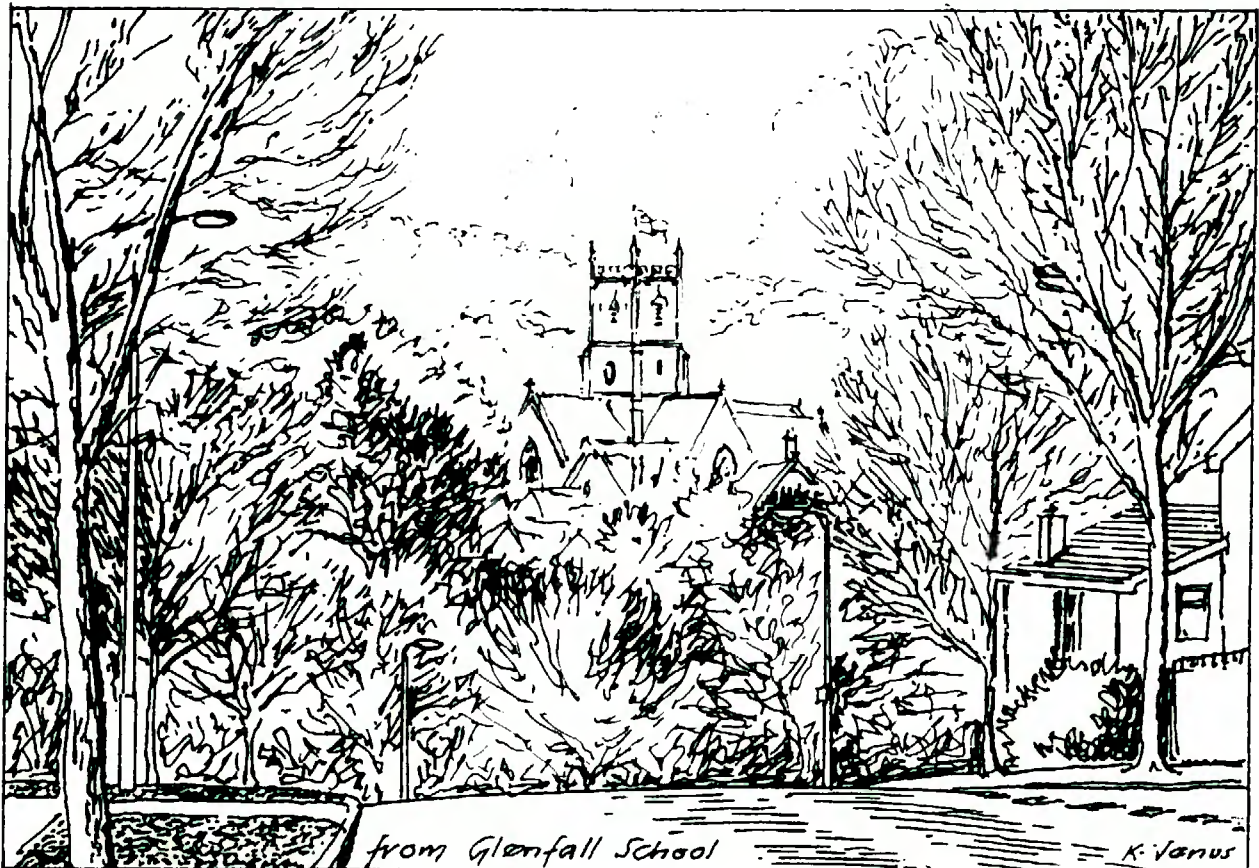


# CHARLTON KINGS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



**BULLETIN 41**  
Spring 1999

## CHARLTON KINGS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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### Membership of this Society

Membership forms are available from the Hon. Secretary. Annual subscription £3.50 or £5.50 for a couple. Meetings are held monthly from September to May in the Stanton Room at Charlton Kings Library.

### Publications:

The *Bulletin* is published twice a year, in March and September. Copies of this *Bulletin* are available from the Hon. Secretary.

Please apply to Mr D Copson, Widecombe, Harp Hill, Cheltenham (Tel. 01242 510653) for past issues of the *Bulletin*, Indexes, Parish Register Transcriptions, and other publications as shown below:

Indexes are available to *Bulletins* 1-7 price £2, to *Bulletins* 8-17, 18-27 and 28-37 price £5 each.

Indexed *Parish Register Transcriptions*: 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), *Five Walks Around Charlton Kings* (1997), and *Five More Walks Around Charlton Kings* (1998) all at £1.

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 - View from Glenfall School - drawn by the late Ken Venus

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## OBITUARY

Charlton Kings Local History Society has lost two more good friends, Mr Jack Barnfield aged 92 (who told us how the gutters at The Hearne worked) and Mr Adrian Norman aged 84 whose account of his boyhood at Ryeworth "Born in the Fields" (*Bulletin* 33 pp 3-5) gave us such a delightful insight into the freedom some boys enjoyed back in the 1920s.

## 1. PROPOSED NEW ROADS

Cheltenham and District Joint Town Planning Scheme Ref. No. 7PB Feb 1931:

This article is the result of a query in the 1998 Autumn Newsletter of Bradley Garden Road being part of a suggested Cheltenham Bypass in the 1930s. I phoned Mary Paget as the query gave rise to my own memories of such a proposal of that time, and her usual zeal for any historical facts of the village resulted in an eight page document with 81 points of action, so while this article is based on that document, any conclusions of this scheme which are incorrect are entirely mine. Mary took the information from notes prepared for her by the Cheltenham Reference Library 30th September 1998 as follows:

1. Maps in No 2 Folder in Drawer 7. (a) KEY Plan to Road System 28.2.31.  
(b) KEY Plan to Zoning. (c) KEY Plan to Reservations
2. Minutes of Cheltenham Town Council 1931. 639352 pp 127-153 and any subsequent meetings.
3. Cheltenham - District Joint Town Planning Scheme - Preliminary Statement 639711

The scheme itself was a major overview of the road structure around Cheltenham and district: Seven Springs to Kilkenny, Ullenwood to Crickley Hill - Birdlip Village, Shurdington - Staverton - Boddington - Gotherington - Greet - Winchcombe - Cleeve Hill - Ham to finally the London Road.

N.B. The actual proposals are in bold type.

