executors to George William Sadler a Cheltenham architect. Sir William Russell had made his new Copt Elm Road down the close formerly Gale's in 1865 and there could have been unwelcome development. In fact, plots on the new road failed to sell.

When John Dobell died in 1878, his executors conveyed Grove Cottage and the triangular parcel acquired from Simmons, to one of the sons, Clarence Mason Dobell, who mortgaged it to his brother-in-law the artist Briton Riviere. C.M. Dobell lived in the house, which he called The Grove; it was presumably at this time that the pseudo-timbering was added to the exterior. In 1895 he bought from Horace Edwards a strip of land by the Chelt (o.l.21 $\frac{3}{4}$) and in 1899 added another 2 acres, with a frontage to Copt Elm Road, bought from G.W. Sadler. Both were subject to restrictive covenants; on the smaller plot he might build a single house of the value of £160 or a pair worth £140, exclusive of the value of the land; on the larger a single house of the value of £700. No such houses were ever built or ever planned. But those purchases

took the land belonging to Grove House down to the Chelt for the first time.

- (1) GRO 109/ Ashley manor original surrenders 9 and 10.
- (2) ibid. 103
- (3) Ashley manor court book 1742-1811.
- (4) Deeds of Grove House
- (5) Ashley manor will book 2 no 15.



M. Paget.

14. CHARLTON KINGS PARISH WORKHOUSE 1826-1836

The article on the parish workhouse in our issue of May 1979 (Bulletin I) dealt with its construction, and outlined the later history of the building. The present paper provides further detail about the operation of the workhouse and its inhabitants. These are given mainly in the form of tables in the appendices.

Background - the 1831 Census

In June 1831 (1) the Census return showed that Charlton Kings contained 452 houses which were inhabited by 482 families. Seventeen houses were vacant (possibly derelict) and two more were being built. 42 families were occupied chiefly in agriculture, 183 in trade, manufacture or handicraft. The population including children was 2479 (1142 males, 1337 females) and 508 men were over 20 years old.

There were 13 occupiers of land employing labourers and 24 more not employing labourers. There were 75 agricultural labourers in Charlton Kings.

One man was involved in "manufacture or making --- machinery", 187 in retail trade or handicraft as masters or workmen, and 23 engaged as "wholesale merchants, bankers, professional persons, or educated men". A further 125 men were employed by those in the preceding 3 categories or in non-agricultural labour. There were 27 male servants over the age of 20, 17 below 20, and 153 female servants. 33 other men were included in the category of retired tradesmen, superannuated labourers, and those disabled or diseased in body or mind.

The workhouse inhabitants

It is not known precisely how workhouse residents were selected. The Cheltenham Journal of 5 October 1829 reported "--- hearing of the excellent plan upon which the workhouse of Charlton Parish is managed where the cases of the poor, as far as possible (are) duly investigated by personal enquiry and visitation at their cottages, when their method of bringing up their children, their respect for religion and laws of their country, and other circumstances are duly inquired into by some of the most influential personages in the Parish" (2).

The general principle seems to have been to give paupers as little as was necessary. As a Royal Commission said "the most essential of all conditions --- is that (the pauper's) situation on the whole shall not be made really or apparently so eligible as the situation of the independent labourer of the lowest class" and "every penny that tends to render the condition of the paupers more eligible than that of the independent labourer is a bounty on indolence and vice" (3). Public opinion was tending towards this view before the 1834 act made the attitude obligatory. An illustration is provided by the details given in Appendix A iv, diets in prisons and workhouses in Gloucestershire c.1830; and they can be compared with the Charlton Kings diet described in Appendix A ii, which is an interpretation of the accounts given on page 25 of Bulletin I.

It will readily be appreciated that the surviving records of the workhouse do not permit more than glimpses of workhouse life. If the day book, referred to in the accounts as costing 4s 2d, had survived, we might know more.

The diet must have been supplemented by the use of garden produce. This is proved by the reference to garden implements and onions in the inventory (set out in Bulletin I) and to the purchase of garden plants in 1828. Water was provided by a pump; repairs cost 3s 2d on one occasion.

Extras were sometimes bought for the sick, residents' shoe repairs were paid for, and in one instance in 1832 clothes were provided for a family which had left the workhouse earlier in the year (clothes for Large's family £1.16.5). Extras were sometimes bought for Christmas, currants and raisins on one occasion 1s 6d, extras in 1828 10½d.

Possible signs of economy in the running of the workhouse were the early removal of butter and bacon from the diet, and the reduction in the rations, even though the number of residents went up, when the Governor's wife moved in. From 1833, bread was no longer bought, flour being substituted, presumably for making bread in the workhouse.

