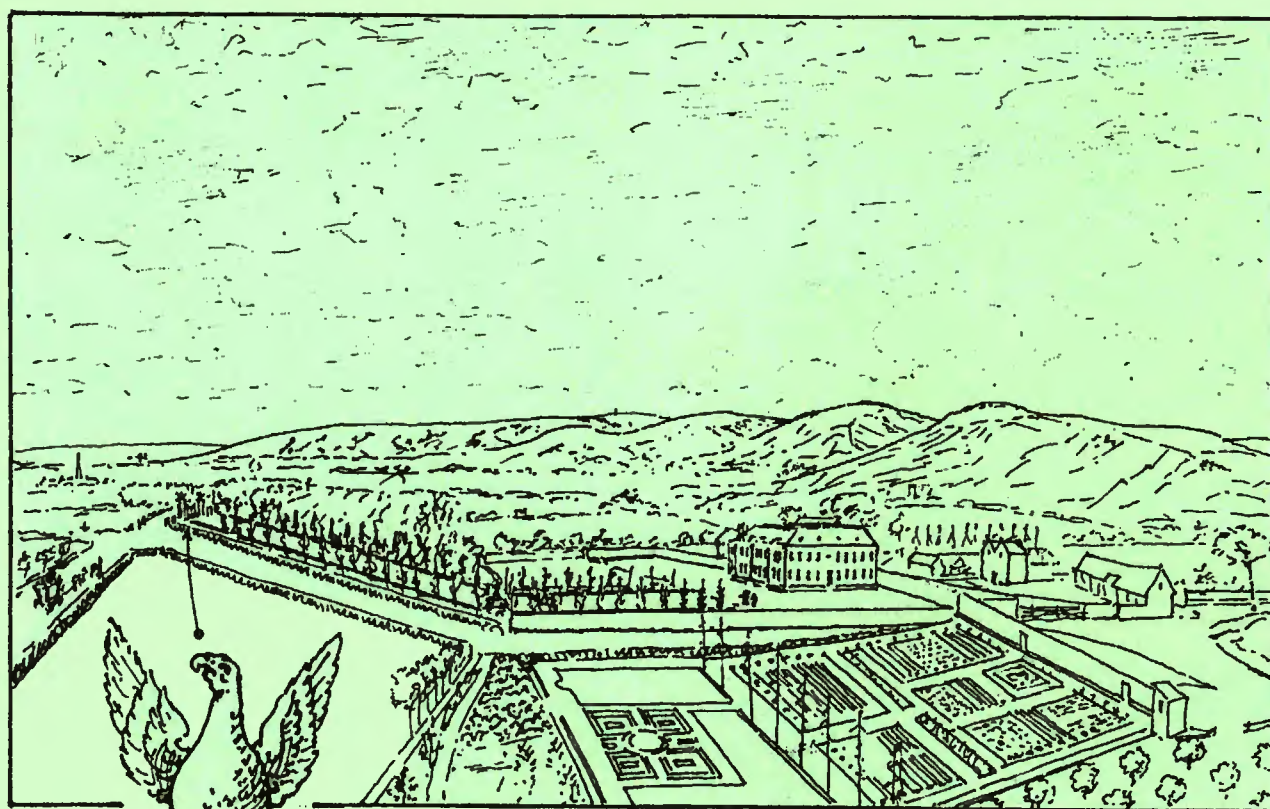


CHARLTON KINGS
LOCAL HISTORY
SOCIETY



BULLETIN 36

CHARLTON KINGS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Chairman

Mrs J Sale
12 Pine Trees
Charlton Kings
Cheltenham

Tel: (01242) 235639

Editor

Mrs M Paget
Crab End, Brevel Terrace
Charlton Kings
Cheltenham

Tel: (01242) 234762

Hon. Secretary

Mrs S Fletcher
31 Ravensgate Road
Charlton Kings
Cheltenham

Tel: (01242) 522931

Hon. Treasurer

Miss S Brown
2 Chancel Way,
Charlton Kings
Cheltenham

Tel: (01242) 231837

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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.

The Bulletin is published twice a year. Indexes are available to Bulletins 1-7 price £2, to Bulletins 8-17 and 18-27 price £5 each. Parish Registers: I 1538-1634 price £2; II 1634-1700 price £3; III 1700-1760 price £5; IV 1760-1812 price £5
Reminiscences of John Bowen (1993) price £2.50

Note. Please send 70p for packing and postage on each of the above items if you would like any of them sent to you.

Cover - Charlton Park, redrawing by Ken Venus of Robins' painting.

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1. OBITUARY: PETER SOUTHERTON 1930 - 1996

Peter, the Society's chairman in 1995, died suddenly from a heart attack on May 17th. To those of us who knew him, his death meant the loss of a much-valued friend as well as a hard-working and conscientious colleague, to the Society as a whole the loss of a local historian of considerable repute.

Peter and Mary moved to Charlton Kings in 1990, and joined the Society soon afterwards. It quickly became apparent that they were very interested in local history, but it was some time before we discovered that they had been founder members of the Reading Local History Society, and had both served terms of office as chairman.

Peter joined our committee in 1993 and was elected chairman in January 1995. His illness last December forced him to resign as chairman but he stayed a committee member. During these years he and Mary were leading participants in the Churchyard Survey group, Peter being responsible for computerising the records and producing an invaluable alphabetical index. The project culminated in the presentation of a copy of the index to the County Archivist at the Local History afternoon held in Gloucester last October.



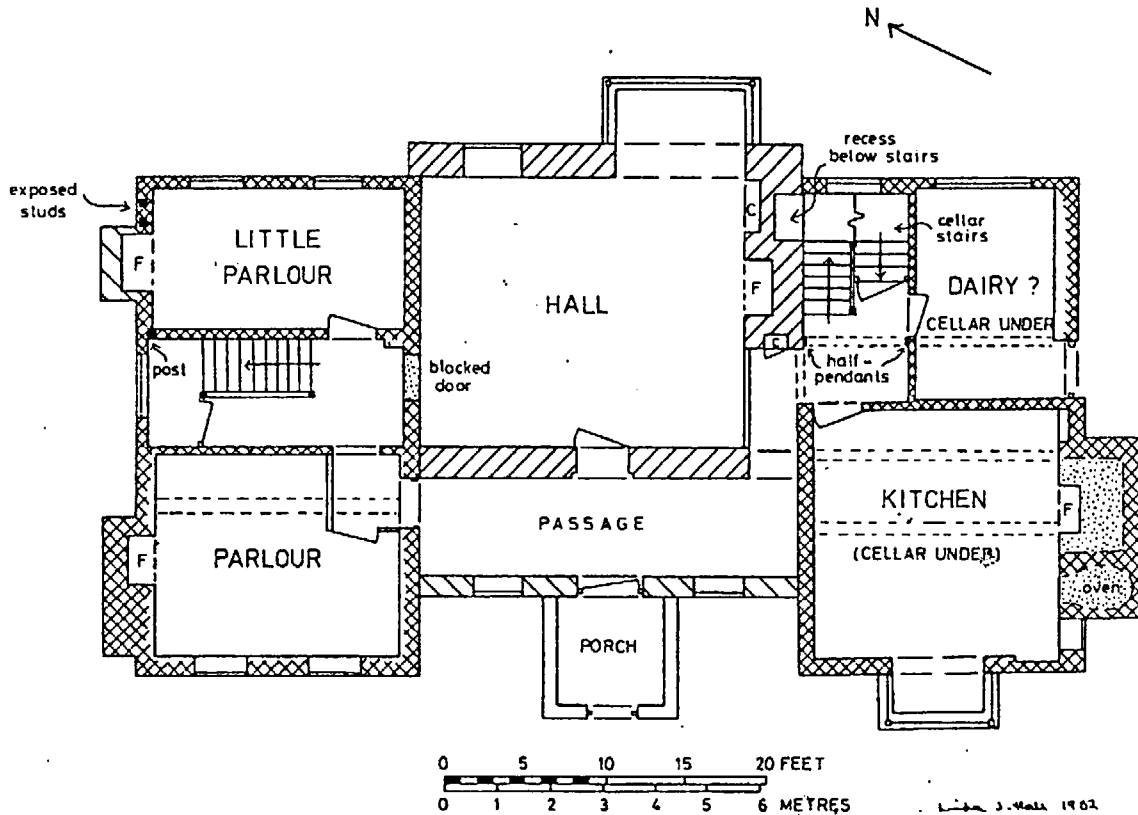
Local members will remember our meeting in October 1995, when Peter gave us such an interesting lecture on the Cheltenham Staghounds and their place in the mid-19th century social scene of this locality.

At the same time Peter was building up a reputation for his books on Reading, including two works based around a collection of early photographs and *Reading Gaol by Reading Town*. Lord Wolfenden wrote the foreword for the latter book and a quotation from it forms a fitting tribute to our past chairman: "This book is an exemplary piece of local history. By patient and thorough research Mr Southerton has unearthed a great deal of evidence ... and he has woven this material into an absorbing narrative, which ... is a valuable contribution to the social history of this part of England."

JANE SALE

2. UPDATE ON NEW COURT

Renovations completed in 1996 have revealed further information about the parlour wing, and a few additional features were noted that had been missed on the previous survey. This house is a good example of the amount of extra information that can be revealed when renovations are carried out, and shows how necessary it is to record and photograph at every stage of the work, especially when features will of necessity be covered over again when work is complete. Many thanks to Mrs Ralphs for her warm welcome and enthusiasm.



Reduction of Linda's plan drawn for *Bulletin 9*

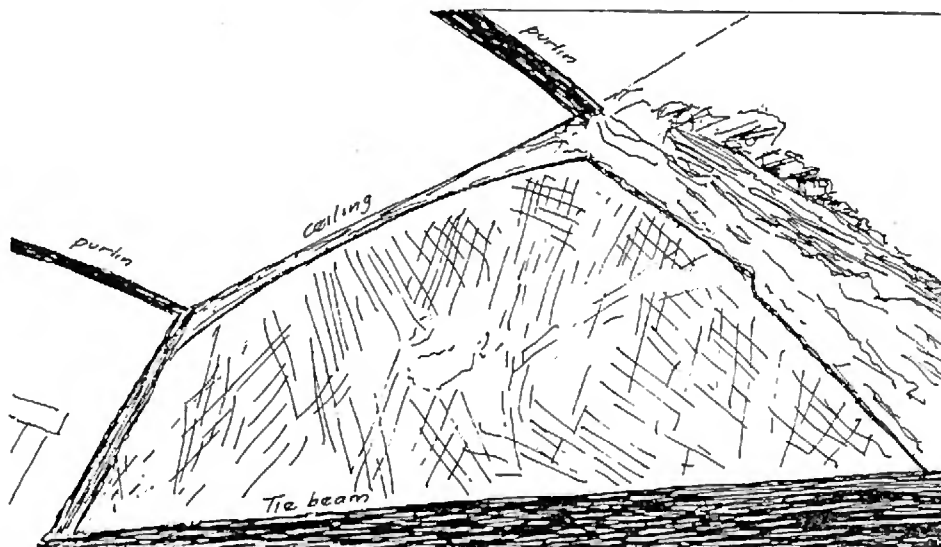
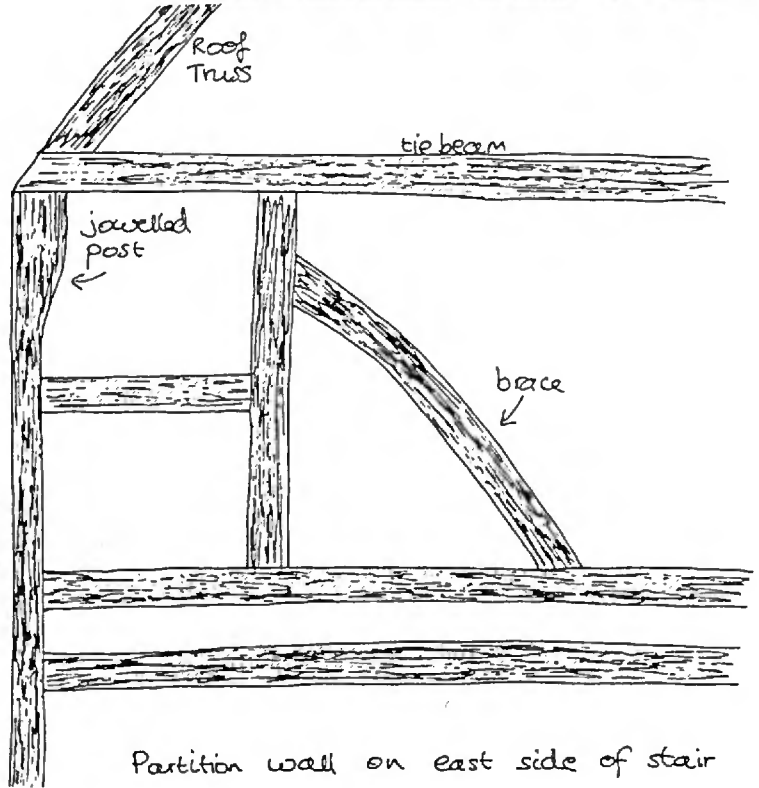
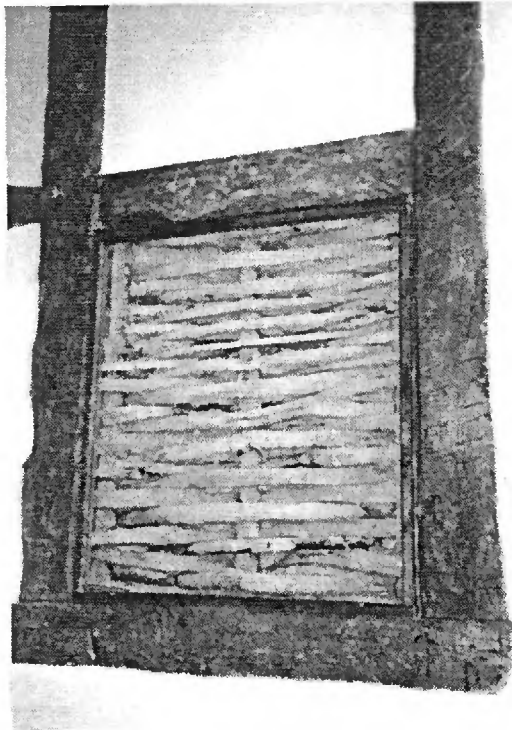
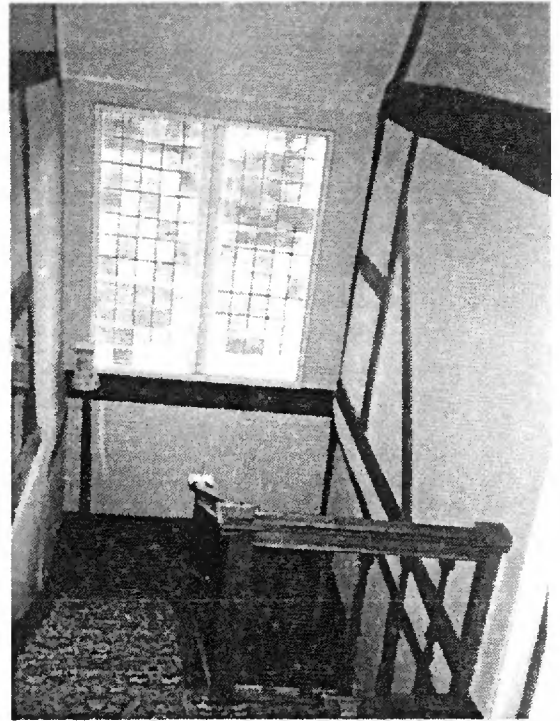
The front (west) wall of the parlour wing has been largely rebuilt in brick, probably in the C19th, leaving jowelled posts at the corners and a pair of curved studs in the top of the gable above the collar. All this has been concealed under a coat of rendering.