**Road No 1 - London Road from the 5 Ways Charlton Kings eastward to the boundary of the scheme - widening to 60ft width.**

Six Ways we called it - this must have been the work that resulted in my reference to the major overhaul of the London Road. (*Bulletin* 39 p 26 under East End Transport)

**Road No 2 - From junction of Old Bath Road (No 6) and Sandford Road to Road No 3 - new road of 60ft width.**

**Road No 3 - From London Road near borough boundary to Cirencester Road near Cudnall Bridge and then South - widening to 60ft & new carriageway.**

**Road No 4 - From London Road (No 1) east of Charlton Kings westwards to Cirencester Road (No 3) - new road of 60ft width.**

This was to be the new bypass road that took the through London/South Wales traffic away from Cheltenham town centre. My recall was of a road that was to go from the A40 between Whithorne and Coxhorne, *Bulletin* 34 p 19 shows the Parish land and the Old London Road leading back to Balcarras Lane. (Note the sale lots of Coxhorne Estate (*Bulletin* 34 p 18) shows the addendum: new road constructed from Oxford to Cheltenham turnpike. The new road would have separated Coxhorne and Whithorne - the idea was not new - this was 1868). My assumption that this road would follow the course of STROWDS Lane (James Drove) as the map on p30 of *Bulletin* 32 shows.

[I think in fact more the line of Beeches Road]

**Road 4a - From junction of Roads Nos 4 and 3 south of Charlton Kings westwards through Leckhampton to Shurdington Road (No 17) at Brizen Hill - new road of 80 ft width.**

**Road 4b - From junction of roads Nos 5, 4a and 17 at Brizeb Hill westwards to Gloucester Road (No 27) west of Arle Court - new road and widening.**

These two roads if built would have a clear passage from the A40 Oxford Road to the Gloucester section of the A40, bypassing the existing route of Sandford Road and Thirlestaine Road to Gloucester.

**Road 5 - South of Charlton Kings a short new length of road off Road No 4 - 24 feet width.**

**Road No 6 - Old Bath Road from junction with Road No 4a northward to London Road widening.**

Thus roads Nos 2 to 6 from its proposed departure from road 1 (the A40) were the main features of the scheme as it affected Charlton Kings on the south side of the Chelt valley. From road 6 the other proposed road changes, improvements or creations had no effect within the boundaries of the Charlton Kings Parish until Road No 24a.

**Road 24a - From Badgeworth-Churchdown Road near Norman's Brook northwards to boundary of the scheme near Ham Farm - new road of 40 feet width.**

(Normans Brook N/S 88-89 - E/W 21-22 Pathfinder Map 1066)

The proposals for traffic from Ledbury - Staunton Evesham - Stratford areas passing through Cheltenham to travel east was to be accommodated by:

**Road 35c - From junction of Roads Nos 41 and 54 west of Prestbury southeastwards to Road No 1 - new road of 60ft width.**

It is hard to realise that at this time the existing Lynworth/Whaddon housing estate was the Gloucester Dairy Whaddon Farm and of course the west side of Hales Road as far as Kings road

**Road 52 - From Road 35c north of Ham eastwards to existing road - new road 36ft width.**

My assumption is the country road Whittington/Ham joining the joining the ring road.

**Road 53 - From road 35c south of Ham southwestwards to Road No 1 at Charlton Kings - new road of 60ft width.**

Using part of the Cheltenham Plan of 1897 by Norman Sawyer & Co this road would cross relatively open land and utilise the 'coffin path' to reach Road No 1.

**Road 53a - From junction of roads Nos 53 and 1 southwards to road No 4 near Little Herberts - widening and new road of 60ft width.**

This would use Hearne Road and then the Cartway between Hearne Brook and East End Hall, and across the Beeches to Little Herberts and this would explain the query of Bradley Garden Road being surfaced to highway standards in the Autumn Newsletter.

**Road 55 - Spring Bottom, Charlton Kings, from Road No 1 southwestwards for approximately 40yds - new road of 10ft width.**

If my assumption of the projected road route is correct then the new road in Spring Bottom of 40 yards with a 10ft carriageway must have been between the drive to the Knapp at Hearne Road and the field now called Ledmore Road. *Bulletin 22* p7 reads "The yard lying next to the highway" was probably very much on the same site as this Stable Yard at the Hearne, the highway being the Old London Road turning on the north side of the house between The Hearne and The Knapp. Had the survey of 1931 followed the course of the road of 1253?

Of the 81 roads included in the scheme, only 14 were directly relevant to the village, but in retrospect would this have been an advantage to village life? The totality of it would have allowed traffic from the Gloucester/Worcester Evesham Stratford seeking routes east and south, i.e. London Southampton, to encroach on the village; at the same time the intention to improve the Kilkenny/ Ullenwood/ Birdlip Village/ Crickley Hill could have diverted London traffic along the hill route from Shipton Crossroad to Gloucester/ South Wales.

The fact that the centre scheme failed does not detract in my opinion from the very far-sighted planners who could see that increase in road traffic almost 70 years ago and

attempted to anticipate solutions. Nevertheless, in spite of all the current traffic problems that beset Cheltenham as much as any other town and city in the country, the London Road/ Cirencester Road junction, with Holy Apostles as its guardian, means that the heart of Charlton Kings between these two roads with the Churches/ Chapels/ Schools and roads are still much as they have been for the last 100 years.

REG SEABRIGHT

## 2. MY DAYS OF WINE AND ROSES

Gridlock. A very late 20th century word not usually identified with an Historical Magazine, but this description came to mind whilst returning from Cheltenham on an early mid week morning in August '97. I had in the car all the back numbers of the *Bulletins* from Mr Copson and reading them during the subsequent weeks my mind flashed back to the solid block of traffic from Hales Road to Six Ways. It never used to be like that in those days when we alighted from the tram outside the Charlton Kings U.D.C. offices and walked home to East End.

I tried to relive my thoughts on that walk home and they are random thoughts of Charlton Kings as it was. Bob Franklin had a repair shop almost opposite to Spring Bottom Road and a collection of lock-up sheds going back towards the rear of Ryeworth Road houses. I remember the next house because it was occupied by Mr Theyer the Co-op butchery manager and I had a clip around the ear for saying 'Hello Butcher' on a Sunday evening as with my parents and sister we walked past his front gate. Next door Mr Jefferies I remember because his daughter Pamela came to the North Glos. Technical college with Eileen Tortonese of Ryeworth from the Oriel at the same time as I did from Charlton Kings School. Then Sandhurst road - nice houses - Arthur Wintle (good school cricket player) lived there - but a terrible rutted unadopted road. On the opposite side an alley that came down from Hambrook Street and the fence surround of Acomb House.