Education was provided for children. In 1832 two children's schooling for 22 weeks costs 7s 2d; and recurrent charges for pens, ink, and paper possibly bear this out. At 10 children were put out as labourers. Henry Hasleham was hired as servant to Mr. Herbert, Guardian of the poor between 28 October 1832 and 29 September 1833. One boy of this age absconded.

The workhouse also paid for midwives (5s per delivery) and for funerals (Rachel Colley's cost 4s 9d in 1832).

List of Appendices

- A1 Workhouse costs May to December 1827
 - ii Interpretation of workhouse accounts May to August 1827
 - iii Approximate weekly diet for one man May-August 1827
 - iv Weekly diet applicable to those in Gloucester prison, Houses of Correction, and workhouses in Uley area c.1830
- B Select list of prices for goods bought for workhouse 1827-1834
- C Numbers in the workhouse 1827-1834
- D List of paupers and admission dates 1827-1835

Appendix A1 Workhouse costs May to December 1827

	£	s	d
Butcher	5.	18.	5
Baker	5.	15.	5
Flour		4.	10
Butter		2.	8
Milk	1.	12.	9
Beer	3.	16.	10
Coal	10.	19.	6
Sundries	9.	7.	1
Faggots	1.	13.	0
Board Wages	4.	16.	0
Cheese	1.	11.	3
Clothing	6.	3.	7
Utensils	3.	18.	3½

Aii Interpretation of workhouse accounts, May to December 1827

Period beginning	8/5/27	5/6/27	3/7/27	31/7/27	28/8/27	25/9/27	23/10/27	20/11/27	18/12/2
No. of residents	3m	3m	3m	3m	3m	3m 2w 3c	3m 2w	3m 2w	3m 2w
Item									
Meat (lb)	38	37	36	36	36	21	16	21	21
Bread (loaves)	28	24	20	20	20	14	12	17	18
Milk (qts)	12	12	14	14	14	11	14	19	21
Cheese (lb)	10		12½		17		13½		
Beer									
Coal (tons)		2		1			1		6
Faggots (cwt)		1							1

Aiii Approximate weekly diet for one man May-August 1827

Meat 3 2/3 lbs, bread 2 1/3 loaves, milk 1 qt, cheese ½ lb +, beer

This diet seems very generous, and there may be unknown factors - the possibility that before the governor's wife moved in, a cook was being employed and fed - to take into account.

Appendix A iv

Weekly diet applicable to all persons in Gloucester penitentiary and local houses of correction; and in workhouses in the Dursley area; with schedule proposed for Uley workhouse c.1830 - persons over 10 years old.

Dietary per week	Gloucester Penitentiary	Houses of Correction at Horsley Northleach and Lawford's Gate
Fresh meat or bacon (oz)	12	-
best bread (lb)	10½	10½
potatoes (lb)	6	8-14
gruel (qt)	7	7-8
soup (qt)	4	2 or nil
cheese (oz)	-	-
Broth (qt)	-	-
Tea/sugar (oz)	½	-

Workhouses (adults)

	Wotton	Dursley	Uley	Cam	N.Nibley	Uley, proposed
Fresh meat or bacon (oz)	18 or 12	16 or 8	12 or 8	16 or 8	18 or 12	12 or 8
best bread (lb)	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{3}{4}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	7	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
potatoes	3 days no limit	7	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 days no limit	Everyday	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gruel (qt)	-	-	-	-	-	7 (i)
Soup (qt)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Broth (qt)	-	-	-	-	7	-
Tea sugar (oz)	$\frac{1}{4}$	-	-	-	-	$\frac{1}{4}$ (ii)

(children under 8 or 10)

Meat or bacon (oz)	9 or 6	16 or 8	6 or 4	8 or 4	9 or 6	
Bread (lb)	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	4 $\frac{3}{4}$	6	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	Half
Potatoes (lb)	5 days no limit	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 days no limit	Everyday no limit	adult allowance
Cheese (oz)	-	4	2	-	-	

- i. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz oatmeal $\frac{1}{4}$ oz salt, little pepper, vegetables.
 ii. For women.

Appendix B

Select price list of goods bought for the workhouse 1827-1834, to illustrate relative costs

<u>Date</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1827	Bread	8d or 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	Quartern loaf (4 lbs) made of "second flour"
1827	meat	6d	per lb.
1828	cheese	6-6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	per lb.
1828	cap	3d	
1828	bonnet and shawl	5s	
1828	soap	7d	per lb
1828	shoes	5s 3d	per pair
1828	plants for garden	8d	for 200 (type unknown, perhaps cabbages.

