

CHARLTON KINGS  
LOCAL HISTORY  
SOCIETY



BULLETIN 21

## CHARLTON KINGS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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## 1. BUNDLING

They did sometimes sit down on the rug, in front of the fire, and discuss matters in which they were interested or thought important. I'm speaking about my grand-children. I overheard them the other evening. They were concerned and a bit bewildered as to how grandma and grandpa spent their evenings when they were young. There were no pictures, no wireless, no telly. What did they do? Their evenings must have been long and very dull.



I butted in here and mildly shocked the party by saying "Sometimes we boys did an evening's bundling".

"Bundling? bundling? what's bundling?" asked Tim, who was perhaps the family wit. "We never heard of it. The only bundling we know is when Dad bundles us all off to bed. Tell us about it, gramp".

That really did open the discussion. I had started a new line of thought and they had asked for an explanation. Naturally they were entitled to one. However, I warned them that it might be a long story and told them to make themselves comfortable.

"You children" I said "are now seated before a warm glowing fire. Your mother lighted it this evening with just the turn of a small tap. Since then, the fire has needed practically no attention.

Now when grandma was looking after the house, someone had to be up early each morning, clear away the ashes of yesterday's fire, clean the grate, and then lay a new fire and light it. All this meant work and why? Because in grandma's time they were using a different fuel. Now your mother uses gas, grandma's fires were of coal. Now coal is an excellent fuel, once it is lighted, but the lighting of it isn't easy. It needs some assistance and that's where the bundle came in.

Bundles? they were cylindrical collections of dry, well-seasoned, and easily ignitable sticks about eight inches high and six inches across. These were kept together by a circle of reef-knotted sisal, and it was the making of these 'fire-lighters' that was the source of the boyish social evenings to which I have referred.

The PEACEY family had lived in the village longer than I can remember. They all seemed to keep wood-yards. The first I can remember was OLD TANT. He was a card. He looked and dressed like an over-fed French Cure, long dark frock-coat, shovell hat, and all; but no, he didn't talk like a Cure! But it is his son BILL we are concerned with, who lived with his wife POLLY and their family at BRIGHTLEIGH - next to the Infants School. One son, FRANK, was about my age and it was generally at his invitation we attended a "bundling". Usually, perhaps when we were coming out of school, frequently on a Thursday, he would shout across "Bundling tonight?". Seldom would the invitation be refused and round about six o'clock we presented ourselves at BRIGHTLEIGH.

BRIGHTLEIGH from the road presented a frontage similar to any other detached villa. The "Yard" was at the back. There much of the timber was stored. But the back buildings of the house had been enlarged and elongated to form a carpenters' shop, flagged floor, carpenter's bench, store, and all. It was in here, of course, where the bundlers worked.

The room was nice and warm. POLL had seen to that, and round in a broken circle were placed the five gnome-like stools of cutdown logs that were our seats. In the break there were two elm stools, one for BILL to sit on, the other being his chopping block. On his left was a neat pile of small blocks. BILL carried a sharp billhook to deal with these.

Well, children, that is the scene set for an evening's bundling, but the spirit and fun of the next two hours I couldn't hope to capture. We worked hard, BILL kept us supplied with bundling sticks and POLL saw we had plenty of rings.

Round in a circle we snatched the split sticks piled in the middle, and thrust them into the rings of sisal in our laps. Nearly filling a sisal circle was easy, filling it quite tight was another, necessitating much careful selection from BILL'S heap and driving them home with the heel of the hand. But when full and tight, to us bundlers the result was a joy to handle.

Well, that was how we made the bundles, that was where we made them. It was always a change to us and the fun of it all I am no longer able to describe. Imagine five boys, free of parental supervision and working away in a congenial atmosphere -- and out at night!

When we had finished and were standing around, POLL produced mugs of steaming cocoa and biscuits. That finished, it was time to go home.

I don't think that BILL ever gave us anything. He never offered me money. But then I don't think we expected it. It was a jolly evening out with friends and free of parents for a bit. It was lots of fun.

Then, on Saturday morning BILL, or one of the boys, would harness the horse into the float. This they stacked with the bundles and we were a bit proud to see them hawked from house to house for sale to the village householders. Children, it is a kind of fun you will never know. The bundle has gone for ever, and notwithstanding the fun they gave us in the making, gramp for one would be one of the first to speed its departure.

### THREE ACRES OF CAROL SINGING

The very junior members of the family have always been of the opinion that Gramp's wealth stemmed from a gift to one of his ancestors by William the Conqueror and since handed down.

The gift, for services rendered, was a plot of three acres of Carol Singing, to be held in perpetuity, situate in the Manor of Ashley in the Hundred of the King's Churls.

The holding entitled Gramp, not only to such monies as may from it accrue, but to ullage, corkage, old age, and stone age within the plot and the power to take umbrage should it be necessary.

The juniors regard the plot much as their elders consider their stocks and shares. The Unit may work at a profit, it may work at a loss, and dividends have been paid out accordingly.

Dividends are paid out at Yuletide, in proof of which I append a copy of the counterfoil that accompanied the dividend for 1987.



*As the Carol Singing  
industry has again  
operated at a pre-  
mium we are de-  
lighted once again  
to enclose your Yule-  
Tide lubrication  
Season's wishes  
The Very Old Firm*



## CHRISTMAS BASS

In the early days of our marriage, we lived at No 1. There were Mavis, myself, Tony aged 6, and Nich aged 4.

As in all families where there are children, Christmas folk-lore was extensively discussed sometime before Yuletide arrived. Of course our household was no exception and for days before Christmas there was little table conversation except the appearance, generosity, and toing and froing of Father Christmas and his adorable reindeer Rudolph.

As the expected time of his arrival drew near, action had to take the place of words. Every possibly arrangement had to be made for a warm welcome. Everything was done to attract him to the hearth of our large bedroom. The place was cleared and tidied and such receptacles as available, pillow slips and stockings were tastefully laid out to receive the hoped for bounty. Tony surveyed it, approved it, brushed his hands and saw that all was good.

It was now about 9 o'clock and time that they got into bed. Their room was across the passage from ours. Mavis swept them out and down the corridor to the bathroom. They completed their ablutions, got into their night attire, said their prayers, and got into bed.

Then came a short, sharp lecture from Mavis. They were to get off to sleep, get a good night's rest, and she dared them to disturb us till 6 o'clock. It was then permissible to knock on our door, wake us up, and come in to see whether Father Christmas had been. Well, that seemed about it, but no! There were calls for Daddy and I had to go in and wish them Good-night.

That was where Tony began to get "imaginative". As I tucked him in, he said "Santa Claus' job must be a very dirty one, Daddy, don't you think?"

Now I have always been one who believes in encouraging the imaginative flights of children. So not knowing where I was being led, I replied I most certainly thought it was. Then Tony said "Do you think we can help? After all, he does a lot for us, couldn't we do a little for him?"

Here I began to smell danger "In what way?" I asked. "We could put him out a drink" said Tony "I don't suppose that he would like a bottle of wine. It would be too much trouble, the cork-screw and all that, but we could put him out a bottle of Bass?"

I thought that was a fairly innocuous suggestion, so I said "Good. I will get two bottles from the top of the cellar". These I got, placed them in position on the hearth and reported to the boys. So far as I could see, all was now ready. I put out their light and went in to Mavis.

Now, of course, it was our time to get moving. We got in the presents, unpacked them, and filled the pillow-slips, stockings, etc, and when I had cleared away the no longer needed wrappings, I thought it all looked quite well, with the two bottles of Bass conspicuously to the fore.

We were, by this time, both pretty tired and flopping into bed, I was soon sound asleep.

I've no idea how long we slept but I was aware of Mavis' sharp elbow playing a distinct tattoo on my bare ribs. I crept into wakefulness and discovered that she was saying something to me "They're awake" she said "there is a light in their bedroom. They will be in here in no time".



"Aw well" yawned I "let 'em come. Let's get it over with". "But the beer?" said Mavis "the beer, you can't talk that off".

"Oh Lord, no" said I, suddenly coming awake "and I can't possibly get them back to the cellar and the bathroom is quite impossible. No, there is nothing for it. I must get out and drink them". I slid out of bed and creeping towards the hearth I was shivering with the sudden winter morning's cold. I found the bottles in the dim arctic light and as I looked at them I thought "This is my penance for trifling with a child's imagination".

Now, make no mistake, I am very partial to a glass of beer. Dealing with a couple of pints, in the normal way, is something to look forward to, not to shun. But of course, circumstances alter cases. I never dreamed of jumping out of a warm bed and pumping one quart of liquid, effervescent, molten ice into my warm stomach with dignity and without noise. All this had to take place in the frigid atmosphere of a dark, freezing, winter's morning. A lady, for whose judgement I had a profound respect, once said to me "Why anyone ever described the ultimate of man's discomfort as intense heat, I can never think. I should always think of it as intense cold". I now knew exactly what she meant!

But I did it and I felt almost prostrate when there was a flood of light, the door burst open, and in they rushed. There was a whoop of delight as they pounced upon the Christmas loot and great delight and self-congratulations when they saw that Santa Claus had so obviously accepted their hospitality. That would be a talking point of juvenile jubilation for some time.

But to all this I could only be a spectator. I had played my part as a developer of a child's imagination and it had recoiled on me like the kick of a rifle. I was shattered. Mavis thought it funny, though!

G. Ryland

## 2. WATER MILLS IN CHARLTON KINGS

At the beginning of the 16th century, when corn growing in this area had reached maximum capacity, there were no less than five water mills functioning in this parish.

Sandford Mill (half in Charlton and half in Cheltenham) seems to have been started before 1086 by William I's steward or reeve to deal mainly with the corn grown on Sandford fields (created c.1050) plus Keynsham and Coltham (previously meadow) and Charlton Lower Field.

Charlton or Cudnall Mill in Spring Bottom followed about 1086-1200, to handle corn from Ryeworth and the new Lyefield, and c.1230 Castle field.

Ham Mill seems to have been a 14th century development connected with the attempt to raise Ham to the status of a sub-manor of Cheltenham.

Bafford Mill, now Bafford Farm, must have been needed when Lilleyfield, Milkwell, Vineyards, and Strouds were developed in the 13-14th centuries.

Finally Dowdeswell Mill, just inside our parish boundary at Dowdeswell End, was well placed to grind the corn from Ravensgate field, Barland, and the Howbeaches, as well as "foreign" corn from Dowdeswell itself.

But corn production in Charlton Kings began to decrease from the mid 16th century and little by little mixed farming with an emphasis on dairying changed the look of our countryside. Hedged fields laid down to grass began to replace

big open fields and strip cultivation. As an inevitable result, the number of mills declined.

The first to go was BAFFORD, because it was most dependant on crops from the higher ground, the earliest part to be inclosed, and because the water power of the Lilleybrook was the least reliable source of energy. John Packer, common miller of Bafford in 1595, was succeeded by Thomas Packer from 1597-9 but after that the court books cease to mention this mill and we may conclude it had already become a farm, though the position of the pond and mill wheel long remained visible. (GRO D 855 M 5/1 ff 39,47; M 7 ff 11,76,100,123).

HAM MILL was still active in 1617 but had gone by 1700, if not by 1670 - there is no suggestion of it in the Hearth Tax of 1672. Yet as late as 1824, an auctioneer could offer for sale "Scite of Ancient Mill, which at trifling expense may be converted to former use".

DOWDESWELL MILL stood on the right-hand side of the then London Road as it came down to the level of the Chelt (opposite Salts Farm). The dwelling house was on the bank, the mill itself (the tip of the roof visible in this 1824 sketch) on the stream.

