

CHARLTON KINGS
LOCAL HISTORY
SOCIETY



BULLETIN 33

CHARLTON KINGS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Membership of this Society

Membership forms are available from the Hon. Secretary. Annual subscription £3 or £4.50 for a couple. Meetings are held monthly from September to May in the Stanton Room at Charlton Kings Library.

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Reminiscences of John Bowen (1993) price £2.50

Cover picture - The Turnpike Gate, redrawn by Ken Venus

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1. "BORN IN THE FIELDS"

Note These accounts of boyhood at Ham from Mr Robinson (aged 87) and Mr Norman (aged 84) are in response to the Charlton Kings Local History Society's appeal in Bulletin 28 for more information about The Orchards and Ham

Ham House



(1) Mr Robinson of Ham Lea

We came to Ham House¹ in 1914; my grandfather owned Barnaby Bendall's Cheltenham warehousing and removal business. At Ham House we had a gas engine making house gas for lighting - no town gas or electricity at Ham then; and the Ham road was only gravelled.

I was sent to Miss Roche's school² when she lived at Trefaldwyn and had the school in the Council Offices at Six Ways - there was a big table and we sat, girls on one side and boys on the other. We boys used to throw papers under the table over to the girls' side and then Miss Roche would blame them for being untidy and say 'See how tidy the boys are!' After she moved to Linden Lawn, she used to get the children to pick the daisy heads off her lawn when they were supposed to be playing in the garden!

The Norman family owned The Orchards but at that time a Colonel lived there - he had an old motor cycle and wicker side-car. I and the seven Norman boys used to ramp up and down his drive and in the fields - we weren't popular with the Colonel in consequence. When he left, the house was empty for several years and during that time the house too was our play place, including the beautiful cellars underneath and the coach-house. The stream at the bottom of the garden was culvetted - we crawled the whole length of it! The Normans themselves lived in Ledmore Villas in Ryeworth Road.

Then I went to the Grammar School. Mr Dobson was headmaster and very ready with the cane - he'd cane you for looking out of the window! He nearly caned me once because I was late, though I had brought a letter of explanation from my father, but I said he shouldn't and walked out of his study. My father got in touch with the Governors and I was let off. But once I thought Dobson behaved very well. One April Fool's Day, one of the boys dropped a chalk duster on the floor and told Morris the porter a boy had been sick - when he came along with his bucket and mop and picked up the duster, they all shouted "April Fool!". Just then Dobson walked in and asked 'Who did that?' A boy owned up and was sent for the cane. When he got back, he was told to fetch the bigger one. Then Dobson said 'Bend over, boy' and pretended to hit him one blow with it, saying "April Fool!" One of my contemporaries at school was Richard Burroughs's son Ronnie who became a bank manager.

We still had the trams up to Six Ways then. Once I saw Lady Dixon Hartland who always wore black and a black veil. The tram conductor shouted "London Inn!". She said "If you don't mind, Ashley Manor!" I wonder why they pulled down the stone lodge by those gates?

On the stream below Wadleys you can still see part of the brickwork of Ham Mill.

Arthur Mitchell of The Glenfall made a bathing pool for his children in the woods - it was fed by a spring. We boys used to go there on Sunday mornings when there was no danger of being seen. It was very cold, being spring water. Mr Loud lived at Glenfall Lodge - there was a cart track and footpath behind the Lodge into the fields. And Miss Joblin lived at Glenfall before she moved to Ham South, she kept goats and Dexter cattle. We used to go rabbiting at midnight in Miss Joblin's fields and in Billy Rouse's. At Colegate farm was Ralph Thomas, a rough customer - he had a trout in a trough in front of his house and it was very tame. The old house there has been pulled down and rebuilt. We boys used to go up to Hewletts Reservoir to fish at midnight - when we saw the light in the keeper's bedroom go out, we'd get over the wall and fish till 2 or 3 in the morning, lovely rainbow trout! Arthur Mitchell gave Ryeworth Cricket Club their ground in Greenway Lane but it wasn't put in writing and so they had to buy it later on. Mitchell's son still owns the piece of land in Greenway Lane by the pond which the school has been working on. Near The Orchards there was a cherry orchard across the road from the present school and the land where the school now is was a field with a black barn and a boggy patch, cows could get stuck in it! Two big elm trees stood on the brow of the hill by the Ledmore path.

Mrs Norman had a sister who married a Birmingham business man, Fawcett - he had made a fortune in World War I making sandbags for the troops. Their only son was killed in the War, caught in a curtain of fire, and his mother was so upset, they moved down to The Orchards so that she could be near her sister. It was Mr Fawcett who built the stone wall across the garden, as shown in the photo (Bulletin 28 p20), instead of the grass bank which had been there. Tons of stone were brought up Ham Pitch in carts, men beating the horses cruelly to get the heavy loads up. My mother was indignant and got on to the Police to try to stop it. Fawcett built the garage and the engine house for electric light - even then the electric cable only came up Ryeworth Road as far as Mills' Bakery. He altered the drive, planted bushes up the drive way, and put in the iron gates illustrated in Bulletin 28. He was a generous man, gave a car to the Hospital to raffle at a Carnival, and helped Charlton Kings Workingmen's Club. He helped his Norman nephews and paid for their training or apprenticeship - one became a dental surgeon, trained in London - he married Miss Roche's niece Dorothy, then in the War went into the navy and afterwards practised in Bath, having married a second wife. Another brother went to Ceylon on a tea plantation. One was apprenticed to Shirer and Haddons, and another who was apprenticed there first went out to a big shop in Ceylon, but later came back to England to farm. A fifth brother went into Fawcett's business in Birmingham and later on ran their Tewksbury factory making overalls. After Fawcett's death about 1954 the house was empty again. Then it was sold. But the Normans still own the nearby field where for a few years the AA fruit farm grew strawberries.

There was no tarmac on Ham road until The Gassons was built by Boulter the auctioneer (of Cornelius and Boulter). Minnie Mitchell sold him the piece of ground for £700 and Safe built the house. But the entrance to The Gassons is very narrow and the gate is set back because she didn't sell him the entrance - he had to pay her a little rent yearly to prove her ownership. She kept it because a bypass was planned to run from the top of East End near Detmore to Ham, it would have come out by Hewletts Reservoir and she thought she'd get good compensation as they'd want her bit of road - but fortunately it was never done.

I married in 1942, I had 8 moves in 8 years and then my mother gave me a piece of her garden to build on, I could choose the piece I wanted; and the house Ham Lea was built in 1954. Ham House was left to my brother and he purposely let vandals in so that he could get planning permission to pull it down. The developers set fire to it and burned it and then cleared away the rubble. I cried when I saw it.

R.ROBINSON

¹ see Bulletin 3 - Cover and pp 11-12; and Bulletin 4 pp 22-25.

² see Bulletin 17 pp 47-48

(2) Mr Adrian Norman of Ryeworth Road

The Orchards



My grandfather died in 1910¹, the year I was born. He built The Ledmores and gave one house to my father and one to Uncle Bert. The Normans once owned the whole of the left side of the Prom - the last bit they kept was Beard's; and they also owned Chelsea House in Clarence Street, where my father had an antique shop, though he preferred to say he was "a dealer in fine arts". It was next to Daddy Haines' bookshop. My father was a very tall man, 6ft 6ins, and had a long beard down to his chest. He was never severe, always kind and gentle with us, but he'd stand no nonsense. My mother was wonderful, always busy feeding us 7 boys.

When we were young, Colonel O'Malley, a fiery colonel, lived at The Orchards and we seven were up and down his drive and fields and weren't very popular with him! Later we used to go to breakfast at The Orchards every Sunday with Uncle Fred and Aunt Kate, Mother's sister, who did the best dover sole anyone could for Sunday breakfast. Uncle would sit in state and we boys would look at the wonderful view over the fields to Ham Dairy and across to Colegate. In front of the breakfast room was a pebble pathway round the house where I used to pick up pebbles for my catapult. Then a grassy bank down to the lawn which was surrounded by a yew hedge, so thick you could lie on it. Then a steep drop to the vegetable garden and the asparagus bed which was the pride and joy of old Parrott the gardener, who never would cut it if he could help but would rather let it go to seed. Mother and Aunt Kate used to have some occasionally. Parrott had been trained as gardenér at Dowdeswell Court.

The brook at the bottom is culvetted - it goes underground in the orchard and field and comes out just before it leaves the garden. The tunnel is made of house bricks. This was done because the brook was a nuisance flooding. Three filbert trees were planted there. Jesse Boroughs rented the Ledmore fields from us.

Ours was the coldest house in Great Britain! We had an antique central heating with a back boiler - to get the water hot needed a ton of coal! As a child I used to get into the airing cupboard to warm up before our communal bath. We never used the door but went in and out through the kitchen window! and there was a minimum of 4 dogs in the house at any time, particularly Nell the lurcher.

All my brothers and myself were "born in the fields", lived out of doors. Dad would never let us stay in, whatever the weather. We were given a few sandwiches and weren't expected back till night. So we had a very good life as boys; but Sergeant Day and Sergeant Hughes didn't think much of us! The Lindners when they lived at Ham Court² objected to us too. We were renowned poachers and as soon as there was a moon in the autumn, we never went short of pheasants, and mushrooms in season. I had a tame magpie and it used to sit on my handlebars when I went to play cricket. Later on I had a jackdaw and then a kestrel, a beautiful bird. I used to keep kestrels and sparrowhawks but they don't tame easily or permanently - we had one which just flew off in the end.

At the Grammar School, R.R.Dobson the Headmaster was a good friend, very strict, tough but fair. Long after, I met him in the train and he recognised me though in uniform.

We were never allowed to mix with anyone questionable, so when I went into the Services I got into an environment to which I was unaccustomed and met people I'd never have been allowed to associate with.

My two eldest brothers weren't trained for anything, they helped in the antique business and benefitted from the dealer's 'knock-out'. Clive became a dental surgeon and trained at Guys. Dad died at 55. He lived up to the Norman maxim - have no medical attention! He had been an anti-vaccinationist and looked after the families of men put in prison for not having their children vaccinated; and he wouldn't have an operation himself, though begged to. So he died of peritonitis. We were very close to Mother when Dad died. She put up with our motor bikes on the kitchen table and all the rest of it. She was our be-all and end-all, completely tireless. She died at 97 and I've never got over her death.

I went into the Army, was Warrant Officer 17/21 Lancers. But I had an accident in World War II at Fort George in Scotland while doing an experiment with a newly invented amphibious tank and that ended my career. Only one brother is left now who lives in Birmingham. My brothers gave away The Orchards³ with nearly all the land when they sold it for £5000 - it was just before the war and money was tight. I was in the army, but I'd have given my life for that house. However, my share enabled me to buy this house 9 Ryeworth Road.

That Norman tomb in St Mary's churchyard near the north gate is my family's.⁴

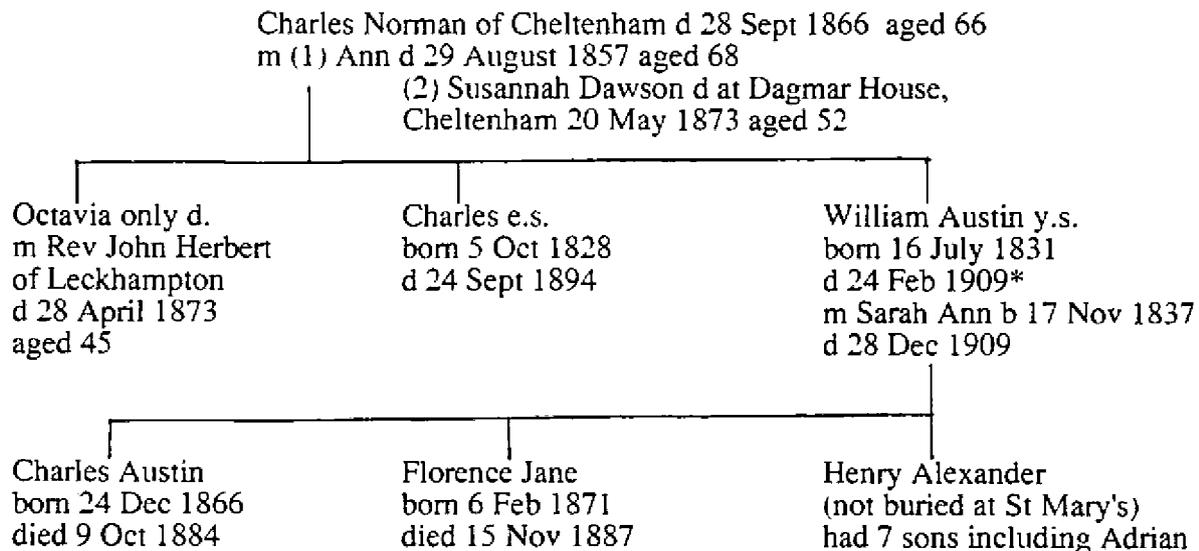
ADRIAN NORMAN

¹ On 24 February 1909 according to tombstone, see ⁴.

² Murray Lindner poultry farmer and his wife Jessie Barrow Lindner were living at Ham Court (already so named) by August 1910, when their elder daughter Nancy was baptised. The second daughter Daphne (born 27 Nov 1912) baptised 10 Jan 1913, became a noted etcher, and there was one son David Murray (born 24 April 1915) baptised 24 June 1915. The family moved to Leckhampton c1931.