Year		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1829	M	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	4	4
	W	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	4	3	3	4	3
	C	4	6	6	5	5	1	1	4	4	7	6	6	6
1830	M	3	4	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2
	W	3	6	3	2	1	1	2	1	3	2	2	3	3
	C	6	11	6	6	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	7
1831	M	3	5	6	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	
	W	4	5	6	4	2	4	5	5	3	3	3	3	
	C	13	15	17	14	6	10	12	11	10	10	10	10	
1832	M	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	
	W	4	4	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	3	2	3	
	C	12	11	12	12	11	8	7	7	8	9	8	9	
1833	M	3	3	3	4	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	
	W	2	2	2	4	3	2	3	3	3	3	4	4	
	C	10	9	9	12	12	9	7	9	9	8	8	8	
1834	M	5	4	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	
	W	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	4	4	4	4	4	
	C	12	11	13	10	10	11	11	10	10	10	10	10	
1835	M	3	4	4	4	3	4	4	5	5	5	5	4	
	W	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	5	5	5	5	4	
	C	10	11	11	9	9	15	14	14	13	12	13	9	

Appendix D List of Paupers in Workhouse 1827-1835

	ADMITTED	DISMISSED	TRADE/ STATUS	NAMES	AGE AT ENTRY
1	9.5.27		Tailor	Henry Russell	67
2	9.5.27	died 28.2.30	Carpenter	John Varnish	78
3	12.10.27	13.10.27	Married	Mary Bubb Louisa Bubb Sarah Bubb James Bubb	27 5 3 1 yr 6 mo
4	23.11.27	8.5.28	-	Hannah Stevens	41
5	5.2.28	5.5.28	Married	Elizabeth Garn William N. Garn Louisa Garn Thirza Garn Jane A Garn Albert Garn	44 8 7 5 4 1 yr 6 mo
6	5.6.28 6.2.29 7.5.29 17.11.31	27.10.28 2.5.29 29.12.29 1.1.36	Baker	Benjamin Togwell (transferred to Cheltenham)	40

7	30.12.28	11.5.29	Widow	Jane Cornbill	28
		"		Mariah Cornbill	7
		10/11.9.35		Mary A. Cornbill	6
		11.5.29		Emma Cornbill	4
		"		Harriott Cornbill	1
	born 3.3.29	"		John Cornbill	
	5.10.29			Cornbill Family	
		19.4.30		Jane and John	
	28.7.30	29.7.30		Jane	30
		28.4.32		Mariah	
3.9.32	4.10.33	Mariah	10		
14.11.35		Jane Mariah Cornbill	14		
14.12.35	21.12.35	Mary Ann Cornbill			
8	12.2.29	17.3.29		Elizabeth Lea	37
				Ann Lea	10
				Isaac Lea	4
	31.1.33	4.2.33		Isaac Lea	8
	15.3.34	16.3.35 (absconded)		Isaac Lea	10
9	25.6.29	13.10.29		Mary Hasleham	42
		29.10.32		Henry Hasleham	10
				(described as labourer from May 1830; became servant, wef. 28.10.32)	
	8.12.29	12.3.30		Mary Hasleham	42
	18.7.33	1.1.36 (to Cheltenham)		"	45
10	25.8.29	26.11.29		Sarah Powell	22
	25.10.32	2.11.32		"	27
11	10.8.29	27.8.29		Mary Large	35
				Mary Ann Large	9
				John Large	6
				Joseph Thomas Large	4
	26.6.31	9.12.31		Large family plus	
1.1.32	26.5.32		Jack James Large	8 mo	
12	6.2.30	12.2.30	Labourer	Solomon Ivens	-
				Charlott Ivens	38
				Jane Ivens	15
				John Ivens	13
				Henry Ivens	10
				George Ivens	7
				Mary Ivens	5
				James Ivens	16 mo
13	27.7.30	30.7.30		Christopher Martin	23
14	21.9.30	24.9.30		Harriott Williams	46

15	28.9.30	14.7.34		Mary Hawks	(61 in 1831)
16	27.12.30	4.1.31		Frances Purbrick Hescott James Purbrick	25 3 mo
	17.1.31 21.2.31 7.3.31	15.2.31 11.3.31 11.3.31	Labourer	Frances and James " James Purbrick	30
17	11.1.31	25.4.31	Labourer	Joseph Hemming Ann Hemming Edwin Hemming Caroline Hemming Matilda Hemming Eliza Hemming Louiza Hemming Rosannah Hemming William Cooke Hemming	43 39 12 10 8 6 3 11 mo 2
	1.10.32 26.6.35	27.11.35 23.11.35 27.11.35	Labourer	John Hemming Ann Hemming Matilda Hemming Eliza Hemming Louisa Hemming Rossannah Hemming Frederick Hemming	47 44 12 10 7 5 4 mo
18	28.2.31	21.3.31	Labourer	Jonas Frost Jane Frost David Frost	40 6 4
19	12.3.31	13.4.31	-	Rossannah Johnson Elizabeth Johnson Mary A. Johnson	28 7 5
20	25.6.31 Born 6.7.31	5.8.31 Died 12.7.31		Elizabeth Lewis Jane Lewis	20 6 days
21	20.7.31 Born 20.7.31	18.8.31		Sussannah Cross Welshiann Cross	27
22	25.1.32	Died 27.2.32 18.7.35 Died 28.1.32		Rachel Colley Edith Colley John Colley	30 10 7 mo
23	22.3.32			Thomas Evans	2
24	30.6.32	3.7.32	Labourer	William Clapton Mary Clapton Julia Clapton	27 27 3 mo
	3.12.32	17.12.32	-	Mary Clapton Julia Clapton	27 7 mo