It was there by 1628, when Cheltenham manor court ordered that the lane should be repaired "from Dowdeswell mill to Ballhowse" (on the site of The Hearne) (GRO D 855 M 10 f 7v); and the name, Dowdeswell Mill, continued in use till the new London Road was cut and the reservoir embankment destroyed the old road beyond that point. The 1858 Rate book speaks of a "house and garden", Dowdeswell Mill, owned by Samuel Higgs Gael and occupied by Thomas Windows, with  $1\frac{1}{4}$  acres of land, gross estimated rental £8, which does not suggest a working mill, and little of the land it had served was still arable. In 1876, at any rate, it was Samuel Fryer Raisher at "Dowdeswell Mill Farm".



The Mill House, Dowdeswell, by Powell 1824

CHARLTON MILL had a very varied history. For part of the 14-15th centuries it became a fulling mill, an indication that much of the corn we grew then was for export, not for local use. What corn we kept was ground at a windmill on Cudnall Bank, remembered only because it left its name on a piece of land there. Charlton Mill had reverted to grinding corn by the 16th century. John Ryefield or Marten was the common miller c.1585 to 1589 (GRO D 855 M5/1 ff 39, 47; M 7 ff 100,123,147); and John's widow Alice was succeeded as tenant by their youngest son Walter in 1612. There were two houses attached to the mill, so two heriots were due to the lord, the tenant's two best beasts, a cow and a heifer, valued at £4.3.4 which Walter paid in cash. (D. 855 M 8 ff 115v, 118v). The Martens were an old Charlton family, already in the parish and comparatively well-to-do at the time of the 1327 Lay Subsidy Roll. Walter was the last; he surrendered the mill but kept one house for his own use and his widow's. So from 1631, only one dwelling went with the mill.

After Walter Martin, Charlton Mill was held by:-

William Wayte 1631-c.1660	(D 855 M 10 f 48)
Thomas Wayte c.1660-	(D 855 M 11 p 216)
John Gibbons - 1692	(D 855 M 12 p 54)
Richard Mills and Edward Webb 1692-c.1698	(D 855 M 12 pp 117,325)
Francis Mills c.1698-1712	(D 855 M 14 p 7)
William Holman 1712-1716	(D 855 M 14 p 7)
John Holman his son 1716-1717	(D 855 M 14 p 56)
Philip Holman, brother of John 1717-c.1749	(D 855 M 14 p 84)
Richard Belcher 1749-1759	(D 955 M 15 p 158-9)

But on 15 June 1759 Richard Belcher and his wife surrendered the water grist mill and dwellinghouse in Charlton to William Prinn of Forden House, later called Charlton Park. (D 855 M 15 p 476). After that the old mill ceased to grind corn and became a leather mill, giving the name Leather Mill Pitch to the new London Road across Ryeworth field, cut in 1787.

When William Hunt Prinn redeemed tithe on the whole Charlton Park estate in 1810, the schedule included "Messuage, tenement and mill, now used as a leather mill, with the garden, orchard and appurtenances" containing 1 acre and in occupation of William Gregory as tenant (GRO D 1224/ ). It had been sold before the next survey of the estate in 1843; and may in fact have been sold in or shortly after 1810 - before 1824 at least. Corn growing was profitable again as a result of the Napoleonic War, and after that, the Corn Laws kept the price of corn up. So corn mills were needed and millers prosperous.

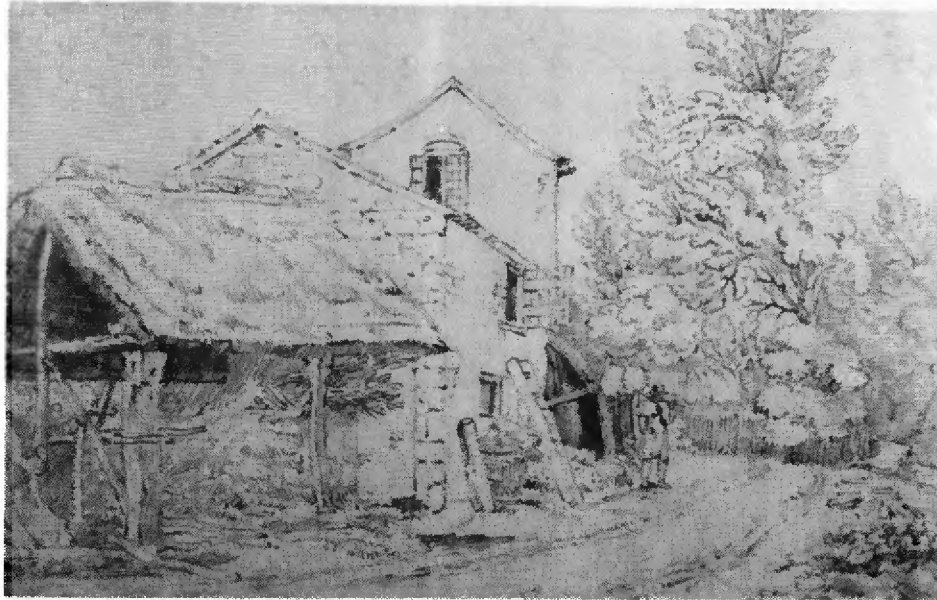
A new source of information became available with the 1832 Reform Act. Registers of Electors under the act began in 1832-3, when some Charlton people got a County vote. Samuel Powell had a vote as tenant of Charlton Mill and he was still there ten years later, when the owner was William Warder of London and the mill was described as freehold (Prinn had no doubt enfranchised it).

In 1848 the tithe apportionment shows the mill house and land (T M 360) with the Langett (TM 360a) as owned by Ann Best and occupied by John Matthews. The total area was 1s 3r.15p. Ann Best still owned the property in 1858 (Rate book) and was succeeded by Mark Whitehead (Register of Electors 1862). Tenants during those years were William Warder baker and miller 1856, and Charles Crump 1858. Kelly's Directory of 1885 still gives Charles Crump miller (water) at Charlton Mill. But the agricultural depression had struck Charlton badly and there was very little corn to be ground anywhere. It seems that Crump was our last working miller and by 1889 he was no longer at Charlton Mill.

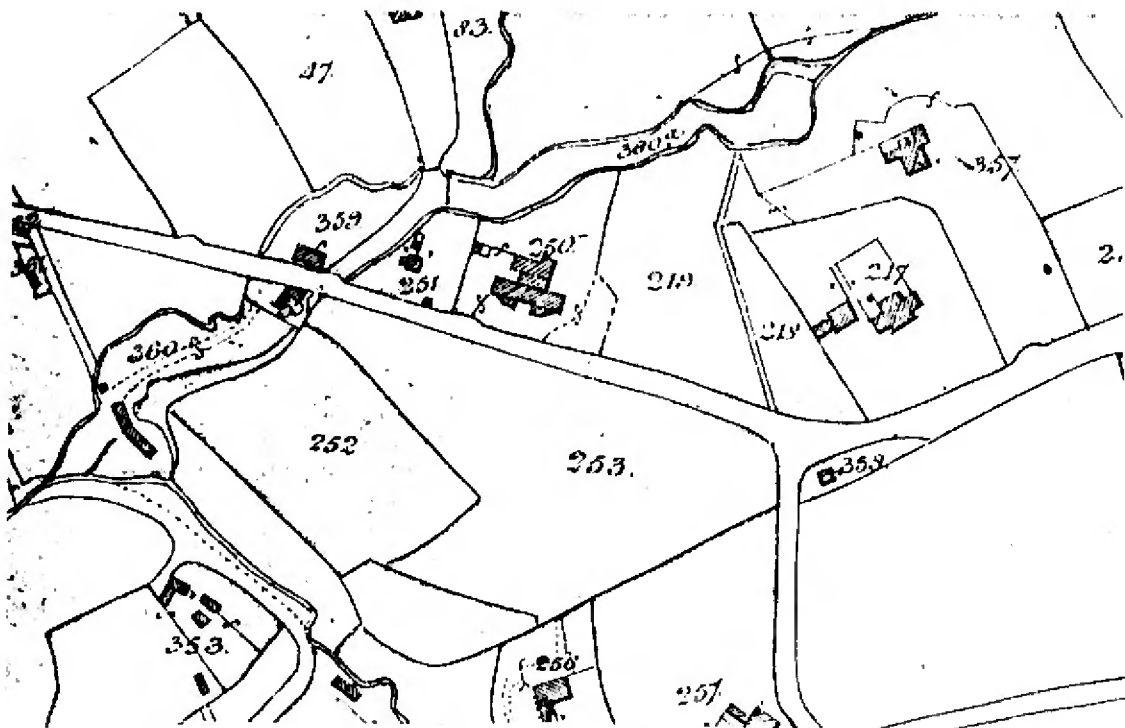
The mill then became a small dairy farm, run by Simeon Allen in 1897 and by Simeon and his brother Levi in 1906 and 1914 (Directories). Simeon was the "Peggy" Allen, said to have spent his evenings in his cow shed talking to his cows! Frank Kilby remembers how little boys used to tease him by calling out "Simeon, leave I alone!". Levi Allen, dairyman, was still at Charlton Mill

dairy in 1923, according to the Directory, but not much later.

The mill wheel was still there in the early 1900s but it gradually fell to pieces; and now all traces of the mill has gone.



Charlton Mill - Sketch by Powell 1824



Plan of Mill and Langett Tithe Map 1848 (TM 360 and 360a)

### Barretts Hay or The Langett

Parallel with the River Chelt from Floodgate meadow to the mill there ran the mill race, which allowed the miller to control the flow of water. The Hay or Langett was the strip of land between the two watercourses. This land was copyhold of Ashley manor, not Cheltenham, and so had a different history. The first reference (in default of earlier court books) is 4 August 1752 when Richard Jeffs surrendered Barretts Hay for £28 to Richard Belcher of Norton co Glos innholder. He may be the same Richard Belcher who in 1749 had acquired Charlton Mill and sold the mill in June 1759 to Prinn; at any rate on 15 June 1759 Richard Belcher and Ann his wife also surrendered to William Prinn "a close of arable or pasture ground in Charlton Kings called Barretts Hay adjoining the mill stream there" - it was reckoned to be  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres. (GRO D 109/1). As Prinn was lord of Ashley manor, this piece now ceased to be copyhold.

We pick it up again in 1837 as transferred to Thomas Warder, presumably a connection of William Warder who owned the mill; and on 23 June 1860 Thomas Warder sold it to James Hancock of London Road ironmonger. Hancocks mortgaged it in 1888 and in 1906 sold for £100 to Benjamin Gough of Charlton Kings a freehold parcel called Barretts Hay or The Langetts "including the bed of the disused Mill Stream". When Gough died in 1940 part of The Langett was sold to a builder, and since then the whole area has been developed and the mill race quite obliterated.

As Jeffes who sold Barretts Hay in 1752 was not himself at Charlton Mill, I think we may conclude that the mill race was a mid-18th century improvement created by Richard Belcher and maintained by his successors till the mill went out of business. There was no suggestion of floodgates near the Coffin path when that footway and the bridge across the Chelt were viewed in 1627 (GRO D 855 M 9 pt 2 p 273).

I am very grateful to Mr and Mrs Sutton of 2 Riverside Close for showing me their title deeds with a plan of the mill leet and information about its story from 1837.

### Track to the Mill

The court books have references in 1692, 1694 and 1698 to the need for planks and rails or posts and pales at Charlton Mill pound head (D 855 M 12 pp 33, 137,325). This suggests that the path from Ryeworth to the mill and across by the mill house (on the tithe map and still remembered as in use early this century but long since closed) was in common use in the 17th century.