³ The Orchards - 1882 Rate Book - occupier John Moatray Reade, owner Charles and W.A.Norman - estimated rental £108.10.0. Land (4a 2r 0p) estimated rental £19.0.0

⁴ The inscription on the tomb gives this family tree:



* 1 March 1909 William Austin Norman, Cheltenham, aged 83, buried without rites (Register)

2. DO YOU REMEMBER THE GORDON BOYS?

When I left school, my first place of work was at the Gordon Boys Brigade at a building off the High Street. (I wonder how many of you remember that?) We had to sit around the room, and in turn were sent to do various types of work, some of it being sent to take people out in the old bath chairs, that was not to our liking when the person was very well built! Also we went to the races selling race cards, that was one of the best "perks", we managed to make a little spare pocket money. The man in charge was a Major Slade. We wore a pill box hat and a belt with a pouch.

PERCY BRIDGMAN
aged 86

I do remember the Gordon Boys and the bath chairs in 1915!

M.P.

3. CHARLTON BOYS 1886

From the Gloucestershire Collection, Gloucester Public Library, by permission of the Librarian.

CAUTION.

THE SERVICES of the Parish Church being much disturbed by the noisy and unseemly behaviour of persons in the Churchyard, the Churchwardens beg to call attention to the following Act of Parliament, and to state that it is their firm determination to exercise the powers vested in them.

Parents are particularly warned not to allow their Children to play in the Churchyard, great interruption to the Services, and damage to the Graves being caused thereby.

Extract from the Statute, 23 & 24, Vic. ch. 32

“Any person who shall be guilty of riotous, violent or indecent behaviour . . . in any Churchyard or Burial Ground, shall, on conviction thereof before two Justices of the Peace, be liable to a penalty of not more than FIVE POUNDS for every such offence . . . or committed to prison for any time not exceeding TWO MONTHS.”

“Every such offender . . . after the said misdemeanour so committed, immediately and forthwith may be apprehended and taken by any Constable or Churchwarden of the parish or place where the offence shall be committed, and taken before a Justice of the Peace of the county or place where the said offence shall have been committed, to be dealt with according to law.”

Signed

W. H. BAGNALL,

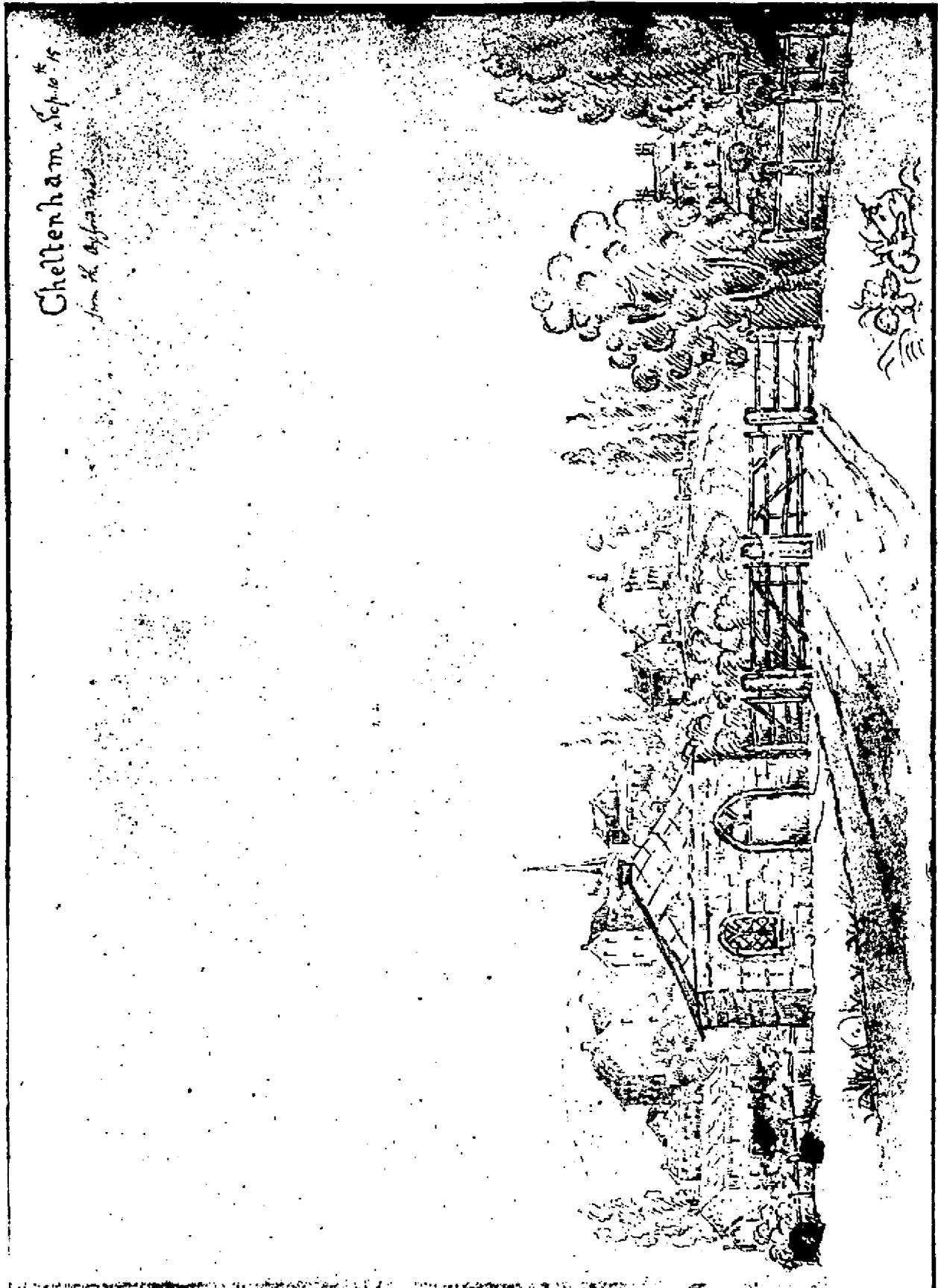
H. CLARKE,

Charlton Kings,
September, 1886.

Churchwardens.

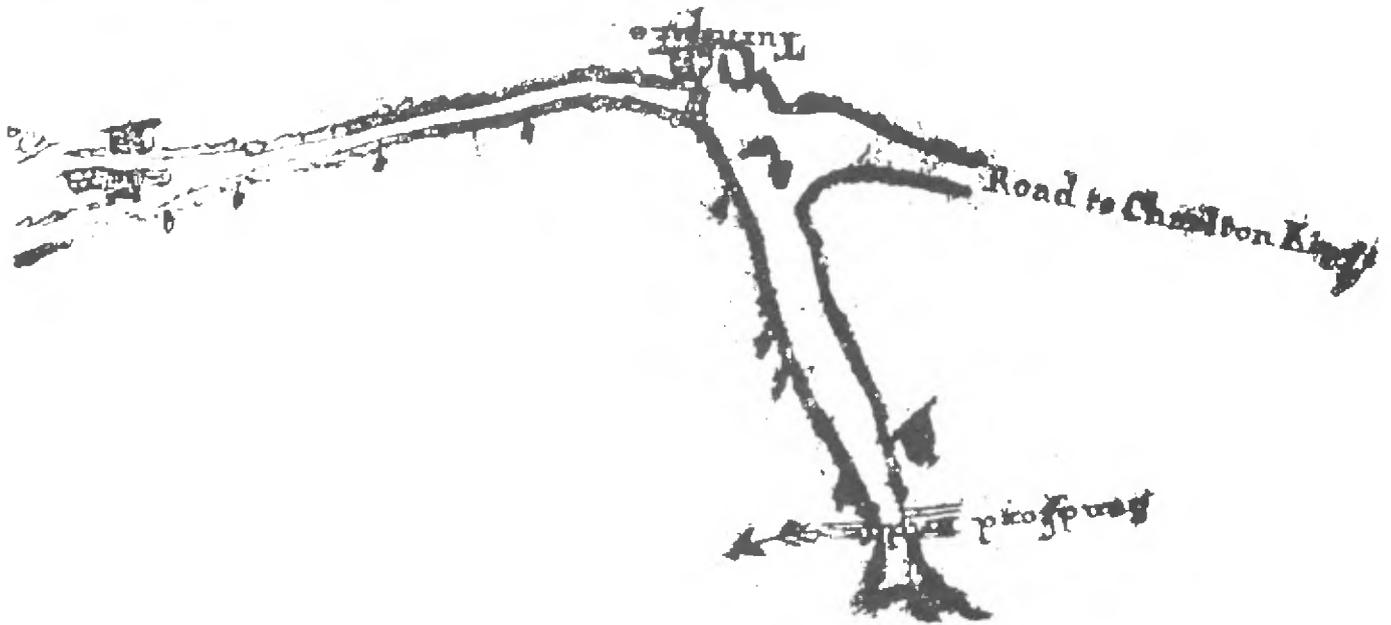
4. THE TURNPIKE GATE

The original sketch of "Cheltenham from the Oxford Road Sept 10th (18)15" is in Cheltenham Museum. A copy has been lent by Dr Steven Blake for which I am very grateful.



NOTE This sketch shows a little 'Gothick' gate-house with chimney; the window and door typical of the years 1790-1810; and a double cart gate and small side gate for pedestrians.

A pike house seems to be marked on the 1776 map - GRO SR 1777 A/1



This extract (enlarged) of the map shows the "Road to Charlton Kings", Old Bath Road with Gallows Oak in the centre, the Turnpike gate, and a house near it in Coltham Lane as on the sketch. Mrs Rawes says that Trinder's map of 1809 shows the pike house, but more in the centre of the road (in which position it would have obstructed traffic!). The "view" in the sketch appears to show the road into Cheltenham going up hill but this is the amateur's difficulty with perspective. Sir William Hick's tall house (later the Belle Vue Hotel), the spire of the parish Church, and the Great House adjoining (on the site of St Matthews) can be identified, and probably Barretts Mill. Other buildings appear to have been put in at random. Mrs Rawes thinks the low building on the left of the pike house could be a stable or barn.

For maps of turnpike roads into Cheltenham - 1755, 1784, 1787 and 1860 - see A History of Charlton Kings pp 14-15, and 20-21.

M.PAGET

5. A PEEK AT THE CHARLTON PIKES 1851 - 1863

It has been said that in total mileage and geographic incidence, the turnpike movement was well able to contribute to industrialisation in England from 1750 at least. This, presumably, was because turnpiking of roads led to better maintained roads, more able to cope with the burgeoning of goods and passenger traffic in the eighteenth century. Traditionally, each parish was responsible for the repair and maintenance of roads within its own boundaries, and equally traditionally these roads were in a bad state of repair and a real hindrance to the development of the carriage of passengers and goods between parishes over wide areas. The turnpiking of roads was a device to keep roads in a good state of repair by charging tolls for those using the roads; and to "over ride" parish boundaries. Now we had roads extending over a number of parishes, with one authority responsible for maintaining them. Each Turnpike

Trust was established by a separate Act of Parliament, and any change in the Trust's powers was also by Act of Parliament. It was the same sort of procedure used for the setting up of Railway Companies.

To illustrate the nature of these Acts I refer to "An Amending Act relating to the Cheltenham and Gloucester District of Turnpike Roads" 1851. (Glos. R.O. AP 68) The Trustees are all the Gloucestershire magistrates, and 52 other named persons, including Charles Cook Higgs and Conway Whithorne Lovesy of Charlton Kings. The Act defines the roads to which the Act applies, for effectual repairing and improvement - the road from Cheltenham to Gloucester from the first small bridge/culvert crossing the Turnpike Road on the Gloucester side of Staverton bridge and Cheltenham; and the 3 roads connecting with the Turnpike Road. These three roads are also defined; for instance one being that starting at Montpelier Rotunda and extending into the Turnpike Road at Haines Cottage, Cheltenham.

Scale of Tolls:-

Horse drawing coach, carriage fly etc	6d max.
Horse etc drawing wagon etc breadth of wheels less than 4½ ins	6d
-do- -do- 4½ ins to 6ins	5d
-do- -do- 6 ins upwards	4d
Dog, Goat & four-footed animal not above - drawing truck/cart	1½d
Horse, mule etc laden/unladen, not drawing	2d
Every drove of oxen, neat cattle - 1/- per score and proportionate charge.	
Drove of calves, swine, sheep, lambs - 6d per score and proportionate charge.	
For horses, animals, cattle passing through the Montpelier, Lansdown Gate - half tolls.	
Not more than 2 full tolls on same day - midnight to midnight - horses, animals, all or any turnpike.	
Horses, animals, except stage coach, van, wagon, omnibus, fly carriage - free return.	
Fresh toll on every change of carriage.	
Post chaises and hirings - charge for each new hire.	

Trustees can set up gate etc across roads and on any road leading into and out of turnpike road - to stop evasion. No gate shall be nearer Cheltenham parish church than the Montpelier/Lansdown Gate. No mortgage owner can take possession if interest is paid within 3 months of account; and to take possession - for payment of interest only, with account. The Mortgage Debt of this particular Trust was £18,766-6-0 and there were large arrears of interest. (This was typical mortgage debt/interest position of many Turnpike Trusts.) Most Turnpike Trusts were established for 21 years, but as many Trusts ran up huge mortgage debts, extensions to the period were usually granted. The Trustees/Commissioners for the Act had to work strictly within the terms of the Act; and any action taken within the terms of the Act must be authorised by the Commissioners, as recorded in the Minute Book, for example.