25	13.1.33	1.1.36		Thomas Pumphrey	9
26	19.4.33	8.5.33		John Hall	42
				Hesther Hall	31
				John Hall	3½
				Mary Ann Hall	2½
				Edwin Hall	8 mo
	16.1.34	15.3.34			
	22.1.34				
	(Hesther)				
27	26.9.33	20.1.34	Labourer	Anthony Gilder	32
28	20.11.33	3.1.34		Sarah Scriven	19
29	13.1.34	1.1.36	Idiot	Elizabeth Hamlett	21
		to Cheltenham			
30	4.2.34	16.3.35		Sarah Pumphrey	20
	Born 12.3.34	16.3.35		George Pumphrey	-
31	30.4.34	31.7.34		Lucy Dodwell	22
	Born 27.6.34			Thomas Dodwell	-
32	1.8.34	17.10.34	Labourer	John Rymill	32
33	28.11.34	6.1.35	Labourer	James Humphris	20
34	2.2.35			Elizabeth Colley	13
35	3.2.35	13.4.35	Labourer	Jacob Short	22
36	6.6.35	30.6.35	-	(infant) Huntley	5 wks
37	8.8.35	1.1.36		Mary Harding	49
38	31.8.35		Labourer	John Spiers	40

Sources

The source for this article are the same as those used for my article in Bulletin I (May 1979) pp 21-30.

Notes

1. Quoted in Bridgman — *Parish catalogue - Library Chelt.*
2. See also Bulletin I p.25 for another opinion of 19 October 1829
3. Quoted in PL pp x-xi

M.J. Greet

15. GHOSTS?

Charlton Kings seems to have been a happy and "daylight" kind of village, Over the last century covered by the joint recollections of my mother and myself, there seems to have been no ripple of "ghostly" rumours concerning any of the houses or localities familiar to us. Neither she nor I have gone about actually expecting strange appearances - and yet ---

In the late years of the last century my mother and a friend were returning one late summer afternoon from an expedition to Cleeve Hill. They aimed to cross the old Race-Course and join the road which would eventually lead them to the top of Aggs Hill. As they neared the gate from the Race-Course, they noticed a labourer coming towards them and remarked that one did not very often meet anyone up there. They both saw him come through the gate and then being engaged in conversation thought no more of the matter till they actually reached the gate - then the companion said "Wasn't there a man coming through the gate? What's become of him?" My mother agreed, but when they scanned the wide space of the Race Course there was no sign of anyone. Fearing that he might be some predatory tramp with designs on their purses, they looked over the stone walls on either side of the roadway before deciding to continue their walk. No sign of anyone! So, full of speculation, they continued their way to Cheltenham where my mother was then living.

Some time later, my mother met an elderly clergyman and the conversation turning to the supernatural, my mother related her little experience, saying she could not account for this curious little incident. "Oh yes" said the old gentleman, "You must have seen the Cleeve Hill Ghost!" He had been told of similar encounters, at or near the junction of the road and the Race Course, by several people, though no 'story' seems to have been attached to the disappearing man. So it is perhaps rather a pointless tale.

You will say "But Cleeve Hill is not Charlton Kings!" Quite so. But it would be interesting, perhaps, if one of our present-day inhabitants has experienced or heard tell of any supernatural occurrences which are actually linked with our village.