Now for SANDFORD MILL, the oldest of the five mills and the one to remain recognisably a mill-house to this day,

In the 16th century, Sandford mill or mills belonged to the Pates family. Norden's survey of 1617 says that Richard Pates gentleman then held 2 mills here, with 5 acres in Mill Meads and an acre close of meadow in Sandfords Meade - that is to say, he had land on both sides of the mill stream. There was a large mill pool up stream - it is mentioned as a boundary to strips in Mill Furlong (the open field between the mill and the land going with Charlton House). From Pates one of the mills went to John Higgs. A court book entry for 3 October 1618 refers to "John Higgs gentleman's water mill by Sandford bridge" (GRO D 855 M 9 p 112). But this may have been a temporary assignment, for in 1650 there is an entry showing Linnett Pates surrendering land which had belonged to his two mills called Sandford Mills or to one of them (GRO D 855 M 11 f 54v), and then on 31 March 1657 (M 11 p 208) Lynnett Pates surrendered to John Cooper and his heirs two mills in the tithing of Westall, Naunton and Sandford, with Millmead, pasture adjoining the little mill called the Mill Paddock, Great Mill close, the Mill acre in Sandford meadow, and land in Avenhill field (ie Avernalls). Included in the sale was a water course

purchased by Lynnett Pates from Edward Wells - this was the diverted Pill (see Bulletin 9 p.37).

From this date, Sandford Mills continued to be part of the Charlton House estate, passing by inheritance from Cooper to Sloper, to Cooke, and to Higgs (see Bulletin 10 p.9).

There had always been floodgates above the mill, to build up a good head of water; four men were sent by the court to view the mere or boundary marks by Richard Pates' floodgates in 1599 (GRO D 855 M 7 f 153). But when Daniel Cox was the miller at Sandford in 1695, there were complaints that he had raised his floodgates and injured his neighbours, so an order was made on 23 March 1695/6 for "Daniel Cox miller to take upp his Fludgates before the next court and to suffer the water to have its free course as formerly down the Brooke and not to pound it or damm it up noe more" (GRO D 855 M 12 p 204). This sounds more drastic than it probably was - such orders usually led to a compromise.



1804  
by  
Claude.

ROUGH COPY OF A  
PENCIL PICTURE IN  
MUSEUM.  
CHERT.

dated 1804

'Sandford Mill'

Towards the end of the 18th century, the mill needed repair. A pamphlet produced by the Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology in August 1967 describes Sandford Mill and says that "A plaque on the mill gives the date of renovation as 1780". Perhaps this should read 1786, for Charles Higgs who had married Susannah Cooke, was elderly in 1780 and died in March 1781 - his son and heir Charles seems a more likely person to have undertaken the work. We know what Sandford mill looked like about that time from a sketch of 1804 discovered by one of our members, Mr. Cooper, in Cheltenham Museum. This drawing by Claude shows a rebuilt dwelling-house, but a timber-framed mill-house - we reproduce here Mr Cooper's drawing from the sketch.

Charles Higgs the son suffered a recovery in 1806 on property including a water-mill and 8 acres of land covered with water. That fictitious suit was intended to remove any entail and on 7 January 1807 Higgs mortgaged Sandford Mill with the dwellinghouse, Mill Meadow and Mill Paddock (together 11 acres), and Mill Orchard (2 acres), to raise £1300 (GRO D 855 M 21 pp 61,211). This money was probably put towards the rebuilding of Charlton House between 1807 and 1810. But Higgs died in 1810, and further improvements to the mill had to wait till his heir Charles Cooke Higgs came of age in 1818 - the next sketch done in 1822 is taken from a different angle but shows that by then the mill-house had been rebuilt as well as the dwelling. Mr Cooper found this print in Gloucester City Library.

We are very grateful to the Museum and the Library for allowing us to use these views here.

There had been two mills at Sandford in the 17th century but probably only one by the late 18th. However, the first time this is stated categorically is in a surrender of 8 June 1833, when Charles Cooke Higgs passed over to a trustee his "messuage and water corn mill formerly two mills --- called Sandford Mill, together with the floodgates, Banks, Stanks, Waters and Watercourses ---", the Mill Meade and the Mill Paddock (this last being in Charlton Kings). Higgs' tenant was Mr Richard Hobbs (GRO D 855 acc 2198/8).

Up to this date, there had been no approach to the mill from London Road except by Old Bath Road to the point where the highway was crossed by a track leading from Cheltenham along the north bank of the Chelt (as is still does) but continuing to the mill (that section now built over). This track was known as Mill Road. But in 1839 Charles Cooke Higgs created a new road, Sandford Mill Road, leading past the mill and intended to enter Old Bath Road through Cox's Meadow. This last stretch was laid out but not made up till the early 1920s; at that time it was still preferable to turn into Mill Road for the final bit. Higgs had sold plots along his new road but in fact only one house was built there before the end of the century. All this is clearly shown by a plan on a title deed of 30 May 1901. I am grateful to Mrs Loud for showing me this.

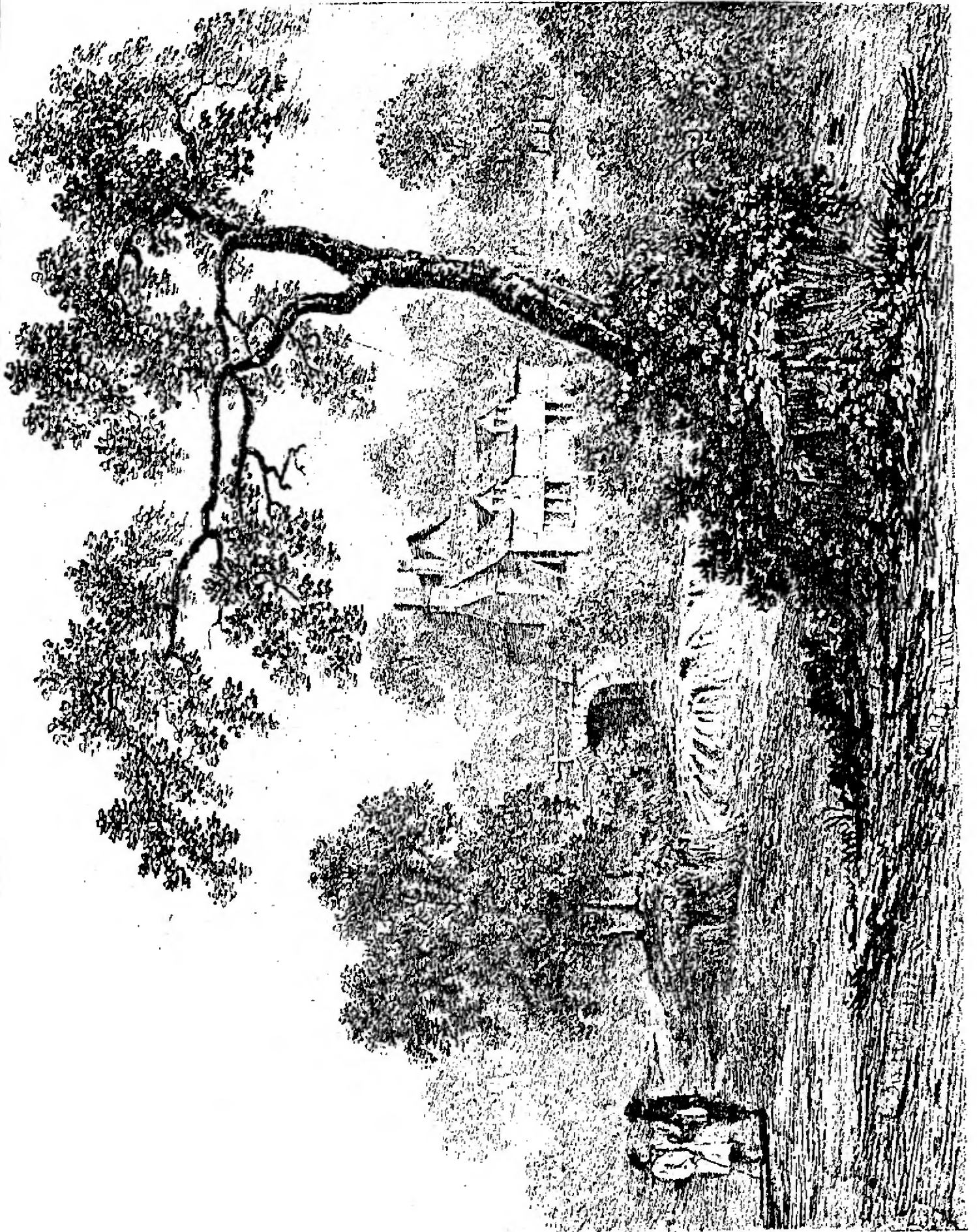
The parish boundary went through the mill stream and so when the bounds of Charlton were duly beaten in 1831, the Minister had to wade along the stream at the mill tail and go through the mill. It was a chilly start to a day's walk! But this curious fact saved Sandford Mill in 1864 from being turned into a sewage farm for Charlton Kings! Charles Cooke Higgs was willing to sell the mill to the Board of Health for this purpose but Cheltenham Borough wouldn't agree to such a use for the main part of the mill which was in Cheltenham. (See Bulletin 11 p 15).

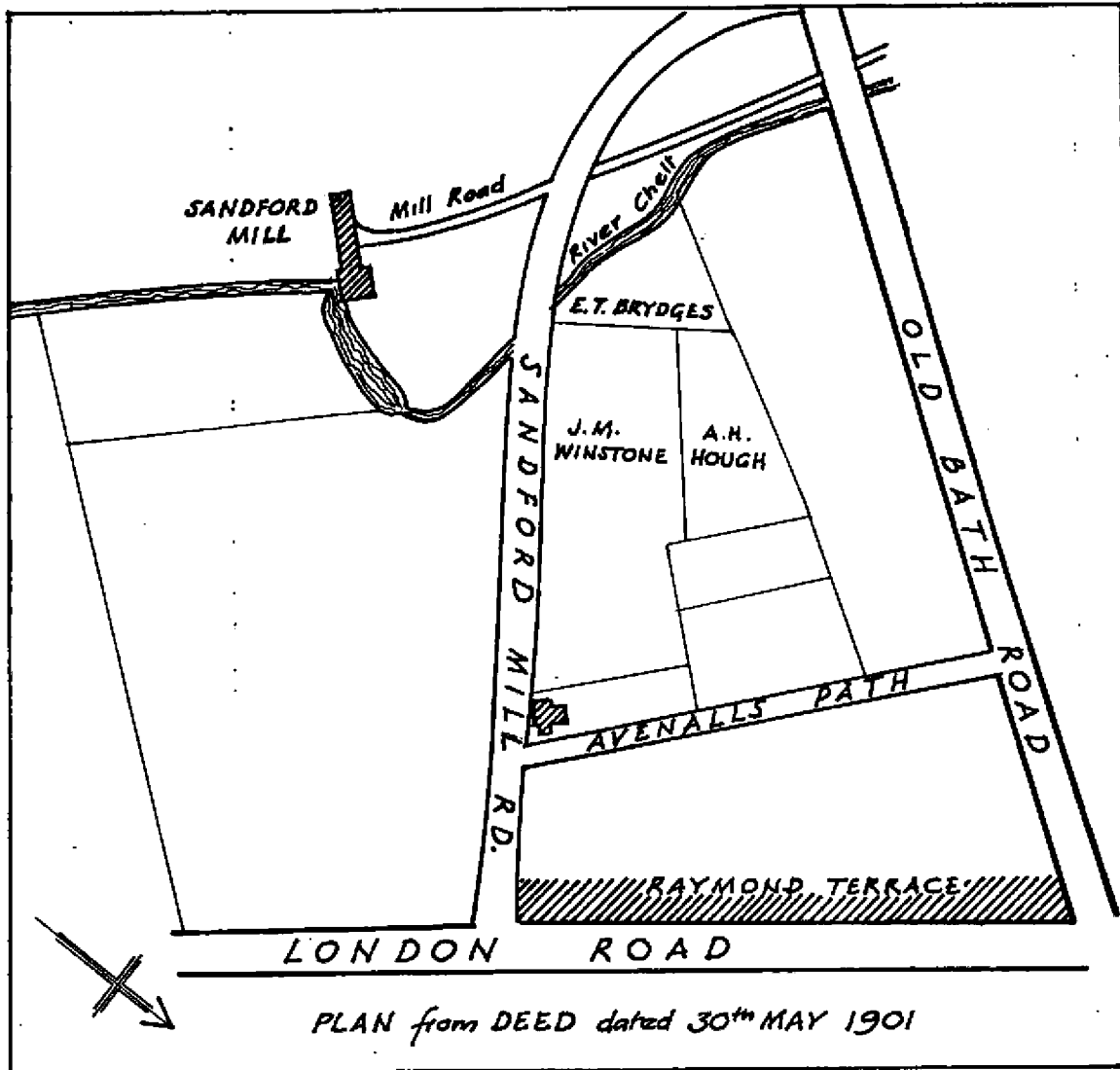
Hunt and Co's Directory of the City of Gloucester and Cheltenham (1847) gives the miller at Sandford as John Greening. Morris's Gloucestershire Directory (1876) lists Thomas Marshall Sisam, miller and corn dealer, Sandford Mill.