It should be noted, too, that all the Turnpike Trusts were "local", even though they may cover a number of parishes. For example, all the Charlton Kings gates, except one, came under the Cheltenham District of Roads. The odd one out, on the Cirencester Road at Timbercombe Lane, came under the Cirencester District of Roads. In practice, the Commissioners did not themselves collect the tolls, nor were they collected on their behalf. The tolls were put up for auction annually, and went to the highest bidder, one month's rent being payable in advance and the balance of the annual rent was paid by monthly instalments. N.J.Paine, in his history of "Cirencester District of Turnpikes 1825 to 1880", (Glos. R.O. D2637) suggests that tolls were levied as early as 1346; but the first Turnpike Act was not until 1663; by 1837 there were 1100 Trusts in being. Turnpikes were free for pedestrians, soldiers, agricultural implements, Post Office Mails, and funerals; usually farm carts going short distances and manure carts were exempt.

The history of each Turnpike Trust is long and complicated and demands a great deal of research. As far as Charlton Kings and its turnpike gates is concerned, I shall merely refer to information extracted from documents available in the Glos. Record Office. The picture of turnpikes and gates, which I will give, is not a static one; roads are turnpiked and de-turnpiked and gates are established, moved or abandoned from time to time. All Charlton Kings Turnpike Roads and Gates are shown on the maps in Glos.R.O. - Q/RUM/122 and D3893 2/2 and 2/3.

Q/RUM/122, dated 1830, relates to Cheltenham District Turnpike Roads, showing the existing ones and certain changes to be made. The existing Charlton Kings turnpike gates shown are:- Shackles Gate, on the boundary between Cheltenham and Charlton Kings, north of Jersey Place (Hewletts Rd) and Coltham Lane (Hales Rd); London Gate, which is at the junction of London Rd, Coltham Lane (Hales Rd) and the Old Bath Rd, which is to be turnpiked; a Toll Bar at the junction of what we know as East End Rd with London Rd; Dowdeswell Hill Gate at the junction of the old road up Dowdeswell Hill with London Rd. One road passing through Charlton Kings is intended to be turnpiked - from the London Gate past Charlton Park towards Leckhampton joining the Cheltenham/Birdlip Turnpike Rd.

D3893 2/2, dated c 1863, is a map of a portion of the Cheltenham District Turnpike Roads, with other roads in connection therewith. The only one being retained is the Cheltenham/London Rd turnpike. Two to be abandoned are the Cheltenham/Birdlip Turnpike Road and the Turnpike Road starting at the junction of Old Bath Rd with London Rd continuing past Charlton Park to Charlton Lane, then up Charlton Lane until it joins the Cheltenham/Birdlip Turnpike Road. This was the road intended to be turnpiked as shown on the map Q/RUM/122. Charlton Park Gate is shown located on this road where the footpath from Withy Holt Farm, crossing Charlton Park, emerges into Old Bath Rd. The other Charlton Kings Gates shown are :- The London Gate, which is now at the Beaufort Arms; Charlton Gate on the Cirencester Road (Cirencester District of Roads) near the entry to Timbercombe Lane; and Hewletts Gate at the Reservoir end of Greenway Lane.

Turnpike Gate at the Beaufort Arms. The original painting by G.Colley is in the possession of Rickerby Jessop (solicitors), Cheltenham. We are very grateful for their permission to reproduce it.



Note that Leckhampton Gate, Leckhampton Lane Gate and the Bar at the foot of Leckhampton Hill, all on the to-be-abandoned Cheltenham/Birdlip Turnpike Road, were grouped with Shackles Gate, London Gate and Charlton Park Gate in one Lot at the annual auction of Tolls of Cheltenham District Roads.

Round about the 1820s, a number of maps were prepared for a proposed Turnpike from Cirencester towards Charlton Kings - Glos. R.O. Q/RUM/46, 67, 68 and 96 for example. Q/RUM/96, dated 1824, is a plan of a proposal for one from Cirencester to Cheltenham with a branch from near Cockleford to the bottom of Birdlip Hill. 6 Geo IV Cap 143, dated 1825, provided for the road on this map, but not for the branch road. With the map is a Book of Reference showing the proprietors and occupiers of the numbered holdings through which the road will pass.

Number	Proprietor	Occupier	Condition
79	Chas Bragge Prowse	Thos Finch	
80	Chas Bragge Prowse	In hand	
81 to 87	Chas Bragge Prowse	Thos Finch	
88			Old Road
89 to 92	Chas Bragge Prowse	In hand	
93	Rev John Harwood	In hand	
94			Old Road
95			London Rd Turnpike

Note that Nos 94 and 95 are the London Turnpike from the present location of Holy Apostles church to the junction of the Old Bath Rd with the London Rd. At this date the London Gate is at this junction, not at the Beaufort Arms.

Glos. R.O. Q/RUM/97, also dated 1824, is a plan of the intended new road from the bottom of Dowdeswell Hill to the end of Shipton Lane, to avoid the steep and dangerous road over Dowdeswell Hill; and the alterations at Cudnall in Charlton Kings and the Moors in Cheltenham. The Cudnall alteration involves a new line north of the existing line (the present Cudnall St) running from east of Timbrell's cottage to the junction of Greenway Lane, Ryeworth Rd and the existing Turnpike. The Book of Reference shows the ownership and occupation of lands relating to these alterations at Cudnall:-

Number	Proprietor	Occupier	Condition
25			London Rd
26	Mr Gale	Mr Acres	
27	C.Lovesy	Mr Hamlett	
28	W.L.Lawrence	Morris Esq	
29	C.C.Higgs	In hand	
30	W.L.Lawrence	Morris Esq	
31 and 32	C.C.Higgs	In hand	
33	Messrs Prewen and Griffiths	In hand	
34	Thos Baylis	In hand	

The Book of Reference gives the following owners and occupiers for the section relating to the Dowdeswell Hill new road:-

Number	Proprietor	Occupier	Condition
1	Thos Baylis	In hand	
2 and 3	Miss Rogers	Mr Mason	
4	Mr Baker	Thos Baylis	
5 and 6	W.L.Lawrence Esq	Thos Baylis	
7	Pole Esq	Mr Hewinson	
8	W.L.Lawrence Esq	In hand	
9 to 11	W.L.Lawrence Esq	Mr Iles	
11a	W.L.Lawrence Esq	In hand	
12 and 13	W.L.Lawrence Esq	Mr Iles	
14 to 17	Mr Humphris	In hand	
17a			Turnpike to Stowe
18	Mr Humphris	In hand	
19 to 21	Peachey Esq	Mr Hincksman	
22	Peachey Esq	Mr Meadows	
23	Peachey Esq	Mr Hincksman	
24	Peachey Esq	Mr Meadows	

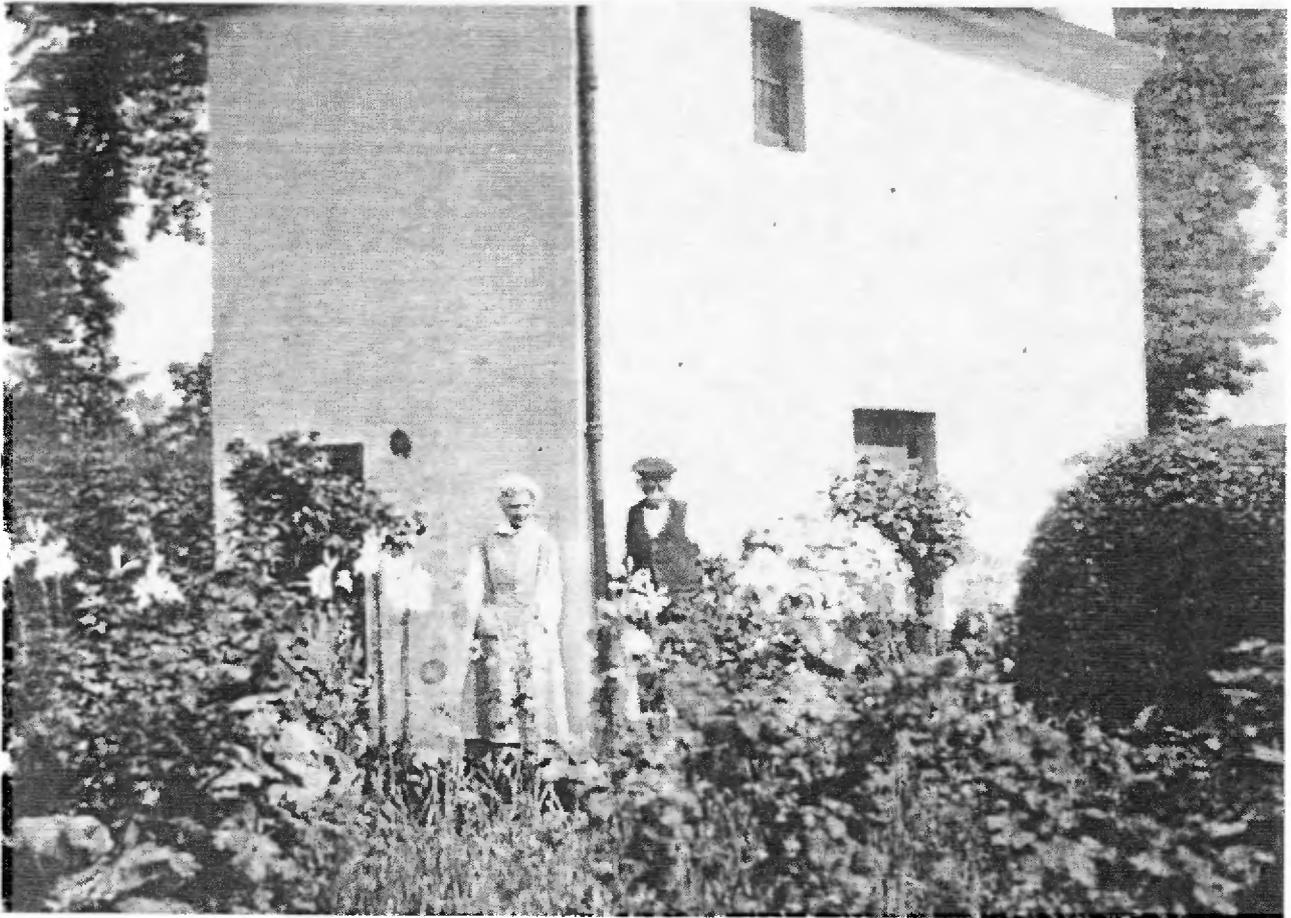
Sources at Glos. Record Office

AP 68	Cheltenham and Glos Turnpike Act 1851
AP 51	Cheltenham and Tewksbury Act 1825
D 3893 2/3	Turnpike Roads Cheltenham District - Maps c1863
D 2637	Cirencester District Turnpike Rds 1825 - 1880 by M J Paine
Q/RUM/ 42	Cirencester to Cheltenham Rd via Charlton Kings - Map 1810
Q/RUM/ 67	Cirencester to Cheltenham Turnpike - 1819
Q/RUM/ 68	Cirencester to Cheltenham Turnpike - 1820
Q/RUM/ 87	Foot of Dowdeswell Hill to Cheltenham/Northleach Turnpike - 1823
Q/RUM/ 96	Cirencester to Cheltenham - 1824
Q/RUM/ 97	Dowdeswell Hill to Cudnalls - 1824
Q/RUM/ 122	Cheltenham District Roads - 1830
File TU	List of Gloucestershire Turnpike Trusts - 1822-1833

The Local Historian Volume 15 No 6 May 1983 - "Roads in the 18th Century, A Re-assessment". Baron F Duckham

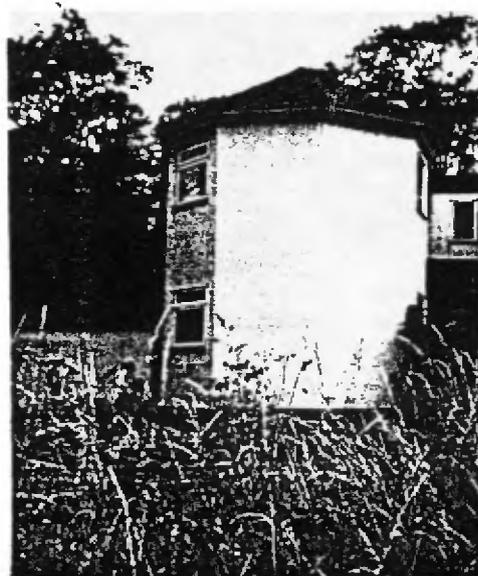
ERIC ARMITAGE

6. HEWLETTS PIKE HOUSE, GREENWAY LANE



Photograph of the back of the house, lent by Keith Newcombe, who says that the accommodation consisted of two up, two down, the main room (on the other side from that photographed) was semicircular. The kitchen had a range and copper, and there was running water but only an outside privy. The people in the photograph are Edward Newcombe (d 1932) and Mary Miles. Edward Newcombe was a cowman, working for the Mitchells of Glenfall; he had 5 sons and 2 daughters. His grandfather William Newcombe had kept the Beech Pike turnpike house.

HEWLETTS PIKE from the road



7. CHARLTON KINGS GIRLS' SCHOOL c.1886-1890



The girl standing (on left of photograph) is probably a pupil teacher, though she is wearing an apron. In the second row from back, the 4th child from the right is marked as "sister Eunice". She was a cousin of the lame girl in the next photograph and lived in London Road next to Mills the baker.

The second photograph shows the 1st or top class, with the head Teacher. The lame girl with a crutch was Clara Harris, who had had polio. After she left school she worked for a dressmaker doing button-holes. Her mother lived at 8 Fairview Cottages, East End, and fostered children until her death at the age of 80.

A third photograph, showing the infants, was unfortunately too dark to reproduce in the Bulletin.

Photographs lent by Mrs Doreen Bliss



8. CHARLTON KINGS FIRE BRIGADE



This photograph was taken c 1901/2, when the brigade was newly established. See Bulletin 5 pp 31-34 and Bulletin 6 p 62.