The alleyways of Charlton Kings were of great curiosity to the young Eastenders. Our only two, Steels and Dukes Alley were not enough. So across Ryeworth Road to the short lane The Haver and on to Greenway Lane, then across the field path below Battledown Manor, down Jacobs Ladder and then over the footbridge from Battledown to Haywards Road and see the clay from the pit going down to Webbs brickworks. Back to London Road past the entrance to the old Spring Bottom Mill and up the hill, the field at one time was a place for haymaking Ed Mills. The opposite side of the road had a private lane to houses by the Chelt and then Conway House. Down Ledmore as we called the Coffin path, and to the top of Ryeworth Road and to say hello to Vic Hawkins in the cottages leading to the playing field and Ham Square where Arthur Causon and the Davis' lived.

The Hearne Road and The Knapp a house way down - its private drive was unknown or seen but the drive was flanked by shrubs and trees including two 'French' chestnuts - the edible type which was often a challenge to who got them first in the Autumn.

Between Hilden Lodge and East Court was a field that became the location of 'The Firs' I believe it is called. I only mention it because I have a recollection of some controversy in those far off days. Was it the building of a property that could impinge on East Court and Hilden Lodge or was it because of the use of concrete blocks to look like stone?

Let us move to the war years. Opposite East Court, the small field where a filling station now stands became another block of allotments. My mother and sister had an allotment there and asked my father to do the initial digging. He kindly said he would and before long took it

over, with Mr Kilminster of the off licence next to the Chapel one side and Percy Mills the other. Castlefield remained as it was grazing land until the development after the war - as a matter of history is it known that the houses, at least the first ones, were A.W.Hawksley's initial move into part pre-fab/part traditional design, i.e. concrete slab and services with factory manufactured inside walls and brick surround and, I think, traditional roof?

Now to the original Chase Avenue with the house, built by Fred Drew, who retired, as I said, next to Mills' shop in one of his own houses - and was, I believe, related by marriage to Fred Harris latterly chairman of C.K.U.D.C. The houses on the London Road on either side of Chase Avenue were part of the early Edwardian development. On both sides of the Avenue were rows of mop-headed acacias in the wide grass verges. I recall the house was on sloping ground down to the Chelt and at the rear of the building it had a wide shed or stable. The residential areas were at the road level on each side of a central passage facing London Road. The rear rooms - kitchen etc. were at an elevated height looking up over Ham Days and The Orchards. The path from the rear was a rough track down to the Chelt.

The lane past Mills' bakery down to the Chelt had a rough surface. On its east side a grass verge that could have been the walkway for carters leading their horses down and over the Chelt - I don't want to explore this road any further than the bridge over the stream. It could form part of further thoughts on the routes from East End in its early days, but as *Bulletin* No 5 says, before the new London Road was cut Detmore could only be reached by the lane (page 14) and the map on the facing page shows the footpath using the bridge and then turning east to the line of the path we all knew to yard and house. At some later date when Mills bakery was developed it was the only property on the north side of the new London Road with no access to the Chelt from its back land because by then Detmore was approached by a wooden footbridge that cut across the Chelt at that point. I must forget East End for a while to recall many other parts of Charlton Kings and its youngsters of my age whose faces the bulletins bring back to life.

I suppose the first memory is of visits to a relative on both my parents' sides of the family - namely an aunt Ethel Witts related to the Rev. Witts the subject of the book *Diary of a Country Parson*. Aunt Ethel as we called her lived with her daughter in the furthest cottage at the end of the lane behind Longleat - as shown in *Bulletin* 6 p8. Another early visit was to the Masons - at that time a greengrocers next to St Clair Ford's Hall and flanked on the other side by Dunn the butcher. My mother's sister was married to Arthur Mason - brother to Will and Fred. Uncle Arthur came every year from Swansea with his family who included his two children John and Audrey. Later they stayed at the Masons' home in Gladstone Road.

These family excursions introduced us to wandering alone into the village. They used to be called an expedition of treasure hunting, and in fact led to rummaging in the sand pit later a refuse tip on the corner of New Court Road and Cirencester Road, opposite the Diamond Laundry still a grassy field sixty plus years on.

The youth of Charlton Kings in those days followed the defined lines of the various areas of the village. The area around Morris' shop was a gathering point for School Road/ Buckles Row/ Grange Walk and Church Street children - behind and below the 'Merry' the Holmes' family Charlie - Eddie and some girls - then towards the school Vic Kerr and Bill Matthews and a brother. In Church Street one family of Bloxhams in the cottages, beside the 'Merry' - a fair curly haired lad - the Frys - Fred amongst them - opposite Dave Bloxom's sons Ken and Colin (the younger) the Olivers and down to the Dales - in the Grange Walk/ Buckles Row area Ken Protherough - Kit Brooks and Pat Brookes (no relation). Past Skinners shop and along New Street, around the corner towards Little Herberts, a row of cottages and another lane. Somewhere here Archie Tibbles lived (great footballer) red head and freckled - a really nice bloke. Opposite a short lane and Tom Slack's parents had a fish and chip shop. Also Ken

Hooper lived around this point I believe and there were others including the Bond family - one of whom I greeted in the London Inn in the late '80s - just like old times face wise not drink wise.

In the Croft Road/ Little Herberts area were the Evans brothers - the Moore family - I recall Cyril well - they as a family moved into the first Bradley home in the Croft Road next to the long alley that went between Fuller and Maylam tree nursery and Croft Avenue/ Croft Gardens. Bradley I recall used the sand/gravel that they excavated to make the concrete blocks for the internal walls of those houses. Even then times were changing.

Of the others mainly I recall the girls because Sylvia Carter and her friend who lived on the Little Herberts side of Croft Road towards the cemetery entrance (was it Joan Beach or perhaps she was another person?) - The Baptist Church and Sunday School are the reasons I recall them. Towards Bafford and on the Cirencester road - Esme Godwin - Midwinter at the garage - a daughter - Oriol School? and then the Brunsdon family down Bafford lane - on the Cirencester Road Jack and Joyce Farmer.

Now back to Lyefield road/ Copt Elm Road - there lived 'Jamie' James - Jack and Joyce Williams - Jimmie Tew - Geoff Stevens and others, including the twins who lived adjacent to the alley from Lyefield Road down to Spring Bottom and a Mills almost opposite whose elder brother was a key Echo reporter at that time.

REG SEABRIGHT

### 3. CHILDHOOD OF AN OCTOGENARIAN

INFANCY during the GREAT WAR - I was born on 18 August 1914, at Hawthorne, 43 Hales Road, which was bought by my parents new in 1909 for £600. My earliest memory is the scent (?) of my grandfather's waistcoat as I sat on his knee. Then in his mid-seventies, he was gardener at Acomb House, on the London Road. I spent many happy hours with him in its greenhouse stokehole. His waistcoat smelt of tobacco, tomatoes, manure and honest sweat, a splendid combination which I can still recall clearly. It was quite different from the smell of my father's rough serge uniform when he came home on leave from the Western Front. Apart from 'Gramp' the household was all female - all my uncles except one who was too old, were away in the Army, and miraculously all survived. I was an only child but I had numerous cousins.