[Ken's drawing shows one of these jowelled posts revealed during recent work]

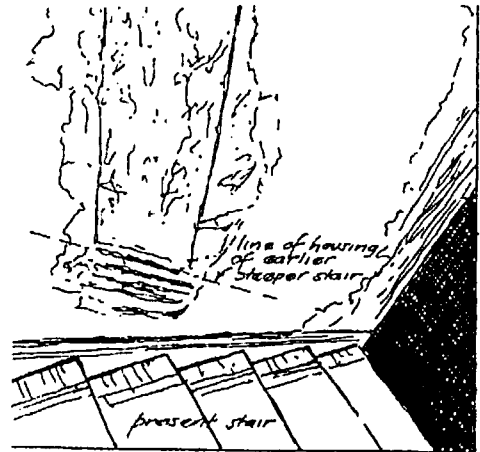


The wing contains two parlours with a staircase between them. In the cupboard under the stairs the stone sill wall of the north side is visible. It carries a massive sill beam into which the closely-spaced studs are tenoned. At the stair half-landing the site of an earlier window was uncovered, but its exact size and location were not recorded before the wall was replastered. [This window would have provided light for the area under the stairs referred to as 'the passage between the parlours' in an inventory taken in 1692 - see *Bulletin 9*]

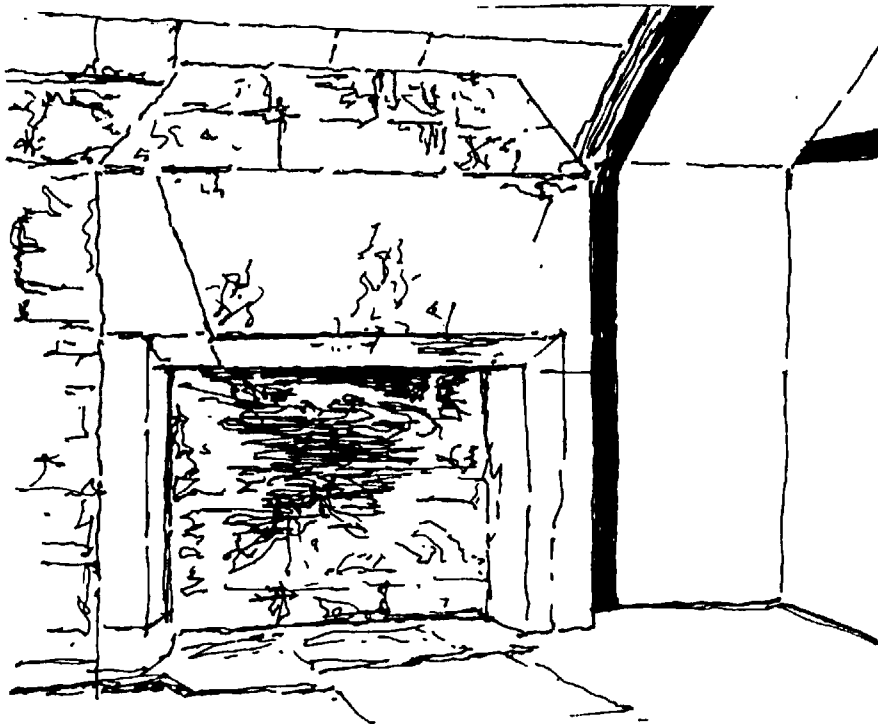
The walls to east and west of the stair are timber-framed with large squarish panels. The infill panels of wattle and daub have very substantial wattles, possibly wych elm rather than the more usual hazel twigs or oak strips. One panel has been left exposed under a sheet of perspex. [see photograph below] The east stair wall has jowelled posts at each end which carry the tiebeam of a roof truss.



A stud in this stair wall has a sloping housing just above the lower flight of the present stair, but at a steeper angle; it perhaps marks the line of an earlier steeper stair which rose in a single flight to a landing. [The suggestion made on p22 of *Bulletin 9* that the earlier staircase turned the other way is clearly erroneous]

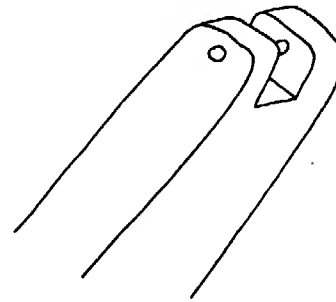


In the chamber over the main parlour a large freestone fireplace has been discovered in the north wall. It has a chamfered surround with a straight head and a massive stone lintel. A hearthstone protects the wooden floor from the danger of falling logs or coals. The fireplace may have been added in the C16th, but being so plain there is little dating evidence. [There were only three hearths in 1671 - hall, kitchen and parlour. This fireplace was presumably inserted by Margaret Rich for the benefit of her niece Mrs Anne Stone before 1691 when the room had fire-irons. It may have been taken from the adjoining cottage - see *Bulletin 9* pp 22 and 26.]



The parlour below clearly has an earlier fireplace opening behind the late C17th panelling, but no attempt has been made to disturb the panelling to ascertain the size or nature of this fireplace.

Access has been made to the upper part of the wing roof above the ceiling. The roof is divided into three bays. The bay at the east end was presumably originally gabled, but the roof has been raised in this bay when the hall block was rebuilt in the early C18th and it now has a hipped end. [the drawing below shows the changing roofline of the east wing with its hipped end at the back of the house] The original ridge beam remains in situ but functions as a purlin. Some original rafters have been left in place on the north side of the roof, showing the type of joint at the apex where the other half of the pair has been removed. [see Linda's drawing below] In the western two bays the roof remains at its original height. Two lengths of ridge beam and a rafter are black and may be re-used smoke-blackened timbers from a medieval open hall. If so they could be repairs effected when the hall was rebuilt. The other timbers are clean.



Top of rafter

A trap-door in the roof of the passage block between the two wings gives access to the front wall of the hall block. The original C18th roughcast survives, a rough ochre-coloured surface over most of the wall but with a smoother white render forming imitation quoins at the corners. The top of a square window head, probably render over a projecting course of brick, is also white. This is very interesting evidence for the original colour scheme of the house. [It is also possible to see the outline of an earlier porch in the middle of this wall. It shows up white against the ochre rendering.



LINDA HALL

3. CHARLTON PARK - PLAN and DEVELOPMENT

Plans of this house (previously called Forden House), as it was in 1885 and of proposed alterations then, have come into Gloucestershire Record Office (D2593), and demonstrate the stages by which the house took its present shape. The plans and the agent's description for any intending lessee also document social changes which had taken place since the last major alterations by Dodington Hunt in 1784-8.

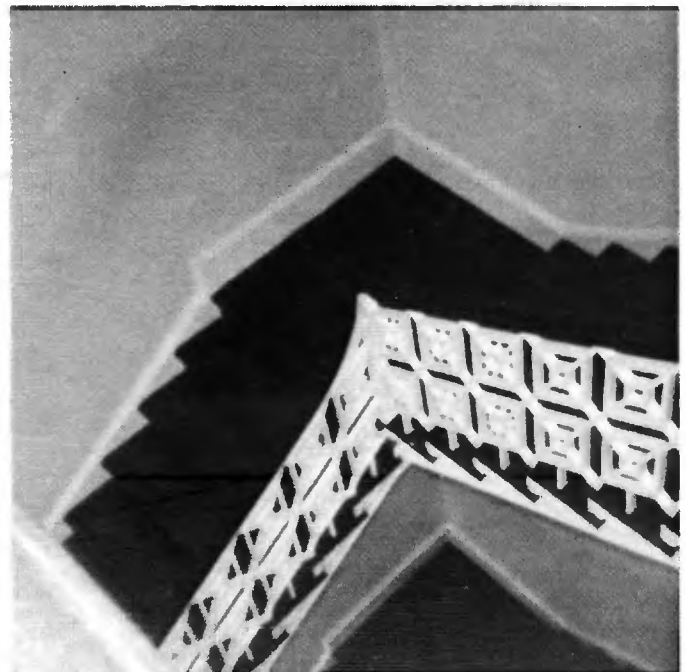
In 1885 Charlton Park was owned by executors of Russell's mortgagee T. Brassey and since 1874 had been let to tenants. As the blurb points out, the property was near Cheltenham College; and "Cheltenham is the headquarters of the Cotswold Hounds, while the Packs of the V.W.H., Lord Fitzhardinge and the North Cotswold Foxhounds are within easy reach. The Cricket Ground of the East Gloucestershire Club is in the Park within a quarter of a mile, and the Resident at the mansion has a private Entrance to the Ground". This indicates the type of tenant expected. The rent was to be £250 p.a. to cover house, stables and coach house, coachman's cottage, pleasure grounds and shrubberies; but not the walled garden with hothouse and gardener's cottage, and not pasture land in the park, for which the tenant would pay extra "by arrangement". The house was on Cheltenham main drainage, but not on company water. There was "a supply of Cold Water to each floor" but no hot water or bathroom. There was no gas.

I. So what we have is the house as Dodington Hunt arranged it when he renamed it Charlton Park and showed it to George III in 1788:

(1) Salon - Hunt had created a large oval room 24' x 20' in the centre of the house where the open courtyard had been (some remains of the open court appear at the SE and SW corners). The room had delicate plasterwork, a fireplace on the N wall, entrance from halls on east and west, and another entrance centre south into a corridor. Such rooms were intended for large formal gatherings and dinners. It was probably the scene of George III's entertainment. But Dodington Hunt's only son William Hunt Prinn was a hypochondriac, unlikely to entertain on this scale. Before he died in 1820, this type of room was no longer required except in very large houses. The agent in 1885 suggests it would be "suitable for a Billiard Room". Billiards were already a popular winter game by the date of Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park* and were felt to be essential entertainment for guests by 1885. There was a billiard room somewhere in the house in 1848 - see list of pictures hanging there (GRO D 1224).

(2) Drawing Room - The agent described a room on the first floor as Drawing Room. The 'piano nobile' had since the 16th century been the fashionable place for rooms of state; and the upstairs drawing room for receiving guests explains Dodington Hunt's magnificent 'Chippendale' staircase leading to it.

But again there had been a change in social habits. A drawing room on the ground floor with lower windows was preferred. By 1885 the room marked as Drawing Room on the actual plan is downstairs in the NW corner of Dodington Hunt's west block.

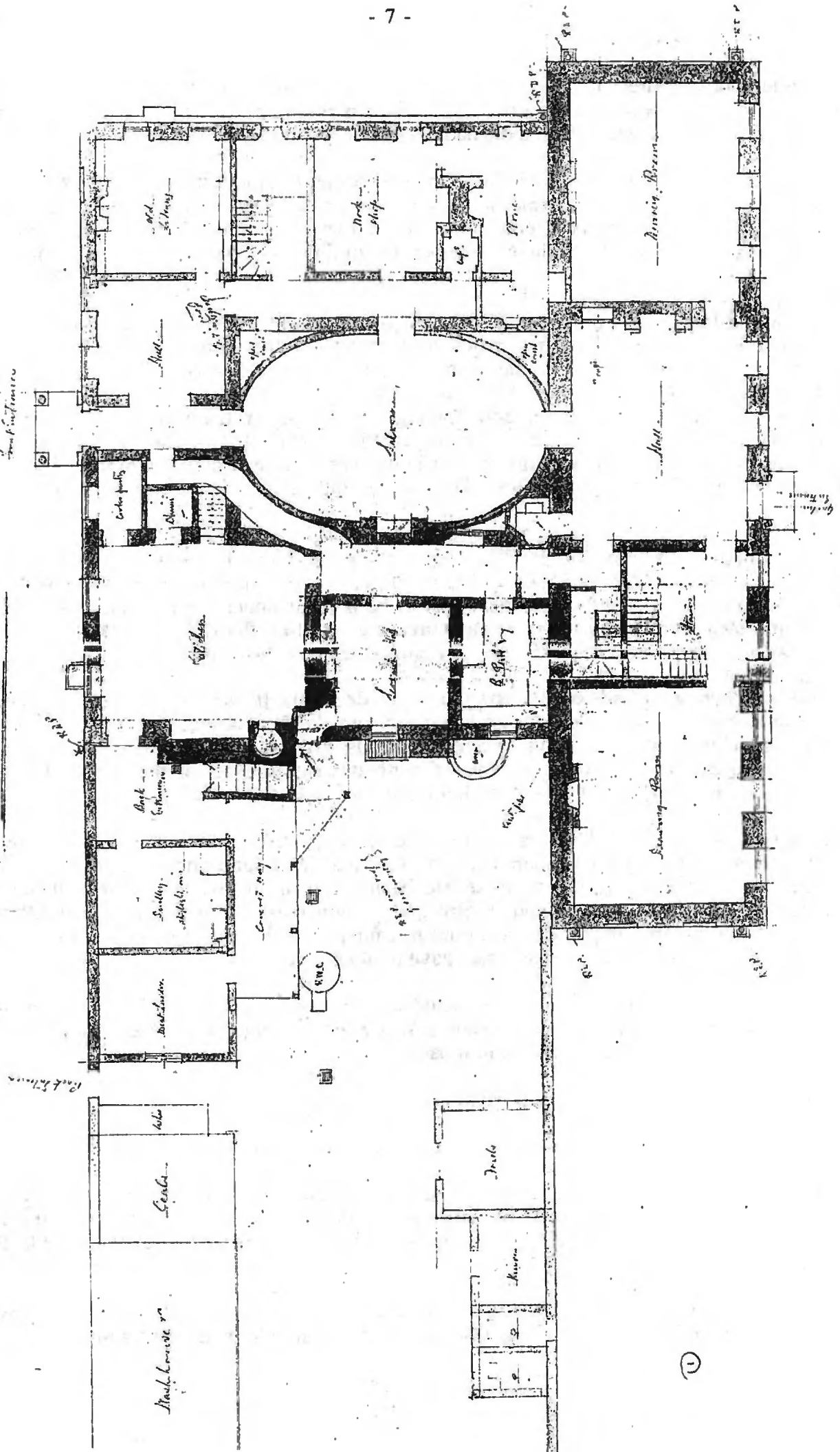


Plan

Charlton Park

or Cheltenham

plan as at present



Approved Floor Plan
Inch 1/2 feet to one foot

①

The alterations desired by Sir R.Vassar Smith when he took Charlton Park involved transferring the drawing room to the SW corner, previously the dining room and opening windows at the south end (where there had been none at all). So the square bay was added.

(3) Dining Room - This was originally in the SW corner of Hunt's new west block and as far away from the kitchen as possible, to prevent any cooking smells reaching the guests and minimising fire risk to the best rooms. No one can ever have enjoyed a hot meal, even when hot water trays were used. On the NW corner, the dining room would be at least a bit nearer the kitchen.

(4) Morning Room - As the new dining room would take the room originally intended as a morning room, a new Morning Room was to be created on the south side of the house, where the plan marks "work shop". People in the early 19th century had been averse to much sun; now it was liked. Next to the new Morning Room was a stone-floored passage or room, quite narrow but with a fireplace and a door leading into the garden (as in the 1920 photograph). There had always been a door here, it is indicated in Thomas Robins' sketch of the south side of the house (one of the items exhibited at Cheltenham Museum in 1977). In the 1740s it was the only exit on this side of the house. Today it has become a window and the door is further east.

(5) Old Library - The room on the SE corner of the ground floor is marked as Old Library and at some date before 1885 a small square window had been inserted in its south wall, after 1748 if Robins is accurate. Now there was to be a cellar under the Library, reached by an adjoining stair, continuing the existing staircase to the first floor. The Library was smaller than Dining or Drawing Room but the same size as the new Morning Room.

(6) Halls - There were halls on the east and west sides of the house. The east had always been the entrance commonly used because it led out into the front drive (Hollow Lane) and the back drive (Moorend Street), both once public roads. This was the way to the church and the village, and after 1826-7 on to the new Cirencester Road. Most of the "good" houses in Charlton were in Cudnall Street or London Road, east of Charlton Park.

(7) Schoolroom - The 1885 plan marks the large upstairs room on the SW corner as 'schoolroom'; a nursery/schoolroom was now essential in all larger houses. The 18th century practice of putting babies out to nurse had been given up in favour of home nursing, and home education for small boys and all girls under a governess was usual. Vassar Smith's three daughters presumably required a schoolroom (though on the plan for alterations this large room is marked 'bedroom', and they may have used an attic room.)

(8) Bathrooms - Alterations in 1885 included provision of one bathroom on each of the upstairs floors. No more bathrooms were added after that until the house was sold c 1920 when every bedroom had its hip and foot bath.

(9) Gas - was laid on for lighting in 1885.