Back row Second from left - F.Neather (grandfather of Fred Neather of Rarity), next to him - R.G.Pleydell-Pearce, (grandfather of lender)

Captain Mr Harris

Photograph lent by Richard Coombe

9. SCOUT CAMP AT BOURTON 1927



Top Row - from left

?, Mrs Weaver, Mrs Morris, ?, Mrs Fry, ?, Mrs Brookes, Mrs Eakets, Mr Eakets, ?,

Second Row - from left

Cecil Hopton, ?, ?, E Fear, ?, Mr and Mrs Marshall, ?, A Marshall, Marshall's Sister, Rev Neale, ?, Mrs Homer, Mrs Neather (Kits grandmother), "Sausage" Martin (scout), Mr Fry, Mrs Peacey, Mr Peacey,

Third Row - from left

Mrs V Cooper, ?, Mrs Protherough with Phyllis, ?, Mrs Fear, Mrs Cooper, Mrs Paine, ?, Mrs James, Mrs Hopton, Mrs Neather and Hazel, ?, ?,

Bottom Row - from left

Colin ? (Copt Elm Rd), Ken Protherough, Vera Protherough, Pat Brookes, Dorothy Eaketts, Joan Bond, Molly Protherough, K.Paine (self), Leslie Paine, M Paine, Annie Weaver, Betty Weaver, Bob Weaver, G Cox,

Photograph lent by Mrs Sheppard

10. CHARLTON KINGS BENEFIT SOCIETY AND THE POLICE

A silver salver, inscribed as presented by Charlton Kings Benefit Society to Mr Gabb, has recently been recovered by the Police in a haul of stolen silver! It was presumably presented to Gabb in 1874 just before his retirement as Vicar - there is a brief reference to such a presentation in the Cheltenham Free Press.

In Bulletin 29 we published a balance sheet of this Society for 1865, but otherwise knew little about it or its origin. Gloucestershire Record Office in Q/RS f3 has a list of Friendly Societies whose rules were registered under Acts from 33 Geo III c 54 (1793) to 31 December 1855. The Charlton Kings ones are:-

- 265. Friendly Benefit Society, King's Head Inn, rules 2 April 1831
(The King's Head was in The Horsefair and was demolished c 1849 - it may have ceased to operate a year or two before that)
- 284. Benefit Society, Prinn's Arms, rules 1 December 1835
(The Prinn's Arms was the building in Cirencester Road opposite Croft Road; it became the Charlton Brewery about 1879 and ceased brewing about 1895)
- 395. Friendly Institution, Charlton Kings Schoolroom, rules 14 April 1835
- 443. Benefit Society, National School Room, rules 25 April 1849
(It seems probable that 395 and 443 were really the same body with revised rules. The first must have met in the parish school room at the Workhouse, before the National School was properly established in Horsefair Street in the old chapel at the Grange Walk corner of what is now the car park)
- 530. Loyal Beaufort Lodge 4488 Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Manchester Unity, Beaufort Inn, rules 13 April 1855.
(At that time our parish boundary was Coltham Lane/Hales Road. But this Lodge was a rather different kind of Society.)

It is almost certain that 443 Benefit Society was the body presenting the salver. Gabb would have had much to do with the setting up of such a Friendly Society and its use of the National School, which as Chairman he to a large extent controlled.

In Bulletin 17 there is an illustration of a 3d token in Cheltenham Museum inscribed "Charlton Kings Friendly Society established Nov 23 1833". This date does not correspond with the Quarter Sessions Register, but it is possible that No 395 actually started in 1833 but did not register itself until 1835, after Gabb's arrival in 1834.

M.PAGET

11. BUILDING THE NEW SCHOOL 1873

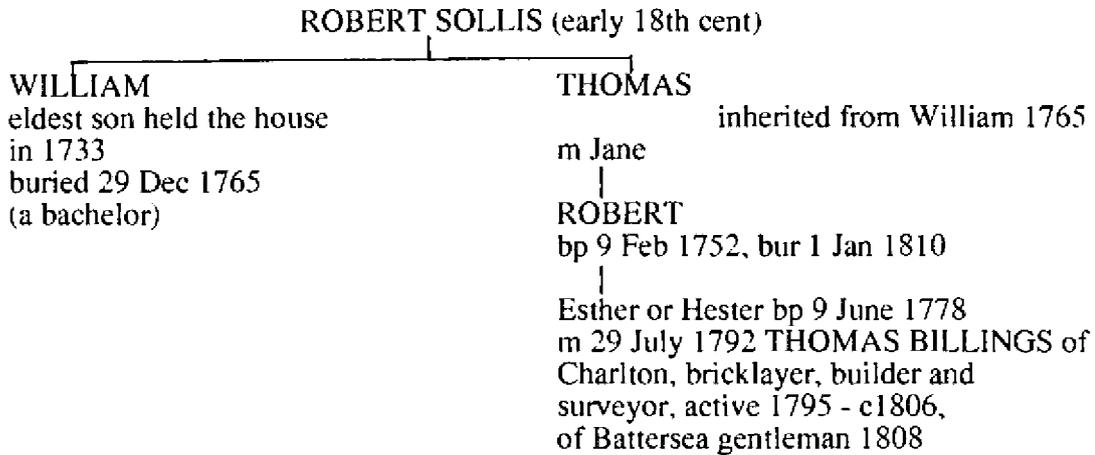
The Annual Report of the Hospital in reporting the AGM of January 1874 (GRO 3 8/5) has this note under "Donations 1873". "C.C.Higgs Esq., in acknowledgement of the attention and kindness shewn in two cases of injury, which occurred during the building of the New School, Charlton Kings. £10.0.0." [Presumably the new school was Holy Apostles. M.P.]

DAPHNE DOUGHTON

12. THE CURIOUS HISTORY OF No. 2 CUDNALL STREET

This site has been occupied since before 1154, when it was a Cheltenham manor freehold. (So tenancy probably created during the 12th century)

Tenants from the 18th century were:-



Thomas Billings as bricklayer and surveyor built No 6 (then called Raisey House, now Abbotsdene) in 1795 on land belonging to an Ashley copyhold tenement. The property on the west, No 2, belonged to his father-in-law Robert Sollis who had no male heir. The map of the turnpike road in 1798 (in the offices of Messrs Bailey) shows the new cut down Cirencester Pitch (replacing Cowell Lane) and on this corner site a building round a courtyard, probably a timber-framed house with workshops and stabling. It had been a wheelwright's.

By the date of Mitchell's map of 1806, which Billings helped to draw, the old house was gone and instead there was a block of building against the road adjoining the Raisey House coach-house (now No 4). This new building was a row of 3 cottages erected by Billings c1800, something like the cottages on the east corner of Brookway Lane built about the same time.

Billings and his wife sold Raisey House on 13 June 1808 to Samuel Harward, a retired book-seller. He was buried on 19 August 1809 but for some reason his son Revd John Harward was not admitted as his heir till 7 July 1818. On 3 February 1830 the Revd John Harward of Hartlebury and his wife for £490 surrendered to use of Martin Leggat the messuage called Raisey House with outbuildings and also sold him the southern part of the garden usually occupied with it which was freehold. But Leggat too did not long enjoy his purchase. The Cheltenham Journal of 9 August 1830 mentions the death of Lt.Col. Martin Leggatt, late of the 36th Regiment, at his residence in Charlton Kings. His widow Elizabeth lived in the house for the next 25 years, and owned the 3 cottages as well. Harward probably sold Raisey in 1830 because he now owned the freehold property next door.

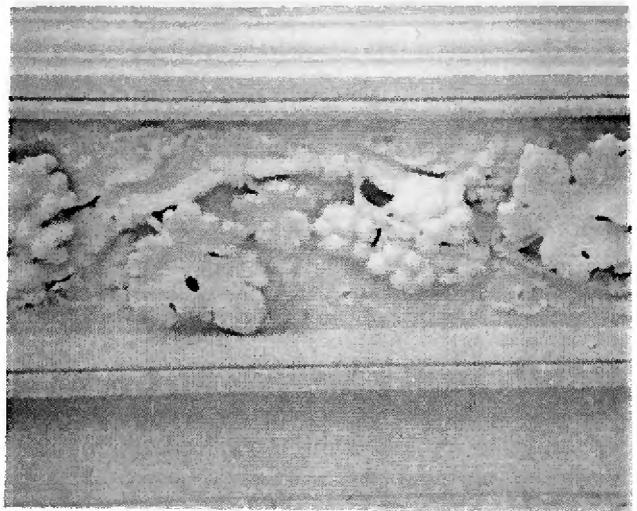
No 2 Cudnall Street, at first called Charlotteville, then Langton Villa, now Langton Lodge, was built about 1807 for Colonel McLeod, who greatly admired Princess Charlotte, the Prince Regent's daughter and heir to the throne. McLeod probably intended to let the house to visitors since he had another house in the town. Cheltenham was a "summer spa", (whereas Bath's season was the winter), so a long narrow plan was chosen. The entrance was by a drive from the new Cirencester Road, with big gates and a carriage sweep. Steps led up to the front door on the south side. There was an entrance hall with drawingroom on the left and dining room on the right. These three rooms had, and still have, very elegant plaster cornices,

suggestive (according to the experts) of mouldings at Osterley Park or Nostell and likely to date from c 1805-10. Such features would attract visitors of taste.

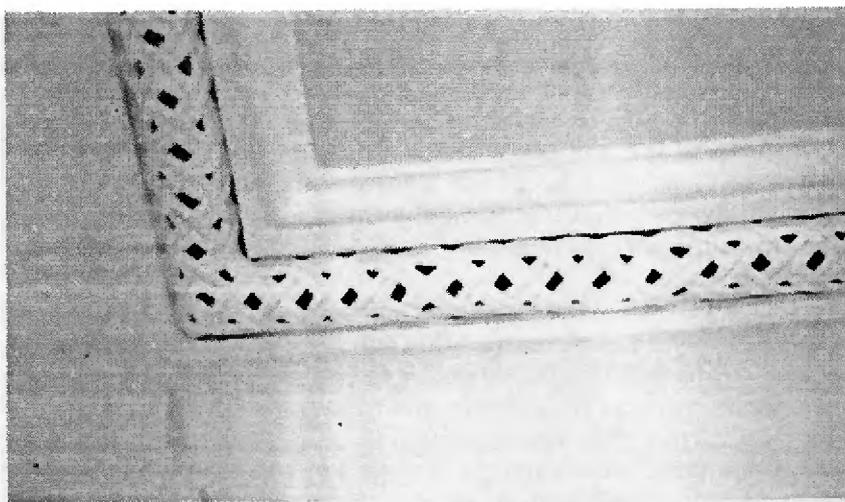


Vine-leaf design in the original dining room

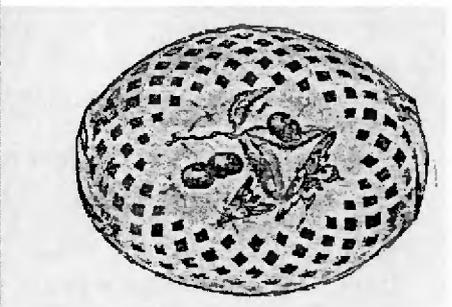
Ivy-leaf design in the original drawing room



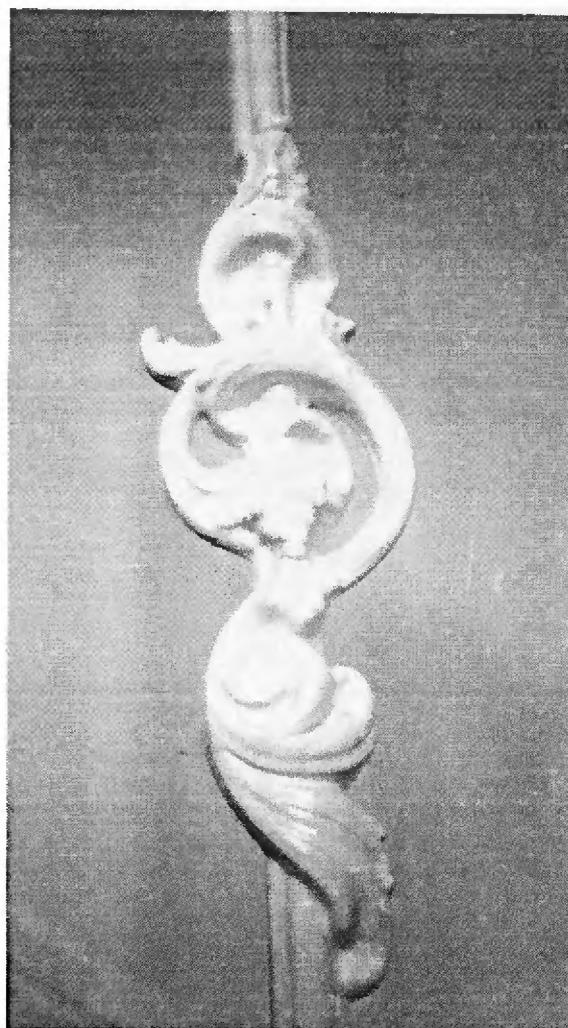
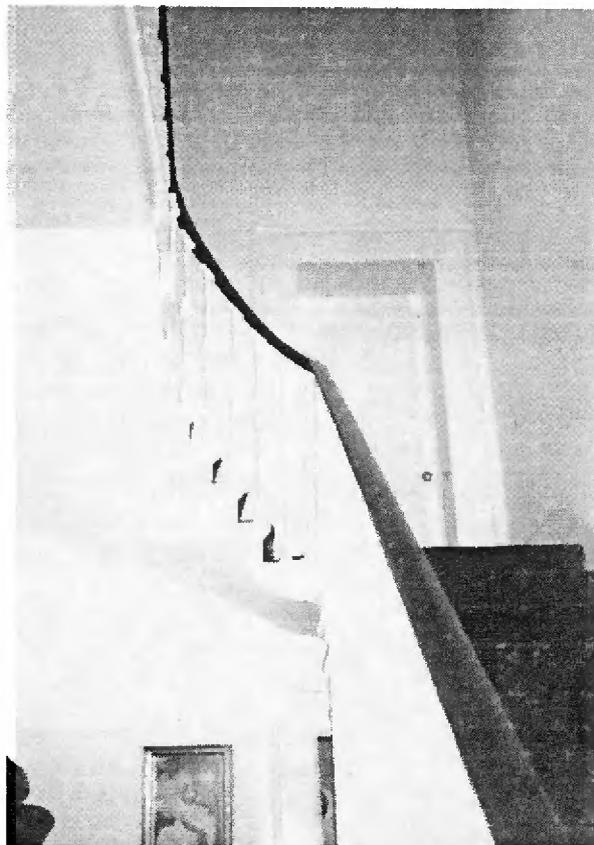
The basket work pattern in the middle room is very like china of the period.