H.M.C. Bennett

16. ROADS THROUGH CHARLTON KINGS II - THE LONDON ROAD

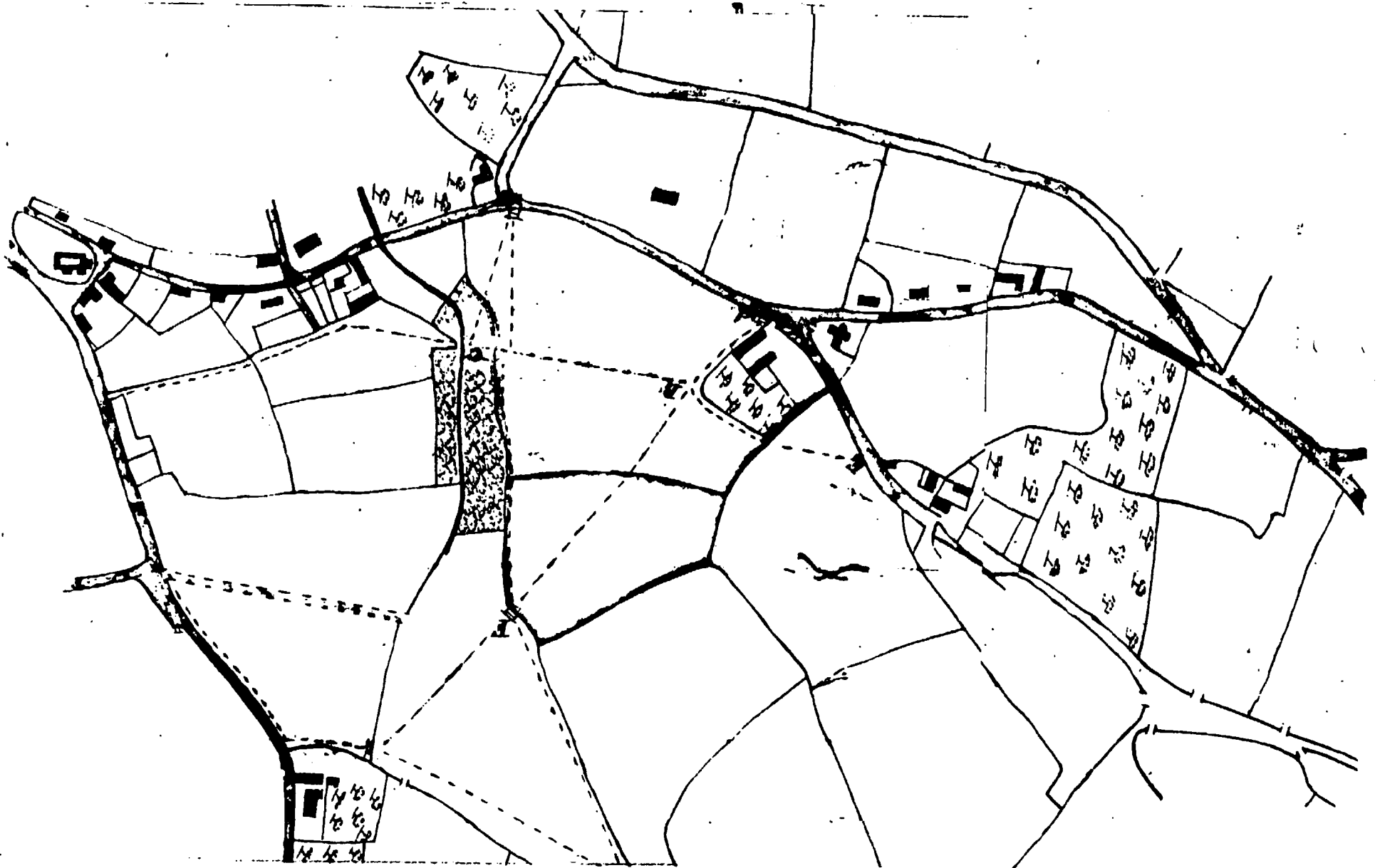
The general account of road development given in Bulletin I can be supplemented by actual plans.

The old road to Dowdeswell and on to London was altered in several stages. The first step cut out Balcarras Lane and its continuation on the south side of Coxhorne. This happened before 1774. But as late as 1826 (i), the old road was still passable on foot and when John Tombs of Charlton Kings drew a plan of footpaths across the Breaches, he still called Balcarras Lane "East End Lane". Only a part of the original plan is reproduced here, and in presenting it I have reversed the map to show north at the top, a convention which John Tombs disregarded. Wager Court is marked in the angle of the roads, and East End Farm as two parallel blocks of building, one being the fine 17th century barn burnt down c.1926. The old continuation of East End Road up Wellinghill (now an over-grown sunken lane) can be seen on the eastern edge of the plan.

Our East End Road (alias Back Lane) was turnpiked during the 1760s and 1770s. In the deeds of Over House now demolished) this road was spoken of in 1847 (2) as "the Old London Turnpike" and the property defined as bounded east by the

*In: Tomb's Charlton Kings
April 1826*

N. Scale six chains to an inch



(S/5R 4 1826 c/2)