II. What of Forden House before 1784? The plans show this too.

(1) If we take the kitchen (with its huge fireplace, bread oven, and external chimney stack) and hall we have the house, in all probability, as Giles Grevill rebuilt or improved it c 1564-7, after he came of age in 1562. "The ghost of a late medieval house" was Linda Hall's verdict when she saw the plan.

Giles was married to Dorothy Freeman and (according to the *Heralds Visitation*) already had a son Francis before he came of age. Giles inherited a simple medieval hall-house, possibly

out of repair since it had been let to tenants during his minority. His two daughters, Dorothy and Joane, were baptised in Charlton in 1562 and 1563; but then there is a gap till 1567 when Margret was baptised. Perhaps this was during the upheaval of alteration and the Grevills had gone back to stay with Dorothy's parents with whom they lived till he came of age? (Correct *Bulletin* 8 p12 . At this date the estate was very modest - the Grevills were lords of the manor of Ashley, but in 1564 only 47 acres of land went with Forden House, according to the inclosure survey.

What Giles created was a 16th century house with short cross wings, over which were chambers reached by stairs from the kitchen and from the parlour (Old Library on plan). It was a larger house than its contemporary New Court (built c 1550), but similiar in arrangement. As at New Court, the Hall was not given any fireplace, it did not even have one in 1885. From this we may deduce that in Giles' day there was still a central fire, and no chamber over it. In 1567 the Hall would have been functional, and the life of the house would have centred on it. The walls were timber-framed throughout. An architectural description of Charlton Park by E.Scott-Skirving, W.Mellersh, and L.Bayley written for the Cheltenham Civic Society, calls the timbering "Tudor", but does not indicate whether box or close studding - at this date it could be either.

The simple plan agrees with the social status of the Grevill family. They were minor gentry, but (having made their money in trade) were not dignified with the title 'Esquire', only 'gentleman', until Giles was buried on 28 February 1583/4.

(2) Giles' heir Francis had only a daughter, so the property passed (apparently before Francis's death by the sort of family arrangement common among the Grevills) to his brother Giles (died 1645). One or other of these Grevills (perhaps Giles III) must have been responsible for extending the two short wings and so creating an open courtyard between them. There are mullion windows looking into the courtyard which the Architectural report calls "Stuart". They are not likely to be post-Commonwealth, when casements were gradually being replaced by sash windows (as in Holland).

At the same time the east front of the house was given two gables to provide extra chambers over the north and south wings. This had to involve an upper floor over the hall too. It is quite clear from the outside of the house in the photograph taken c 1920, and even today (though much of the east front is now hidden), that until the timber work was given a brick skin c 1701, the two Cotswold-style gables met at a common centre gulley in the roof. The thatched roof was probably replaced by stone when the gables were created (less of a fire risk and stone tiles easily obtained). All windows will have had mullions similiar to those which survive on the courtyard side.

A double fireplace was built in the south wing. So these rooms (later degraded to workshop and passage) were intended to be living rooms and with the "Old Library" made a suite for the family after the Hall was abandoned except for occasional gatherings. This was a normal 17th century change in living habits. The new rooms, with the Old Parlour (now heated by a fireplace), made up a dining room, parlour, and perhaps study (there is a narrow room rather like this at Ham Court, used about the same period as "study", see *Bulletin* 20)

(3) Corresponding to the two new heated rooms in the South wing, was a heated Servants' Hall and an unheated Butler's Pantry in the North wing. The servants too had moved out of the Hall.

(4) When the Grevills sold Forden House to John Prinn for £725 in 1701, this was what he bought. His improvements involved putting a brick skin on the existing house, starting with the east front where he joined the two gables creating extra attic rooms (as shown on the

1885 plan). Then the south and north walls were given their brick cladding. All the outside windows were made into sash windows to conform. One on the east front is still of the 1700-1710 type, those on the south front narrow as in 1710-1715, the north front (so far as we glimpse it in Robins' picture) is c 1720, and finally the new west block, as dated on the gable end, 1732. That was the house as the Revd. John Prinn left it to his son William in 1743 and as William left it to his widower son-in-law Hunt in 1784.

(5) As soon as John Prinn acquired Forden House in 1701, he planned a new drive on the west. As early as 1703 court books refer to Prinn's "new way to Charlton Kings" across Charlton Lower Field (D855 M13 p85). It left Old Bath Road, or Pilford Lane as shown on the 1776 map, at a point opposite our Thirlestaine Road; then crossed Sandy Lane and over what had perhaps already become Prinn's meadow. Then it went over the Lilleybrook, apparently by the existing Forden bridge or an extension of it. At first it probably ended there, but in 1709 Prinn acquired a strip of orchard from Park Cottage so that the drive could be continued to the house, completely cut off from the public road. This may be when he erected the Eagle Gates where his drive entered Sandy Lane. Thomas Robins shows the drive and gates in his picture painted c 1748 - he indicates the strip acquired from Park Cottage and the row of conifers (still young) on both sides of the drive. On what had been arable, and then probably meadow, Prinn had planted fruit trees. This drive was meant at first to bring visitors to the west side of the house where they would enter by the courtyard. After 1732, when the west block was built, they would enter by the west door (though curiously Robins does not show the drive actually leading to it). When Dodington Hunt reconstructed that west block, he meant this to be the visitors' entrance; no doubt George III in 1788 came this way and ascended the "Chippendale" staircase to the drawing room on the first floor.

The closure of part of Sandy Lane in 1784 improved the drive, but in 1803 Hunt's son William Hunt Prinn inherited and he wanted to landscape the park and have a lake and deer. The lake would involve a new bridge and there would be difficulties in controlling the deer. So he closed the drive, put iron fences round the deer park, and removed the Eagle Gates to the east side of the house on what was still a public road (the back drive). There they remained till 1939-40.

MARY PAGET

4. THE RUSSELLS OF CHARLTON PARK

The sale at Stokesay Court in 1995, when among other items a map of Charlton Park was offered for sale and then withdrawn, led to correspondence with a member of the Russell family. I am very grateful to Ann Russell who has supplied me with family information regarding Sir William Russell, 1st Baronet., who lived at Charlton Park, and his descendants the 2nd and 3rd Baronets. As she remarks, the Russells intermarried all the way down! This makes the family tree very involved and difficult to reproduce, so I have summarised it for this publication. The full tree is available if any reader would like to refer to it.

1. John Russell, 1678-1754, of Braidshaw, lawyer, married three times. His first wife died in 1705, and all the children of this marriage died in infancy. Of the second marriage there were nine children, including John Russell of Roseburn in Edinburgh, 1710-1796, and Alexander Russell of Aleppo and St. Thomas' Hospital, 1715-63, physician and naturalist. (See *D.N.B.* and *Stokesay Sale Catalogue* III, p113). Of the third marriage, to Margaret Anderson, there were four sons, including Patrick Russell, 1727-1805, another physician and naturalist who discovered the properties of the venom of the Russell viper. His collection of drawings, and those of his older half-brother Alexander, are at the Natural History Museum, while his

collection of plants is at Kew. (See *D.N.B.* and *Stokesay Catalogue* III, p113.) Another son of this third marriage was Claude Russell of Binfield, 1733-1826.

2. John Russell, 1710-96, of Roseburn in Edinburgh, clerk of the signet. He had eight children, including John Russell, 1753-1792, of Roseburn, and William Russell of Charlton Park, 1st baronet.

3. William Russell of Charlton Park, 1st Baronet, married firstly his half-cousin Sophia, the daughter of Claude Russell of Binfield. (see *Stokesay Catalogue* p21). Among their children was William Russell, 2nd baronet, also of Charlton Park, who served under Sir James Outram at Lucknow. William's second wife was Jane Eliza Sherwood.

4. William Russell of Charlton Park, 2nd Baronet, married and had children including William Russell, 3rd Baronet. [married Margaret, only child of Robert Wilson Esq.]

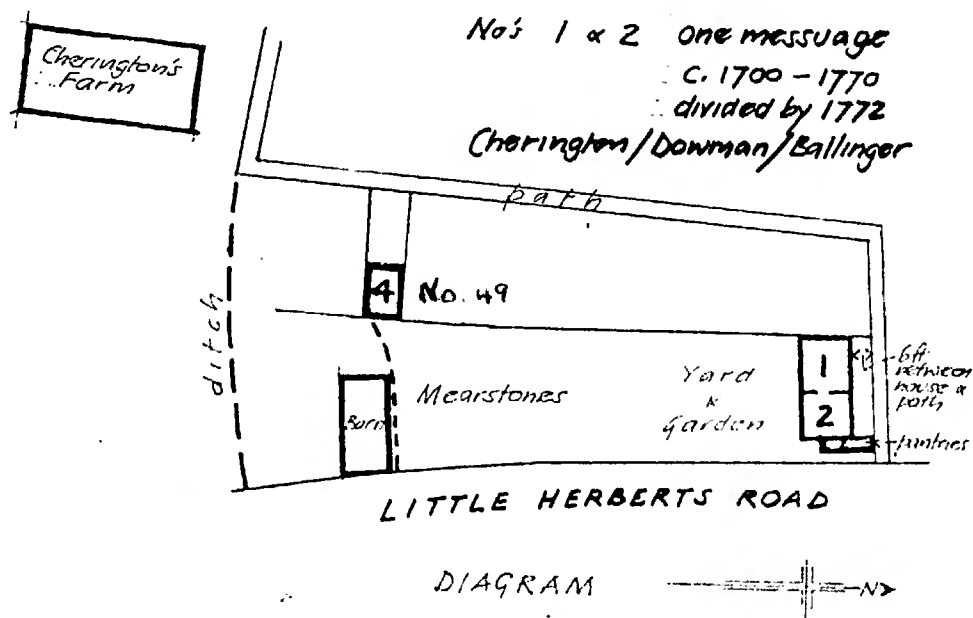
The *Stokesay Catalogue* lists some miniatures including No.1161 - Dodington Hunt of Charlton Park.

M.P.

5. No.49 LITTLE HERBERTS

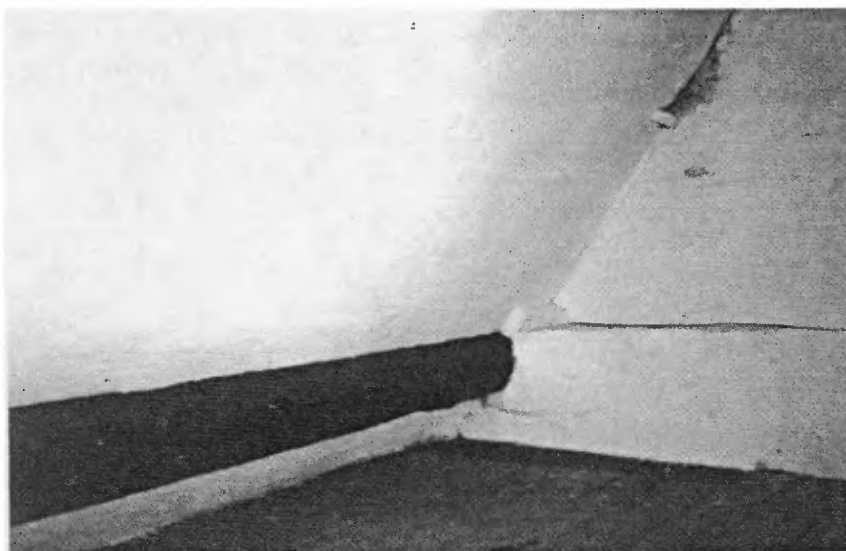
Mr Mitchell, writing in *Bulletin 33*, mentioned that his cottage - 49 Little Herberts was listed and had had deeds going back to the 1600s. One would expect a cottage of this age in Charlton Kings to be timber framed with a steeply angled roof, either thatched or stone-tiled. Why hadn't I seen such a cottage on previous walks up to Timbercombe? Armed with my camera, I set out to find it. No.49 turned out to be a small detached cottage set back from the road, with a 1950s-style extension running in front of it and its immediate neighbour. The roof was quite steep, and the chimney showed evidence of an even steeper earlier roof, but there was no sign of any timber framing. It also appeared to be back to front!

Mary Paget's article in *Bulletin 19* - 'Little Herberts Identified part 1' - provided an explanation for No.49's siting. It had been built on the second of two strips of arable land running parallel with the road and was approached by a path which had previously provided access to the unfenced strips. As Mary wrote 'By the 16-17th centuries, with the demand for cottages, tenants began to build houses on their strips, even when those new buildings had no direct access to a road.'

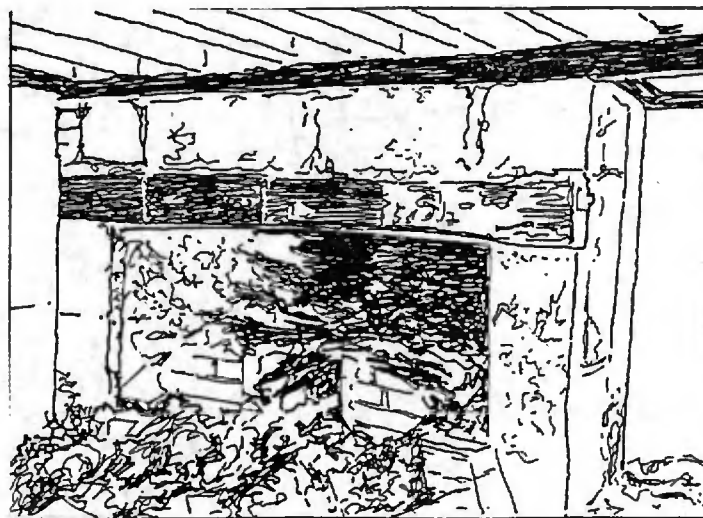
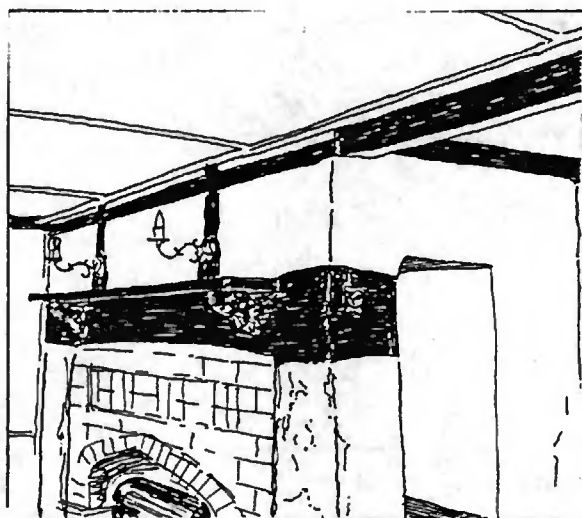


No. 49's front door faces the path, so the modern extension is really the back of the cottage. Even from the path though, there is very little to show that this is an old cottage. The 'front' consists of two 20th century metal windows set in an apparently breeze-block wall, topped by a shallow roof with a roof light set in it. Only the brick-topped stone chimney, with some stone roof capping attached, gives any indication of what might be hidden.

Earlier this year, Mr Mitchell had to leave his cottage, and No.49 came up for sale. This provided an opportunity for further investigation. It was clear that nothing remains of the cottage's original timber framing, and very little of any early roof timbers - just a single roughly-hewn purlin running the width of the cottage near the floor of the present attic room.



What was impressive was the size of the chimney stack - 8 feet across and 4 feet deep - representing a goodly proportion of the space on each floor. The downstairs fireplace had been filled in with bricks, the wall above it plastered and an apparently wooden beam painted dark brown, as had the ceiling beams. Recent renovation of the cottage has revealed the true size of the stone fireplace, and the 'wooden' chimney beam turned out to be merely painted on to the stones. A heavily soot-encrusted piece of timber and length of rigid-link chain found in the fireplace was probably used for smoking hams and a niche to one side of the stack may have been a bread oven.



At the top of the house, charred timbers have been exposed - obviously there had been a fire at some stage, perhaps a bacon beam caught fire. But whether this had been when the roof was thatched or more recently it is difficult to tell. Certainly the charred timbers did not look old enough to have been the original ones, they were quite unlike the bark-covered ones found in Park Cottages. Was this fire perhaps the reason for replacing the timber-framing with brick walls, or was it just the most recent of several such events?