DERBY



All the downstairs rooms are extra high; the bedrooms are reached by a staircase with pleasing iron balisters and mahogany rail.



The main rooms were linked by a corridor along the north side. East of the dining room and next to it was the kitchen. This lay-out is suggestive of the Brighton Pavilion as designed in 1802

(without the later additions) on a small scale. According to guide books to the Pavilion, the idea of having dining room and kitchen adjacent (instead of as far away as possible) was the Prince Regent's innovation, which McLeod might have known and copied.

There seems to have been a verandah along most of the north front (what Jane Austin called "Viranda, French windows and other prettinesses" typical of that period). It would not have been easy to heat a house like this but for summer visitors the problem did not arise. A new coach-house was built to the east against the boundary with Raisey's garden, to supplement one at the bottom of the Pitch, which McLeod is said to have used.

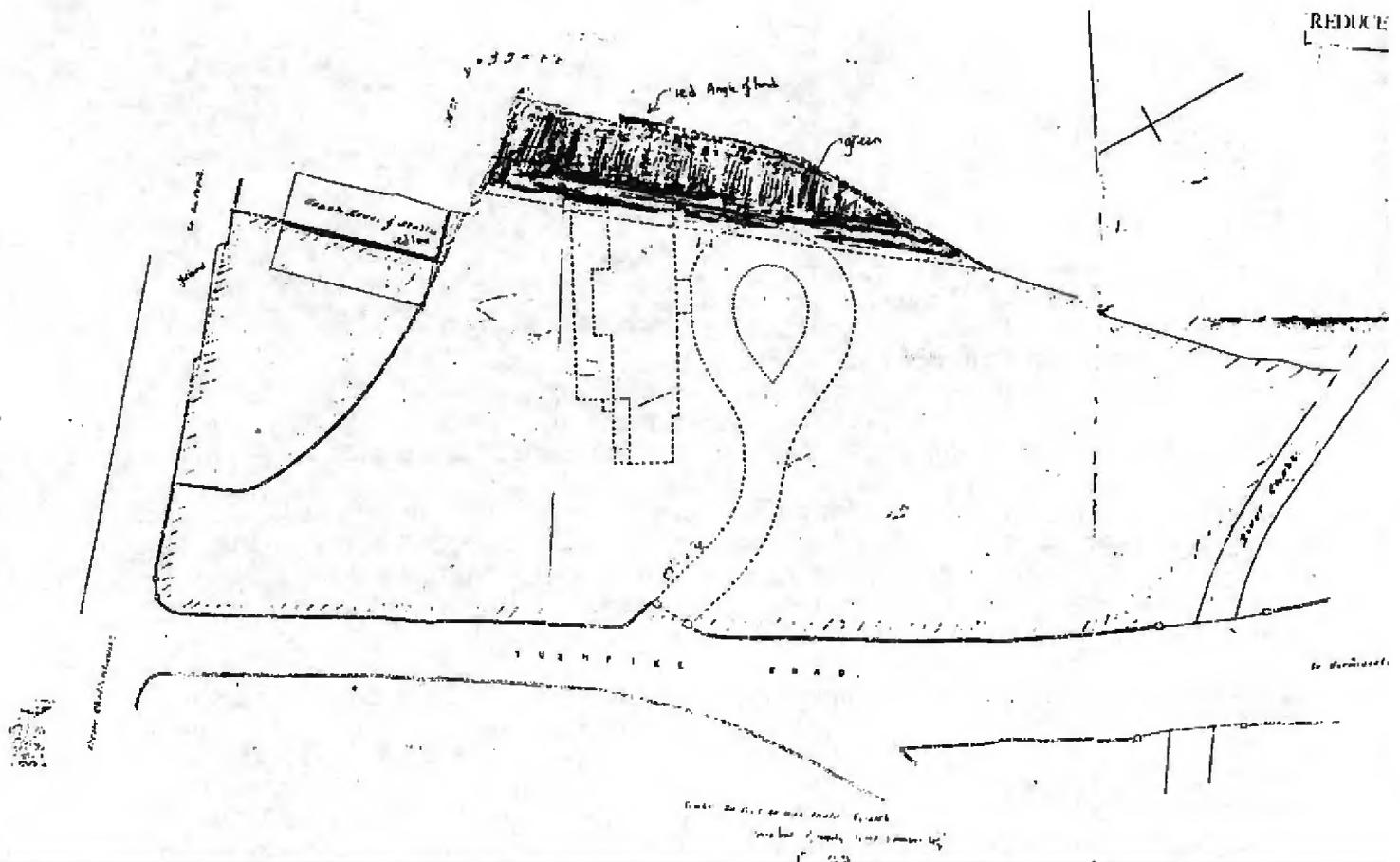
From 1837 to 1847 Charlotteville was a Ladies' Seminary run by Miss Emma Gregg, and a schoolroom was added, linking the house and the new coach-house. In the 1841 Census 15 pupils are named, including two Harward girls. A harp, piano, and effects in the schoolroom at Charlotteville were auctioned by Weaver and Moore when Miss Gregg gave up the school in 1847. (GRO D 2080 C 87) By 1848 the tithe apportionment shows the owner, the Revd John Netherton Harward, in occupation and by the 1851 Census, the old coach-house down the Pitch had become a cottage occupied by William Dye plasterer, with wife and 4 children, so it had been rebuilt or drastically altered.

Then on 14 July 1853 Weaver and Moore put up for sale at the Belle Vue Hotel:-

"All that valuable and detached FAMILY RESIDENCE, Pleasure Grounds and Garden; with fine Fruit trees and luxuriant shrubs; in extent 1a.1r.3p. enclosed with a brick wall, and having a good carriage approach with handsome pair of iron gates at the entrance on the Cirencester Road, known as "Charlotteville", in the parish of Charlton Kings, within one Mile of Cheltenham, formerly the residence of Colonel McLeod and for many years afterwards occupied as a Ladies Seminary. The property is Freehold and affords an equally advantageous opportunity to the Capitalist and Speculator as an Investment, or to a Gentleman desirous of a Country Residence within reach of a fashionable town".

Particulars could be obtained from Mr John Harward, Solicitor, Stourbridge, or from Messrs Williams and Griffiths, Solicitors, Cheltenham, Mr C.Rainger, Builder, Cheltenham, or the auctioneers at Tewksbury and Cheltenham. A pencil note says "Charlotteville. Bought in 1790". So it did not reach its reserve price (GRO D 2080 C 186) and was sold privately.

A deed and sketch plan of 1854, which the present owner of the house, Mr Paul Havard, has kindly allowed me to copy, shows that the purchaser was Charles Norman, china merchant who had a shop in the Promenade. (possibly a predecessor of Mr Norman, the china merchant in Suffolk Parade c1900 - 1940).



The 1854 sketch plan (reduced)

The agreement of 22 May 1854 is between the new owner of Charlotteville, Charles Norman, and the owner of Raisey, Mrs Leggatt. She agreed to sell him for £200 the 3 cottages on Cudnall Street; he was to pull them down and build a coach-house on part of the site against Mrs Leggatt's existing coach-house, the wall between to be a party wall. She agreed not to make any windows in her coach-house to overlook his property. He was to pull down the eastern end of his house and covenanted not to build anything on a triangle of land adjoining Mrs Leggatt's garden. A very small piece of his land was to be hers in future and a narrow strip of the cottage site was to be added to the road to make a footpath.

One consequence of this agreement was that a new carriage way could be made from Cudnall Street, convenient if the coach-house was to be on that side and the front entrance on the north. It seems that the new coach-house as built and the Raisey coach-house were both larger than indicated by the sketch plan and so came nearer the house. (see photographs of No 4, p29) Another consequence was that Norman got rid of the school-room, for which he had no use, and used the materials from it and from the old coach-house (which included old timbers and stones from the foundations of the Sollis house) for improvements. He removed the verandah, no longer fashionable, and in its place built extra rooms on the north side of the corridor. These are utility rooms without special plaster-work, and may have been intended at first as office and show rooms where Norman could display his china to favoured clients more conveniently than in a shop. These rooms have windows 5 panes wide, not the older style with 3. He turned the original hall into a morning or breakfast room, normal in a house of this style in 1854 (its use as a smoking room probably dates from the 1870s when smoking became commoner) and built a 4ft stone balcony along the south front.

There may have been problems with damp and to guard against this, Norman put a tunnel (or 'dry area'- see p25) at basement level round three sides of the house as it now stood (leaving the kitchen side). Probably there had always been a basement for storage, now enlarged.

[Dry Areas: These were a method of protecting basement walls from damp penetration from a higher outside ground level, in the days before the use of vertical damp proof courses or 'tanking'. The top was commonly left open, but this allowed rain to soak the lower walls, so that in good quality building, the top was covered, either with horizontal slabs, or, as in this case, a vault. There are examples of vaulted dry areas in Cheltenham's Regency buildings, in some cases a wider area with a full barrel vault is accessed by a door from the basement and allows storage of items not overly affected by damp. These often extend below the pavement and in Bath other vaults at right angles to the dry area project below the road! K.VENUS]

A new roof was needed to cover the new rooms as well as the old ones, and an elaborate gutter system was used to drain all the water through a central gulley down to the east where the "offices" and kitchen are on a slightly lower level than the rest, a feature probably dictated by the drop in ground level. The present front door has a curious lock which offers no opportunity to a burglar trying to break in. It would be helpful if a locksmith could tell us whether such locks are likely to belong to c1807 or c1854.

After the alterations the name of the house changed too. In the 1858 Rate book it is called Langton Villa and this persists till about 1881, when the Census has Langton Lodge, as now. By 1858, Charles Norman was still the owner but he had let the house to H.Freeman shown as occupier. Estimated rental was £110 p.a. Members of the Norman family owned it till the end of the century.

The 1854 addition of a strip of land to widen Cudnall Street seems to have been the first of several road improvements in this area. Others were made by the Charlton Kings Board of Health which became responsible for road repair on the first mile out of Cheltenham (that is from Hales Road to the milestone by Overbury Street) in 1863. One decision which indirectly

affected Langton Lodge was taken on 11 September 1865, that "an application be made to C.C.Higgs Esq. for Land to widen the Cirencester Road at Cudnall Pitch 10 feet or thereabouts in the whole or part of the ascent as he might approve of, it being understood that the wall be taken down and rebuilt without expense to Mr Higgs. Proposed that the stone crossing at the top of Cudnall Pitch on the Cirencester Road be removed on account of the insecurity of the Traffic on that Road" (Minute Book I DA 3/100/1) This was the first of several road widenings, taking land from Charlton House; the "stone crossing" marked the boundaries between the London Road and the Cirencester Road Turnpike Trusts. The 1888 25" OS still shows the house a little further from Cudnall Street than it is now, so there must have been another road widening since.

In 1888 the old carriage sweep was still there, though encroached upon a little by the balcony. But it disappeared shortly afterwards, and only a small wooden door in the wall was left for the use of the gardener.