When Charles Cooke Higgs died in 1884, his will left all his property (subject to legacies and a life interest) to his sister Rupertia Sandes widow. She in 1887 devised Sandford Mill, then occupied by Mr Ride corndealer, to her nephew Edward Gale, to be free from all encumbrances. So when she died on 5 August 1887, Charles Edward Gale or Gael (as he preferred to spell it) became the absolute owner.

Some time during the 19th century, there were alterations at the mill which so far we can't date, to give it the appearance shown in our cover illustration.







Ride seems to have been the last miller or corn dealer here. Sandford Mill then became a small farm, owned and worked in 1924 by W.Cox (hence Cox's Meadow, the traditional venue for local fairs) and on 21 March 1957 the mill was sold by George Victor Frank Cox farmer for £2500 and the land was developed. The Mill House became three dwellings, but the outside appearance of the building wasn't greatly changed until very recently.

#### Millers

Besides the ones known positively to have worked at Charlton Mill, there were some whose children were baptised at St. Mary's and who probably lived at Spring Bottom but just could have come from Sandford Mill, since it was partly in this parish. They were Thomas Heath 1821; Benjamin Cull 1831; Jabez Blandford 1832; William Ebury or Every 1847, 1848, 1849; and George Manton from Coventry 1853, 1854. The Eburys moved to Stroud but came back to Charlton for the baptism of another son in 1855.

A miller who almost certainly was at Sandford Mill was Thomas Stratton. His daughter was baptised here in 1861, when the father was described as of Cheltenham; but then came two sons in 1863 and 1866, when the father was said to live in Charlton Kings. It is tempting to suppose that Stratton did not

get on with the rigidly evangelical churchmanship he would have encountered at the Parish Church or St. Luke's.

M. Paget

### 3. NOBBY'S HYMN

If this weather of ours don't change, I can't help but think it will go down as the mildest of winters that some of us old ones remember. I am writing this story about the middle of January and already the snowdrops are out, the daffs are some 5 inches above ground, the primrose is out and the rose bush in leaf. That rambler of ours which nature seems to have taken over will be about 9 feet high but a haven of refuge for those cheeky sparrows, tits, and wrens from all the cats, from the clutches of Flossie, Blacky, Soapy and Henry. No, they are not our cats but they do look up into that rambler with longing in their eyes! We have at least another two and a half months before we come to the end of March and we all know what the weather can be like in that month. Maybe a few warm days and then we wake up to find snow falling and bitter cold north-east winds. I can remember not so many years ago when those bitter winds remained with us until somewhere around the second week of May. I think some of us began to wonder if those winds would ever stop.

While at school and I think some 12-13 years of age, our Headmaster came to me with a note. "Would I take it to my Father straight away and return to school" which I did. The note was to ask for a plumber to go to the Infants and Girls, they were without water - all the water pipes frozen. So it was that my brother and Nobby made a start to thaw the pipes, but the weather being so severe, the pipes froze again at night and they had to start all over again. It was during this time that Nobby could hear those children singing away in the Infants' School. So it was over there that he learnt all the words of that old hymn which I am sure all of us have sung many times - so why not him? In those days he never entered a place of worship, not till he heard those children singing "There is a green hill far away". We oft-times thought that maybe that hymn was the turning-point in his life; but as the years went on, we found there was other things as well.

Mrs Hall was a strange woman, for as far as I knew she never went any further than the gas lamp-post at the top of Spring Pitch, and if by chance you passed her, she would never speak. Apart from Nobby, the only person she would talk to was my Mother. He would do all the shopping. So it was, over the years, she was taken away, maybe to a home or more likely to the Workhouse. He never mentioned her afterwards. I think it was a chapter in his life that he wanted to forget.

1919 he found himself working at Dowdeswell Court, and as I found out in later years, he would become friendly with a cook. On his way home he paid a visit to Mr Attwood's shop and bought a small piece of bacon to boil for himself; but the man who told me the story said he didn't think that Nobby got any farther than The Merry Fellow that evening. Next morning he was knocking on the kitchen door, enquiring how the cook's health was. When told that she was in good health, and what was it he wanted?, "Well" said he "I bought this bit of bacon to boil for my dinner today and I clean forgot to boil it for I went out and done some gardening. When I did remember it was a bit late to light the fire, so I wonder if you will boil it for me?" "Yes, of course I will" said the cook. Dinner time came around and he made for the kitchen door and there on the table and on a very large plate was boiled potatoes, broad beans, and four large slices of ham. "There's your dinner" said the cook; and I understand it was one of many he enjoyed while working there. Nobby was no "Billy Muggins"!

But his life was to change around 1922. That was when he met Martha ---, Martha being a cook at a fairly large house in this village. That is where some six of us found ourselves working. The owner and his wife wisely left while work was in progress, but Martha said she was going to "stick it out". But she turned out to be quite a "good 'un", for every morning about 10.30 she would shout out that she had made a pot of tea, so it was we would make our way to the kitchen. One morning Nobby without any warning began singing that hymn, cook joined in, and so I think the rest of us. So it was when we came to the end, we heard a voice from the other side of the door saying "I thought for a moment or two I had opposition to my choir!", the door opened and in walked Revd Edgar Neale who demanded that we sang it again with him, which of course we did. Before leaving us he said that he would like to see us at church next Sunday, rather a tall order! (All the Cleveleys were Chapel)

Monday morning came around with the cup of tea, when suddenly Nobby said to Martha that he rather enjoyed the service at church. Complete silence fell on every one of us, and then one or two laughed aloud. But Martha said "That's quite right, Tom was at church and we walked down the road together". Was romance in the air?!!

So it was, over the next 14 years or so on, one would find Martha making her way every week off duty to Nobby's cottage, and there she would do some cooking for him and return back to her place of employment. But all this came to an end when the owner of that villa passed away and the house was sold. Martha found herself out of work. It was not long afterwards she decided to return to her native Forest of Dean, leaving Nobby to look after himself. There was quite a lot of people in this Village who said that Nobby died from a broken heart, for within four months he had passed away.

May I add, just one of the colourful characters that we had in this Village of ours.

Eric Cleveley

CAN YOU FIND A CAPTION?

These two photographs must have been taken in the early twenties. They show the Revd Edgar Neale of St. Mary's and the Revd. R.H.W. Bouth, Chairman of the UDC, at a first sod-cutting. But what was the occasion? and where was it?



Can he lift it?

He's done it!



Photographs lent  
by Mrs. Bick

5. THE 7TH CHELTENHAM (CHARLTON KINGS) TROOP OF B.P. SCOUTS IN 1910

This was the name given to the Troop in their Magazine, The Charltonian, and the name then displayed over the door of East End Hall.

Mr. E.J. Fear has lent the first Committee minute book for 1910 and 11 numbers of the monthly magazine for 1926-7. They give an interesting picture of the start of the Troop and its state sixteen years later after it had become firmly established; and supplement the recollections of Mr George Ryland published in our Bulletins 7-9. Mr. Fear has added his own memories of yeoman service by our Scouts during the Wars.

The first Committee meeting in Charlton was held at the Council Schools on 15 February 1910, with Capt. Macbean, Major Dudgeon, Major Russell, Capt. Hibberd, Mr. H.J. Pratt and Mr. F.J. Fry present. They agreed to ask Mrs Griffiths to serve with them.

The economic state of Charlton in 1910 appears in a resolution about uniform. "It was decided to get caps and shorts for those who could not afford to get them at once and the boys were to pay so much per week till they had paid for them"; but this resolution was modified at the next meeting when "it was

decided that clothing be provided only when the patrol is full and not in instalments". So the Committee members agreed to defray the expenses of special badges.

Co-operation with Holy Apostles was a delicate problem. In April 1910 Mrs Griffiths "mentioned that the Holy Apostles School Master had approached Captain Hibberd as to acting as Scoutmaster to a patrol at their Schools, but it was the opinion of all that it would be unadvisable to form a distinct Corps which might prevent the two Schools working together harmoniously". Then in May "it was proposed by Mr Pratt and seconded by Major Dudgeon that the Holy Apostles boys should be eligible and asked to join the Charlton Troop".

One mark of a scout in 1910 was his Staff. "Mr Barnard suggested that the Scouts should mark their staves with the name of Troop and patrol and dates of Field Days". Mrs Griffiths "offered a Union Jack for the Charlton Kings Troop, but Mr Barnard questioned whether the use of same would be allowed. Should permission be refused, "Mrs Griffiths kindly promised to get a flag with a design to be selected". (This was before the official Scout flag was instituted).

"It had been arranged for Scouts to go to Windsor in June for the King's Rally, for 2/6, to include railway fare and refreshments". Even at this incredibly cheap rate, we are not told if any actually went from Charlton.

One early preoccupation was to train Scouts to shoot. They were refused use of the Rifle butts at Seven Springs, and Mr Fry was asked to enquire whether they could use the rifle range behind the Working Men's Club. This was arranged, the boys to pay only for the ammunition used. Shooting was strictly controlled and was not for boys under 14. An air gun and target were found to be prohibitively expensive.

Musical instruments were badly needed. In June 1910 Mr Edwards offered drums and fifes (perhaps the drum featured in the photograph of c.1919) and in September Mr Pratt gave a bugle. (I well remember that bugle, for on summer evenings in 1917-19 boys used to walk up and down the public footpath on the allotment near the Scout Hall, making the most doleful sounds as they tried to master the instrument - this was only a very short distance from the bedroom window and I had been sent to bed, as was the practice in those days, sharp at 6!)

Going to camp has always been the great event of a scout's year. In July 1910 "as there was some difficulty in obtaining tents, bedding etc for Camp, it was decided that the Charlton Troop should join the combined Camp which was being organised by Col. Sturges, which would take place at Bredon during the last week of August. The Hon. Sec said that probably some of the boys would be unable to attend Camp owing to the fact that they would be unable to obtain the money for the cost of same. Mr Bouth kindly offered to advance 30/- if necessary, to be repaid by the boys as soon as possible". In the event, 20 boys went "and needless to say, they had a most enjoyable holiday, besides learning many things that all scouts should know. It is interesting to note that all competitions which took place at Camp were won by Charlton Scouts (a) A. Davis won the seven mile relay race to Ashchurch Church; (b) A. Davies was also the only scout to return into camp in possession of his stamped dispatch; (c) P. Palmer won the hidden dispatch competition; (d) F. Marshall won the high jump; and (e) P. Palmer won the holster bar competition". Up Charlton Kings!