In many ways the investigation of No.49 has proved a disappointment - all that remains is a large stone chimney stack, probably dating from the 17th century. And yet this cottage is important, because it is the only example left in Charlton Kings of what must have been a very common form of dwelling at that period - a single room dwelling with an internal stack and winder stair beside it.

The siting of this cottage makes it especially evocative of 'old Charlton'. If one walks up the path and imagines the strips of arable on either side, then it is not hard to picture No.49 being built from wood from Timbercombe, the walls infilled with sticks from a hedge and cattle dung from the neighbouring farm, the roof thatched with straw - the new home of one of the husbandmen of 'Little Harbour or Harbord'.

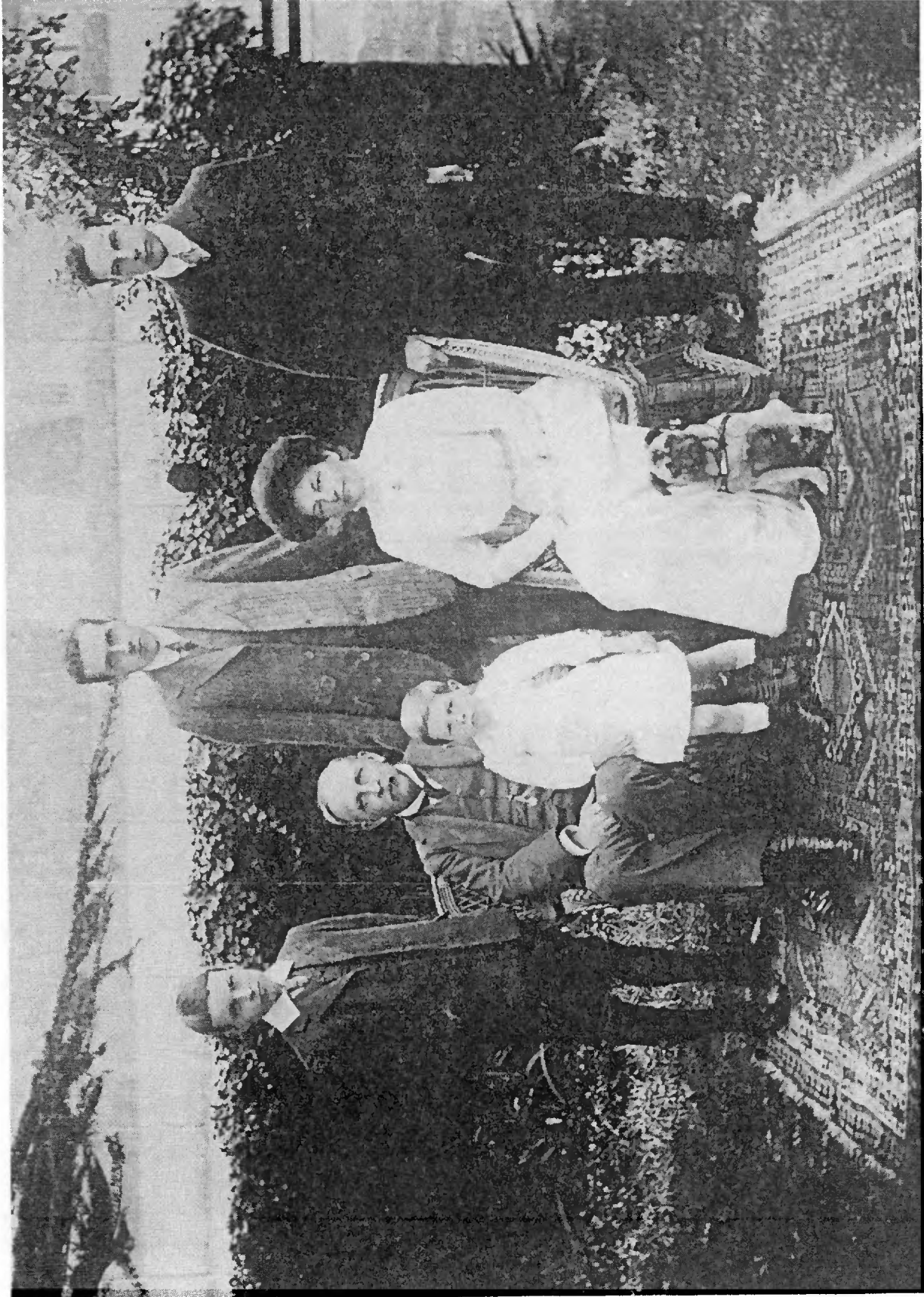
JANE SALE

6. THREE CROOKE BROTHERS AND THEIR LETTERS

William and Alice Crooke and their two young sons returned to England from India in 1896, when William Crooke took early retirement from the Indian Civil Service to devote himself to anthropological researches and writing. They settled in Charlton Kings, Cheltenham where two more sons were born. All four boys attended Cheltenham College.

At the outbreak of the first World War in August 1914 Roland, the eldest son, was 25 and a Whitehall civil servant with the Local Government Board; he enlisted in the Royal Naval Division later in 1914. Elliott, 24, was working in London after doing historical research in Oxford and travelling in Germany and Holland; he enlisted in the army on the day war was declared. Hugh, at 17, was on the point of joining the Royal Military Academy Woolwich as an officer-cadet in the regular army. The youngest son Richard was a schoolboy of 9 or 10.

Some two hundred letters and postcards written by Roland, Elliott and Hugh and associates of theirs - mainly during the war years - have survived in the care of John and Mary Crooke. Mary McDonnell collated and studied them during 1995, and her work forms the basis of these notes on each of the three brothers. The photograph shows the Crooke family in the garden of Langton House, London Road (now 'The Langton') in about 1910. William and Alice Crooke are sitting with their youngest son Richard between them, and with (standing l to r) their sons Hugh, Roland and Elliott.



The Crooke family in the garden of Langton House, London Road (now 'The Langton') in about 1910. William and Alice Crooke are sitting with their youngest son Richard between them, and with (standing l to r) their sons Hugh, Roland and Elliott.

ROLAND HOWARD CROOKE

- 1906 December Gained a scholarship to Emmanuel College Cambridge, having attended Cheltenham College.
- 1910 June Gained a First in Classical tripos, Cambridge
- 1911 Gained a Second in History tripos, Cambridge
- 1912 Passed Class 1 Civil Service Exam, and appointed to the Local Government Board.
- 1914 Aug-Dec Enlisted, and assigned to Hawke Battalion, Royal Naval Division.
- 1915 March 21 Stationed as an Able Seaman at Blandford, and isolated by a measles epidemic. Roland asks his mother to send him another box of things to eat, and says '... one feels like a schoolboy again asking for a "tuck-box" but if you had any idea of the sort of place we are in and the nature of the food, you would easily understand'.
- May 8-20 Aboard troopship to Malta, for the Gallipoli campaign: '... in an old Cunard boat, not particularly comfortable and the food is both scanty and unappetising ... very little to read, on board ...'
- May 23 'At a base nearer the firing line ...' (Lemnos?)
- June 15 Roland writes '... you may have seen my name in the casualty list. The fact of the matter is that I got a bullet through the fleshy part of my left arm last night - the wound is very slight ... I was carrying ammunition up to the firing line when I got hit. I am just off to the hospital ship at Lemnos with other wounded ...' in the same letter he describes conditions in the Gallipoli firing line and in camp.
- June 26 Recovered, and back in Gallipoli camp; he has applied for a commission in the infantry.
- July 19 '... we have had another turn in the trenches since I last wrote ... it is very hot indeed here now and I am beginning to feel it a bit more than I did ... last time we had to occupy a trench which had been captured from the Turks three days before; there had been very heavy fighting and the parapet and neighbourhood of the trench was littered with bodies which gave out an abominable stench. I never thought I should survive the first day there, but eventually we got most of them covered up ... a bullet went through the pocket of my tunic, which I was not wearing at the time...'
- Late July At some time in late July Roland was again disabled - perhaps with a second wound, perhaps with hepatitis (which reached epidemic proportions among the Gallipoli forces in the summer of that year). He was later invalided out of the Naval Division, but the only surviving references to this are in letters from Roland's brother Elliott, who was then an infantry officer fighting in France.
- Sept 26 Elliott: 'I was of course most surprised to hear that Roland was back in England - he must have been bad, to be sent back ...'
- Oct 27 Elliott: '... the Ministry of Munitions is sure to fix up Roland's discharge without any trouble ...'
- 1916-1919 Roland in fact rejoined the Local Government Board where, later in the war, he became Secretary to the Billeting Board (responsible for organising temporary accommodation for war workers of all kinds). He married in 1919 and had three sons before dying suddenly of meningitis in 1931, aged 42.

ELLIOTT H. CROOKE - Born 1890

- 1908 December Letters about Elliott getting an exhibition or scholarship to Oxford, from Cheltenham College.
- 1910? Undergraduate at Oxford, attended Edward VII's funeral at Windsor as a member of Oxford Univ. Officer Training Corps (which provided funeral duties)
- 1912 October After gaining his B.A. in History, Elliott returns to Oxford lodgings (at 16 Long Wall) for a post-graduate year.
- 1913 Spring Holidaying in Paris with Stephen Hewett
July Researching in the Bodleian, Oxford
August Holidaying (with his parents?) in Tenby
Sept. Back in Oxford, and doing historical research. His younger brother Hugh (then about 16) visits him and, says Elliott 'did the sights with great energy'.
- 1914 Oct. 13 Starts a stay in Berlin
January Back in England
April 7 In the Hague, tutoring son of Sir Alan Johnstone the British Ambassador. Elliott writes an excellent letter about his time there to Arthur - another Oxford or Cheltenham friend.
Spring Back in England and commuting in to town from Blackheath. He is working for some exam (possibly the Foreign Office exam?) and also for the Westminster Gazer, full or part time.
August 4 Enlists in Inns of Court Regiment's territorial unit on the day War is declared. About a week later he applies for a Commission in Kitchener's army, as an infantry officer.
Sept. 4 Posted to officers' training camp at Headly, Epsom and is commissioned as 2nd Lieut. a week later.
Dec. 19 Has joined 8th Bn. Gloucesters (his home regiment) as a full Lieutenant, and is billeted in the Grand Atlantic Hotel Weston-Super-Mare during training.
- 1915 Feb 13 Promoted to Captain, and made acting Company Commander a month later. Still stationed (and bored) in Weston.
Early July Embarkation leave, in London and Cheltenham
July 17 Writing to his friend Mrs Munt he says 'I am sitting on the packing case which is now my only article of furniture; all my worldly possessions (weighing about 2 cwt) are hanging on the hook ready for me to put on and march away ... after all, I have had a great deal of fun since I joined the army ... I have at any rate a great deal to thank those friends for, who have allowed me to quarter myself on them at will, have been ready even when it was inconvenient to come with me and do what I wanted to do and, best of all, seemed to enjoy it ...'
- 1915 July 17 Posted to France as acting commander of B company, 8th Bn. Gloucesters; 57 Brigade, 19 Division
July/Aug Field training in France, with long route marches and first visits to the front-line trenches.
Aug 17 'We are soon taking up trenches of our own ...'
Sep/Oct 57 Brigade was in a reserve role at the Battle of Loos, but a letter (from C.M.Nash, see later) written after Elliott's death refers to him being in action at this time.
Late Oct Resting behind the line, for eight days.
Nov 3 In front line trenches, deep in mud '... I dont think you would know me, if you saw me now'.
Nov 10/11 Leave in England

- Dec 16 1915/16 Made a full Company Commander, of B Coy.
In and out of trenches throughout the winter; his letters refer - usually in passing - to the appalling front-line conditions.
- 1916 Mar 14 In the first warm Spring days, he writes to his friend Mrs Munt that '... one becomes physically as well as mentally callous'.
- Apr 18 After ten days home leave, he is taken ill on his return and hospitalised for about 5 days.
- Apr 22 'I am entirely convalescent ... have progressed from the soup to the chicken stage ... my servant is with me with nothing to do except buy me a paper in the morning and cigarettes as I want them. He is exceedingly annoyed and reproachful at my speedy recovery, as he has here as much food as he can eat cooked for him, a stretcher to sleep on, and as many blankets as he cares to ask for ... a terrestrial paradise ...'
- May 19 Division resting and training behind the lines (preparing for the Somme battle, presumably)
- June Training marches and manoeuvres '... no news that I can give you at present ...'
- June 22 Elliott describes their new Colonel Carton de Wiart (who won the VC on the Somme in the days immediately after Elliott was killed)
- June/July A series of field postcards dated in late June ends with one dated and timed '2 July - 9p.m.' that must have been written as they moved into the Somme front lines.
- July 3 Elliott was killed during the morning attack on La Boisselle village, on the third day of the Battle of the Somme. He had by now been made commander of a different company (much to his annoyance) and died leading them in the attack.
- July 11 Letter from a fellow-officer says that '... he died in the noblest circumstances possible ... suffered no pain whatever.'
- July 13 C.M.Nash, a fellow-officer in the Gloucesters at home on sick leave, writes '... What I would like to speak of especially was his coolness and bravery at all times ... I recollect two occasions when his presence of mind saved many lives, and the part he played he is sure not to have told you ... I count acts such as these, executed in full consciousness of the danger, of far greater importance than for instance the spontaneous act of bringing a wounded man in under fire.'
- July 15 Stephen Hewett, a friend of Elliott's at Oxford, writes 'I have lost one of my greatest friends ... with his fine reserved temper, he was one whose friendship needed some length of time to win and I had looked forward to the years after this great separation; but now all that is irrecoverably lost'. Hewett himself was killed two weeks later.
- July 16 Major Harding (Adjutant, 8th Gloucesters?) writes '... it was an H.E. shell which killed him and, I think, five men at the same time ... he would be buried near the old English trench quite close to La Boisselle'.
- July 29 57 Brigade chaplain writes '... of all those killed outright at that time, only one body was recovered as far as I know - and I fear this must always be so in an attack'.
- 1918 Feb 12 Graves Registration, War Office, writes '... no trace of Elliott's body has been found in the area of La Boisselle'.
- May 29 F.F.Urquhart (a tutor of Elliott's at Oxford?) writes saying that it is a comfort to know that Elliott unexpectedly found success and self-confidence in his life as an army officer '... and yet "joining up" must have been a great wrench for him at first. So true is it often enough even in this life that those who think they are losing their life discover that they have found it'.

HUGH N. CROOKE - Born 1897

- 1910 Gains a junior Scholarship to Cheltenham College Junior House
1911 Head of College's Junior House writes: 'Hugh ought to go to the Senior School at Easter and if he is to be an engineer he ought to go on the Military side ... he worked very well last term. I dont think I had to go for him for careless work in prep more than two or three times ...'
- 1914 October A cadet at Royal Military Academy Woolwich, he writes that he has just been inspected by King George V (in the third month of World War One).
- 1915 April 15 Gains his commission in the Royal Engineers, at the age of eighteen.
Aug 15 Engineers' training at Brompton barracks, Chatham; he writes: '... the authorities have seen fit to give us night pontooning on Friday, Saturday and Sunday ... all my clothes are filthy ... we made a raft in 6 mins 45 secs today while they took 7½ mins: not bad for a first attempt?'
Oct 15 Preparing to embark for the Mediterranean (at just about this time his elder brother Roland was being discharged on health grounds from Royal Navy Div., after his time in Gallipoli).
Nov 6/25 Voyage from Devonport to Alexandria, via Malta. Arrives at encampment at Cleopatra 5 miles from Alexandria. Hugh is one of two RE officers in a mixed unit of reinforcements for army divisions arriving in Egypt after the (disastrous) Gallipoli campaign.
- 1916 Jan 27 Assigned to 67th Field Company REs, attached to 11 Division. He will join them when they arrive in Egypt from Gallipoli.
Feb 7 Joins 67th field Company and is stationed with them firstly near Cairo, and then on the Suez Canal building new Canal defences. He writes: 'I laid some water pipes today - quite one of my most interesting jobs ... I was laying the pipe across a road when a cart drawn by two horses took fright at a camel and bolted; they headed straight for the hole and luckily saw it in time and jumped over it ...'
June 25 Embarks from Egypt, for France.
July 2 Anchored off southern France, for disembarkation. Hugh's brother Elliott was killed in action in Northern France the next day.
July 19 Hugh writes home, having heard of Elliott's death: '... Now, Mother darling, dont go worrying about me, I am quite safe in a comfortable billet where I know that nothing can happen to me ...'
July 28 Building gun emplacements 'a short way behind the firing line' and working eighteen-hour days.
Sep 3-13 'Trenches are pretty muddy now ...'
Oct 5 In good billets in 'a relatively large town' until about October 20.
Oct-Late Nov In front line trenches; in November letters he asks his Aunt Mabel (who lived close to the family home in Charlton Kings, Cheltenham) about Christmas presents for the family, and asks to be sent cigarettes, tobacco etc. as Christmas presents for his men.
Nov 20 Out of the firing-line again: 'it is over a month since we had any cheer'
Dec 11 Letter from Capt.Somerville, Hugh's CO, saying that Hugh was killed on the evening of 10th December by a stray shell, while he was resting in the local officers' quarters. His death was confirmed in a War Office telegram dated 12 December.
Dec 17 F.A.K.White, Divisional CRE,writes about Hugh: '... a gallant boy, always keen and one of my best subalterns ... I felt you would like to know how splendidly he had done, and that he had no suffering as he was killed instantaneously ...'