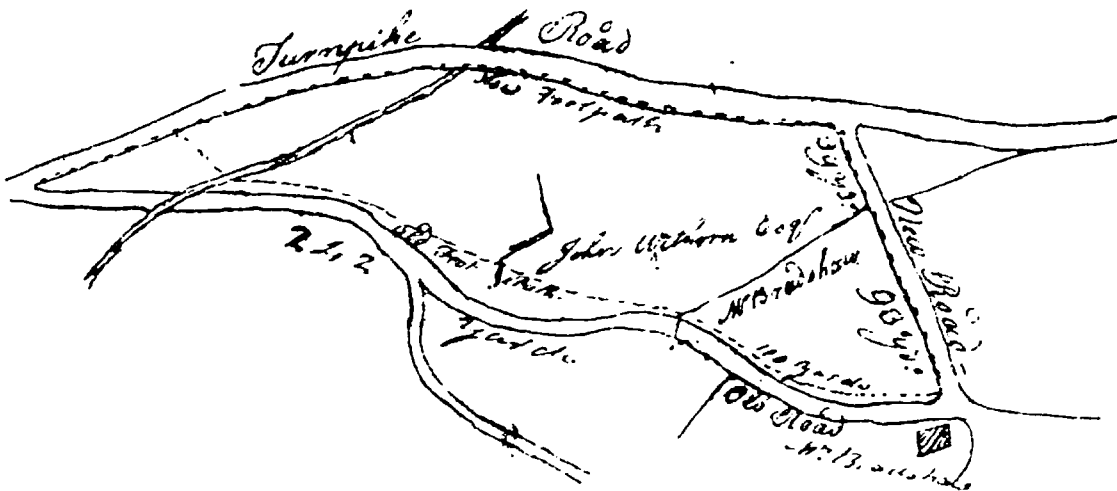
old London turnpike, south partly by the premises of John Shillam and partly by a public footpath leading out of the New London Turnpike Road to the Old London Turnpike Road, and West by the New London Turnpike Road, Yet East End Road must have been disturnpiked 60 years before! For the second improvement to the London road was made in 1787.

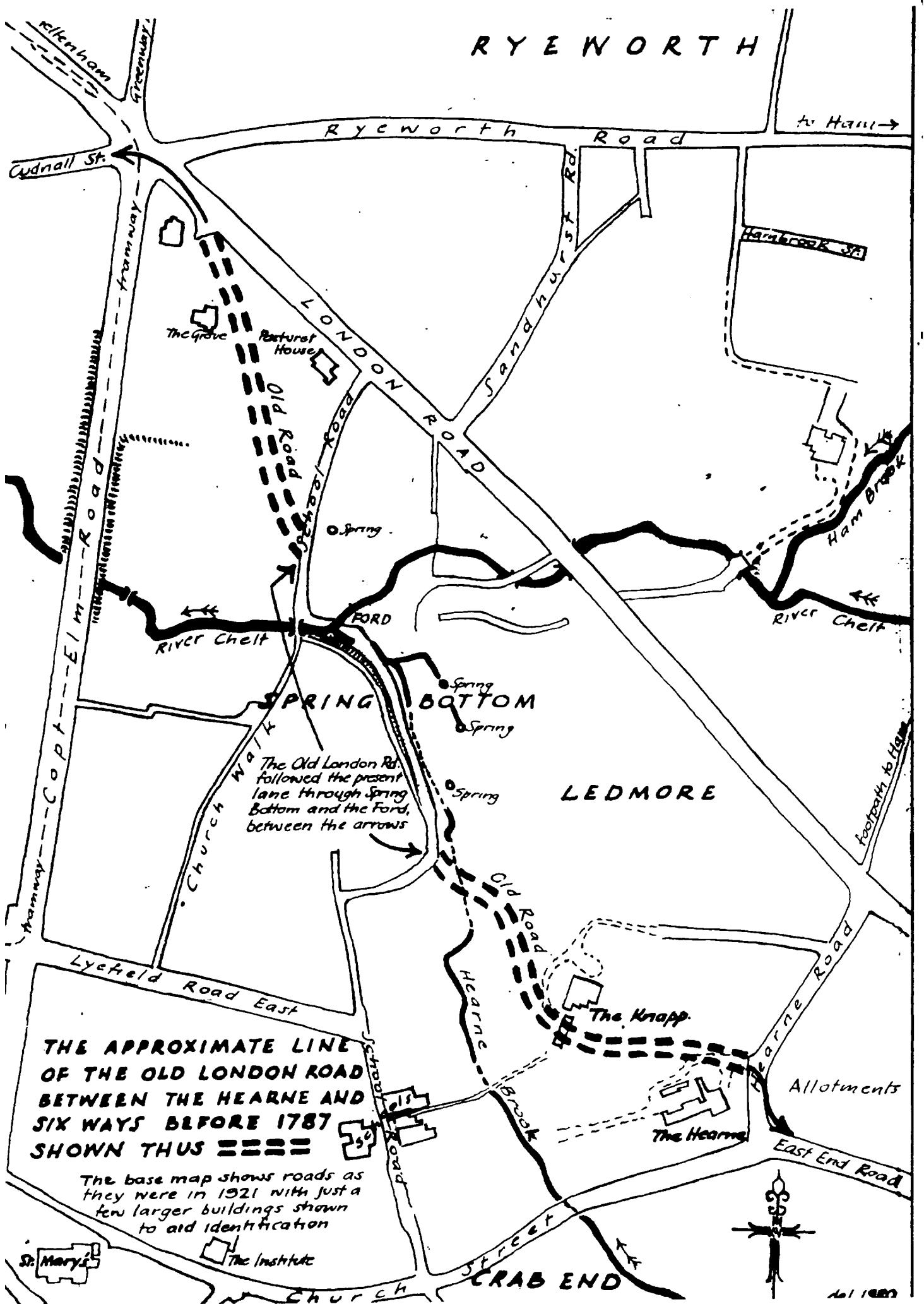
In that year, a new line of road was cut from East End to Six Ways through Castlefield, and part of the old road near the Knapp House was closed. The old way, coming out by Mr. Bradshaw's (a farm on the site of The Hearne) and affording direct access without any drive way to John Whithorne's (The Knapp) is shown on a plan submitted to Quarter Sessions for approval. It is clear from this sketch map (3) that the original road went west of The Knapp, came down into Mill Lane (School Road) near Hawthorne's (King's House) and crossed the stream by the ford at Spring Bottom. So the lane from the foot of the bank to the ford is the only bit of the old London Road still in use as a highway! Spring Bridge on the present London Road, and the road from Six Ways down the hill, date from 1787 (though of course the structure of the bridge has been renewed). Mr Kilby says his father always called the London road from Six Ways to Spring Bridge "Leathermill Pitch", because at the time that road and bridge were made, Charlton Mill in Spring Bottom was a leather mill.