6. RECOLLECTIONS OF THE CHARLTON KINGS SCOUTS DURING TWO WORLD WARS

As far as I can remember, I must have joined the troop in the autumn of 1914. We met in the boys school in School Road. The Scoutmaster had joined up so we were taken on by Mr. Percy Crowther who lived at Woodmeade in School Road; he was a teacher at the Parish Church School in Cheltenham and Scoutmaster of the Parish Troop. Soon after, Mr. J.J. Thorne took over as Scoutmaster and we rented the East End Hall and met there on Tuesday nights. It was lighted by gas lights that went bright and dim most of the time, and heated by a tortoise stove that smoked us out when the wind was in a certain direction. Apart from ordinary scouting Mrs. Fry took us in first aid and Mr. Cathrine, who was electrician at Mr. Lords at Lillybrook and a member of the Red Cross, took us in stretcher drill. We used to make a barricade of tables and chairs across the middle of the hall and practice getting a stretcher with a patient in it over the barricade.

We also had rifle shooting at the range in the Working Mens Club, and while waiting our turn to shoot, tried knitting socks for the troops (I don't think I ever finished a pair). There was a "War Service Badge that could be worn on the uniform shirt for so many hours of helping with war work. We used to go to Moorend park, which was a war hospital and help with the washing up, etc.

Mrs. Griffiths (our Fairy Godmother) who lived at Oakfield on Battledown used to take some of us once a week to try and teach us French; mostly we went to her house for lessons. One night coming back home the air raid hooter at the electric light works went off and we climbed the lamp posts and put out the gas lights. One of our P.L. a Sydney Burrows, joined the Sea Scouts and was sent to Mullion Cove in Cornwall to help in coast watching.

In the last war we helped to distribute gas masks.

When a large train load of evacuees was expected at Charlton Kings Station we were asked to provide 'latrines' in the station goods yard. We also provided messengers with one or two of the older boys for the Air Raid Wardens. We collected and sent away many tons of waste paper and magazines and books. To start with they had the use of the Charlton Kings allotments shop (later Dales Cycle Shop) for storing and baling but after a while it was required for furniture storage and we had to give it up. We bought an old First World War hut from a farm in Hawling where it was being used for poultry. The old boys dismantled it at weekends, brought it back to headquarters on a lorry and re-erected it outside the hall, where we had permission to put it until the end of the War. Mr Dimmond Hogg took some of the boys for fire fighting practice. We used to practice in the field at the back of Charlton House, with a mobile trailer pump and water from the Chelt.

We lost three of our boys in the RAF. Gilbert Buxton, Syd Mabbett and George (Winch) Smith. I shall always remember one letter from "Winch" written from Canada where he was training, saying he could not get used to having his bed made for him by a Waaf.

E.J. Fear



7. CHARLTON KINGS SCOUTS c.1919

Photograph lent by Mr. H.G. Ellard



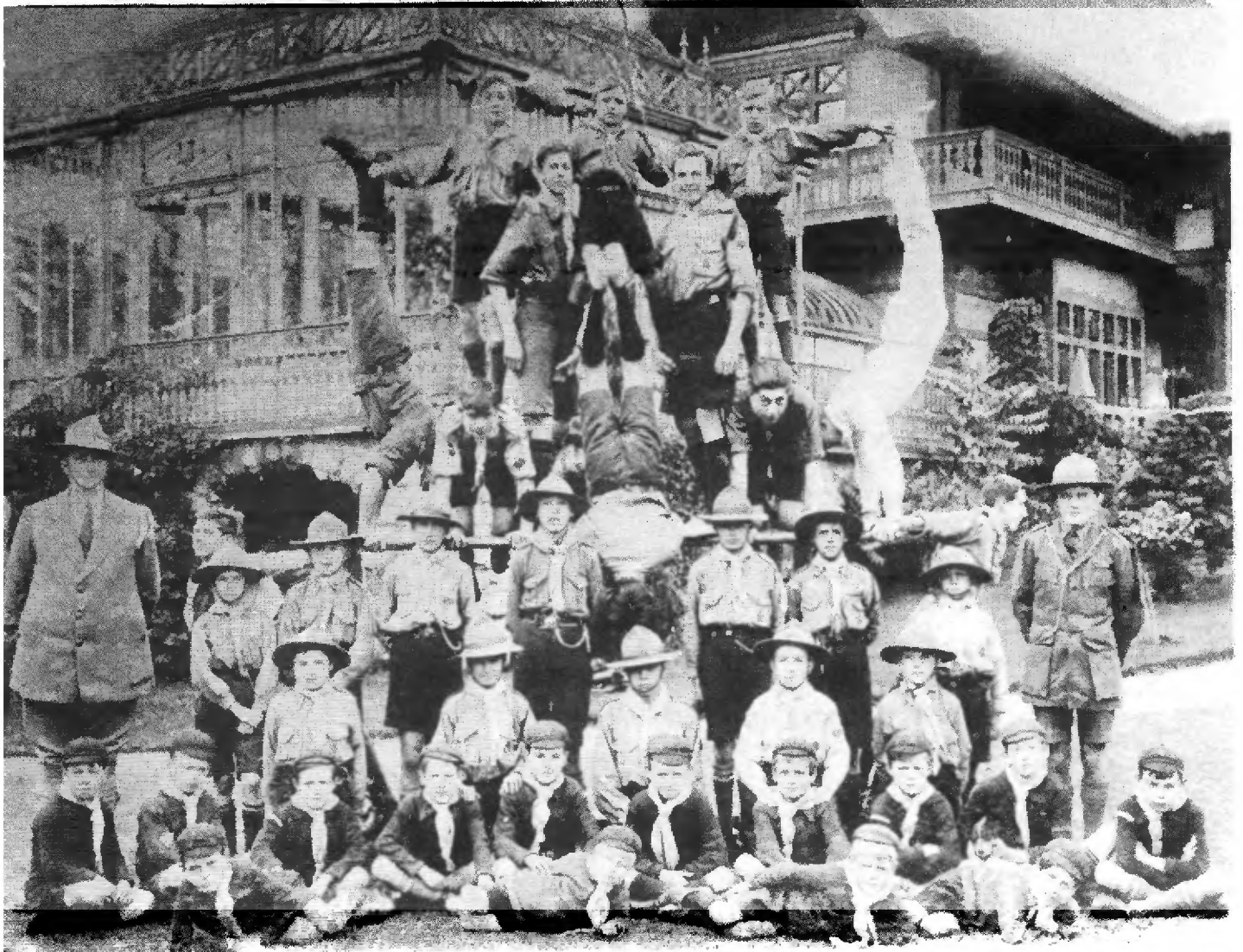
This photograph (rather faded) shows the Revd Edgar Neale in the centre with Jimmy Thorne, Scoutmaster, next to him and then Mrs Griffiths of Oakfield, Battledown, the Troop's "fairy godmother" who helped them whenever anything was needed. She wears a winter coat and hat. The boy with the drum stick is St Clair Welch. As there are cubs in the front row, this photograph must have been taken after c.1917-8 when they were first introduced; and not long after the 1914-18 War as two men in the back row are still in uniform. George Ryland who is in civvies was demobbed early.

The back row, left to right, is probably "Boss" Fry, Cathrine from Lilleybrook (with the patch over his eye), soldier, George Ryland, Mr Sharpe of Coxhorne, Grevill Hamlett the undertaker, ?, soldier.

Thorne was Scoutmaster till September 1925. He was succeeded by K.G.Cleveley for a year and then by Mr Fear. Mrs Griffiths died on 25 April 1926.

THE SCOUTS AT MOOREND PARK, July 1922

This photograph was used in the History of Charlton Kings but with the wrong date in the caption. Members identified by Mr. E.J. Fear.



Back J. Humphries, L.Hancock, - Hancock, B. Gardener, E.J.Fear  
Handstands J. Sealey, - Burrows, - Wheeler  
LH Bar Perris RH Bar Mills  
Scouts Standing H.Jeans, H.Evans, T.Lawrence, P.Bridgman, - Lawrence, Crockshall, Short  
Scouts Kneeling - Peacey, J.Peacey, B.Hughes, - Sealey, H.Lawrence  
SM J.J.Thorne ASM Ken (Albert) Cleeveley  
Cubs sitting R.Peacey, B.Brunsdan, R.Rickards, L.Eaketts, R.Bunce, - Merrett, Pat Cooper, George Rickards, - (unknown), Harold Cook  
Cubs lying down L.Tor, D.Mustoe, D.Eaketts, B.Eaketts, Jerry Protherough (Croft Rd)

8. BEATING THE BOUNDS c.1880

Reprinted from The Charltonian May 1926 No 5 p 12 and June 1926 No 6 pp 8,12, by permission.

Fifty or sixty years ago many quaint customs were common in Charlton Kings which no longer exist. Few of the readers of the Charltonian, will have seen the little chimney sweeps of Cheltenham dancing round the Jack-in-the-

Bush on May 1st. Alfred Noyes has written a very pretty piece of poetry regarding this custom and the reason of the action.

Another old custom which has ceased to exist as far as this locality is concerned is one which Mr. Peacey and I among others took part in about 50 years ago, Beating the Bounds. The ordnance survey and the resultant maps have been the death of this picturesque scene, now deemed no longer necessary. As one of the reasons why the bounds were walked was to impress on the younger generation the various points of the boundaries a large number of boys and youths accompanied the older inhabitants who made up the party. To the best of my recollection a start was made from the Holy Apostles' School and we proceeded up Hales Road, which was then the boundary of Charlton Kings as far as Harp Hill which we ascended till we almost reached the Reservoir wall the said Reservoir being then as it is now in the parish of Charlton Kings. Here we crossed the field and at the stream at the bottom our guide, an old man had the misfortune to cut his face badly while walking up the ditch and had to be sent to the rear and another leader was chosen. To impress the youngsters and to give them a reason for remembering the various corners, some of them were bumped on the ground at these places, not hard enough to give much bodily pain but sufficient vigour was employed to cause some personal discomfort for the time being. The boys were no different then to what they are now, and retaliated by throwing clods of earth and other missiles slyly at their elders, as it commenced to rain and umbrellas were hoisted then crab apples were the weapons offences and I can still see the sorry state some of the umbrellas were in, more especially that of one of the leading officials whose name I will not mention.

Up Agg's Hill was our next move, you can still see the boundary stone on the side of the road nearly opposite, then bearing to the right we reached the lane that leads to Whittington, passing the long row of sycamore trees which make such a conspicuous skyline, visible from practically every part of our village and forms an easily distinguishable boundary line. Then we skirted Dowdeswell wood and reached Salts farm then occupied by Mr Hobbs. The present reservoir was not in existence then and some one had to crawl through a culvert which I think parted Charlton Kings from Dowdeswell, but I am not at all certain about that point. Then we crossed the road and finally arrived at Old Dole Farm.

We crossed the old London Road by Salts' Farm. The present road which runs by the reservoir did not exist neither did the reservoir. Those were made at a later date and the whole aspect changed. We made next across the fields under Red Wood to Old Dole Farm. This belonged at the time to Col. Holmes who lived at Whithorne. A rest was made there and we all found the food and drink which had been provided very welcome. I believe the fare was bread and cheese with ale for the men and ginger beer for the lads. While it is my impression that Col. Holmes provided the refreshment I am told that it was the Local Board, as the Council was called in those days who did so whoever gave it the receivers enjoyed it and were grateful.

We then clambered up the Sheep bank at the back of the farm and reached the Summit of Ravensgate Hill. We kept to the top of the hill under what used to be called the Larches and which at the time was Cornland, coming down eventually and crossing the Cirencester Road at the top of the hill, by the Shooting Butts field. You can plainly see there now where the boundary runs by the different level in the road. I may add that some of the more adventurous ones chased the rabbits that then were very plentiful. Then on to the top of Leckhampton Hill or as it was and still is called Charlton Common. The line of fir trees on the Summit mark the boundary. We went to the extremity of the parish, turning eventually near Sunny Bank and descending to the Vale again passing some fruit trees on our way which provided ammunition for the umbrellas.