- Dec 22 Capt. Somerville writes to Hugh's father about the burial: '... I've had a cross made by the best carpenter in the company ... I feel his loss as if he were my own brother ...'; he encloses a list of Hugh's (very few) personal effects, which were sent home separately.
- 1919 Sept 6 Mrs Adams, a Cheltenham friend of the Crookes, writes from Belgium about her visit to the Somme battlefields and cemeteries. She had left flowers on Hugh's grave in Beaumont Hamel cemetery, and on the grave of her own son. '... From Beaumont Hamel Ridge there are 32 cemeteries ... No Man's Land remains desolate as it was, but it is wonderful how the country is being brought under cultivation again and the wild flowers are luxurious ...'

PAT CROOKE

7. AN OUTSTANDING TEACHER OF ART

Charlton Kings Local History Society was fortunate to have Mr George Ryland among its original members. His lively reminiscences and brilliant sketches greatly enlivened the earlier *Bulletins* in which they appeared. He was a man of wide interests, a Scouts Master, a Rugby football enthusiast. His services to that sport were notable. Above all he was an artist. Those of us who were lucky enough to visit the exhibition of his work put on in his later years will long remember them.

Mr Ryland had joined the staff of Charlton Kings Boys' School in 1911. On September 16th 1914 he left to join "Kitchener's Army" in the First World War. In 1919, when he was demobbed, he again took up his teaching duties and was responsible for the Lower section of Standard VII.

As a class teacher, he was, of course, responsible for teaching all subjects, but it was as a teacher of Art that he was outstanding. Mr Ryland must have been forward-looking in his methods. At that date and for many years afterwards, a quite common procedure was for the teacher to put up a drawing and for the pupils to copy it to the best of their ability. It is true that technique might perhaps be learned by this means, but originality was not encouraged. The pupils never saw a subject for themselves.

Mr Ryland's remarkable gift of teaching Art was first recorded in the school log book in 1919. In the report by the H.M.I. it is noted that among the older boys "their drawing taught by a specialist on the staff is creditable" and on September 22 1922 the H.M.I. reported "A feature of the work is the excellent drawing of the older boys which reflects great credit on the assistant in charge of the subject." Clearly he had already discussed the situation with the Head Master, because on September 19th 1922, the latter had recorded in the Log Book "As the H.M.I. expressed a wish that Standard V should have the benefit of Mr Ryland's teaching of Drawing etc., I have arranged that he shall take the boys of that class on Wednesday morning and Friday afternoon."

News of the quality of the Art work done in Charlton Kings Boys' School seems to have spread. On May 30th 1923 "Paul Fripp Esq., Director of Art at the Ladies' College, Cheltenham, paid a visit to the school this afternoon to inspect the drawings we are sending to the exhibition in London on June 15th and have a talk with Mr Ryland the Art master". (the Log Book does not mention when a decision to enter the London exhibition had been made) On June 14th it is recorded that "The H.M.I. North Ireland visited this department (i.e. the Boys' School) and inspected its school garden. He was very interested in the Art work and examined the work which will be sent to the Imperial Exhibition tomorrow."

This was an important exhibition to which a number of schools sent examples of Art work. There were reports of it in the national press, and the following appeared in *The Times Educational Supplement* on June 30th - the headmaster copied it into his Log Book on July 2nd: "In several sections of the exhibition the Art work from Charlton Kings near Cheltenham stands out for originality and excellence of technique; its exhibits of Lithography, book illustrations and other Art work are equal to much that comes from Art Schools properly so called". Praise where Praise is due. The head adds "This very satisfactory result is entirely due to the interesting work and influence of the teacher responsible for the Art work, Mr Ryland".

This success had rapid repercussions. On July 11th a letter was received from F.J.Howard Esq. of the Board of Education which read "Dear Sir, We have received a request from Sahibzude Attab Ashmed Khan, a member of the Indian Council and a frequent visitor to the Exhibition, for a number of copies of schemes of work followed in various schools which have sent up exhibits. Would you be good enough to send me O.H.M.S. to the above address your scheme of Drawing. We have undertaken to collect them ready for transmission to India in the very near future." It was done. It would be interesting to know what India made of work belonging to so different a tradition.

After this there were many visitors to the school to observe the Art work. The most distant one recorded is as follows "October 18th 1923 H.M.I. Horne Esq., Director of Education, W.Riding, Yorks, and the Chairman of the Education Committee and Lady Chairman of the Staffing Committee of the same authority visited the school in order to see the Art work of the school." There were many other such visits, most more local: from Huton near Evesham sent by a H.M.I.; not surprisingly, from Cheltenham Training College (female); Tredworth; and on May 9th 1924 "Miss Clarkson from the Training College interviewed me respecting a visit of 100 students to our Art class. I arranged with her that, subject to the approval of the Secretary, the students should attend in batches of 25 on Fridays May 16th and 23rd, and Mondays 19th and 26th at 2.15 p.m." Even in batches of 25, there must have been difficulties in accommodating such numbers in the class room. These of course are only a few of such visits, which continued for some years.

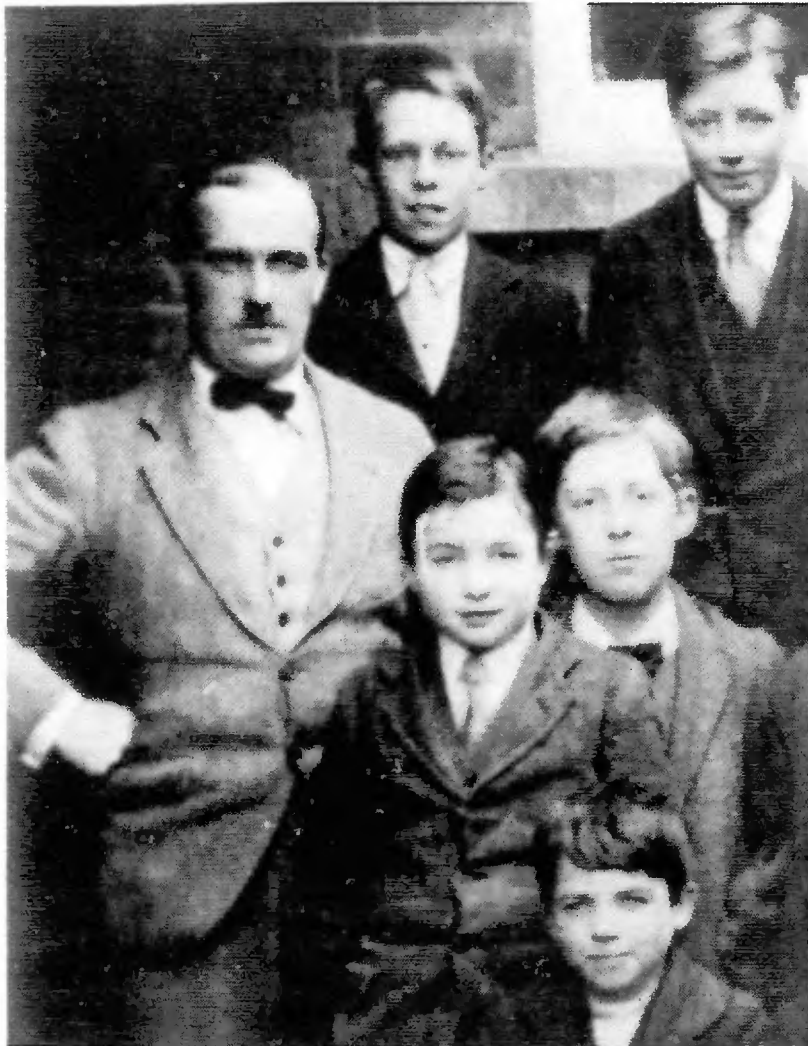
One positive result of this enthusiasm was that "on July 4th Received a letter from the Secretary, being a copy of a letter sent to the Official Correspondent on June 28th approving of the proposal that Mr Ryland should occasionally take some of the senior boys during School hours to sketch places of interest in the Parish." It would be interesting to know if any of the sketches survive.

Perhaps the best summary of all is the Report for Drawing made by H.M.Inspector Mr Scutt on Nov 29th 1923:

"The Drawing in this school is of unusual interest, and the Assistant Master chiefly concerned in the teaching of this subject has been remarkably successful in developing artistic ability amongst the boys. He has realised, as few teachers have done, that drawing is not merely a technical exercise, but a means of expression in which forms and colours are used for graphic composition, the subject matter being derived from careful observation and representation of actual things, supplemented by well-directed study of good drawings and pictures. The result is that the older boys draw well from real things both from sight and from memory, their efforts in this direction include outdoor as well as indoor subjects, while the work of the younger boys under an assistant mistress form a good preparation for the work of the upper classes. The scientific as well as artistic aspects of drawing are kept in view and many good drawings are done in connection with Nature Study and Gardening under the direction of another assistant master. The part of the work which calls for special notice is pictorial composition. On the day of the inspection, one of the upper classes was given a

quotation to illustrate in water colour, a frosty morning landscape scene. Every boy gave an individual interpretation, many of the drawings being distinctly artistic and none being without considerable merit. The work of one boy is worth special mention for he shows considerable artistic merit. The craft of lettering, leading to decorated pages, posters, etc is successfully practised; some of the boys do good manuscript writing and even more produce original designs for initial letters and borders. After a full consideration of the quality of good individual work done during the drawing lessons in this school, little doubt can remain that amongst children of the country there is a great amount of latent artistic ability which awaits development under the magician's wand, the stimulating influence of a teacher who is also an Artist."

JOAN PAGET



George Ryland from photograph lent by Mrs Ryland

8. THE BAPTIST CHURCH c 1910



Note the children's dress, the hats, and the type of pram.

From a photograph lent by Mrs Frances Stobart, adopted daughter of Dr Eveleen Rivington.

9. SOUVENIRS OF 1945

During the late summer of 1995 I was invited to a VJ Day celebration party. I had not recognised VE day which many regarded as the end of the war because my war was still raging in the Far East.

I accepted the invitation and forty-eight hours before the event my hostess telephoned to enquire whether I had any war-time souvenirs because she was hoping to set up a display and at that stage had not received many items.

Delving in the boxes covered in dust in the garage, I re-discovered that stained Japanese flag, those escape maps printed on silk of North and South Burma, of China and Siam. I also found a souvenir I had forgotten that came from much closer home. These are re-produced in this bulletin.

When I mentioned them to Mrs Paget I was surprised that she had never seen or heard of their issue. I am sure that this gesture from the village to the men and women from Charlton Kings who had served in the Armed Forces was appreciated as was the cheque for £3.5.0 (£3.25) which I think was slightly more than I was earning a week in civilian employment when I joined the Army in 1942.

IAN HARRIS

From friends in Charlton Kings
IN GRATITUDE
*for the courage of those who
gave up everything and
went out at unknown cost
to themselves in order to
preserve to their Country
HER FREEDOM OF SOUL*

CHARLTON KINGS SERVICES APPRECIATION FUND

COUNCIL OFFICES,
LONDON ROAD,
CHARLTON KINGS.

Date as postmark.

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the Committee of the above Fund, we have pleasure in enclosing cheque valued £3.5.0. together with a message of thanks from the Urban District Council and friends in Charlton Kings for the willing services rendered by you during the Great War of 1939-1945.

We are pleased to congratulate you on your safe return and we most heartily wish you every success in the future.

Yours sincerely,

The World War
1939-45

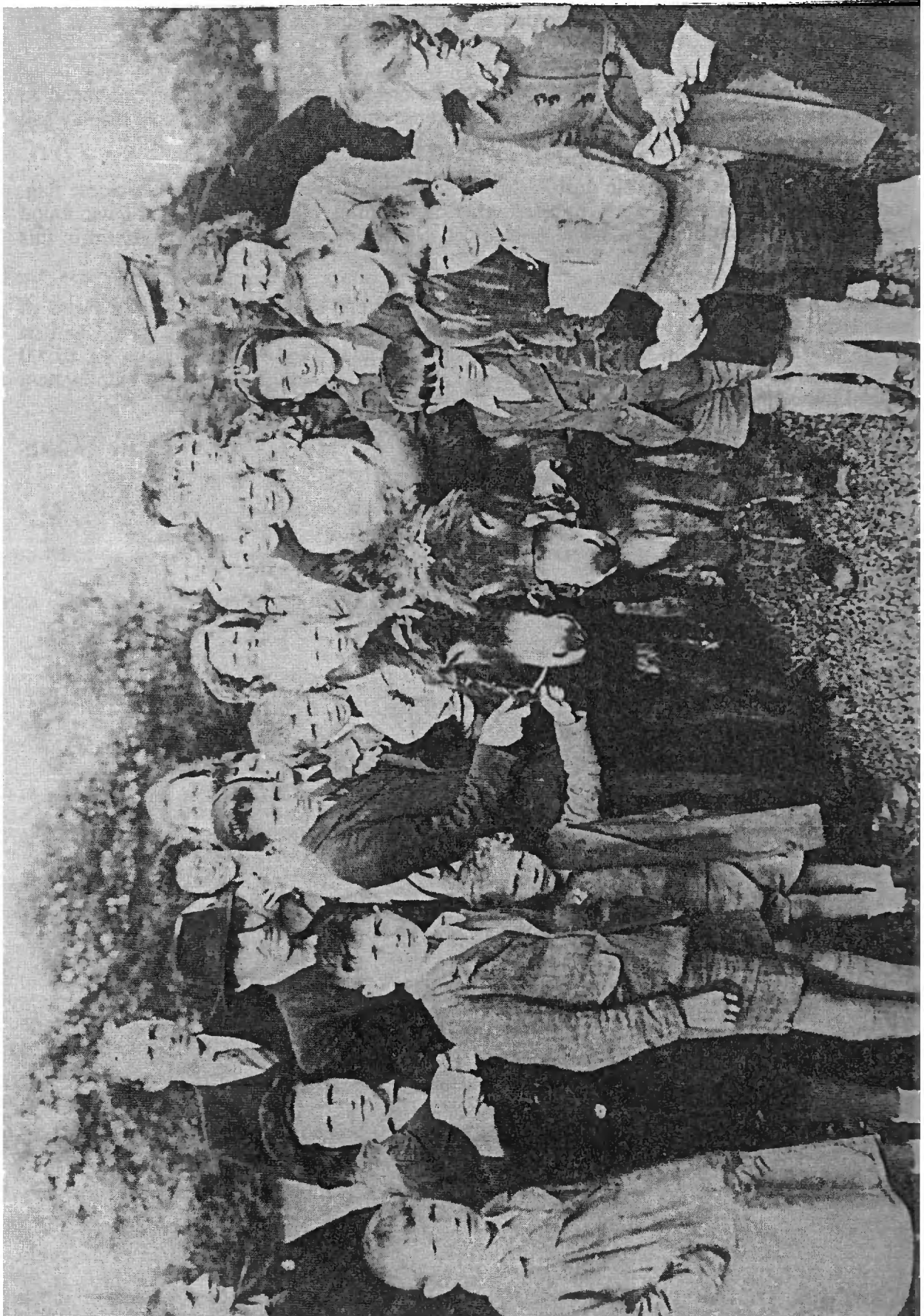
IAN HARRIS

John Hughes Chairman.
Archie T. Hanes Secretary.
Archie T. Hanes Treasurer.