The Quarter Sessions order which allowed the old road past The Knapp to be closed did reserve footways for owners and occupiers of certain houses. The path from Hearne Road across the brook and up to the School (Koinonia House) was only lost 30 years ago.

A new road was cut in 1787 to link East End road with the new turnpike - it took the line of an existing footpath. We know it as Hearne Road - here it is merely "New Road".

N No Scale

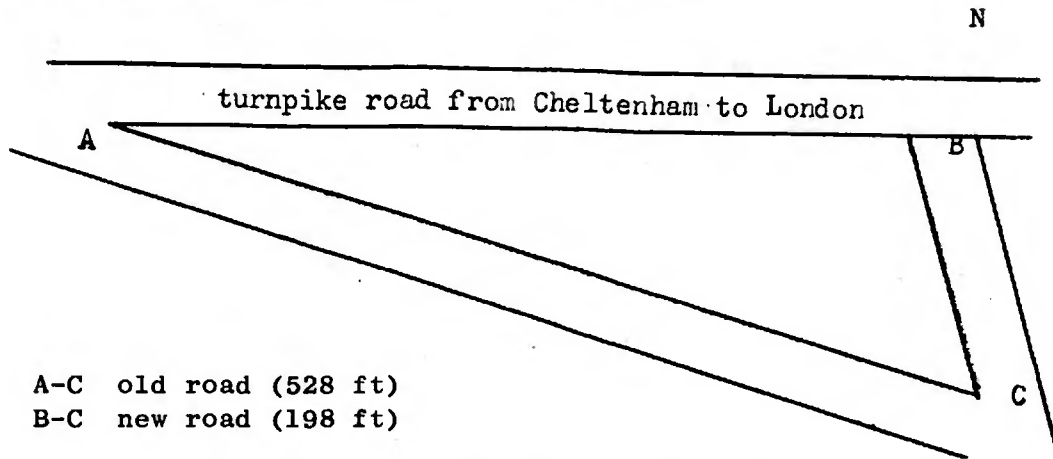




From the ford, the old road went up the slope at an easy angle, coming out at Six Ways by Grove House. The line by which Grove House's drive leaves the present London Road is a reminder of this.

In 1836, this stretch too was "improved" by a new way 198 ft long from the London turnpike to Spring Bottom, a shorter but much steeper and less convenient way, and the old road past Grove House was stopped (5). So we acquired the present northern end of School Road, then known as Mill Lane.

Diagram from original plan (G/SRL 1836 D)



Before this date, of course, Telford had bypassed Cudnall Street, and given us the new London Road from Six Ways to Hayward's Road in 1825.



Section through the present London Road at the corner of Hearne Road, November 1979. The gravel surface of the 1787 turnpike road on its bed of broken stone can be seen under the layers of tarmac.

- (1) Q/SR h 1826 Glos. Record Office.
- (2) Deeds of Linden Lawn which was built on part of the Over House land during the 1850s. The deeds take the history of Over House back to 1739 and indicate that it was a very ancient tenement.
- (3) Q/SR h 1787 C/1
- (4) Q/SR h 1836 D
- (5) See above p.