Our route led us to Charlton Lane or Greenhills Road the boundary being by Long Acre we crossed the road and went direct through the Avenue field, over the iron palings into the Park, through what is now the East Glos'ter Cricket Ground and across the fields to Sanford Mill. The Mill was always working there being a plentiful supply of water flowing down the Chelt in those days. The boundary ran through the Chelt and one young man swam the stream while others found a bridge to get across. Then out into the Old Bath Road and finally reaching Hales Road again we completed the boundary.

Note. This event must have taken place after the building of Holy Apostles' Schools in 1972; the object of beginning the perambulation there and not at Sandford Mill may have been to eliminate a cold wet plunge into the mill stream at the start of the day!

## 9. DETMORE AFTER THE DOBELLS

### 1. Miss Mabel Catherine Malleson of Detmore

The Malleson family has been in the news lately in connection with the exhibition outside Cheltenham of one of the pictures of Dixton Manor where the family lived from 1882.

Frank Rodbard Malleson and his wife Elizabeth leased Dixton Manor from Samuel Gist in 1882. They had a son Percy Rodbard and three daughters, Mabel Catherine, Rachel and Hope. Rachel married Reginald Lane Poole, the two other daughters remained unmarried.

Frank Rodbard died in 1903, but his widow Elizabeth continued to live at Dixton until her death in 1916, when probate was granted to Mabel Catherine Malleson and Hope Malleson spinsters.

The two Dixton paintings, now in Cheltenham Art Gallery, were left to Hope Malleson and Rachel Poole. Hope presented the one showing the manor to the art gallery in 1927. Dr. A.L. Poole, the son of Rachel Poole, presented the other one in 1957.

Mabel Catherine Malleson 'of Detmore, Charlton Kings, spinster' died 29th January 1931.

Hope Malleson published a biography of her mother privately in 1926. She died in 1933.

J. Sale

### 2. Miss Clarence and Miss Fison

In 1936 I was studying dairying and dairy farming at Aberystwyth University. During the Summer Vacations, I answered an advertisement in The Lady, "to take charge of a small farming enterprise at Detmore, Charlton Kings, to enable the lady bailiff to take a holiday".

My first sight of Detmore was from the Lodge where the bailiff lived. The house was long, low, well set-back from the road and virtually protected by a charming 'Victorian' garden. The garden was a perfect setting for the house.

Miss Fison and Miss Clarence lived at Detmore; they were friends of long-standing, joining the Suffragettes and being imprisoned. They spoke very little of their experiences, but Miss Fison had been badly treated and not fully recovered. She was quiet, gentle and frail. We met sometimes in the evening and walked in the garden which she loved.

Miss Clarence was brisk and bustling: she looked after the house-keeping and the house, with help from the village. Her brother, O.B.Clarence, was an actor, appearing in the West End. I was shown a photograph of a vicar; it was O.B.Clarence in costume!

My charges were 4 Jersey cows, a lively group of hens, a pony, and two dogs.. All were accustomed to women and were very friendly and biddable, making my responsibility agreeable and enjoyable. It was an 'old-fashioned' August, hot and dry. Miss Clarence thought I might enjoy sleeping in the rose garden. Out came a camp bed, blankets and pillows, perfectly placed under a rose 'bower'. It was heavenly, falling asleep with the stars and waking with the birds.

Late one night a cow, Primrose, due to calve, was uneasy and troubled, showing signs that her time had come. After hours of increasing distress for both of us, Primrose began to moan; I telephoned the Vet, a kindly man, who examined her. "I think we can let Nature take her course, my dear". He was right; with the morning light came the calf, soon on its feet and feeding from its mother. Miss Clarence observed that the rose garden was indeed close to the calving pen but that she knew nothing of the intentions of Primrose!

Miss Fison and Miss Clarence were admirable women: it was my great good fortune to work for them and to live with them at Detmore. I will never forget them for their qualities and their kindness to me.

In 1937 or 1938 I spent another two weeks at Detmore.

The house remains in my mind: the styles of architecture, The windows were latticed and had views of the garden and some of the outbuildings. The main staircase was carved and "interesting". The backstair was steep and I recollect that it was spiral: some walls were panelled: the floors were tiled. The arranging and furnishing of the rooms, large and small, was for comfort and ease of living. I loved Detmore with its stillness and its serenity. I felt it was at peace with its history and its memories.

I am greatly indebted to my friends Betty and John Greene for sending me a copy of Mr. C.W.Dobell's detailed and fascinating "History of Detmore" which I have read and re-read.

I have a copy of Eva Dobell's poem 'Longfield' which is pure delight. I am reading again John Halifax, Gentleman, at 74 years of age. Fortunately my youngest son aged 37 has a copy of Mrs Craik's book.

We called at Detmore in September 1988.

Mrs. Nesta Hall nee Lewis

### 3. Restoration at Detmore 1986

During the summer of 1986 restoration started on the oldest part of Detmore House, East End. I believe that this part was once the dairy. We started on the second floor which during the sixties had been made into a flat. We removed rotten windows and plasterboard partitions. During this haphazard process, large amounts of plaster fell from original walls, exposing very substantial timbers and interesting brickwork. Most impressive was the main supporting timber running the entire length of the first room. Floor boards in the second room were renewed, under them we found inches of soil! which we realised must cover the entire upstairs floor area. I have worked in Archaeology for several years, so this was a chance to excavate I couldn't miss. Apart from the soil there were enormous quantities of broken slate, pottery, brick, nails, and what appeared to be ashes from a fire. There was just too much to remove it all!

Work hasn't started on the ground floor, as it is at present used for storage, but in the first of the two rooms there is still a marble topped area for making cheese. Also at the end of the small passage between rooms, there is a door with the upper half like a meat safe which opens to reveal another marble slab, perhaps a cold stone?

I know that Detmore has untreated spring water which runs directly under this part of the house. Maybe the dairy was situated here to take advantage of this as it is still the coldest area. The spring surfaces to the left just outside the front door, brick work is arched to accommodate it.

The fire escape on the side of the building was removed, steps were built to replace it. When foundations were dug for this, many large slates were found. These may be the remains of a courtyard described in Bulletin 5. Also a small but much cherished earthenware bottle intact.

Detmore has seen much alteration and rebuilding. We hope to discover more information as the restoration continues.

Liz Poraj-Wilczynska, Neil Suckling



Timbers uncovered during the restoration



10. LITTLE HERBERTS IDENTIFIED - part 2 Cherington's or Home Farm (Ashley)

In looking through photographs in the files of the National Monuments Record, Linda Hall saw these of Little Herbert's Home Farm, which was certainly built by 1550 and may have been a good deal older. Its demolition in 1960 was very regrettable. These views give us the back of the farm of which we had no photograph, as well as the front used as the cover for Bulletin 6.

East Side

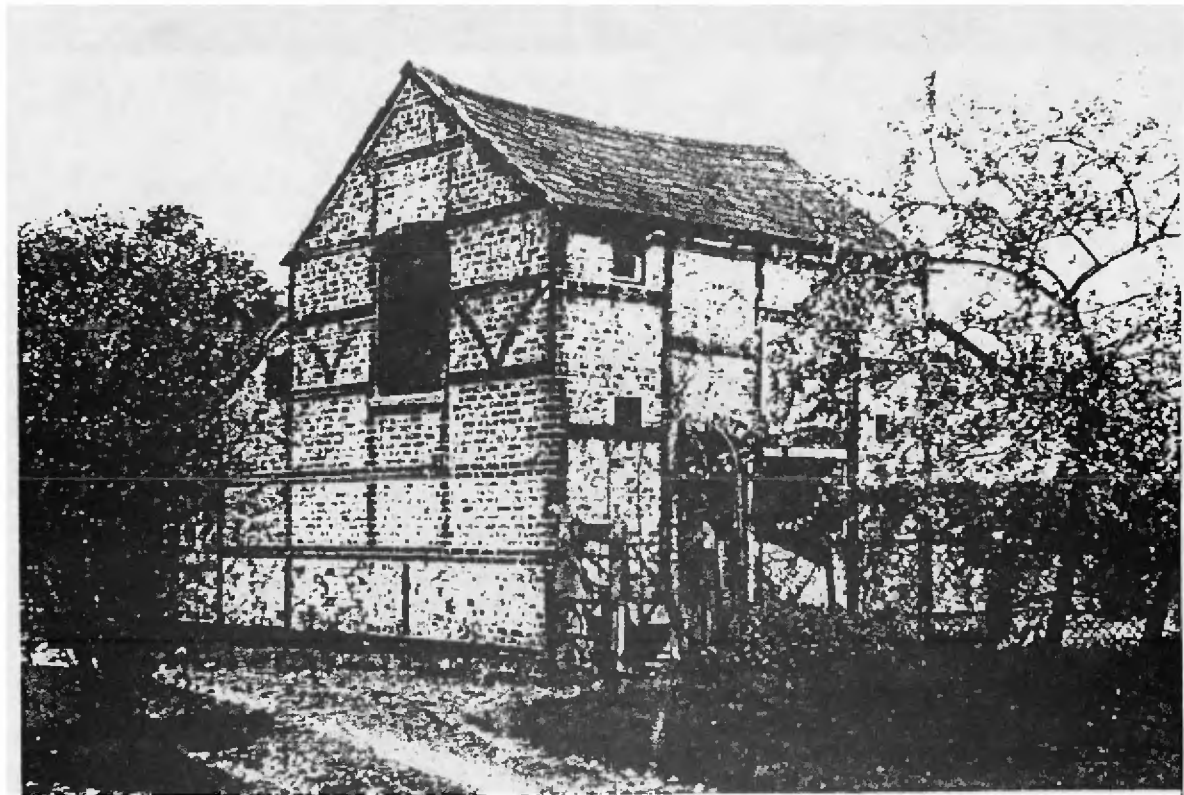




West side of house



Brick barn (shown on tithe Map 1858)



## 11. SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT HAM COURT

A careful study of the rooms listed in the 1685 Inventory (published in Bulletin 20) and comparison with the existing building has revealed some interesting features. The most notable is that the position of the main entrance has been moved. The inventory refers to "the entry between the hall and the kitchen". This shows that the house belonged to the standard plan type which has usually three rooms in a row with a through-passage running behind the hall stack. At Ham Court the passage was not retained when the kitchen was rebuilt in stone. Instead the main entry was moved to the other end of the hall, giving separate access to hall and parlour. This was a common alteration made to older houses in the 17th and 18th centuries. Ham Court clearly had more than the usual three rooms, as there is also a study. The former window in the north wall of the present staircase hall suggests that the study may have been between the hall and parlour. This is confirmed by the length of the main part of the house, which is too long for hall and parlour alone. The cellar may well have been below the parlour, but has since been filled in. The other ground-floor room in the inventory is the pantry, which could have been partitioned out of either the hall or the kitchen, or perhaps have been located in a lean-to. Elborough Cottage had a pantry or buttery along one side of the kitchen, and at Cilewent farmhouse at St Fagan's Folk Museum there is a buttery partitioned out of the hall.

The arrangement of the upstairs rooms is less clear from the inventory. The parlour chamber and the kitchen chamber are the rooms above the parlour and the kitchen, and both evidently had fireplaces; while the cheese chamber is likely to have been in the attic. That leaves the "Roome next the kitchen chamber", the "Little Chamber next to it", and "the Matted Roome". It is possible that the attic was divided into a "good" room and a cheese room, and that the Matted room was also in the attic. Morton Grange near Thornbury in North Avon has a very good attic room with a transomed window and decorative leaded lights of 1594, clearly a good quality bedroom and not a storage room. If so, then the "Roome next the kitchen Chamber" was the Hall Chamber and the "Little Chamber next to it" was over the study.