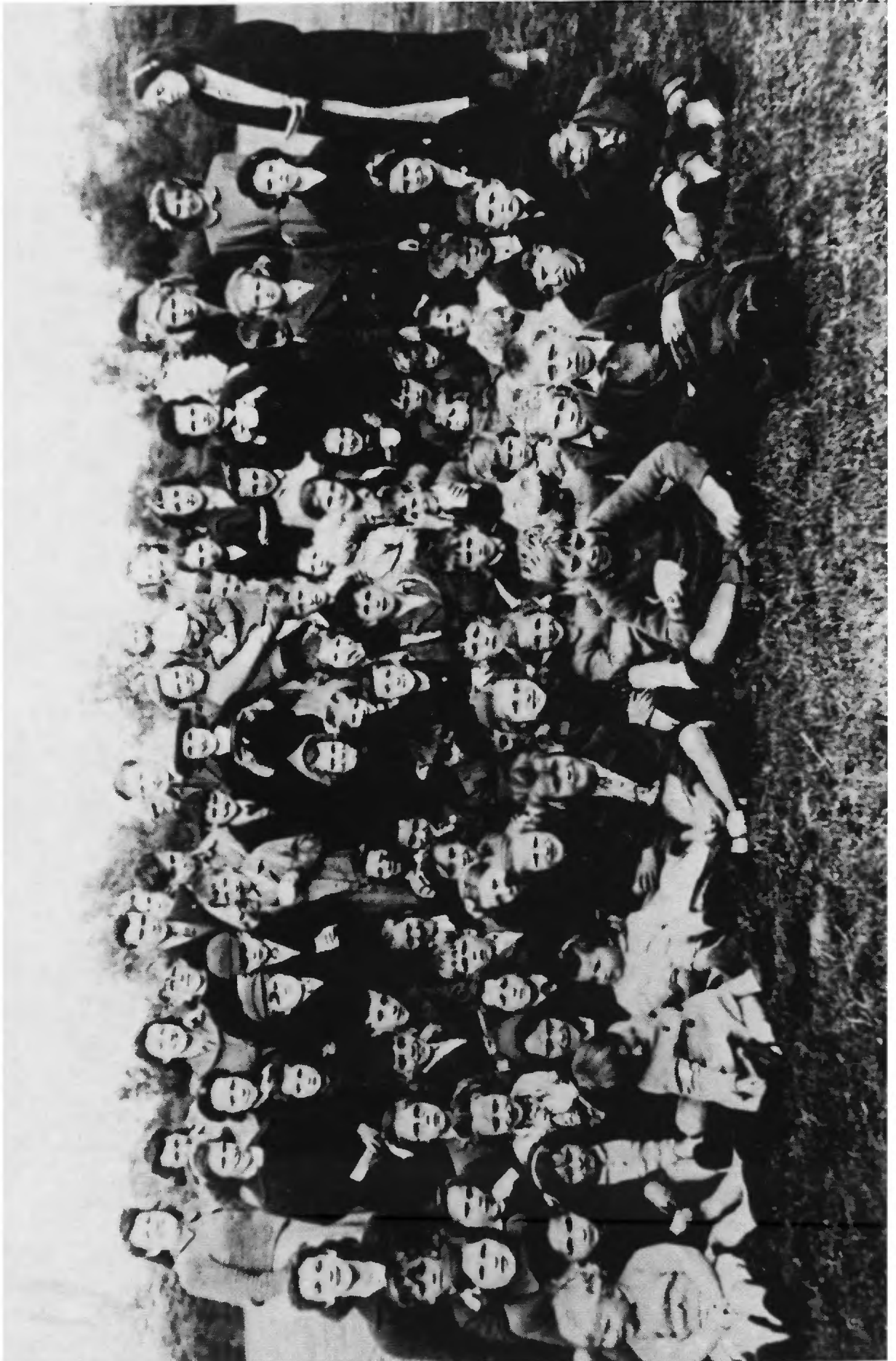
NOTE:- If you have no Bank Account, the enclosed cheque can be cashed at the High Street, Cheltenham Branch of Lloyds Bank Ltd.

10. CHARLTON KINGS CELEBRATES 1945

A party was held on Mr Mitchell's field, Little Herberts. Some photographs of the event have been lent by Mr David Isher of Sappercombe Lane. No 1 shows Mr Mitchell (wearing the Homburg hat) and Mrs Mitchell on the far left. Can you recognise anyone else? If so please let me know.







11. CHARLTON KINGS INFANT WELFARE CENTRE 1923-1980

This organisation served Charlton mothers and babies for nearly 60 years. Its minute books, now deposited at Gloucestershire Record office (D2429/23/1-2), make fascinating reading. My mother Mrs Hill was a founder member.

I - 1923-1946

The "Welfare", as it was always called, owed its origin to General R.G.Burton. He presided over the inaugural meeting held "at the Club and Institute, Charlton Kings" on Tuesday January 30th 1923 "to discuss the advisability of opening a Child Welfare Centre in Charlton Kings".

"The following were present - Mrs Burr, Mrs Burton, Mrs Hill, Mrs Tarrant, Mrs Turner, Miss Bullock, Miss Stert, Miss Vassar-Smith, Mrs F.J.Fry, Mrs McLaren, Miss Milford County Superintendent of Nurses, Nurses Newdick and Vallender, and Mr Brinkworth. The chairman first explained the object of the Meeting and read letters from the Ministry of Health and Dr Middleton Martin relative to Finance etc. Miss Milford then gave a general survey of the work in various centres and showed the necessity for one in Charlton Kings. It must be non-sectarian, with an atmosphere sympathetic and friendly to all, not to be looked upon as an outpatients's hospital ward, but as a place where any mother could get minor advice as a preventative to more serious illness. She suggested a question box on the table for Mothers to put questions they wished to ask, which would be answered by short talks by the Nurses or other suitable persons."

The proposal to open such a centre, to meet fortnightly, with a doctor and nurses in attendance was carried unanimously. General Burton was to be chairman, Mrs McLaren secretary and Mrs Fry treasurer. Those present were to form the Committee, with Mrs Fawcett and Mrs Lindner if willing to serve. At the first Committee meeting, Mrs Freegard and Mrs E.Peacey were added.

The upper room at the St Clair Ford Hall was hired at a nominal charge of 6s a time, including fire and lights. At that time, it was the only hall of any size available in the village as St Mary's had only the tin hut (now used as a Nursery School). The Parish Centre was not opened till 1927; the Baptist Church had an inadequate schoolroom; Holy Apostles' new hall was expensive and rather far away from the centre of the village. The Brotherhood Hall had not yet been built and there was no Catholic church.

St Clair Ford Hall was not ideal - it had no loo, it involved stairs up which children and equipment had to be carried, and it was just one large area which had to be divided into a Doctor's corner, a Nurses' corner and a Weighing corner with one weighing machine for babies and another for toddlers. These areas had to be separated off with screens. Mothers had to undress babies in the main area and had only a few chairs on which to park their belongings. However, it was a beginning, and like all new beginnings, it ran on a shoe-string. The County Council made an initial grant of £15 and agreed to allow £10 a year thereafter - the rest had to be raised by subscriptions.

The equipment to start with comprised a weighing machine, cost £4.3.6; 3 screens, cost £1.19.0; a fireguard, stationary, bucket, and a cupboard for drugs and appliances. A second weighing machine was added shortly, when it was agreed to accept all children under school age. Weighing was done by Mrs Fry and each child's weight recorded on its card by Mrs Hill, who made herself responsible for a supply of tiny jelly sweets kept ready to pop into the mouth of any toddler starting to yell! Dr Barrett Cardew agreed to be MO at a small fee.

The first session was held early in 1923, with 8 mothers and 8 infants present. By December 1923 there were 68 mothers and 75 infants on the books. Subscriptions of £23.7.6 had been received and the accounts (with £19.14.7 in hand) were audited at £45.8.0 by Mr Freegard.

Advice on bringing up babies was much needed in 1923 because medical opinion on the subject had completely changed in the last 7 years. When my brother was born in January 1917, he was dressed as a Victorian baby would have been - cotton shirts tied with tape, flannel binder wound round him and sewn in place every day - terry towelling nappies safety-pinned to the binder - then long cotton and flannel petticoats, long frock. When he was "shortened" the petticoats and frocks were still ankle length. But soon after he began to walk, all this was given up and he was put into knitted vests, knitted jerseys and shorts, which were thought to be more sensible and certainly less trouble. (Compare the youngest boy in the 1910 photograph on p14) In the same way, when my mother suggested weaning him on to bread and milk, as I had been, Dr Billings vetoed it in favour of mashed potato and gravy, followed by baked apple and cream (supposed to be easily digested, a gill measure was delivered daily by the milkman) - the day of sieved baby foods was far in the future!

In the aftermath of the war there was great poverty in Charlton Kings. The Welfare could sell baby foods and Virol at cost price and garments made or knitted by members of the Committee for the cost of materials and wool. All this was a great help. In 1925 at the AGM "Mrs Robinson gave a report on the needlework and clothing department, it was stated that 131 Welfare garments had been sold, £11.8.8 taken in payment, and that the stock at the present time consisted of 119 garments valued at £9.9.6 in addition to materials and wool. The President said that our Centre was fortunate in having such a capable manager at the head of this work and thanked Mrs Robinson for all the trouble she had taken - it was felt that this was a most useful part of the Welfare work." The clothing stall flourished until the outbreak of WW2. Then in January 1940 "on account of the war it was decided to close the woollen stall as everyone is knitting for the soldiers."

In 1924 a move to the UDC Hall at Six Ways was mooted - the Council House had small rooms as well as the main hall, and since the doctor did some minor operations at the clinic, a separate room was very desirable. The UDC was willing to charge 6s a time for the use of the place (and later agreed to reduce this to 3s) but it would cost £5.6.0 to erect pram shelters in the forecourt and the central heating was felt by some to be inadequate, the doors opening into the hall made it draughty. Some furniture would have to be bought which would cost at least £15. However these difficulties were overcome and the first meeting at the Council House was held on 20 January 1925.

The Welfare continued to meet there till the Hall was requisitioned as a Food Office in 1939. After that, the Welfare met at St Mary's Hall, where the loss of the pram shelters was severely felt and the Doctor had to work on the stage because there was no separate room. The kitchen was needed for teas, an important part of proceedings. At each meeting the mothers paid 2d, 1d for tea and a biscuit and 1d towards General Funds. The chance to sit and chat was part of the attraction of the fortnightly meetings, but even 2d was not easily come by in some households. The Christmas Party and Summer Treat were very much appreciated.

In 1930 there had been a change of Medical Officer. At a Committee meeting on 8 April 1930, "The appointment of MO was raised, and after careful consideration and discussion it was unanimously decided to suggest to Dr Barrett Cardew that it might be wise ... to ask one of the other Doctors residing in Charlton Kings to act as MO for the coming two or three years. Much gratitude was expressed to Dr Cardew for the work he had done for the Centre from the very beginning. It was hoped that he would understand the opinion of those present as regards not limiting the work to one member of the Medical Profession, ... It was unanimously decided to ask Dr Eveleen Rivington to act as MO on receiving Dr Cardew's

approval." No one wanted to upset a popular doctor but I remember hearing that the Committee was not entirely satisfied because he often arrived late and couldn't see all the mothers waiting for him. He was an ex-Army doctor and rather rough with babies. Dr Rivington who had just come to Charlton was almost painfully conscientious and specialised in obstetrics. She in turn would have liked to give up the Welfare work in 1937 but no other doctor was willing to accept the position.

In 1942 "it was considered necessary in view of the large number of mothers and children now attending the Welfare that the MO should attend at each meeting instead of once a month", but Gloucester was very reluctant to allow any extra grant, so existing arrangements were continued. Then in 1944 "Dr Rivington through illness had to resign and Dr Anderson became Medical Officer in September. He has offered to attend at each session for the same fee until we can get a further grant". Dr Anderson would have liked the Welfare to meet weekly and until that became possible suggested a meeting on the 5th as well as the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in the month. "To raise funds, a bring and buy sale was discussed". This raised £67.3.8. Not till March 1947 did Gloucester give an additional £20 and that was towards the extra expenses involved in transferring the Clinic from St Mary's to the Baptist Church hall in September 1946. And by then a new Health Act had been passed and the Welfare, while continuing with a Voluntary Committee, would have a Health Authority member on it and have to account to the Local Authority. "100% grant for all activities will come from Gloucester", but I have been told that the new grant was only marginally more generous than the old.

M.PAGET

II. January 1950 - May 1957

Seeing the reproduced photograph of one of the Christmas parties in a recent issue of the CKLHS Magazine sent me by my son has set me delving amongst my old diaries since I was honorary secretary for some years.

I became involved in January 1950 when Dr Anderson was looking for a replacement for Miss Hyatt who was leaving to take up full time paid secretarial employment - I believe at the Lillian Faithful Home. At that time the sessions were held weekly on Tuesday in the Baptist Chapel room in Church Street from 2 or 2.30 until all the mothers, babies and toddlers had received attention. On a normal afternoon some 40 mothers with 43 babies and toddlers would be seen.

When the Ewens Farm estate was developed and the numbers attending increased it became obvious that larger premises would be needed and the move to Holy Apostles Church Hall took place, somewhere around the summer of '55 or '56 (can any reader supply this date - I just cannot find any note of it in my personal records?) This proved to be to the benefit of many mothers, giving more privacy when seeing the doctor as well as more space for the toddlers and play equipment etc., and when fine, in the grounds outside the hall, although then supervision was required by the mother or a member of the voluntary staff.

My duties as honorary secretary included keeping the register of mothers, babies and toddlers, with names and addresses, welcoming new mothers and passing them on to a qualified paid nurse for the babies to be weighed. I seem to remember giving each mother, baby and toddler a membership card on which the weight was recorded. Vaccinations against diphtheria and whooping cough were recommended and given by the doctor, who also advised mothers on treatments, etc.,. Mothers could purchase branded milk powders, baby foods, cod liver oil, orange juice etc., at reduced prices.

Away from the weekly sessions these attendance figures had to be collated, analysed and returned to Shire Hall in Gloucester as the whole Centre was responsible to Gloucestershire County Council and Dr Morris Jones. There was a voluntary committee to assist with staffing under the Chairmanship of Mrs Anderson, Vice-Chairman Miss Statham, Treasurer Mrs Noe Young and myself as Secretary with a member from the mothers. Among the many willing voluntary staff I can recall Mrs Barnes, Mrs Bond, Mrs Clements, Mrs Payne, Mrs Reay, Mrs Ward, Mrs Whiteman, and always our "corner-stone" Miss Statham. Our doctor - I suppose would now be called Medical Officer - was Dr Roy Anderson, and among the nurses during this period were Nurses Gray, Ellis, Pring, Tatlow, Wheeler, Clifford and Cummings. It was among my duties to contact Shire Hall for deputies for Dr Anderson in case of holidays, illness or unavoidable absence, and here we were always fortunate to have had the services amongst others of Drs Mellows, Griffiths, Forty and Davenport. In my own case I've had occasions when I was grateful to both Miss Horwood and Mrs Bond who stood in for me, until I left in May 1957 to take up full-time secretarial employment - but I missed the contact with the Centre and the amusing, and sometimes, trying happenings.

As the numbers grew the mothers suggested an evening trip would be a nice break, and the task of arranging this was left to me! I well remember the first ... I could hardly get enough numbers to fill one coach but pressed on and booked a meal for approximately a coach load at The Manor Lodge, Longhope, with a stop at The Dog Inn, Over, on the return journey, the mothers paying a weekly sum. Then, out of the blue, enough names for two coaches; panic; Longhope could not seat more than one coach load at one sitting! We got round that problem by sending coach A direct to Longhope for a first sitting meal and Coach B by way of Over and so to Longhope arriving just as the first sitting had finished their meal. We all had our photo taken at The Manor Lodge - sorry, I haven't a copy. On another evening we organised a coach trip to Tewkesbury and a boat trip up the river to Bredon, returning via Ashchurch. (One other happy evening was a dance at The Rotunda, Montpelier, organised by the Committee, reading from left to right Mrs Clements, Mrs Whiteman, Mrs Noe Young, Mrs M Anderson, myself and Mrs Reay - with apologies for the poor reproduction.)