My mother was infants teacher at All Saints School, off Fairview Road, and when I was three she began taking me with her on the back of her cycle. During the last year of the war most of my spare time was spent reading the many books wisely provided by my mother, but when my father finally came home, life changed abruptly. He was a keen gardener and although he had fruit trees, and all sorts of vegetables in the Hawthorne back garden, this was far too small so he rented a chain of waste land in Webb's Brickyard and made a door in the fence to get into it. This was my entry into a magical world shared with my particular friends, Jack Blake, 'Bim' (Leslie) Marshall, Eric Slatter and Stan Cook. We made dens under the brambles, tunnelled dangerously in the sand, caught newts and annoyed the workmen, who I now suspect were genuinely anxious for our safety.

My father was science master at Gloucester Road Central School. At Hawthorne he had a workshop, laboratory and photographic darkroom. He was a skilled craftsman and I still have a barometer and a Wimshurst static electricity generator which he built. He took the photographs illustrating this account. He was a "wireless ham", designing and building his own apparatus, to the alarm of my mother who thought he risked arrest as a spy. He and his



friend Tommy Hacker operated some of the first amateur 'wireless' equipment in Cheltenham. From the age of five I had my own small bench on top of his and learned to use his tools - skills which in due course I passed on to my own children. From mid-1920s he made 'wireless' receivers for his friends; these were battery operated and he used to re-charge the accumulators in the greenhouse at Hawthorne. In my own workshop in Cornwall I still use the same transformer he had then.

My parents and their many brothers and sisters were born in Victoria's reign, and their life style reflected Victorian values right through the 1920s. Every Sunday afternoon we walked as a family to lay flowers in the cemetery, and then on to Fred Archer's pub in Prestbury. On Christmas Day everyone had a feast at Hawthorne, and on Boxing Day another at an aunt's house on Harp Hill. How at least ten adults and many children got round the table in these small rooms is a mystery, but we did. There were always songs, recitations, piano and violin playing (this was long before the days of broadcast music), and we always ended up playing simple card games for farthings. From the age of about five my particular Christmas task was to tend the coal fire under the "copper" (actually cast iron) clothes boiler in the tiny Hawthorne kitchen, keeping the puddings boiling all day. There was one big pudding for each of the four local families, and a few extras for luck. If it was a white Christmas I would harness our spaniel Ben to a sledge and take presents via Cranham Road to my Aunt Flo's house at the bottom of Kings Road.

We weren't a particularly religious family, but most children went regularly to Sunday School and Sunday observance was strict - no-one did any obvious work (though apparently it was all right for my father to work indoors!). I earned a serious reprimand for trundling my toy locomotive down the street on a Sunday, and was told to play with it quietly in the back garden. Another relic of Victorian values concerned funerals - all traffic stopped as the hearse went by, folk got off their bicycles and men doffed their hats. Empire Day was joyously celebrated - flags were everywhere and people wore tiny Union Jacks as buttonholes.

I was brought up to be strictly truthful and honest, and my mother kept a small cane hanging behind the kitchen door. I don't remember her ever using it, but she rattled it along the stair bannisters as an effective deterrent!

Most families had lost relatives in the Great War, so it is scarcely surprising that Armistice Day was strictly observed. Everything stopped when the 11 am maroons went off - trains, buses, and all road traffic halted, shops ceased trading and everyone stood to attention during the "Silence" wherever they happened to be. Most men had medals and wore them all day with pride. At school, all pupils stood; at the Grammar School I remember at least two of the masters, who we understood had been shell-shocked, had difficulty in starting work again after the silence. Pupils never took advantage of this but waited quietly.

**DOMESTIC LIFE** - We were a middle class family. My parents were both professional teachers, trained at St Mary's College. My father's friends at Fred Robins' pub in Upper Park Street included skilled craftsmen from Martins who built wooden aircraft and boats, and labourers from Webb's Brickworks and elsewhere. Their main recreations were coarse fishing and supporting Cheltenham Water Polo team, who played clubs like Plaistow, Bristol Penguin and Bath Otters at Alstone Baths on Friday nights. Alstone was a covered bath near Western Road. It was heated by steam jets and the water was changed weekly. There was no filtering. The superintendent, Mr Pilkington, lived on the premises with his family. My father was a swimming and life-saving instructor and I learned to swim at a very early age. Twenty All-Year Round Bathers swam every morning in an outdoor unheated bath behind Alstone. My father and I cycled from Hales road to Alstone at 7am throughout the year. We wore no costumes because cold fingers could not manage the tapes, to the delight of railway-men and women who shouted coarse remarks over the fence bordering St James railway goods yard.

Sometimes we swam in one end of the bath and skated on the other. We were careful to skim off floating ice which could cut like glass. On Sunday mornings we drank hot saline water from the spa opposite the Baths. My father analysed it and found it contained mainly magnesium sulphate.

Compared with today, living standards were primitive. There was no electricity, radio or TV and telephones were rare in private homes. Lighting and cooking was by coal-gas, distilled at the gasworks in Gloucester Road. There were no fridges, central heating or hot water on tap. Rooms were warmed with coal fires in open grates. Bathwater was heated in a fearsome gas fired "geyser" sited over the bath. Laundry was performed in a coal fired cast iron "copper" in the tiny kitchen. In mid 1920s electricity arrived by underground cable and was distributed through the house in surface-mounted iron conduits. 15 amp round pin power sockets were individually fused on a central board under the stairs.

I was often sent to buy fish and chips for supper from the shop in Rosehill Street. Chips cost one penny for a cone-bag or twopence for a larger rectangular one. Fish was fourpence or sixpence (2½ pence equals about 1p). When I was older I would cycle to a shop in Fairview Road for hot faggots and peas carried home in a jug, costing about a shilling [5p].

Milk hygiene would have appalled today's inspectors. Milk was delivered daily by pony-drawn 'float' - a light two-wheeled cart with a big brass churn fixed behind the axle. The milk was drawn off into pails from a tap at its base, and measured out into housewives' jugs with calibrated 'dippers'. Our milk came from Ray Birt's farm in Prestbury where he milked by hand before setting out on his delivery round.

Shopping was very different from today - there was nothing resembling super-markets. All shops, large and small, had counters at which customers stood, or sat on special highchairs, to tell the staff their requirements, which were then brought for customers' inspection. This applied to comestibles, clothing and hardware alike. Woolworths was known as 'the threepenny and sixpenny store' because they sold nothing above these prices. Their goods were laid on counters for the customers to select and hand to assistants with payment - the nearest approach to modern self-service.