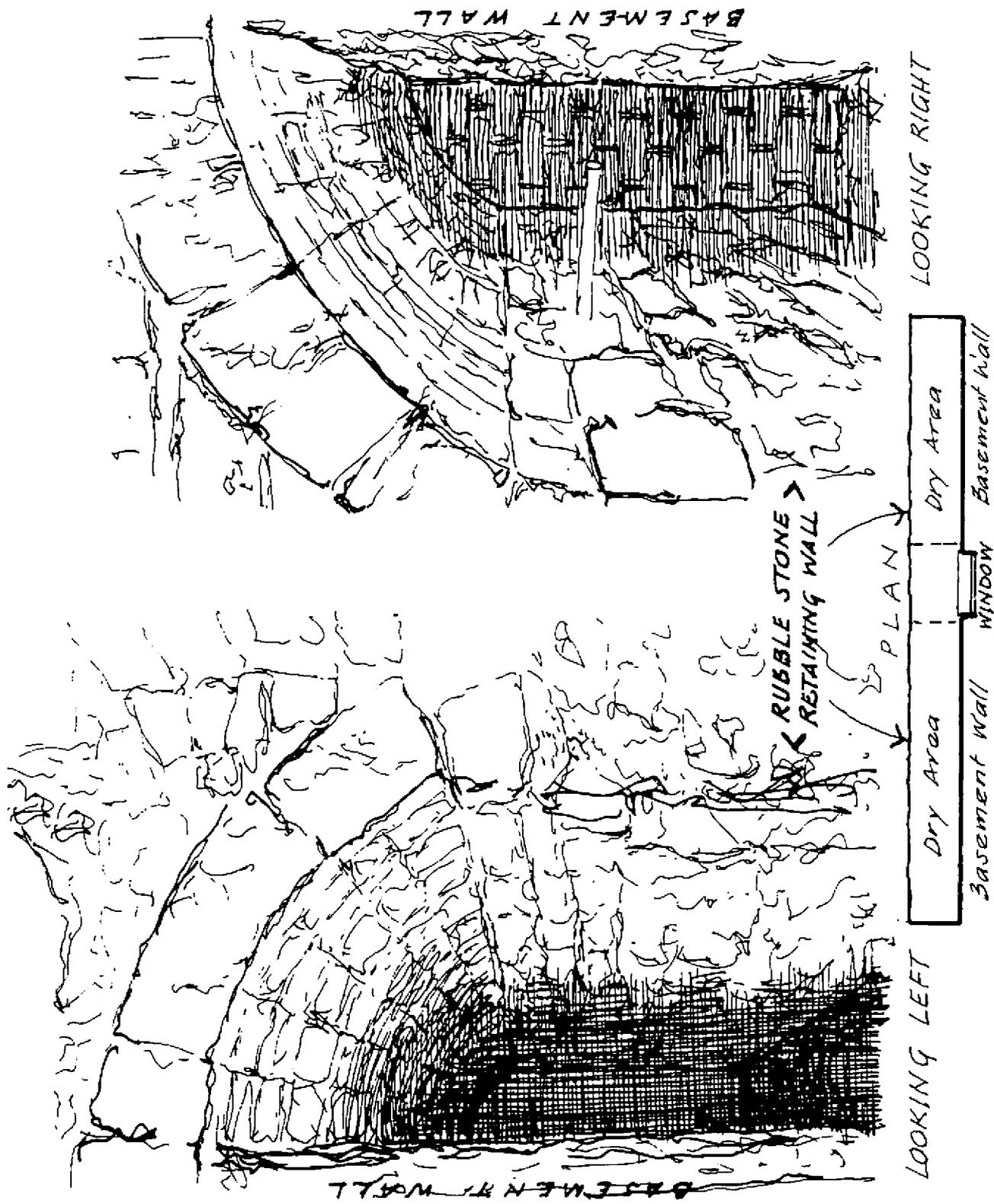
About 1900 external shutters were fixed, to give the house a "French" look and to keep out the sun during a series of hot summers. No other alterations appear to have been made until the house was sold in 1986. It was then in a wretched state through neglect and the garden was totally blocked by trees and brambles. Deacon the builder bought the property from Miss Cox, cut down the trees and bushes and built the new houses. He didn't want the old house which he sold to Mr William Wood.

Mrs Pitt of No 4 Cudnall Street remembers the nuisance caused while the undergrowth was being cleared and burnt on huge bonfires 14 foot high. She and Spirax Sarco across the Cirencester Road complained. While this was going on the house was broken into one night by thieves who entered through the gardener's door (which was swollen and wouldn't close). They took out five marble fireplaces, part of the original Charlotteville fittings; so all the present fireplaces are replacements.

The new owner intended to divide the house, restore the best part and sell the rest as it stood. But no purchaser could be found for that, and the whole house was very quickly sold to Mr Christopher Bullingham. Among other changes made at this time, the ground floor windows on the garden front were modernised, and the balcony widened into a 12 ft patio; all the balustrades and steps were renewed, though the new ones are exact replicas of the old. The drawingroom was converted into a kitchen/dining room.

Fortunately the house is now in the ownership of people who appreciate its quality and are giving it the love and care it deserves. I am very grateful to Mr and Mrs Paul Havard for the additional evidence they have provided together with photographs of the house as it is now, and for an opportunity to photograph the plaster work.

M.PAGET



LANGTON LODGE ~ HALF-VAULTED 'DRY AREA'

LANGTON LODGE 1994

Part of the original front shows on the left near the coach-house.



South Side



Owners and occupiers from 1851

	Owners	Occupiers
1851 Census		No Head of Household, only servants present
1858 Rate Book	Charles Norman	H. Freeman
1871 Census		Capt. George B Cornish, Sea Capt. Rtd., born USA, aged 57
1873 Electoral Reg.	John Herbert ¹ of Leckhampton	
1876/79 Directories		Mrs Emma Cornish
1881 Census		Col.Wm.Cavendish Bryan Rtd
1882 Rate Book	William Austin Norman	"
1883 Electoral Reg.		"
1889 Directory	No entry	
1891 Census		Mrs Eleanor Martin ² widow, dressmaker
1897 Rate Book	W. A. Norman and C. A. Norman	
1897/1906 Directories		Farquhar Forbes-Robertson ³
1910/14/23 Directories		Miss Wiggins
1927 Directory		Miss Latham
1931 Directory	No entry	
1939 Directory		Harold R.Cox (believed to have bought house c1935)
1986	Sold by Miss Cox	

Rate books show the estimated rental to have been £110 in 1858, £144.10.0. in 1882 and, £119 in 1897.

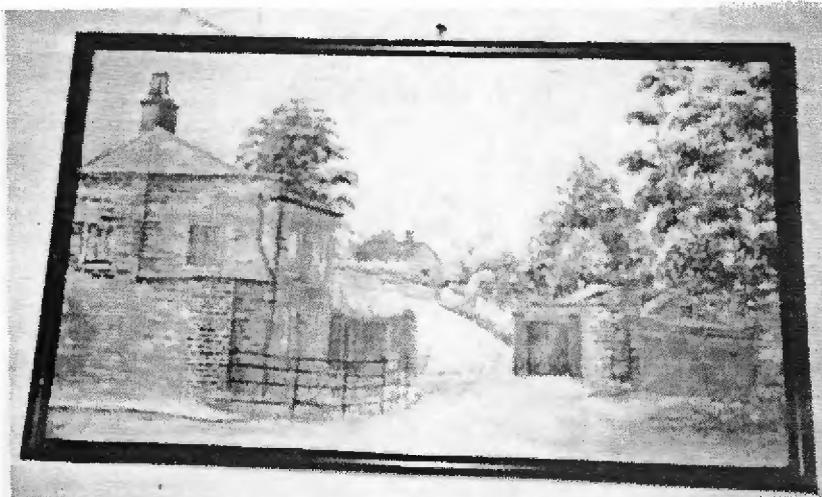
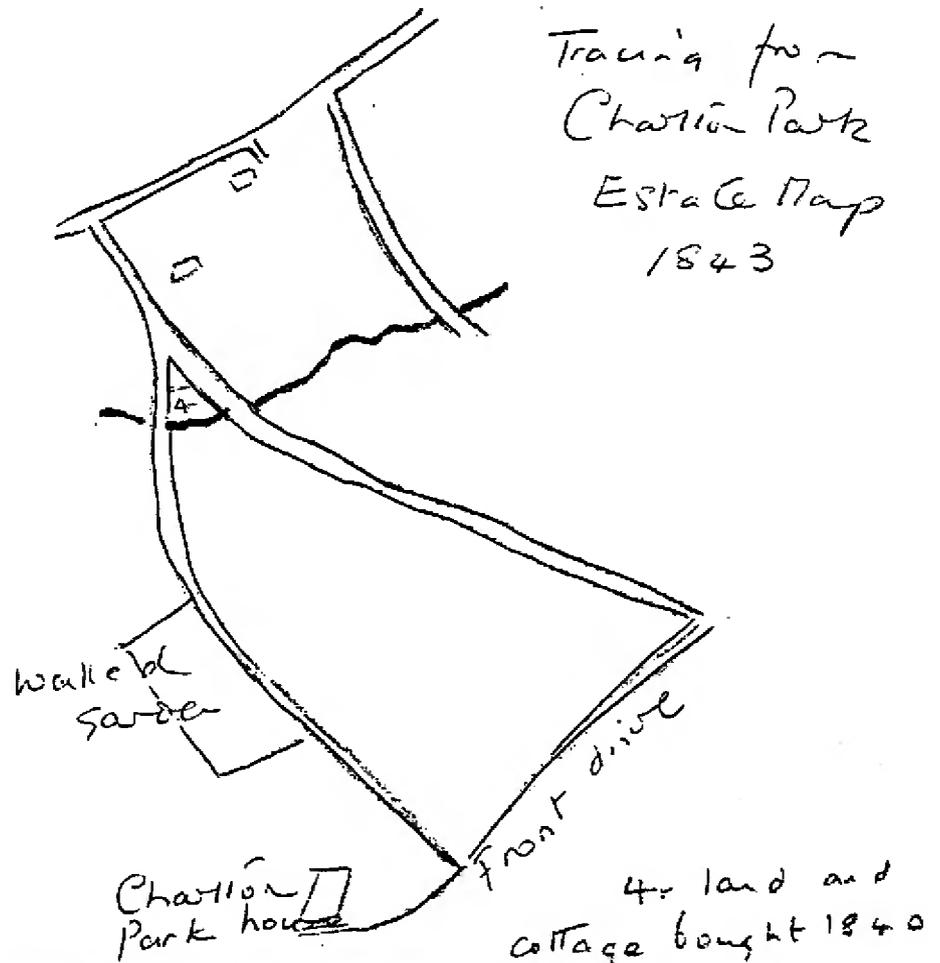
¹ John Herbert was a son-in-law of C.Norman

² Her husband Thomas Martin died 7 March 1890, aged 59, and was buried at St.Mary's churchyard. She died 19 December 1919.

³ James Forbes-Robertson, born at Langton Lodge, gained a Victoria Cross in the first World War. (John Bridgman's Notes - Cheltenham Library)

A footnote to the history of the house is provided by a deed in the Charlton Park estate collection (GRO D 1224) which tells us that at first Charlotteville had a coach-house at the bottom of Cirencester Pitch. The 1843 disentailing deed recites a conveyance of 25 and 26 August 1840 between the Revd John Harward and Dame Jane Eliza Russell (widow of Sir William Russell). For £300 Harward sold her a cottage and garden, formerly a stable and coach-house belonging to Charlotteville and used by Colonel McLeod. It stood on the corner of Cowell Orchard, between Charlton Park and the new Cirencester Road (which shows incidentally that the new road of c1787-97 down the Pitch was sited on Sollis's land, not on land going with Charlton House). The cottage became the Lodge for Charlton Park and was only demolished after the last war to provide more convenient access to new buildings erected by Spirax Sarco.

Tracing from
Charlton Park
Estate Map 1843



Sketch of the Lodge by V.Holman. Park Cottage can be seen in the distance (see Bulletin 32)
Photographed by permission of the owner Mrs Jennings.

M.PAGET

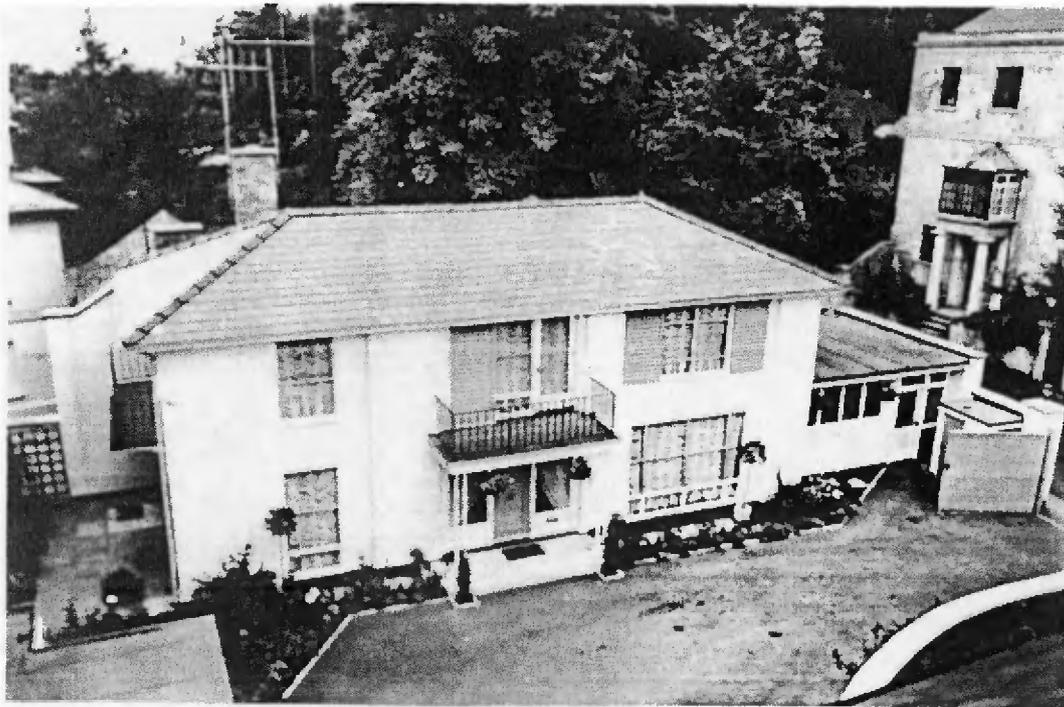
14. THE CONVERSION OF A COACH-HOUSE, No 4 CUDNALL STREET

(1) As it was, 19 May 1963





(2) As it became, October 1963 - Photographs lent by Mrs Betty Pitt.



15. A CHEMIST'S SHOP
IN LONDON ROAD 1910



THE SHOP NOW -
till lately it
was a branch of
the Midland Bank

This view comes from a postcard bought by Miss P.Pearce, and the 1994 view is hers too. It was posted on 5 August 1910 to Master E.Hill of Great Yarmouth, with the message "Dear Eddie, I hope you are quite well. I have sent you a photo of the shop. From Marjorie" - which sounds as though it was a new venture. Directories confirm that H.Woodliffe was there 1910-11, and the UDC Rate Book for 1910 (GRO DA 3 510/5) gives 1 Hamilton Place - house and shop - owner Evelina B.Brooks, occupier Henry Grayson Woodliffe - rateable value £15.5.0. On the glass in white paint is written "Graduate in Chemistry and Physic".