Mrs JOYCE YOUNG, (née Byard)

12. THE GREENWOOD FAMILY

My interest in Charlton Kings began when I found that my great-grandfather Samuel had been born there. My next step was to obtain the IGI for Greenwoods in Gloucestershire. Here I was in luck as there appeared to be only one Greenwood family in Charlton Kings and I was able to trace back to my 6 x great-grandfather Nathaniel Greenwood.

The first mention of Greenwood in the Parish Register is the death of John in 1698. He was the eldest son of Nathaniel and his wife Joanne. John was baptised in Meyseyhampton 8 March 1672/3, which leads one to suppose that Nathaniel belonged to the Greenwood family who lived there and were very prolific in the 16th and early 17th centuries. Nathaniel came to Charlton Kings via Coln Rogers, sometime before 1694 when a Nathaniel is mentioned in the Church Vestry book, paired with John Higgs.

Nathaniel's daughter Ann and his second son Nathaniel were both baptised at Coln Rogers, 14 August 1674 and 17 July 1677 respectively. Nathaniel himself was probably born during the Commonwealth but so far I have found no trace of his baptism or marriage.

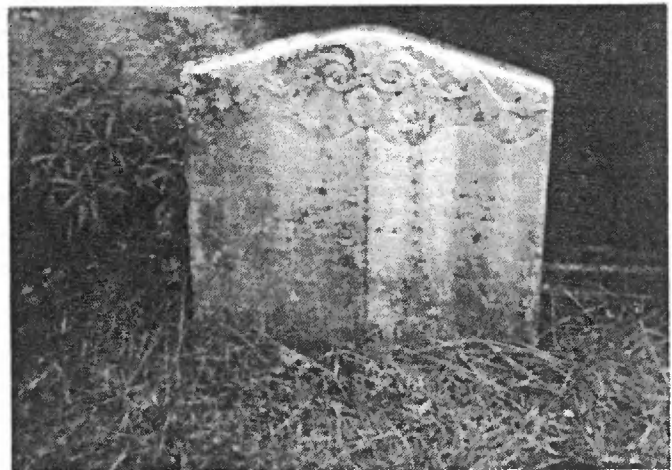
Nathaniel senior died in January 1701/2. Letters of Administration were granted to his widow Joanne, who died only five months later in May 1702. They are buried together in Charlton Kings churchyard, but the headstone is almost unreadable now:

On the eastern half

Here lieth the body/ of Nathaniel Green/
wood who departed this life the 9 day
of January 1701/
[He was buried 11 January 1701/2]

On the western half

Here Intered doth ly/ Jone the wife of/
Nathaniel Greenwood/ who died the 26th
day/ of May 1702/
[She was buried 29 May 1702]



Nathaniel appears to have been a tenant farmer. His inventory lists wearing apparel £2, household goods £6, the cattle £20, the sheep £20, total £58. I am surprised no poultry are mentioned but perhaps they were deemed to have been his wife's. [Poultry are never included in Charlton inventories; a wife's 'property' was in law her husband's, even her clothes]

His daughter Ann married Robert Coates of Chedworth at St Nicholas church, Gloucester, 31 January 1701/2. Whether she was in service there or thought that to get married locally so soon after her father's death would invite comment, I do not know. Some of Ann and Robert's descendants are now living in S.Australia.

Nathaniel waited a little longer and married Mary Nicholas of Cheltenham at Charlton Kings on 17 November 1702. He was apparently tenant of the farm now known as Wager Court which at that time belonged to Samuel Cooper (Ashley Manor court book D 109/1 - a surrender by Samuell Cooper on 2 December 1732 not presented in court till 1743.)

Nathaniel and Mary had four children: Edward baptised 11 October 1709; James 2 December 1711, buried 23 October 1724; John 1 August 1715, buried 30 November 1734; and Mary 24 May 1718. Mary senior was buried 10 May 1729 and Nathaniel 28 January 1738/9.

Edward married Hester Wills (so far I havn't found his marriage) and they had 10 children: 8 girls and 2 boys, all baptised at Charlton Kings. At the baptism of his daughter Martha on 23 May 1760 the father was described as 'of East End', so he was probably still farming under Cooper's heir. He had been churchwarden for two years, 1741-3. [He was still at East End Farm in January 1782 when the *Gloucester Journal* advertised "To be sold at Charlton Kings near Cheltenham a dwellinghouse barn stable and mill house with between twenty and thirty acres of land. Enquire of Edward Greenward (sic) of Charlton Kings who will shew the premises; or of Robert Arkell of Upton St Leonards". (*Bulletin* 19 p26). Robert Arkell had married Hannah Greenwood on 7 July 1777, and may have been acting for his father-in-law who died in December 1785. It looks as though Charles Higgs, who inherited his father's properties in 1781, was thinking of disposing of East End Farm i.e. Wager Court, in order to pay for improvements to his other houses. If so, he did not find a buyer.]

John, the elder boy baptised 27 September 1745, married Esther Prince on 13 April 1779. Esther died in 1814 and John in 1817. He is called John of Painswick in the register and I suspect he had gone to live with his daughter Elizabeth after his wife's death, for the girl had married John Loveday of Painswick on 12 November 1807. John the father was brought back to Charlton Kings and buried with his wife. Their stone is still there.

The other son Edward, baptised 24 January 1751, married Sarah Lawrence on 10 July 1755 and had 7 children. I assume that Robert was the eldest as he is the first mentioned in his father's will, but I have not yet traced his baptism. The father's will, signed and dated 12 December 1827, was proved on 26 May 1830. In it he is called "farmer". [It seems that Edward Greenwood did not follow his father at the Higgs' farm, but was tenant to John Sargeant who had inherited Sturmy's farm through his wife (see *Bulletin* 35 p19). He sold it to John Whithorne in 1798 (D855 M19 pp32-36). This sale may have led Edward Greenwood the younger to transfer to Charlton Park estate, where he was tenant of the Home Farm by 1809-10 (see *History* p42) and probably still there at his death.] In his will Edward instructed his third son Nathaniel to carry on the farm for the benefit of the widow; but in fact she predeceased him, dying on 17 December 1829. The personal property was then to be divided among all the children.

Nathaniel (the only son to farm) moved to Moorend Farm, Leckhampton, and died in 1835. His will is very informative: no wife is mentioned so I presume he never married, but his surviving brothers and sisters are. His eldest brother Robert was a coal merchant in Cheltenham and his youngest brother Samuel was a merchant in Peel Street, Manchester. Robert had married Ann Benfield at St Michael's Gloucester on 22 February 1814 and had two daughters: Sarah, baptised at Charlton Kings 22 October 1815, who married Thomas Pates of Cheltenham on 5 November 1835; and Mary Ann, baptised 14 December 1816 at Charlton Kings, who never married.

So the family line was carried on by the second son John, baptised 6 January 1787, who married Elizabeth - , (date not known). John died on 13 June 1833 (before brother Nathaniel) and his widow survived him, not dying till 3 January 1871 at Church End, Charlton Kings. Their five children were:

- (1) Elizabeth, baptised 25 December 1813, married Samuel Pates on 4 March 1837; her husband died in 1848 and she in 1871 - they had 3 children.
- (2) Sarah, baptised 12 December 1815 (of her nothing is known)
- (3) Nathaniel, baptised 10 August 1817, became a baker at Church End, Charlton Kings [perhaps in the baker's shop later Sims?] and died 15 September 1843. [memorial stone M90

records his death as well as that of his father John and his brother-in-law Samuel Pates]

(4) John, baptised 10 September 1821.

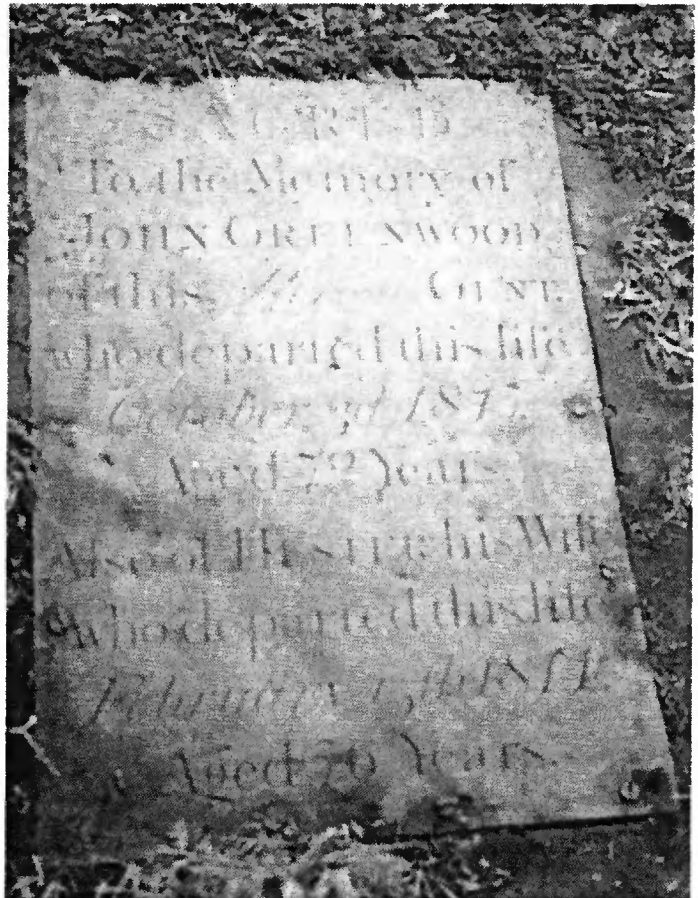
(5) Samuel, baptised 31 January 1830, married on 14 May 1854 at Kennington, Sarah Stammers (baptised in 1832 at Bishopsgate). They both died in 1918 at Streatham, having had two sons and two daughters. The elder son, Samuel, born 15 May 1861, married on 29 December 1887 at Chislehurst, Mary Jane Arnold, born 1858 at Holmewood. Both died at Streatham, he in 1897 and she in 1926. Samuel and Mary had a daughter Alice Kate, born 1890, died 1976; and a son Raymond John Arnold Greenwood (born 28 February 1897) who married Dorothy Schultze (born 1895) at Streatham on 22 July 1922. Raymond died at Streatham in 1953 and his widow in Worthing in 1974. There were two daughters, myself Marjorie born 22 July 1924, married 6 September 1974 James William Neville (1898-1980); and Dorothy born 27 September 1926, married Charles Johnson.

MARJORIE NEVILLE (née Greenwood)

Note

I must apologise for the delay in publishing this paper. Mrs Neville had corresponded with me about the Greenwoods and the family graves, and had almost completed this account at the time of her death in 1988. Her sister Mrs Johnson sent the draft and all the family material to me; I did not realise how much Mrs Neville had actually written and her file was put into the 'Material for publication' folder to wait a convenient moment for checking and adding further references I had found. The photograph shows a plate let into a ledger stone and reads:

SACRED/ to the Memory of/
JOHN GREENWOOD of this Parish GENT/
who departed this life/
October 3d 1817/ Aged 72 Years/
Also of HESTER his Wife/
who departed this life/
February 15th 1814/
Aged 76 Years.



M.P.

13. NOT IN MY BACK YARD

Bulletin 11 contains part I of Beryl Middleton's 'The Sewer Story'. In it she explains the conflict between the councils of Cheltenham and Charlton Kings over this matter: 'Charlton Kings looks to other alternatives to joining with Cheltenham. They consider "Tanks" and depositing sewage over the land' ... 'Most favoured "raising" the sewage for distribution over the land. Mr Higgs offered a site by his mill at Sandford for an outlet, and the Board could even buy his mill if they wished and use it for pumping power. Sewage, commented Mr Higgs, could be a valuable commodity, so why should they let Cheltenham have it?'

The following 'List of objectors to sewage proposals involving tanks and outfall works at Sandford Mill' in 1864 was found among some Ministry of Health records at Kew (MH 13/47 Charlton Kings 1861 - 1871). It shows that NIMBYs are nothing new!

Charles Astley Walters	Mona House
G.Price - Clergyman	2 Oxford Place
Francis Jennard - Gent. - owner	9 Oxford Place
Thomas Paynter - Retired Tradesman - owner	11,13,& 14 Oxford Place
George Newman	Park Cottage
George Townshend - owner	7 & 8 Oxford Place and
	Raymond Villa
William Browne - occupier	6 Oxford Place
H.M.Hardy	1 Oxford Terrace
John Nethercot	1 Catherine Villas
Eleanor Finlangton ?	3 Oxford Place
Lavinia Lucy	10 Oxford Place
Michael Cook - occupier	Charlton Place
Alfred Knight - occupier	Charlton Place
Thomas Ashmead - occupier	Charlton Place
Thomas Fletcher - occupier	Charlton Place
Robert Smith - occupier	Anastasia Cottage
Jesse Mustoe - occupier	Charlton Kings
Andrew Hambly- occupier	Crown
James Clifford - occupier	Beaufort Arms
G Sutherland Philipps - owner	7 & 8 Raymond Terrace
Albert Taylor	Beaufort Cottage
Benjamin Hack - occupier	Oxford Place
Richard Cosier - owner	Park St.
? Evans - occupier	Park St.
John Badley - Plumber - occupier	Park St.
Martin Lewis - Tailor - occupier	Park St.
Jpseph Parsons - Clerk - occupier	Park St.
Joseph Wood - occupier	Park St
Elizabeth Hanes - occupier	Park St
Charles Powell - occupier	Park St
John Furney ? - occupier	Park St
William Bliss - occupier	Park St
Charles Cook - occupier	Park St
Elizabeth Bradshaw - occupier	Park St
James Bead ? - occupier	Park St
George Snaithe - occupier	Park St
John Young - occupier	Park St

William Domray - occupier
Mary Hale - occupier
William Jenkins
George Richard Blackwell
John Price
John Dix
William Atkinson
Thomas Stutton
Mary Hale

Park St
4 Oxford Place
13 Oxford Place
Sandford Marble Works
3 Avenalls Parade
5 Avenalls Parade
6 Avenalls Parade
2 Avenalls Parade
1 Avenalls Parade

JANE SALE

14. CHARLTON KINGS LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH

Other 'finds' from the Public Record Office at Kew include the following items from Ministry of Health records. I have summarised them as the reports were very wordy. They give a good idea of the health problems as recently as the late 19th century. For example, it is horrifying to see that in 1892 Charlton Kings, although having 'cause for congratulations for maintaining its reputation so long enjoyed', still had 36 deaths for under five-year-olds out of a total of 76.

Ref. - P.R.O.(Kew) M.H. 12/3960

Letters written by Walter Sweeting Clutterbuck, Solicitor of 2 Regent St., Cheltenham, Clerk to the Board. Letters commence January 1893.

1. Instructions to select site suitable for temporary hospital for cholera patients - 'at a distance from any running stream'.
2. Form re Accommodation of Infectious Diseases - Arrangements made with Delancy since 1877, no special number of beds set aside for C.K. patients. Number of cases of Scarlet Fever using Delancy over past 4 years: 1 in 1889, 2 in 1890, 0 in 1891, 5 in 1892.
3. Wish to regulate keeping of poultry - custom to keep them in enclosed runs under house doors and windows - rarely cleaned out, in wet weather considerable health hazard due to soakage and filtration. Regulations applying to pigs should also apply to poultry.
4. Mr Benjamin Hack re-elected Inspector of Nuisances for 1 year at salary of £20 p.a.
5. Mr Henry Bansal Todd MRCS re-elected Medical Officer of Health for 1 year at salary of £40 p.a.
6. Loan of £485 by Public Works Loan Commissioners to C.K. Local Board for purchase and preparation of land for Allotments. Expenses estimated as follows: Land £413, Drainage £13.11.0, Hedge Grubbing and Levelling £3, Fencing £12, Allotment Pigs £4.12.0, Surveyor £9, Conveyance costs £25, Inquiry Costs £5.5.0 = Total £485.8.0
7. January 1896 - C.K.Urban District Council anxious to obtain legal interest in Vestry Hall in order to enlarge it.
8. Salary of B.Hack raised from £20 to £30 p.a.