Alternatively, the Matted Room was over the Study. If so, the "Little Chamber" could have been over the entry passage, between the hall stack and the kitchen chamber. This is possible, but less likely than the first suggestion.

The other feature not clear is the location of the stair. It could have been a winder stair next to the hall stack, which is the usual stair position in homes of this type. Alternatively if the study took up less than the full width of the house, there could have been a grander stair against the south wall between the hall and the parlour. This was then replaced by the Regency stair in much the same position.

It is also possible that a house of this size had more than one stair, and it could even have had a stair turret somewhere.

Finally the inventory shows that the "cottage" consisted of two rooms, as now, the smaller one being the buttery and the larger one the "Dayhouse and Backhouse" ie the dairy and bakehouse, with a chamber above. The dairy and bakehouse were often in detached buildings and could easily be combined in one building.

L. Hall

12. THE KNAPP, DEMOLISHED 1975

Dr. Yoxall has kindly allowed us to re-photograph his snap of the last Knapp house, demolished in 1975. The site has been occupied by a dwelling since c.1160 and there have been at least 4 Knapps during those 800 years. We can't yet explain the original name "Nap and Pen", only changed in the later 18th century; although the site is just below Pound Piece, where the lords of Ashley had their place for impounding cattle that wandered into Ashley tenants' closes or lands, there does not appear to be any link between it and the Knapp tenement. Nap or Knapp could mean a knob or hillock.



The house shown here was built about 1830-1840, to judge by the style. A rebuilding had become desirable because in 1787 the old London road to the south of the site had been abandoned in favour of the present main road to the north - the new Knapp was turned to face down the hill and given a long drive (much on the line of the top part of Ledmore Road) into Herne Road (another new road made in 1787).

In the 17-18th centuries, the Knapp belonged to the Whithorne family of Moorend House, later also of Coxhorne. It was inherited by Conway Whithorne Lovesy through his mother and it was presumably Conway who rebuilt the house. He died in November 1846, and under his complicated will dated 7 April 1845 trustees were appointed to manage most of his property; The Knapp was eventually to go to his son Samuel Whithorne Lovesy (GRO D109/Ashley manor will book I 40).

In 1845, The Knapp was occupied by Mrs Phelps, and it continued to be let throughout the 19th century and into the 20th.

The Knapp was offered for sale 27 June 1924 (GRO D 4858/2/3), but we have a fuller description of the house in a sale particular of 28 May 1931 (GRO D 4858/2/4) "The residence is brick-built, stuccoed and painted, with slate roof, and is approached by a long carriage drive through shrubberies and ornamental grounds". On the top floor were a landing, 2 bedrooms each 17 x 15 ft and a dressing room. On the half-space were 2 bedrooms, 14'3" x 14' and 15'2" x 14' 8" and a bathroom. On the first floor were the main bedroom

17'2" x 15' with dressing room and another bedroom 17'2" x 15'. Then on the half space below were two more bedrooms 15'2" x 13'9" and 14'9" x 13' 9" another bathroom, and a WC.

The maids' bedrooms were quite separate, shut off by a door at the top of the back stairs. There were two of them, 13'9" x 11'9" and 15' x 14'5".

On the ground floor was an entrance hall with oak parquet floor and radiator, a drawing-room 27'7" x 17'3" with a door to "a large conservatory or winter garden 23'6" x 17' having tiled floor and two doors to garden". The dining room was 18' x 15' and then down 4 steps a study 15' x 14'7" with two arched recesses. A lobby with door to garden, WC, kitchen 26'10" x 14' and servants' sitting room 14'5" x 12' and the usual larder, pantry etc completed the ground floor; and there were two good cellars and a wine cellar. The out-buildings included stabling, garage, sheds, and a yard with a pump.

"The Grounds, which are well timbered, are a charming feature of the property and include well laid-out Lawn in front and at side of House, walled kitchen garden with greenhouse and 2 four-division garden lights, small Paddock, grass Orchard with choice fruit trees and wooden shelter. Pretty rock garden, Large banked Kitchen Garden with fruit trees, the whole extending to about Four acres"

So The Knapp was what would have been described at the time as a "gentleman's house", with good sized rooms. But the fittings in 1931 were modern and even an auctioneer could not make them sound elegant. After housing Ugandan refugees for a short time in 1974 the house was demolished, and now only the brick walls of the kitchen garden remain.

M. Paget

### 13. GLENFALL - ANOTHER LINK IN ITS HISTORY

When the paper about Glenfall House was published in Bulletin 12, nothing had been found to explain how the house and land passed from Edward Iggulden (to whom the modest cottage ornee had been sold by Charles Cooke Higgs) to the Molyneux family. Now we have the answer given by surrenders in Cheltenham manor court (GRO D 855 acc 1298)

John Molyneux's wife had been Miss Iggulden!

11 Dec 1852

Mary Elizabeth MOLYNEUX of Glenfall in C.K., widow, only child and customary heiress of Edward IGGULDEN, late of Deal, Kent, Esq. deceased, who died 1 Aug 1852 intestate, claimed to be admitted tenant to - All that brickbuilt farm house called the Glenfall/Gutterfall in C.K. with barns, stables, outbuildings, yards, gardens and app. Also pice of pasture land adj. to messuage called Home Ground and Broadacre (formerly in 2 fields) cont. 13a.3r.17p. and adj. to lands formerly belonging to Wm.PRINN Esq. on S and SW and to land of Mrs LIGHTBOURNE and the Gutter Herne on W. Also that piece of pasture called Gutter Herne and piece of pasture nearly adj. called the Five Lands and both adj. to the road leading from Rodway Green to Ham but on opp. sides. 2 pieces together cont. 3a.2r.21p. Also piece of pasture called Little Hern cont. 2a.2r.14p. adj. to lands formerly of Mrs LIGHTBOURNE on N. and E. and to Ham Green on S. and road from thence to Rodway Green on W. and N.W. and also partly to land formerly of Mrs LIGHTBOURNE to N.W. Also that coppice called Upper Gutterfall Coppice cont. 1a.3r.27p. Also 2 coppices lying together called Lower Gutterfall Coppice and Part of Broad Acre, cont. 2a.2r.26p. All which pieces of land are now in occ. of Mrs. Molyneux. Edward IGGULDEN, deceased, was admitted tenant 17 July 1819 on surrender of Rev. Thomas PRUEN and Charles Cooke HIGGS, which with certain freehold lands and a close called Little or Lower Log, form whole estate of Gutterfall or

Glenfall. Heriot £1.2.6 Yr rent 5s.3.

11 Dec 1852

Mary Elizabeth MOLYNEUX - claimed all that close of arable land in C.K. called Little or Lower Log with coppice adj. cont. c 2a, formerly estate of William TOMBS deceased and afterwards of Chas. HIGGS deceased, and adj. lands formerly of Mrs John GALE, widow, on N. to lands formerly of Joseph BRADSHAW on NE and SW and to lands of late William LOVESY on S - land of which Edwd. IGGULDEN was admitted tenant 17 July 1819 on surrender of Rev. Thos. PRUEN and C.C.HIGGS Esq. Heriot 4s Yr rent 6d

11 Dec 1852

Mary Elizabeth MOLYNEUX - claimed all of meadow or pasture called Cultham Butts or Freemans Ground sit. in C.K. cont. c 4a. bounded on N. by land of late Edwd. IGGULDEN, on S. by pasture next described called Ironmoors and by land of late Edw. IGGULDEN, on E. by land of Lady PRINN and on W. by land belonging to Charlton Poor. Also close of pasture called Ironmoors sit. in C.K. cont. c 1a. and bounded on N. by said ground called Freemans Ground, on S. by brook dividing same from land late of Edwd. IGGULDEN deceased, ditto on E, and on W. by land late of Miss COOKE deceased, which said closes are now in occ. of Wm.TROUGHTON as tenant, and which Edwd. IGGULDEN was admitted tenant on surrender of George (blank) Heriot 1s Yr rent 5d

11 Dec 1852

Mary Elizabeth MOLYNEUX in consideration of 10s surrendered to George MERCER of Deal, Kent; John IGGULDEN of London Esq. and Cyrus SLATER of Midx Esq. by will of Edwd. IGGULDEN dated 29 April 1847, and codicils dated 10 July 1848 and 16 Oct 1848 - all above described property. They were presumably her trustees.

Jane Sale

#### 14. GRAVES AT EAST COURT

Members will be aware that East Court closed as an Old Peoples' Home at the end of October 1988. One curious feature of the grounds, which surely ought to be preserved, are the hounds' grave stones. The date March 1896 and the name Zulu can be read on one stone, the name Prince on another. At present the headstones are built into a low stone wall in front of the house, to the west of the drive, but originally they stood against the brick wall adjoining East End Road, and each grave had its curb. They were moved about 1960.

Another feature of the grounds of East Court was the huge cedar tree 300 years old which till October 1988 still stood in Peel Close. This, sadly, was attacked by fungus and has been felled as a safety measure.





J. Coates

**15. THE PUBLIC SPRING, SPRING BOTTOM**

Rebuilding of the last Parish Cottage will soon begin, and three houses will probably take the place of one. But it is good news to be told that the public spring is to be protected with a stone wall and left for the benefit of everybody. Here is John Coates' photograph of the spring as it is now, before any "improvements". No water could taste more delicious.



#### 16. FIELD COTTAGES AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHURCH STREET

The photograph of Field Cottage in Bulletin 19 prompted Mr and Mrs Wyatt of 7 Church Street to show me their title deeds, which provided important additional information about this side of the road. We are very grateful to them for this.

At some date between the tithe map (1848) and 1883, the two Field Cottages were sold by Fanny Margaret Lovesy to Philip Heming Stanley. He raised the purchase money by a mortgage to a relative, transferred in 1883 to the Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society; and on 20 September 1886, the Society sold the two dwellings with garden ground in front and behind to Horace Edwards of Cheltenham, bookseller and stationer. (His shop, later Gilham's, was next but one to the National Provincial Bank in the High Street). The cottages were occupied by Stephen Heming Stanley and Mr Hall.

Horace Edwards is remembered as living later on at Herbert Villa (Orchard House) in Little Herberts and providing swings and roundabouts in his orchard for parish treats. He had left Charlton Kings for Cheltenham before he made his will on 13 September 1918, condicil 1 September 1922, proved 14 June 1928 - he died on 24 February 1928. So on 18 January 1929 the Public Trustee and Mary Ann Edwards his widow sold 1 and 2 Field Cottages to Frederick Thomas Mason a thatcher (then living in No 2) and his wife Alice Charlotte Mason, for £220.

With the two cottages was included "garden ground" between Waterloo Cottage and St Mary's Cottage - this land had been used as a timber yard and a monumental mason's.

The sellers envisaged the possibility that the cottage might be rebuilt. So a clause was added "that not more than one house with outbuildings shall be erected on the land hereby transferred and that any house built in substitution of the house now standing on the said land shall not be inferior in design and accommodation to the other houses on either side thereof



and that the building now standing on the land hereby transferred or any building hereafter erected in substitution thereof shall not be used for any purpose whatsoever other than as a private dwelling house but this shall not be deemed to prevent the letting of apartments; and that no shows or any thing of a similar character shall be allowed or any nuisance by pigstyes or otherwise committed".

It is difficult to see what sort of "shows" could have been held on a patch of ground less than half an acre in extent!

Mrs Mason died 15 March 1931, and her will was proved 2 October 1931. Her husband was now sole owner. So on 18 June 1946 F.T. Mason by 3 conveyances sold the three plots into which the former timber yard and mason's yard had been divided to Jack Clive Palin, Victor Ronald Palin, and John Palin, with restrictions as to the type of house (which must be set back 25 ft from the frontage) and use. Again, "no shows".