This photo is interesting because Woodliffe's shop did not last long. He was not there in 1914. (I had always been told that there was no chemist in Charlton in 1912 and none till Cheshire came in 1922). Another interesting feature is the National Telephone Service's public box, giving the Local Codes - Cheltenham 1, Cleeve Hill 2, Tewksbury 2, Bredon 3. No suggestion that anyone might want to ring Gloucester or further afield! The shop beyond was Walker's, baker and corn chandler (a business afterwards carried on by Oldacre). The corn hoist (now a window) can be seen behind the eaves on the right.

Woodliffe appears in the Baptism register of St Mary's in 1910-11. Neale must have persuaded him to have his two daughters, Marjorie Kate (born 23 July 1899) and Gladys Rosetta (born 28 January 1901) baptised at St Mary's on 14 September 1910. The new baby John (born 29 December 1910) was baptised on 15 February 1911. This action of Neale's was characteristic, though technically London Road was in Holy Apostles parish.

M.P.

16. MEMORIES OF LITTLE HERBERTS (arising from Bulletin 32)

I was born in a listed cottage in Bafford and I hope to die in another listed cottage, 49 Little Herberts. My deeds went back to the 1600s but a solicitor burnt them!

When I farmed at Little Herberts farm, one piece of my land off Sappercombe Lane was an acre which had belonged to Syon House. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners sold it to Green the gunsmith in High Street and he sold it to Mr Organ (Cocky Organ) with Little Herberts farm. Organ was a horse dealer who lived in Orchard House after Horace Edwards and was buying horses for the Army for gun carriages in France. Organ bought Little Herberts farm as a certain acreage so then he had it strictly measured and insisted on another two thirds of an acre being added to make up the exact amount! - this bit he stuck on to the one acre that had been Syon's. Organ sold to the Jameses and I took the farm off them with that two thirds of an acre when I was 22, about 1925-6, long before I married, and I was married 56 years. Mike James the son only died in 1993, James sold Frank Neather the piece of ground where after World War I he built his first new home which he called Laventie after a place in France or Belgium. I had that way in ("Piggy Lane") to give access to my fields; and when the Council compulsorily purchased that farm for the Beeches estate, they had to leave it for the then owner.

There was a big elm tree by the barn, growing into the wall, it had a huge bulge on it and was hollow inside - the old dog used to sleep in that hollow! Some of my cows got into the allotments and did a lot of damage. Eventually it was agreed that the allotment holders would settle in manure and they cleared my yard! (a barrow load of manure was worth 6d in those days). There was a pond in Little Herberts farm yard and another pond by the gate into the playing field - the west end. When Harry Towle was building Garden Road he needed somewhere to dump the extra soil and sand, so I suggested he could pipe the water and fill up the two ponds, which he did.

A water diviner lived in one of the houses behind 49 Little Herberts - there was a well in this garden and he found water running right down towards Croft Road.

Bill Martin gave the Council the playing field - properly it ought to be called The Meads, not The Beeches. The ridges in the top part were filled in by unemployed men after WWI, but they still show in dry summers.

Sappercombe farm is older than it looks - a man named Tuffley had it. But the old buildings have been knocked down and the house extended.

At Ashgrove farm there was a spring which ran down the side of the house into the Hearne brook and there were two ponds fed by it. A footpath went up to the farm from the railway level crossing. The spring has been piped now. During WWII the Ministry of Agriculture supplied 4 German prisoners of war to build a bridge to carry the water under the footpath and clean the water course down. After the war they wrote and came back to see their work - a coachload stopped outside my farm and the four asked if they could look at their names written in the top layer of concrete; later one of them came back and brought his wife.

Near Tantallon there's a big oak tree with a mound under it, there used to be a yard and a big building for horses there, now pulled down.

Someone thought he owned the row of trees by the Hollow Way on Timbercombe because he owned the fields below but he was stopped cutting them because they belong to the Hollow Lane.

At Timbercombe the cobbled track is the real road, not the branch to Vineyards. In the centre of the grove to the right of the way to Vineyards was where in Mr Lord's time they used to rear pheasants and Boroughs the game keeper lived in one of the Vineyard Cottages. In the '20s a man named Hawkins had Timbercombe Wood. When I was about 18 he cut the laurels in that grove and sent them to Stroud to make walking sticks - I helped to cut them - that would be about 1923.

The land at the top of Little Herberts between the two roads has only been levelled out a fortnight ago (October 1994). About 10 people in the bungalows bought it to stop it being built on, but now they've changed their minds and want to build. Where these bungalows are was the bothy and kitchen garden and long greenhouses for Lilleybrook, and the two cottages on Cirencester Road were for Gurney Catherine who looked after the electric light plant and the gardener - the bungalow next door to them was originally the Lilleybrook saw mill.

In the wall outside The Nappings there was a stone which said "Two miles to the Centre of Cheltenham", that is, to the Centre Stone. The horse trough used to stand on the road side by that stone.

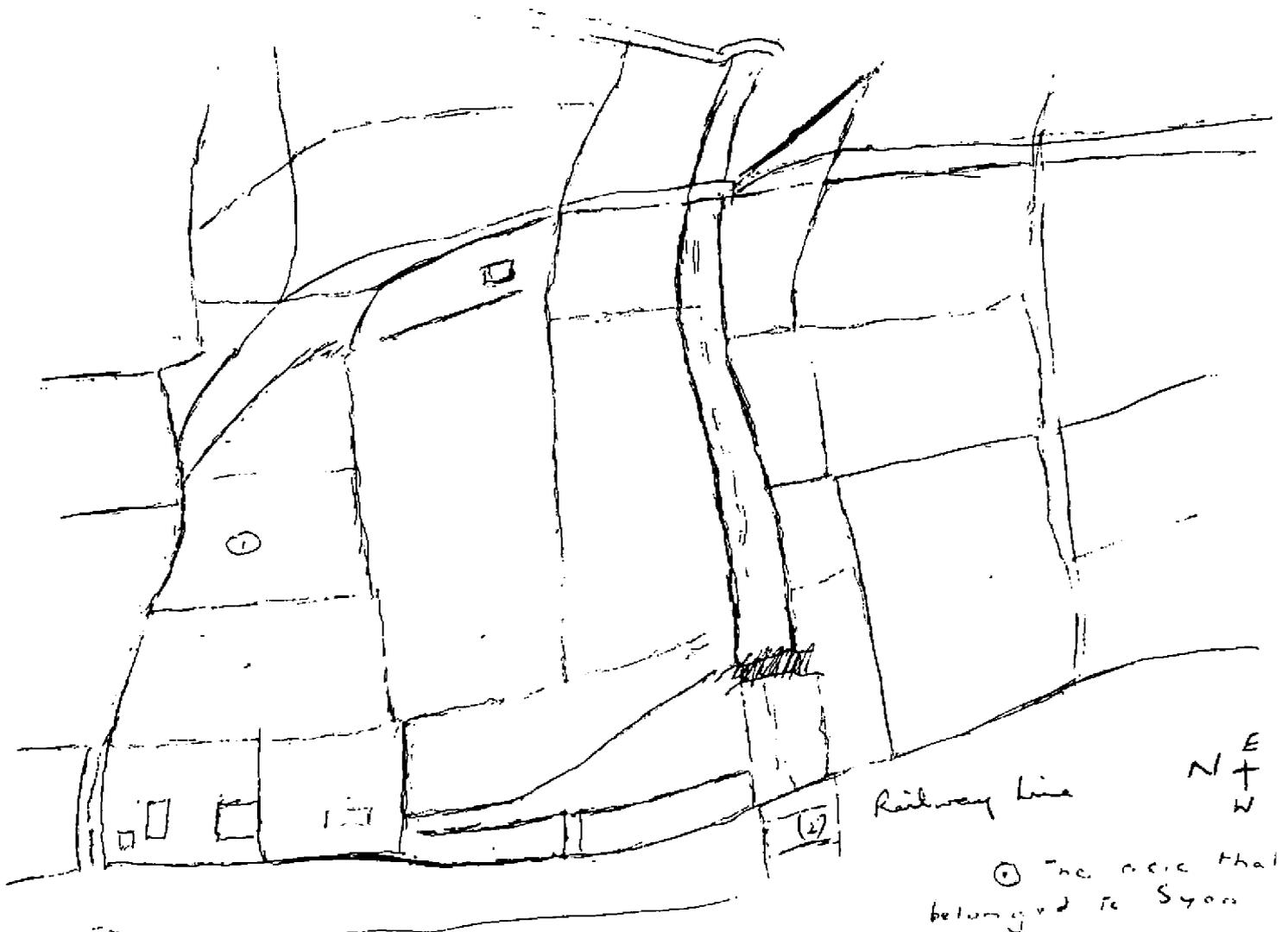
In the '20s a signal man and porter at Charlton Station cooked a badger in the signal box to get the fat for medications - couldn't go into that box for a week for the smell!

On the railway there was a yard and ramp for loading horses and cattle into trucks. I was the last man to use it on behalf of Mr James - and the beast I sent to Gloucester market was stolen on the way - the auctioneers had to pay for it. Once I walked cattle to Gloucester with a man named Fry who lived back of Church Street. When we got down Lansdown Road a farmer passed with two calves in a cart and one of our cows trotted all the way to Gloucester after it. Then she went into a sweet shop - the woman serving turned round and said "What can I do for you?" and when she saw the cow she fainted! We had to get it out.

When the Lilleybrook Hotel took all the water from the spring up Timbercombe, they had to compensate Miss Mitchell at Home Farm. She brought a carved elephant and a sword back from Ceylon, they were given to her by the monks because she gave them a donation; and she left them both to me in her will and I have them still.

A. MITCHELL
(aged 90 on 8 January 1995)

Sketch map drawn by Mr Mitchell from memory



Comments

(1) This story of the field which once belonged to Syon is an interesting example of the tenacity of tradition. Conway Whithorn Lovesy's representatives held it in 1848 as TM 305, Bull Butts, arable, 1a 0r 8p; and being freehold it may have been subject to a quit rent payable to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. All the land on the east side of Little Herberts Road belonged to Cheltenham manor and so from c1450 - 1539 to Henry V's foundation at Syon, Middlesex. The name Bull Butts links it with the Bull family of c1400.

Another small plot of land in Charlton Kings (part of the site of the garage at East End) formerly paid (according to Mr Milward) a small rent to the diocese of Worcester, and this arose, presumably, from a donation made before 1540 when Worcester was our Mother church. I was not able to get any confirmation of this story from Worcester, and I gather that though remembered the rent had not been paid for years.

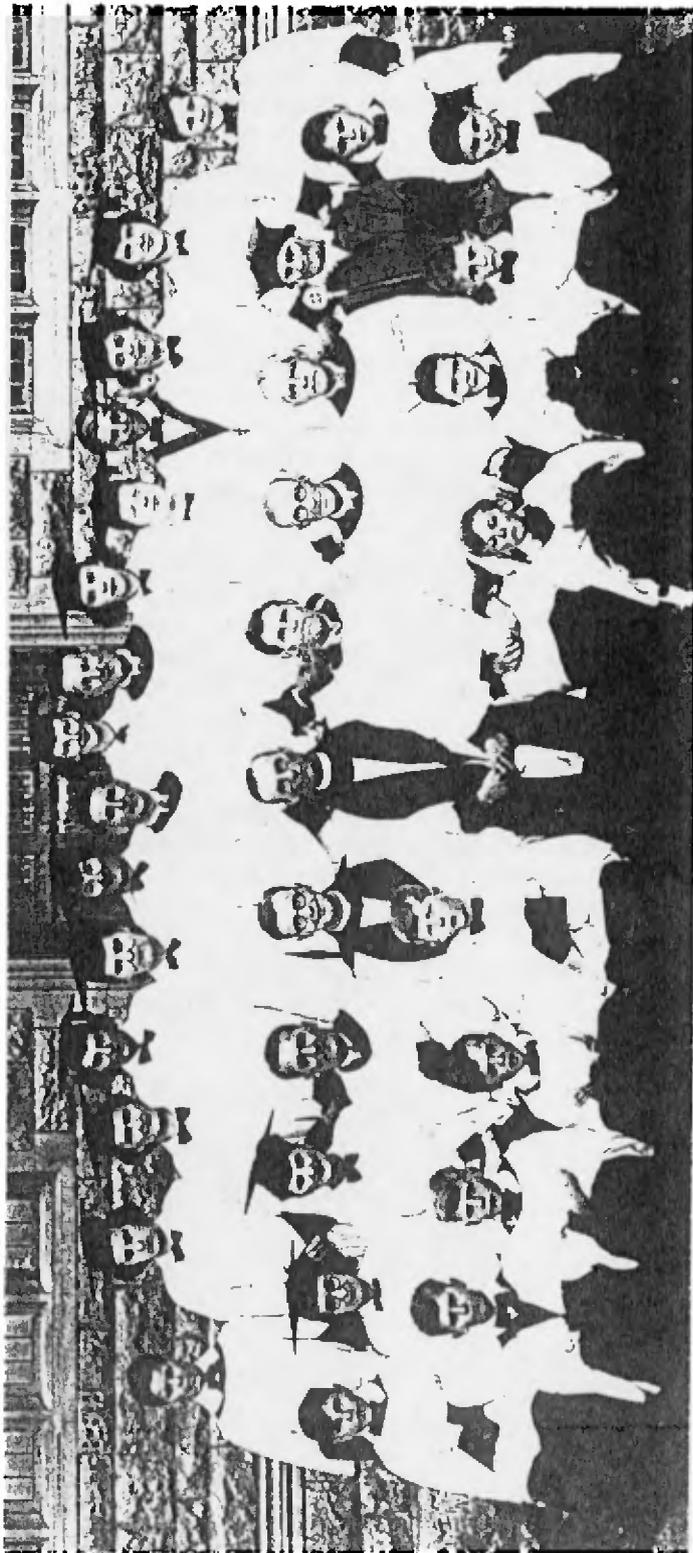
(2) The apparent discrepancy in the accounts of Little Herberts Farm arise in part from its divided ownership. In 1848 the acreage was 46 acres (tithe map), all on the escarpment except the Croft (9a) on the west side of Little Herberts' Road. It did not include any land immediately adjoining the farm house (see Bulletin 26 pp 26-7). Sir Wm Russell bought the property before 1865 and added an acre of the Meads and 2 parcels called Mansells (3.0.0 and 2.3.7) - total 54.1.24. It was offered for sale in 1879 but not sold - and in the 1897 Rate Book was down to 45.1.14 again, owner Russell's mortgagee, tenant George Hewinson. It appears that the Croft (9a) no longer went with the farm. But by 1912 more land had been added, bringing it up to 58.3.36. This seems to have been the land adjoining the farmhouse, which had belonged to the next door farm (Wiggins/Herbert Villa/Orchard House) owned by Horace Edwards a stationer in Cheltenham High Street in 1912.