9. July 1896 - George Wheeler of Early Cottage, C.K. re-elected General Rate Collector at salary of £65 p.a.

10. September 1896 - George Brydges, Deputy Clerk took over from W.S.Clutterbuck

11. December 1896 - George Wheeler resigned and requested a pension after 27 years work. He was supported by George Townshend of 7 Oxford Place, chairman of Finance Committee and Brook Kay of Battledown, past chairman of Local Board.

Annual reports sent by Local Board's Medical Officer of Health - Mr Henry Bansal Todd MRCS of 9 Oxford Parade, Cheltenham to Whitehall.

Report for y/e December 1892

C.K. lived up to reputation as a 'healthful and health giving district'.

Death rate = 18.09 per 1000 pop. 76 deaths: 21 under 1 yr old, 15 from 1 to 5 yr old, 1 from 5 to 15 yr old, 1 from 15 to 25 yr old, 21 from 25 to 65 yr old, and 17 over 65. Higher than usual - flu early part of year, and measles in autumn which led to closing of Lyefield Schools. Birth rate lower than average for last 4 years. 101 births - 48 M and 53 F.

Recommend that sewer be extended to Little Herberts. Water supply improved, many houses now using Corporation supply.

Several cases of overcrowding have been dealt with. Complaints about pig keeping and condition of pig sties.

C.K. has cause for congratulations for maintaining its reputation so long enjoyed.

Report of y/e December 1893

Year in which part of area seceded to Cheltenham - 100 acres. Population changes not included in following figures.

Death rate = 14.82 per 1000 pop., lower than last 3 years: 1890 - 16.6, '91 - 16.24, '92 - 18.09. 63 deaths: 17 under 1 yr old, 5 from 1 to 5 yr old, 1 from 5 to 15 yr old, 0 from 15 to 25 yr old, 17 from 25 to 65 yr old, and 23 over 65. Of these 23, 1 was over 90, 8 over 80, 10 over 70 and 4 over 65. Whooping cough caused several deaths.

Birth rate - 115 = 27.05 per 1000 pop.

Water supply scarce - many wells failed. Contamination of supply for Melton Terrace in Ham Lane led to extension of mains.

Nuisance of pig sties reported - especially in Hales Rd. and Battledown Approach.

Report for y/e December 1894

Estimated population now 3200 - reduction in acreage partially counteracted by building and occupation of houses on Lyefield estate together with annual increase of births over deaths.

Death rate = 12.5 per 1000 pop. 46 deaths: 6 under 1 yr old, 2 from 1 to 5 yr old, 2 from 5 to 15 yr old, 2 from 15 to 25 yr old, 14 from 25 to 65 yr old, and 14 over 65. Infant mortality 'very low' - 69.76 per 1000 registered births.

Birth rate - 86 = 26.875 per 1000 pop.

No epidemics. Water supply much better. Few cases of overcrowding reported.

Report for y/e December 1895

Death rate 'remarkably low' = 2.03 per 1000 pop. 39 deaths: 14 under 1 yr old, 3 from 1 to 5 yr old, 1 from 5 to 15 yr old, 1 from 15 to 25 yr old, 10 from 25 to 65 yr old, and 10 over 65. Whooping cough prevalent, cause of 5 deaths. Infant mortality 16% of registered births.

Birth rate - 80 (42 M 38 F) = 24.69 per 1000 pop.

Great deal of sanitary works during year. Glazed earthenware gully traps replacing faulty iron traps which allowed escape of sewer gas. Few cases of overcrowding.

Ref. - PRO(Kew) MH 12/3961

Annual reports sent by Local Board's Medical Officer of Health - Mr Henry Bansal Todd MRCS of 9 Oxford Parade, Cheltenham to Whitehall cont.

Report for y/e December 1896

Area in 1891 was 3498 acres, now 3397 acres. Population in 1891 was 4187, now estimated at 3280.

Death rate - 16.28 per 1000 pop. 53 deaths: 10 under 1 yr old, 4 from 1 to 5 yr old, 1 from 5 to 15 yr old, 1 from 15 to 25 yr old, 17 from 25 to 65 yr old, and 20 over 65 of which 2 were over 90. Epidemic of scarlet fever - 28 cases sent to Delancy. Infant mortality 10.63% of registered births.

Birth rate - 94 (54 M 40 F) = 28.65 per 1000 pop.

Well in Ham Lane at corner of Ham Square closed due to contamination.

Report for y/e December 1897

Death rate 15.75 per 1000. 52 deaths: 7 under 1 yr old, 3 from 1 to 5 yr old, 1 from 5 to 15 yr old, 4 from 15 to 25 yr old, 21 from 25 to 65 yr old, and 16 over 65. 10 deaths from Phthisis (pulmonary consumption), mostly among 'humbler walks of life'. Infant mortality 9.2% of registered births.

Birth rate - 76 (37 M 39 F)

Cases of overcrowding reported and dealt with. Increase in Corporation water supply.

Report for y/e December 1898

Death rate 11.04 per 1000 pop. 'remarkably low', lowest recorded. 36 deaths: 7 under 1 yr old, 3 from 1 to 5 yr old, 5 from 5 to 15 yr old, 2 from 15 to 25 yr old, 11 from 25 to 65, and 8 over 65. Scarlet fever prevalent - 24 cases but 6 of them in a boarding school. 23 cases of diphtheria. Infant mortality 'very low' - 7.6% of registered births.

Birth rate - 92 (43 M 49 F) = 27.4 per 1000 pop.

Several milk vendors had cows tested for tuberculosis. But milk should still be boiled.

Inspection of slaughter houses - 1 diseased carcass seized and condemned.

Report for y/e December 1899

Population now estimated to be 3400. 100 acres transferred to Cheltenham in November 1893.

Death rate 18.2 per 1000 pop. 62 deaths: 14 under 1 yr old, 11 from 1 to 5 yr old, 2 from 5 to 15 yr old, 4 from 15 to 25 yr old, 14 from 25 to 65 yr old, and 17 over 65. Higher than last year, measles prevalent among Lyefield schools which were closed early for summer vacation, 5 deaths from it. Scarlatina - 17 treated at Delancy resulting in 1 death. Influenza prevalent. 7 deaths from Phthisis. Infant mortality 14.5% of registered births. Birth rate 96 (48 M 48 F) = 28.2 per 1000 pop.

Sewer gas reported from manholes - covers to be installed.

Report of Nuisances for 1899/1900 period

356 visits made by Inspector of Nuisances - Mr Benjamin Hack.

1. Cotswold Inn - flushing boxes to 2 closets outdoors.
2. Mourford Cottages, Ryeworth - 2 closets previously connected into dry well, now connected with main sewer. Corporation water laid on.
3. Sunny Bush near Dowdeswell reservoir - filter bed improvements
4. Oxford Lawn - improvements
5. 3 Church St. - premises cleaned and floor relaid in kitchen and wash house.
5. Charlton Mill - drains altered
6. Stoneware gully traps installed in following: Cotswold Mews, 3 Hamilton Place, 3 Chestnut Terrace, 1 - 4 Thornton Row, Church Piece, Somerset Cottage.
7. Vineyards Farm Dairy in Little Herberts Lane - drains previously emptied in to neighbouring water course, now connected to sewer.
8. Early Cottage, Cirencester Rd. connected to main sewer.

Letters written by George Brydges, Clerk to the Board to Whitehall

Jan 1897 - Letter re Spring Bottom Cottages and garden land with 'excellent spring of water'. Lease for 99 years agreed on 29 Sept 1874 at £2 p.a. from Guardians of the Poor to the Local Board. Now the Board want to be rid of lease because of ample supply of water from Cheltenham Water Co. and Cheltenham Corporation, or be able to sublet.

Feb 1897 - Mr A.G. Bloodworth who was building a villa in Birchley Rd., objected to being charged for sewer connection at 2/3 the total cost.

July 1897 - Request to build new offices. Application for loan of £3000 to cover land purchase at £200, building at £2500 and furnishing and expenses at £300.

June 1898 - Lyefield Rd. Schools closed on 6th April for 3 weeks because of diphtheria. 23 cases occurred during 1898 compared with 4 between 1890 to 1898. 19 occurred among children at Lyefield School, 15 of them in infants and girls department. Serious sanitary defects. Cleansing and disinfection while schools were closed, pencils and pens destroyed, books burned, desks disinfected. Improvement to sanitary conditions required. New latrines. New school being built for boys.

1899 - Byelaws relating to keeping of pigs - increase in number of working class homes made it undesirable to facilitate keeping of pigs - did not approve of changing rule about distance from house of 50' to 35' as put forward.

1900 - Loan of £350 for 30 years had been sanctioned in 1890 to provide weighing office, cart sheds, office and enclosed yard in London Rd. Complaints received about nuisance caused in built-up area of manure from stables. Now proposed to erect new stable on piece of land in C.K. - c 2/3 acre for £247, cost of stabling £1125 including house for foreman. Plan to convert present stables into council office. Land offered included 1/4 acre belonging to Mr Thorne at back of Rosebank with 2 cottages for £380. Preferred offer of 2/3 acre belonging to Mr W.Price opposite Vicarage for £247.

1900 - Increase of Mr Hack's salary from £30 to £35 p.a.

JANE SALE

15. (1) THE MAGNETICON

Those members who attended Reg Acock's enlightening talk on the early provision of electricity to Cheltenham will recall our Chairman's question concerning the therapeutic use of electricity in the 19th century.

By chance I had previously made a note of an advertisement for "The Magneticon" which I saw in Morris's Directory of Gloucestershire for 1876. At *The Magnetic Room* at 98, High Street, Cheltenham patients could experience "the application of powerful currents of magnetism" and "Curative Magnetism on the most scientific principles". The advertisement continued:

"A Room is fitted up with a Settee, Couch and Easy Chairs, all of which are magnetised with different degrees of power. On these the patients, who sit or recline for one, two or three hours at a time as they are reading the daily papers or periodicals provided, are enveloped in a Magnetic Atmosphere that will generate in the system the electronic currents on which life and health depend ... even more invigorating than a sea bath."

Maybe the Magnetic Room was not very different from certain present-day clinics which offer exotic alternative therapies!

E.MILLER

15. (2) ELECTRICAL TREATMENT IN THE 19th CENTURY

My curiosity about this subject arose when I saw the following advertisement in Wrights Topography 1838 put in by Charles Martin, to whom my great grandfather was apprenticed.

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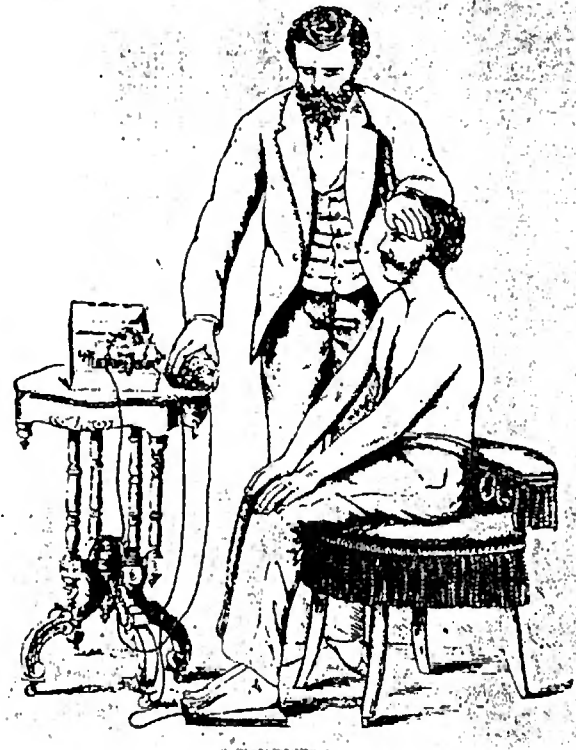
C. MARTIN,
(LATE STAFFELL)
CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST,
24, HIGH STREET, STROOD.

C. MARTIN begs to inform his Friends, the inhabitants of Strood, Rochester and Chatham, Agricultural Gentlemen, and the Public, that he has succeeded to the business lately conducted by Mr. Staffell, and hopes by strict attention, and due care in the choice of his drugs and chemicals, to merit their patronage.

Patent Medicines, Cattle Medicines, Cuff's Farmers' Friend, Perfumery, Combs of every description, Tea, Coffee, Cigars, Snuff and Tobacco, Oils, Colours, and Varnishes. A good supply of fresh Leeches, Sauces, Pickles, &c. &c.

Teeth extracted, and Electricity performed.

Other examples of electrical treatment include 'Dr.Scott's Electric Corset', described as a 'typical use of static fields in the Victorian cra', and a 19th century electromagnetic therapy known as 'General Faradisation' - a treatment where the circuit is completed by current passing through the doctor. The illustrations are taken from *Physics Bulletin* Volume 36 Number 6 June 1985.



JANE SALE

16. JAMES DROVE/STROWDES LANE

Rosemary Ash wrote an article in *Bulletin 32*, drawing our attention to the new nameplate which had been fixed to the fence beside the narrow lane running between Little Herberts and Ravensgate Road. This lane, known familiarly as 'Piggy Lane', was now officially 'James Drove'. Rosemary had raised the matter with the Cheltenham Borough Council and Councillor Don Gould, as she felt unhappy about this very ancient pathway, referred to as 'Strowdes Lane' as far back as the 16th century, being renamed after a 20th century inhabitant.

The outcome is a new notice shown in the photograph below. I think Charlton Kings owes a debt of gratitude to Rosemary, and to Mary Paget for providing the archival evidence for the old name; and also to the Borough Council for coming up with a solution that marks the historical nature of the lane and at the same time recognises the James family's wish for the name to be remembered in the area where they had farmed during this century.



JANE SALE

17. SCHOOLGIRLS IDENTIFIED

Following publication of the photograph on p24 of *Bulletin 35*, the following names have been sent:

Top Row A - 1?, 2?, 3? from Ham, 4?, 5?, 6 Elizabeth Safe, 7?, 8?, 9? from Ham Square, 10 Katy? from Spring Bottom, 11?, 12?, 13?.

Row B - 1? sister to A3, 2?, 3?, 4 -Peacy, 5?, 6 Rose Kear of School Rd., 7?, 8 -Organ of Copt Elm Rd., 9?, 10 Marjorie Williams, 11?, 12?, 13?.

Row C - 1?, 2 Dorothy Roberts, 3 Violet Skinner whose Father was Co-op Manager, 4 Marjorie Safe, 5 Myself - Gwen Hughes, 6 Ada Couch of Ryeworth Rd., 7 Kathleen Cove from London Inn, 8?, 9 Gladys Beames, 10?.

Row D - 1 Madeline Thomas from New Inn, 2 -Protherough, 3 and 4 Herbert sisters from near Six Ways, 5 -Martin, 6 Madeline Thorpe, 7 Olive Carter, 8 Katherine Jefferies from Cudnall.

GWEN BRAY (née Hughes)

18. BREVELS HAYE

Bulletin 29 included an architectural survey on this house by Linda Hall, and a family tree for the Buckle family who owned it for several generations.

Now I have been sent a photograph of the house with Mrs Ann Buckle, together with her daughter and grandson. The exact date of the photograph is not known but must be earlier than July 1914 when Mrs Buckle died. It has been sent by a great-granddaughter of Mrs Ann Buckle, with the following comments:

Brevel Hey [sic] with

Mrs Ann Buckle, her daughter Mrs Elizabeth White and her son Frederick



My mother was the daughter of Mary Margaret Phillips ("Polly"), Elizabeth White's sister. (My mother's "Aunt Bess"). Frederick was a fine violinist my mother told me. My mother lived with Mrs Ann Buckle as a schoolgirl and loved her dearly. [see family tree in *Bulletin 29*]

I have done quite a bit of family research. An interesting point is that Thomas' daughter Mary (born 17.1.1812) was from his first marriage to Becky Lawrence, who died aged 36 in 1812, after the birth of Mary. Also Benjamin (the gardener) at one time (1859) (when my mother was born) was the licensee of the Phoenix Inn in Cheltenham - and drank away the family fortune!! But in 1861, when he died was a "florist and seeds man" again.'

PAM TUPPEN