Mason was then living in No 1 Field Cottages, which he re-named Cotswold View. But this name never caught on; the village continued to talk of Field Cottages until Local Authority renumbering made them 1 and 3 Church Street.

M. Paget

#### **17. THE WAY IT WAS - LIVING IN CHARLTON IN THE TWENTIES AND THIRTIES**

Frank Kilby was born at East End in 1912 and went to Charlton Kings school. When he was 10 he and some other boys were asked if they'd like a ride in a cart up to Holder's, so they all went and there they got hold of some hard pears. Coming back, just by the old cottages in East End Road (Wood's Cottages) they saw Jimmy Elliot who used to come round with a truck and sell fish. Frank it was who threw a pear at him and hit his hat off! The man in the cart told Jimmy he'd seen the boys who did it and they'd run up Steel's Alley, so off Jimmy went up the alley scouting after them, and all the time Frank was led against the side of the cart!

Then when Frank was 14, he left school and went to work for Rouse at Ham Days (Ham Dairy Farm) where his father was cowman. Frank did the milk round, starting at six in the morning and often not finishing till 5 or 6 at night because some of the big houses demanded an afternoon delivery, and after his round he had to wash the milk cans, the milk and cream dippers, and the float.

His father who worked 7 days a week gets 30s and Frank 27/6 - but when the Health and Sanitary people were coming round, he was told to say he got £3 and that his day ended at 3 pm!

Milk was 2½d a pint then. And it shows how poor some people were, there was a Mrs Williams living in the end cottage of the row that there used to be on London Road by the top of School Road, opposite the garage - her son had a coal round. She always left her jug in the porch and 1½d to pay for half a pint - half a pint of milk was all she ever had. The next day she'd only leave 1d. But if she saw him she'd say to Frank "You owes me the farden", because a farthing was something in those days.

The meadows, Ham Dales, below the farm were full of meadow flowers. Rouse won the prize for the best bale of meadow hay at the Cheltenham Town Hall Show. You could never mow it till July, often the end of July, and three seasons out of 14 it would be later than that.

There were so many foxes in the woods that the hounds never got a clear line. So Dowler Mitchell of Glenfall Farm and Albert Mitchell of Glenfall House told Frank that if he shot them, they'd give him half a crown for each tail, and they did!

There were some characters in Charlton Kings in those days. Rolf Thomas of Colegate used to say "I'm a bit of a Wild Man. Like a wild cup of tea?" or "Like a bit of a thumb bit?" - a hunk of bread and a rasher of bacon; and he'd have a great post stuck up the chimney burning. One day he said to Frank "Thee come up here, up my stairs" and he took him into the bedroom where there was a beam right across the middle of the room. "Very often when I'm led in bed, the rats run across that beam by the score! so I'm going to put some strychnine and finish them." Frank said "I don't think I'd do that - suppose they run over your table with the poison on them?"; but he was determined to do it. Next day he called Frank to come and see, and he had a barrow and a half of dead rats in a corner of his barn! Rolf once thought he'd get a car and the salesman who demonstrated it on the farm drove it up on to a hedge! so it was no good, and then they had to get it down.

Alpass at Old Coxhorne had been shell shocked in the 14-18 War. He used to ride a mule around. When he did get a Ford car, he drove it to the end of the road, forgot all about it, and left it there for a month!

Frank Kilby

#### **18. THE DAY I WAS ARRESTED! - AND OTHER MEMORIES**

During the War, Lilleybrook was taken over by the Americans. At that time, my job was to clear swill from all the camps in this area. When the Army captured a top German General and Staff in North Africa, they were brought to England and the train was stopped at Charlton Kings Station and they were taken to Lilleybrook about ten at night. In the morning I went to collect swill there as usual and was arrested by a Sentry who asked if I had a pass - and I hadn't! So I was kept there four hours while they checked on me with Benhall - of course it was all right in the end.

I believe they kept the Germans there a night or two, not longer.

After that railway closed, two tramps were sheltering under the railway bridge from the rain - they quarrelled and one picked up a lump of concrete and smashed the other's head in!

When I was 11 or 12, an aircraft crashed on Daisy Bank. I carried home and kept for a long time a piece of the propellor.

When the Beeches belonged to Charlie Randall, my father was going to buy  $8\frac{1}{2}$  acres but in the end he turned it down and Billy Martyn bought it and gave it to the UDC as a playing field.

A Sappercombe man wanted electric light from Little Herberts Farm and the authorities refused because of the danger of posts and overhead cables along the playing field - this was for the last house on the right up Sappercombe Lane. I told him the cable was outside his gate (and it was!). It had been put underground to go to Sappercombe Farm but the Electricity Board had no record!

At Little Herberts Farm there was one acre which never properly belonged to it. A monastery in Middlesex owned it. We bought it from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. That land had been held by Green the gunsmith, then Organ, then James. Now there are six houses on it.

A. Mitchell

### 19. BALCARRAS BROOK AND CRAB BRIDGE

This January, the Council began to replace an old culvert that for many years has taken a stream down Balcarras Lane, East End Road, and Church Street, into the Hearne Brook at Crab Bridge.

Once there must have been a considerable flow of water from springs by Ashgrove farm; this accounts for the depth of the old watercourse (now being filled in) alongside Balcarras Lane opposite Balcarras House (this lane of course was once the London Road). Cutting the railway in 1880 must have reduced the volume of water, for springs south of the line will have been stopped. Yet there can still be a fair amount of water after rain, and that perry orchard against the road has always been boggy, a great place to find meadow sweet and Ragged Robin.

Between Wager Court and East Court, the stream running in its brick culvert has given rise to stories of secret passages under the road! One branch of the drain extends some way up East End Road too, perhaps as far as Over House (now the site of Council flats).

An old print of Church Street east of the bridge shows a rutted lane which dropped quite steeply to cross Hearne Brook. Crab Bridge is first mentioned in 1697, when on 23 April Surveyors of the Highways for Charlton Kings were instructed to "sett upp Railes upon Crab Bridge from John Moulders to William Humphreys". This suggests a long raised causeway on both sides down to a footbridge and water splash (rather like Spring Bottom). John Moulder lived in Balls House on the site of The Hearne, with his land running down to the brook. William Humphreys lived on the west side of the stream, probably in the timber-framed and thatched cottage (demolished just after the war) behind the Merry Fellow; its land in the 17th century also stretched down to the brook. (GRO D 855 M 12 p 243).

The brick culvert now taken out was 11 ft below road level at the bridge, sloping up to 8 ft by Coates' Nursery and gradually decreasing to 4 ft by Hearne Road. This shows how much the road level has risen over the years, for once upon a time this stream must have been a road-side ditch. One presumes that the culvert dates from the first road improvement, possibly in the late 18th or early 19th century. Some years back, Mr Coates says, a small hole appeared in the tarmac of the footpath - on investigation it was discovered that only a few inches of tarmac lay between the surface and the drain!

In the stretch from the gate into Coates' Nursery nearly down to the bridge, the culvert till this January consisted of a brick half-barrel drain roofed with stone slabs 4 feet by 3 feet; the workmen had to break them to get them out. Above the gate into the Nursery, the culvert changed to a complete brick barrel vault with a chamfered brick centre to the arch. And there was a complete barrel vault where Balcarras brook entered the Hearne brook just below the shop.

For the present, the Council is replacing the old culvert with modern pipes up to the junction of Hearne Road and East End Road. Beyond the last new manhole cover, the old brick drain is to remain in situ. So anyone who likes

to imagine a secret passage under the road by Wager Court will still be able to hear a hollow sound under the road!

The stream now runs under the footpath, but once it was well to the side of the road and the water entered Hearne brook south of the bridge. Then the road was widened and the bridge too, so a new culvert was needed under the south half of the enlarged bridge. That new part was considerably greater in diameter than the old part which wasn't changed. So when storm water came down Hearne Brook from The Beeches and more storm water from Balcarras Lane joined it, the result was a flood! the new section of culvert acting as a hydraulic ram and pushing the water back. Mr Coates says he had a job to persuade the surveyor that it was his culvert that caused the trouble!

One puzzle remains - what was the old name of Balcarras Brook? We talk about Balcarras Lane and Balcarras House - this usage dates only from the 1830s. Yet the stream must have had a name, even though the house beyond Wager's on the original London Road was simply "Gale's".

#### M. Paget

Photograph taken 1970. Balcarras brook as it entered Crab or Hearne brook - Here the stream ran in a complete barrel vault



Hearne Brook - Entrance on S. 1970

height 5 fr





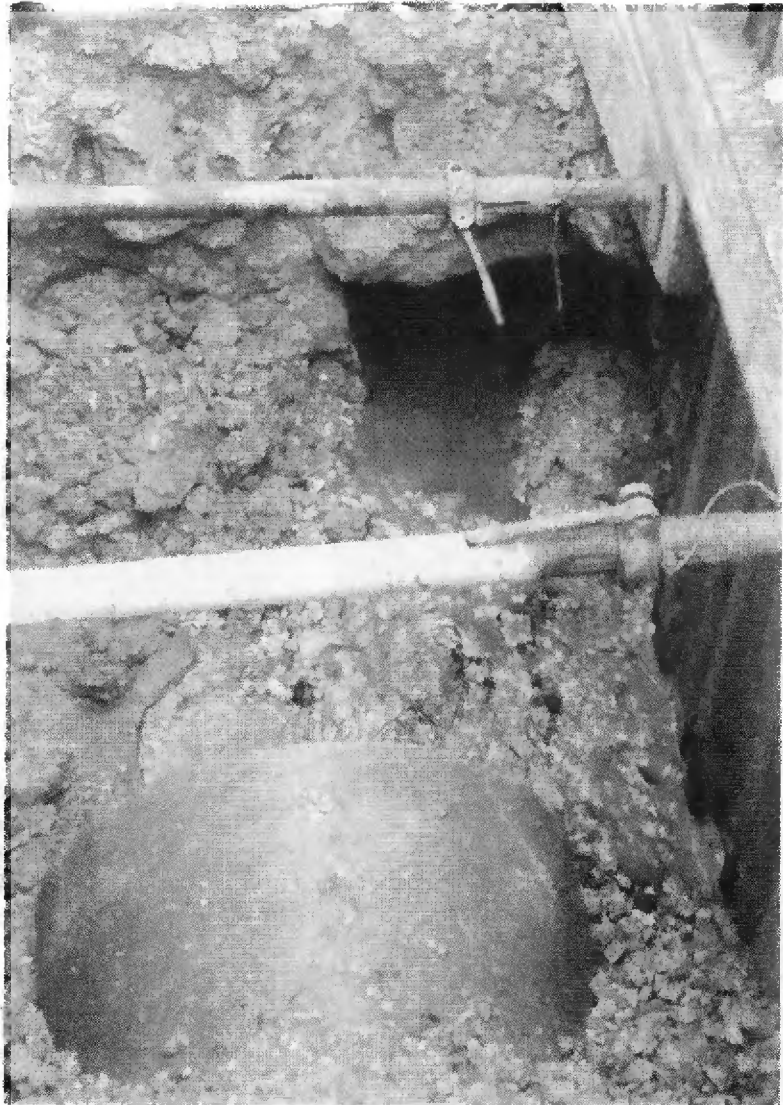
Continuation 1970 as it dropped down to 3 foot - bricks had fallen away on right - This was the older part of the culvert and bridge.



1989  
By the Nursery Greenhouse  
- brook 11 feet down  
- cap stone

Opposite the Vicarage  
- depth about 8 foot

Cap Stone visible  
and side of brick  
half-barrel vault



New pipe

John Coates' photographs



**20. THE WORKING MENS' CLUB**

As a tailpiece to his account of the Club in Bulletin 19, Owen Stinchcombe sends us this view of the interior - the Club Reading Room from 1888 to about 1904. Present day members will hardly recognise it! And who was the model cricketer on the bracket?