A relic of Victorian times was that most middle class folk, my parents included, employed modest domestic help. Around 1920 our "help" was Mrs Green who was like a grandmother to me. My widowed grandfather lived sometimes with us, and sometimes with his other daughter or one of his sons. Mrs Green and he were great pals. I remember she was allowing our spaniel to lick her face when he commented, in his splendid Cotswold accent, "Shou'dn' let 'n do that missis - 'e ain't pertikler wer'e puts' is naose!" Her answer was "Ohhh! Mr Brewster!" She "came in" daily and had her meals as one of the family. Later on our help was Gladys Cook, daughter of one of father's friends. She did cleaning and cooked my midday meal while my parents were at school.

LEISURE - On fine summer evenings we sometimes cycled to Prestbury to play tennis. (I had my first bicycle when I was nine - a present for winning a scholarship to the Grammar School). In the mid-1920s my father bought a splendid sunbeam motor cycle and sidecar on which he would take us to Wainlode Hill, Haw Bridge or Bredon for a "chuck-in" (coarse fishing). For summer holidays he would drive us to Weston super Mare. The main roads were not tarred and the dust was frightful. Even my mother, in the closed sidecar, was smothered. When the road was more rough than usual my father would wrathfully shout, "Mister Pickering!" This gentleman was the county roads officer. Virtually no family in Hales Road owned a car. People walked or cycled to work. A new top quality Raleigh cycle cost £1 - a lesser make about 18 shillings [90p]. One of my father's friends was Mr Fletcher, who owned the New Court Private Hotel in Lansdown Road. This gentleman astounded everyone by

paying the enormous sum of £400 for an open four-seater car. Towards the end of the decade more cars began to appear and by the mid-1930s even some of the more affluent university students owned cars. I myself bought a secondhand twin cyclinder Douglas motor cycle for £2. Throughout the 1920s the transport for communal "outing" was either rail or charabanc; the latter were single decked open vehicles with solid rubber-tyred wheels and holding about forty passengers on transverse benches accessed through individual doors. The engines were crank-started, and headlamps acetylene operated.

Virtually everyone, men, women and children, wore a hat outdoors. Workmen usually wore flatcaps, foremen always wore bowlers, while professional men wore trilbies. Men doffed their hats when greeting ladies, and workmen usually touched the brim of their cap when addressing superiors.

Hales Road was first tarred early in the 1920s and we boys collected cold waste pitch from the gutters to use as chewing gum. It was sprayed hot from a horse-drawn coal-fired boiler. The pump was worked by hand, and chippings were scattered over the warm pitch, also by hand. The surface was consolidated by a splendid steam roller. We were somewhat scared of this monster and dared each other to get near enough to feel the heat from its boiler. All the workmen, especially the sprayers and the engine driver were like gods to us and we all resolved to do likewise when we grew up. (This was before we became familiar with the railway) In the mid-1920s our gang took to walking up Battledown Hill, past Hewletts Reservoir (whence came the water for Cheltenham Original Brewery next door to the Grammar School in High Street), up Aggs Hill, and along to the summit, where we played among the great ditches of "British Camp" - an Iron Age defended settlement. I can't imagine parents allowing children to do likewise nowadays, but we never came to any harm. There seemed to be more trust then - it was quite usual for a housewife to leave her front door open while she "popped down to the shop".

Our next door neighbour in Hales Road was Charlie Beecham, Huntsman to the Cotswold Pack. His daughter, Mrs Compton, kept house for him, his brother and her own family. Mr Compton was a qualified cricket umpire. Once Charlie Beecham took us badger digging in Queen Wood - a horrific experience for a small boy.

During the 1920s railways were at their zenith; the private companies were amalgamated into four great groups, LMS, LNER, Southern and our own beloved GWR. Virtually every village was within easy walking distance of a station, which sold tickets to any other station in the land. Perishable produce like rabbits, milk and lettuces were loaded at any village station in the certain knowledge that it would arrive at the market town early next morning. If a train was even a minute or two late, the engine driver and fireman were severely reprimanded and it was quite usual for people to set watches and clocks by the passage of a train. It was every boy's ambition to be an engine driver. There were plenty of jobs available on the railway, but few men became top-link drivers, entailing long, arduous training, great skill and tremendous responsibility. I was camping at Bredon with my father and his angling friends when in the middle of the night Wilbert Cook roused his grown-up son with "Ralph, Ralph, there's the night mail!" I can hear Ralph's reply now - "B..... the night mail!" - as he went back to sleep!.

On Wednesday afternoons (early closing day) many housewives went from St James' station by train to shop in Gloucester - housewives from there came to Cheltenham. The fare was a few pence. Once each summer every Sunday School organised a 'treat' - a train ride to Bishop's Cleeve, where there was a playground with slides, swings and roundabouts. As well as "tea", with lemonade, jam and cakes, the highlight of the afternoon was an icecream. A few shops sold icecream, but at a penny for a cornet, or twopence for a wafer-sandwich we could afford it only on special occasions. Sometimes we went by train up to Chedworth or Andoversford, in the company of adults, and one momentous day I was included in a party

from my father's school to visit Wembley Exhibition, where the wonders included a non-stop railway (the coaches slowing to allow people on and off) great steam locomotives, real cowboys and Indians with a rodeo, a coalmine and of course the new stadium. Another long-distance train journey was to the Great Orme, Llandudno, to see the total eclipse of the sun. Although it was raining and we saw no eclipse, the sudden darkness was awe-inspiring and we all thoroughly enjoyed the long train ride itself. (Hopefully I may see the forthcoming eclipse in Cornwall at the other end of my life)

We often cycled to Wainlode Hill for fishing and swimming. We would watch trains of barges hauled by steam tugs, and on Saturdays and Sundays, Bathurst's (of Tewkesbury) two pleasure steamers, King and Queen, would take parties between Gloucester and Tewkesbury, halting for drinks at Wainlode wooden landing stage. One big difference from today was that there were few private cruisers. The outboard engine had not been invented and most private boats were rowed or sailed. We sometimes hired a heavy clinker-built ten-foot dinghy from Bathurst's at Tewkesbury and sailed her on both Severn and Avon.

At that time there were plenty of salmon in the Severn. There were two professional fishermen at Wainlode and two more at Haw Bridge. They would take a net across the river by boat and then pull one end back to the start side, to enclose migrating fish. Other professionals used large wooden shovels to scoop up the white worm-like elvers as they went up the weir race at Lower Lode. My father and his friends caught coarse fish like bream, chub, roach and pike, though one day my father foul-hooked a salmon, which they hid under a sack in the bottom of the boat until the bailiff's back was turned.