17. TROUBLE IN CHARLTON KINGS, 1708

At Michaelmas Sessions, 1708, the Gloucestershire Justices were asked to consider the unhappy case of Thomas Ballinger of Charlton Kings, who had been pressed for military service. The country was at that date in the middle of the War of the Spanish Succession.

They decided "That it be recommended to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Justices of the Peace of the City of Worcester or any three of them to examine the case of Thomas Ballinger, a servant to Robert Davis of Rodberrow in this County, it appearing to this Court that one Batchelor a soldier and a certain drummer, with the Constables of Cheltenham, broke open the house of Mary Collins, mother of the said Thomas Ballinger, at Charlton Kings in this County, and took him thence by force and did not carry him before any Justice of the Peace, but forced him away illegally to the City of Worcester; and the said Mayor, Aldermen, and other Justices of the Peace of the City of Worcester or three of them, are desired by this Court if they shall see convenient, to discharge the said Thomas Ballinger, and to bind over the said soldiers to the next Sessions for this County to answer the said offences." (1)

Mary Collins' home was in Church Street. She had part of a house divided into two dwellings, with a plot of garden on the east side of her section. Her neighbour was Thomas Cleevely, who in 1749 bought Mary's half from John Collins (son of her second marriage) and Susannah his wife. There is no mention of her elder son having any interest in the property; perhaps he remained in the army and was killed in one of Marlborough's campaigns. On the front garden of the ancient tenement were later built Nos 5 and 6 (afterwards nos 18-20) Church Street, and the old house was pulled down sometime between 1832 and 1851. No 5 is described in 1861 as "now occupied and used as the Police Station" (the first in Charlton Kings). All this property was demolished when the shopping precinct was created.

M. Greet, M. Paget

- (1) GRO Q/SO3 Mich 1708.
- (2) GRO D 109 Ashley manor, original surrender C 122, court book 1742-1811; Cheltenham Borough title deeds for 18-20 Church Street. Nos 18-20 Church Street can be seen in the illustration on page 6, beyond Bobby's Alley.

18. NOTES AND COMMENTS

Tokens from the Royal Hotel

A 2d token with the inscription "Royal Hotel, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham" was illustrated in Bulletin 2. Now some 1d tokens, with the same words but half size, have come to light. Mrs. Bick has one, dug up by her late husband, many years ago, in the garden of Brevels Haye, Miss E. Mason has one that has been used as a games counter.

But we still don't know when they were struck and how long they remained current.

Church House

The cover picture of Bulletin 2 showed Old Church House, demolished in 1826. In commenting on the water-colour from which our drawing was taken, I remarked that we had no proof that Charlton Kings ever raised money for church repairs by selling ale at a Church House. However, the 1617 survey of the manor of Cheltenham (1) refers to Thomas Cartwright, John Stubbs, Samuel Ridgdale and others as trustees of one house called le Church House situate in Charlton, held of the king of his manor of East Greenwich by fealty. This tenure indicates a grant of former ecclesiastical (monastic, chantry or guild) property, and it is possible that Church House was part of the chantry endowment before 1547. Church Ales were certainly being held here in the early 17th century. In 1624, a zealous new minister, Robert Walker, complained of "Maypoles on Whit Sunday and Church Ales on the Lord's Day, with dancing in time of prayer" (2). So we did have Church Ales. But where was the maypole? If it had been in the churchyard, the Bishop (who supported Walker against the parish) would have had it suppressed. English maypoles were tall trees, like those still to be seen in some German villages. They were not the stumpy beribboned variety popularised during the 19th century as suitable for children to dance round at fetes. The Charlton maypole will have been a permanent fixture. Clearly it was near enough to the church to constitute an annoyance when dancing began during service time. Perhaps it was on the private road running round the S and E sides of the church (on the line of the present path), exactly where people leaving by the south porch would be bound to see it!

Hawthornes or King's House

In Bulletin 1, a date c.1920 was suggested for Mr. Healing's restoration of this beautiful timber-framed house. Miss Wilkins tells me this is too late - it should be 1910 or thereabouts. Her father came to teach in Charlton Kings and settled in a house in Sandhurst Road in 1912. By that time Mr. Healing was already living in the restored house in Spring Bottom, and had a yellow car with double windscreens which he kept in the Sandhurst Road sandhole. Miss Wilkins' father used to play chess regularly at the house until his untimely death from flu in 1918; on one memorable occasion Mr Healing gave the family a lift into town in his yellow car, Miss Wilkin's first car ride!

Hawthorne's Nose was not, as I assumed, land by the house, but an inclosure near Colgate, TM 169.

(1) GRO D 855 17 7

(2) Gwen Hart A History of Cheltenham (1965) p.90. A full account of the trouble between Walker and his parishioners was written by John Stubbs of Charlton Kings (Glos R.O. Cheltenham manor records D 855 M 68)