The Valuation list under the 1910 Finance Act gives Little Herberts Farm acreage on 31 July 1912 as 58 acres 3 roods 36 perches. The owner was Joseph Henderson living in Switzerland and the occupier was G.Hewinson. The total value was £4000. An endorsement states that part of the farm was sold on 19 July 1915 for £2000 [presumably to Organ] and this 19.256 acres again on 6 October 1922 for £2500 to James. The UDC Rate book for 1931 shows Howard O.James farmer as owner and occupier of this section.

For the background of Joseph Henderson, see GRO D5907 Box 14 bundle 10. He died on 22 October 1924, the date when the Valuation List shows he still owned 36.246 acres. This included the site of Garden Road, and 2 building plots sold in 1934 and 1935.

M.P.

17. HOLY APOSTLES CHOIR c1945-9



- 11. (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10) (11) (12) (13) (14) (15)
- (16) (17) (18) (19) (20) (21) (22) (23) (24) (25) (26)
- (27) (28) (29) (30) (31) (32) (33) (34)

This photograph has been lent by Mrs Joyce Young Nee Byard, who was married at Holy Apostles in 1942 and was a member of the choir for over 25 years till 1957. She believes the photograph shows:-

1 - ,2 - ,3 Mollie Hampson, 4 Winnie Winter, 5 Valerie Mann now Oakey, 6 Gladys Skinner, 7 Frank Dorn, 8 Mavis ? Blandford or Blatchford, 9 Alec Baylis, 10 - , 11 Brenda Parr, 12 Ken Mills, 13 - ? James, 14 Mickie Heath, 15 - , 16 - , 17 Joyce Young, 18 Vera Slack, 19 Arthur Slack, 20 Revd - (curate), 21 Revd C.T.Peers (vicar), 22 John Williams (organist) 23 Arthur Mills, 24 Arthur Parr, 25 Mrs Dovey (Verger). The rest she can't name.

In Bulletin 31 p.15, we published a photograph of Holy Apostles Parish Council 1948 and asked for more names. Mrs Young suggests:-

Row 2, 2 - Bridgeman

Row 3, 4 Mrs Dovey, 6 Mrs Winter, 7 - Young,

Front Row, 3 ? Mrs Lynes, 4 Mr Hawkesford (churchwarden), 7 should have been

Mr Absalon (Peoples' Warden), 8 A Bridgeman.

JOYCE YOUNG nee BYARD
(aged 90)

18. CHARLTON TREES - OAKS ON THE BREECHES AND CATSHAY

The pollarded oaks between Great and Little Breeches (at the top of Glynrosa road) probably mark a field boundary created about the time of the second inclosure award of 1564. The nearer tree is the one in which "Scorcher" is said to have hidden from the police, while his wife brought him food every day! (See History p145)

Another ancient oak of approximately the same age stands between Catshay and Lower Penny Breeches at the foot of Timbercombe. Oaks were commonly pollarded to provide more building timbers.

M. PAGET

From Little Breeches



From Catshay (taken in 1979)



19. REMINISCENCES OF PARK COTTAGE AND CHARLTON PARK

(arising out of Bulletin 32)

My husband would have been 87 now, he was born in 1907, his father a gardener at Charlton Park. They had 4 boys¹. At that time the Jennings lived in No.2 and the groom, later Coachman Statham occupied No.1. When I married my father-in-law was still alive, so we lived in the Lodge 11 years and my two eldest children were born there. Later we moved to No.1 and the other two children were born in No.1.

They ought not to have pulled down the Lodge but Spirax Sarco wanted to improve the access to the back of their premises and they bought it. The bell was still in the cellar by which the Lodge Keeper had been summoned to open the gate for the traps etc driving up to the house. Two of the Lodge windows were blocked to escape window tax.² The last occupier was the groundsman Mr Matie (whose daughter lives in Cirencester Road).

I worked for 40 years at Charlton Park. At the back of what is now the nuns' house, by their laundry, there was a pump and nearby the cottage known as "the single men's bothy", later a shed. There was a row of bells by the back door at Charlton Park, to communicate with any part of the house.

After the Vassar Smiths left, the house was empty for a long time. The agents were Baileys. But the gardens were kept up and the gardeners used to sell the produce in the market. The Matthews brothers used to go fetch it on their dray every week. Charlton Park also supplied the nuns at Nazareth House in Bath Road (opposite the College). Then Mr Reeves bought Charlton Park and gave some of the land to the College. The Sacred Hearts nuns bought it in 1939 and moved in on the day war broke out.

After Miss Vassar Smith died (in March 1963) her former maid Jessie Scrivens got my husband to make her a holly cross for the grave every year at Christmas - there was a white holly tree in the grounds, a freak, quite white.

At the bottom of the garden was a rose walk with arching roses under big trees. I have a sketch of some of the trees, done by my son-in-law. One of the nuns used to say her rosary there, it was like a cathedral she said.

My husband died of a broken heart when he saw his greenhouses pulled down and the big garden walls - even the contractor was moved to tears to see the beautiful soil they were bulldozing for the houses.³

MRS JENNINGS
19 September 1994

¹ Mr Jennings told me he was born while his father was superintending the planting of the lime trees on the front drive. The baptism register gives Robert George (born 21 Feb 1907) son of Frederick Charles and Clara Jennings, Charlton Park, gardener, 2 July 1907.

² Apparently the two on the North side shown on Holman's sketch on page ?. Window tax was not abolished till 1848.

³ That land must have been in intensive cultivation for some 800 years.

M.P.

20. THE ROOF BEAMS OF No.1 PARK COTTAGES

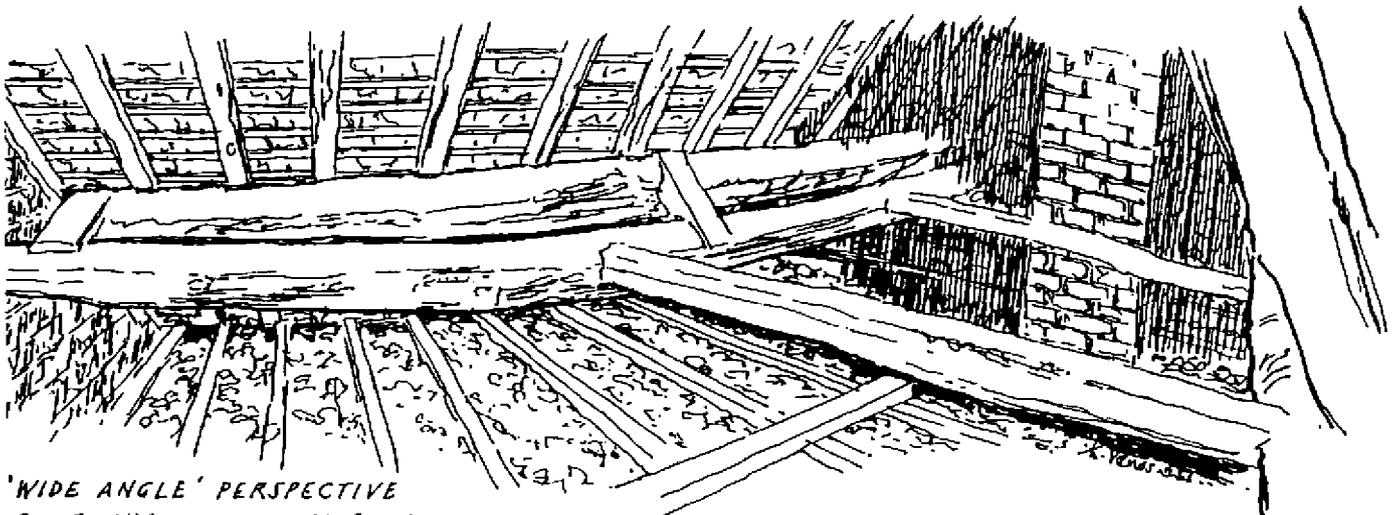
When Linda Hall carried out her survey of Nos 1 and 2 Park Cottages in 1994 (Bulletin 32), she was unable to gain access to the roof space. However, some minor repair work to the roof in November necessitated the erection of a scaffolding tower to the rear of No 1 and provided the opportunity for me to attempt some photographs of this roof space through a small hole in the roof. I am grateful to the contractor, Mr Keith Barthorpe of Bredon, who allowed me to make use of his scaffolding and ladder, and also to the architect, Mr Potts of John Falconer Associates, who made the necessary contact on my behalf.

Ken Venus has made a drawing from the photographs. The view is towards the front of No 1, showing the roof and two purlins - the lower one is the original, the upper one put in when the front wall was raised and the pitch of the roof altered. The two purlins are linked together, presumably to give extra strength. There are also tie-beams running across the roof space, linking the original purlin with the single one on the roof at the rear of the cottage, where the roof pitch has not been altered.

JANE SALE

Comment by Linda Hall - the outer purlin could have been added when the roof pitch was made shallower, when the front wall was raised to give a more fashionable front. The original purlin was simply left in place, as it was easier than moving it. One of the photos shows holes in it where the rafters would have been pegged to it. This purlin would have given a much steeper roof pitch, even though it is not far from the later one. The later purlin appears to be a pretty hefty piece of timber, and I wonder if it is re-used, perhaps from elsewhere in the house (not necessarily from the roof).

[William Prinn had acquired the property, together with the Tythe Barn by 1756. (Bulletin 32 There is no further mention of the barn after this - perhaps its removal provided this 'hefty piece of timber'? M.P.)



'WIDE ANGLE' PERSPECTIVE
ROOF INTERIOR - No1 PARK COTTAGES

21. MR ALBERT FREDERICK COX by his daughter

My father was born in London in 1897 and came to Cheltenham at the age of 4 years. He was the eldest of three children, one brother and one sister. The brother is still living and was 90 in September 1994. His cousin, Mr F.Cox, was the Charlton piano tuner.

When my father came to Charlton Kings, the family lived at Gloucester Villa in Copt Elm Road, where he lived except for Army service. My father was educated at CK Boys School, known as "Crabend College." He married in 1929. The wedding took place at St Marys - he married Ethel Lovesy who also lived in Copt Elm Road at Canterbury Villa. My mother, as far as I know, is no relation to the Lovesys mentioned in your book.

My father was assistant organist at St Marys for several years, later becoming organist. The dates, approximately, must have been in the early '30s. I was the eldest of two daughters and was born in 1932. I well remember going with my father to church and staying by him at the organ. As a small girl I remember Canon Neale, as he always insisted on giving me a kiss! I think I was about 4 or 5 years old.

Another of my father's interests was playing in the late George Maisey's dance band. He played the piano but also the flute and trumpet. Another great interest or hobby was collecting wild flowers and butterflies.

He served with the Gloucestershire Regiment in the Royal Army Medical Corps and played in the Regimental Band. He was taken prisoner while he was attending the wounded and wandered into the German lines.

After their marriage my parents lived in Cirencester Road where I was born, but in 1933 moved to a new house in Pumphreys Road. He worked for Gloucester Aircraft company for 25 years plus, until his retirement in 1962. My father died in June 1977 and my mother in May 1979. Both are resting in Charlton Kings Garden of Remembrance.

MRS BRENDA SANDALLS

22. NOTES**(1) NOTE ON EDMUND CARRINGTON (See Bulletin 26 p38)**

The account of the row between the Vicar and the parish over a proposed screen in 1899 and 1900 in History p123 did not distinguish between the two Carrington brothers, Edmund who gave St Mary's its processional cross and choir stalls, and his brother who tried to present a screen between congregation and choir, and who did actually present the reredos (as "an anonymous donor") in 1901. We now know from the account of its dedication by Bishop Elliot in the Looker On for 12 June 1901 that the reredos was designed by Mrs Hodson the Vicar's wife. It is interesting that two important features in our church, the reredos by Mrs Hodson and the chancel gates by Lady Dixon Hartland were designed by amateurs, and women, not by professional architects.

(2) MR MICHAEL JAMES

An article in Bulletin 32 p29 referred to a Mr Walter James, instead of Mr Michael James - we apologise for this mistake. Mrs Michael James says the family bought Little Herberts Farm in the '20s. Mr James Snr died in 1946 as the result of an accident with a milk lorry, and his widow sold the farmyard and land for the Beeches estate in 1952. See pp32 & 35.