Unlike today's children we were never bored. We made our own amusements, re-enacting recent county cricket matches, digging in the sand, or just exploring the nearby hills and quarries. We all built toys and models, sometimes in Meccano, and sometimes from scrap materials. Later we ran our own dance band and played in local halls. We acted in itinerant concert parties. We had a strict code of honesty - the idea of shop-lifting would never have crossed our minds - but we weren't 'goody-goodies' - we smoked 'woodies' - the stems of old man's beard or wild woodbine. We couldn't afford the real cigarettes called Woodbine - which cost twopence for five. We had never heard of drugs, but we got hold of a little beer and cider, and sometimes tried to make our own alcoholic drink in my father's home laboratory. As I grew older, he did not forbid this, and even helped with advice.

One winter time recreation was always looked forward to - sledging on Battledown Approach. The road was not tarred and even a light covering of snow was enough to give a 'run' from the top of Birchley Road right down to Haywards Lane. There were no cars to worry about and literally hundreds of people, grownups as well as children enjoyed the sport. We sometimes sledged on Harp Hill down on to the land now occupied by the Government Buildings, but snow over grass was never as good as the icy Battledown Approach.

Bonfire Night was another great celebration. There were no restrictions on the sale of fireworks. My father, being a chemist, made his own and we always had a display in Hawthorne back garden. Even by today's standards the fireworks were spectacular and augmented with coloured fire at the top of the garden. The highlight was a hot air balloon, made from coloured tissue paper. Several men on stepladders were needed to hold it while it filled with hot air from a meths burner. Spares were provided for balloons which caught fire at this stage. Only once was there a potentially serious accident, when some of the ingredients ignited spontaneously in the workshop, but my father carried the undamaged fireworks out into the garden, and the display eventually 'went off' well. Once Mrs Green mistook the pasted newspaper tubes for firelighters and laid the fire with them. Fortunately they had not been filled.

My father would not allow me to join the Boy Scouts because the uniform reminded him of horrors experienced during the war. However as new war clouds gathered in the 1930s he let me take holiday work as officers' mess cook's boy in Captain Pensom's school cadet training camps near the racecourse. After learning to drive I was employed by Mechanisation Ltd. as a civilian driver during Army manoeuvres. Later I joined my university Officers' Training Corps and eventually became its Cadet Sergeant Major.

**CHELTENHAM TRAMS** - A splendid tramway system reached out to Leckhampton, Charlton Kings, Lilleybrook, Gloucester Road, and right to the top of Cleeve Hill. It was planned so that there were no trams in the Promenade or Lansdown Road but passengers could easily reach these by alighting in nearby streets. Fares were low, a child could go anywhere for a copper or two. From Hales Road down to Lances cost a penny. The double-decker trams could not ascend Cleeve Hill; passengers changed at Southam into a single-decker, which then waited until a tram began to descend from the summit, using its motors as dynamos to feed extra current into the overhead lines, the energy absorbed providing braking as well as assisting the lower tram to climb.

Facing points (i.e. dividing a single track into two) were operated by the conductor, using a crowbar. Trailing points were operated by the tram wheels themselves pushing a loose rail over to lead the tram into a single track ahead. This system was definitely NOT used on the railways! When it was necessary to reverse the tram to go back the way it had come, the conductor would use a rope to pull the collector arm down off the overhead wire, take it round to the other end of the vehicle, and re-engage it on the wire, a procedure watched with awe by children and adults alike. As well as the driver every tram, and in due course every petrol bus, had a conductor, whose job, in addition to the above, was to signal the driver to stop and proceed, ensure that the vehicle was not over-loaded and collect the fares.

**SCHOOLING** - During the Great War my mother was an infants' school teacher and as she had no-one to leave me with took me with her. Thus I learned to read by the age of 3. In 1918 I started at Holy Apostles Infants' School. At 4½ years old I used to walk alone or with other small children up Rosehill Street, through a narrow passage into Haywards Road, and across the main London Road to the school. Crossing patrols had not been thought of, nor were they necessary. I walked home each mid-day for dinner - we used to play marbles along the gutters en route. In 1921, at the age of seven, I moved to Naunton Park Elementary School, again walking all the way there and back, and home for midday dinner, accompanied only by other children. I was put in a group given special coaching for entrance exams to Grammar and Central Schools, and at the age of nine won a free scholarship to Richard Pate's Grammar School for Boys. Thirty of these were awarded annually for the whole town.

Again I walked to school until at twelve my parents decided I was proficient enough to cycle. By far the most Grammar School boys cycled to school, confronting the prefects with the daily headache of supervising more or less neat stacking of several hundred cycles in the school yard. None of these were locked; indeed it was not necessary to lock cycles left anywhere in the town. A few boys from outlying suburbs came by tramcar and those from neighbouring villages by train to St James Station. They and a few locals brought sandwiches for their midday meal, but most boys went home for dinner during the break from 1pm to 2.45. There was no school canteen.

My impression in retrospect is that parents and children took schooling more seriously than today. It was recognised that a good education automatically meant a good job. From the Grammar School, you had a chance (but only a chance) of going to university. If you did well at the Central School you would get a white-collar job. If you left Elementary School at age 14, you might be apprenticed to a trade, or become an ordinary workman. If you got a good university degree, you were certain of top-grade employment.

Pupils spent far more time at school than today. Lessons at Infants and Elementary schools were from 9am to noon, and 2 until 4pm.

At the Grammar School we worked from 9am till 1pm and 2.45 until 4.15, and on Saturdays 9 till 12.15. There were compulsory games (cricket, football or athletics) on Tuesday and Saturday afternoons. The playing field was on Battledown Approach. Football was more physical than today; shoulder charging was legitimate, and if the goalkeeper were unwise enough to hold on to the ball, he would find himself slammed into the back of the net along with it! Highlights of the sports year included the Steeplechase Day when EVERYONE ran in Cross-country races near Hewletts Reservoir, and Sports Day when the six "Houses" (named after distinguished old boys - Corfield, Jayne, Baker, Jessop, Hawker and Biffen) competed against one another in various disciplines. Every boy ran in the House Hundred Yards) - one boy from each house in each race.

On Saturday evenings there were well-attended "Societies" e.g. debating, history, chemistry, dramatics, hobbies and talks or demonstrations by outside lecturers. Homework occupied two hours each evening. Detention (4.30 till 5pm) was awarded for bad work or bad behaviour. Repeated offences resulted in caning (usually two strokes on each outstretched hand, carried out only by the headmaster). There was never resentment at these punishments which were usually well deserved, and did no harm to the miscreants. (I had my share and I'm sure they did me good) General discipline was the responsibility of the School Captain and Prefects, all of whom were appointed by the head. On the other hand, house, form and games-team captains were elected by the pupils. Holidays were a fortnight at Christmas, three weeks at Easter and 5 weeks (a month at elementary schools) in August. There were no school meals in today's sense. Most boys went home to midday dinner; those who lived too far away brought sandwiches. The Grammar School Beadle (Mr Morris) ran a morning tuckshop selling hot dripping cakes (made by Leopolds) for one penny each and Cadbury's Milky Ways for twopence.

The Grammar School day began with assembly, where prefects led the School Prayer, and read a bible lesson and we sang a hymn. Good behaviour in school and town was of paramount importance. During term time we HAD to wear mortarboards whenever in the street, except when going to and from the playing field when a school cap was acceptable. All the public schools in Cheltenham had this rule and were distinguished by tassel colour. Ours was black, the Gentlemen's College red, Dean Close maroon and a school whose name I forget was orange. If we encountered another boy with his parents it was obligatory for both boys to raise their hats. There was never any "mickey-taking" by town youths - their behaviour was better than today. In any event the "dabber" (i.e. mortar board!) was a formidable weapon; to make it less dangerous the corners of the three-ply square were softened with rubber inserts. We wore our dabbers with pride and felt ourselves a cut above other boys.

Teaching was mainly by rote. We learned by heart tables of multiplication, coinage, weights and measures (far more complicated than today's decimal and metric systems), Latin and French declensions and gender rhymes. The result is that after 65 years I can converse with locals when on holiday in France, translate to and from Latin (admittedly with the aid of a dictionary) and had no difficulty in picking up Italian while serving there during the war. I can still use logarithms and a slide rule, find a square root and add up without needing a calculator. My grandchildren have taught me to use a computer, but excessive reliance on these amazing machines in schools and home seems to me a handicap to real education)

All thirty-odd pupils in the A 5th form were expected to get about ten "credits" in Oxford School Certificate (equivalent to GCE top grade). Pupils were shifted annually between A, B and C forms according to term exam results and staff assessment. Each 6th form pupil

normally got three Advanced Level Oxford School Certificates (most with Distinction) and so qualified for university entrance, usually being excused matriculation and intermediate degree exams. There were far fewer universities than nowadays, and places had to be earned. One amusing point was those of us doing botany and zoology were obliged also to pass advanced level in Divinity, presumably to counteract the heresy of Darwinism!

Paying for university tuition and living was a burden for many parents, although most of us won grants (a State Scholarship was £100 per annum, and an Exhibition £75.) The Parent/Teacher Association operated a Loan fund from which students could borrow money interest-free, and pay back later when at salaried work.

**GRAMMAR SCHOOL PERSONALITIES** - The Headmaster, R.R.Dobson Esq. MA, was a formidable figure passionately devoted to the well-being of the School and every pupil in it. He tolerated no slackness in work or games; he expected perfect behaviour from pupils both in school and in the street. He was deeply respected and regarded with affection by masters and boys alike. At his memorial service the Parish church was filled to overflowing. He had an amazing memory; for example, twelve years after leaving school I came home on leave during the war and called unannounced at his retirement home in Nailsworth. I was in uniform and accompanied by my wife. He himself came to the door, looked at me for a few moments and said, "Hello, Winter, how are you?"

F.Craven Broad was a completely different character. He taught music, ran a splendid choir and vocal quartet which made the Town Hall ring on Speech Days. Though not formally qualified he was a competent botanist and taught that subject to A level in the sixth form. He certainly laid the foundation for my own botanical career. He was County Commissioner for Boy Scouts and ran a standing camp in Cranham Woods, but there was no scout troop at the school - with all our other activities there just would not have been time available. He was loved and respected everywhere, but we never discovered why he was always called "Peggy".

"Cocky" Roach taught geography, and was also the enthusiastic Games Master. He was especially devoted to football. His shout of "Come on you camels!" reverberated wherever we were playing. His coaching of our fine cricket team was meticulous. In this he was aided by "Nutty" Nutbourne, who taught all aspects of maths - arithmetic, algebra, geometry, trigonometry and calculus. Chemistry was well served by "Tich" Wright and "Tuffy" Bassett, who left us to become head of Northleach Grammar School.

Elderly "Chute" Wilson taught Physics and was very much a father figure and help-meet to the smaller boys. Mr Lyon, also elderly, was deputy head, and feared by all who were not diligent in his subject, Latin. I can still recite my gender rhymes and the first paragraphs of Caesar's Gallic Wars. Mr Key, History, during summer holidays took us excavating a newly-discovered Roman villa near Compton Abdale, resurrected 70 years later by television's Time Team.

Mr Baron, who lived at Withington, taught each successive year's pupils the Old French play "Malbruk s'en va t'en guerre, n'on sait quand reviendra" for presentation every Speech Day. Mr Hearne taught junior French, while Mr Sheldrick, English, instilled in us a knowledge, and even love of Shakespeare. Aptly-named Mr Oakey taught Woodwork and Handcrafts in a huge workshop-shed in the play-yard, while Mr Ryland, himself a competent artist, explained the tricks of Drawing and Painting which have stood me in good stead all my life. Mr Porter, Advanced English, re-wrote the School Song - "Let us remember the men before us, Centuries gone to our present state, Honour the Founder, Honour the Fellowship, Honour the name of Richard Pate!", which "Peggy" Broad set to stirring music, which we all sang lustily on special occasions.



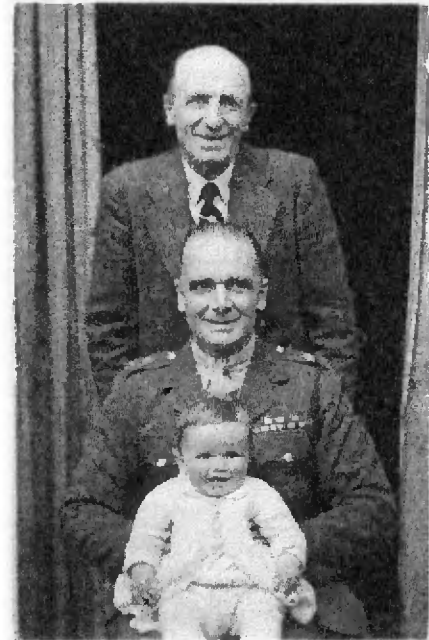
The 1st and 2nd Forms, run by two ladies, were in effect a separate Prep School for fee-paying pupils up to age 10, at which age scholarship boys entered the school at Form 3.

There were many others who, under the inspired leadership of "The Head", made us proud to belong to "The Grammar", strive to maintain its academic and behavioural standards and vigorously support our sports teams in weekly contests with other schools. I enjoyed my schooling. In my last year I was appointed School Captain, and then left for Bristol and Cambridge Universities.

"GRAMP" - William Brewster, born c 1840  
with the author at Hawthorn in 1917



The author with his father  
and son at Hawthorne in 1946



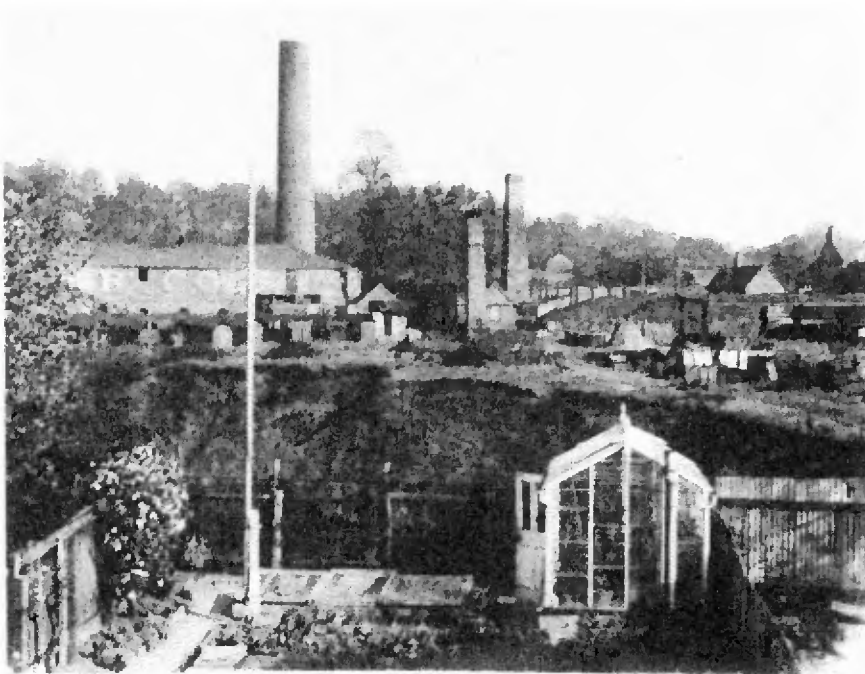
E. J. WINTER

#### 4 WEBBS BRICKWORKS

Webb Bros. brickmaking establishment occupied the land bordered by Hales Road, Battledown Approach, Haywards Lane and Rosehill Street, together with the lower slope of Battledown Hill. The claypit was on this slope, while the sandpit, factory, offices and kilns were west of Haywards Lane, the area which is now an industrial estate.



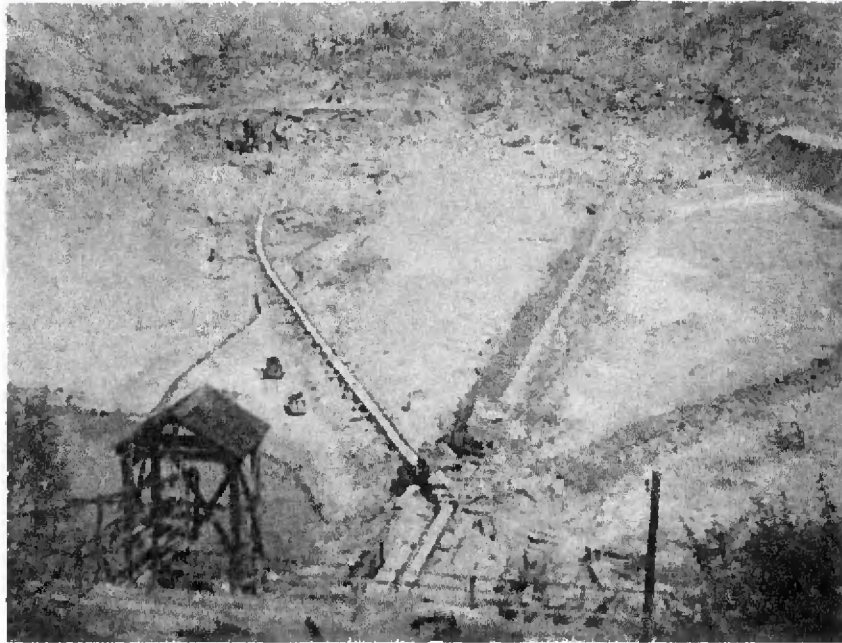
### Webb's Sand Pit from Hawthorne Bedroom



My firsthand knowledge of "Webb's" began about the age of four when my father came home after the war and cut a door in our back-garden fence to access the patch of brickyard waste land which he rented for a vegetable garden. As we grew up my friends and I would venture farther and farther into the brickyard, unconsciously learning about its workings. We were humoured by the workmen so long as we did nothing too dangerous. As a teenager I sometimes accompanied my father to see the kilns, horses, boiler, engine and machinery. I last saw the works in full operation just before I left Cheltenham for University in the early 1930s. On completing my university courses I went straight to India first as a civilian and then joined the Indian Army, not returning to England until after the end of the Raj, when I worked near Bristol, re-visiting Cheltenham only occasionally. Thus I did not see the great chimney felled, the works demolished and the pits filled in and built over.

THE SITE - Battledown Hill is composed of clean blue clay overlain by pure sand of uniform texture - ideal material for red brickmaking. Each pit was several acres in area and thirty to fifty feet deep. The sandpit was excavated down to the level of the underlying clay in which was formed a drainage sump, with another artificial pond near the top to supply the boiler and factory with water. Obviously the claypit also needed a drainage sump and both pits were more or less continuously pumped with steam pumps. There were two or three much smaller (30ft diameter) sand pits. These may have been test holes, but I never saw them in use except as playgrounds for us children. We used to dig caves into their sides and on one memorable occasion the cave fell in and buried us, fortunately without casualties. Other excavators into the sides of the big pit were sand-martens which made nests in the near-vertical faces, usually inaccessible to us even with the aid of ropes.

### Webb's Claypit from Haywards Lane

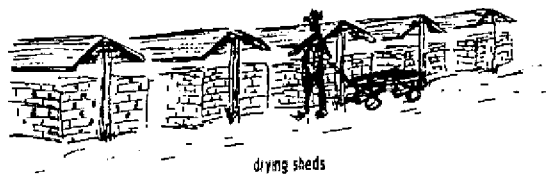
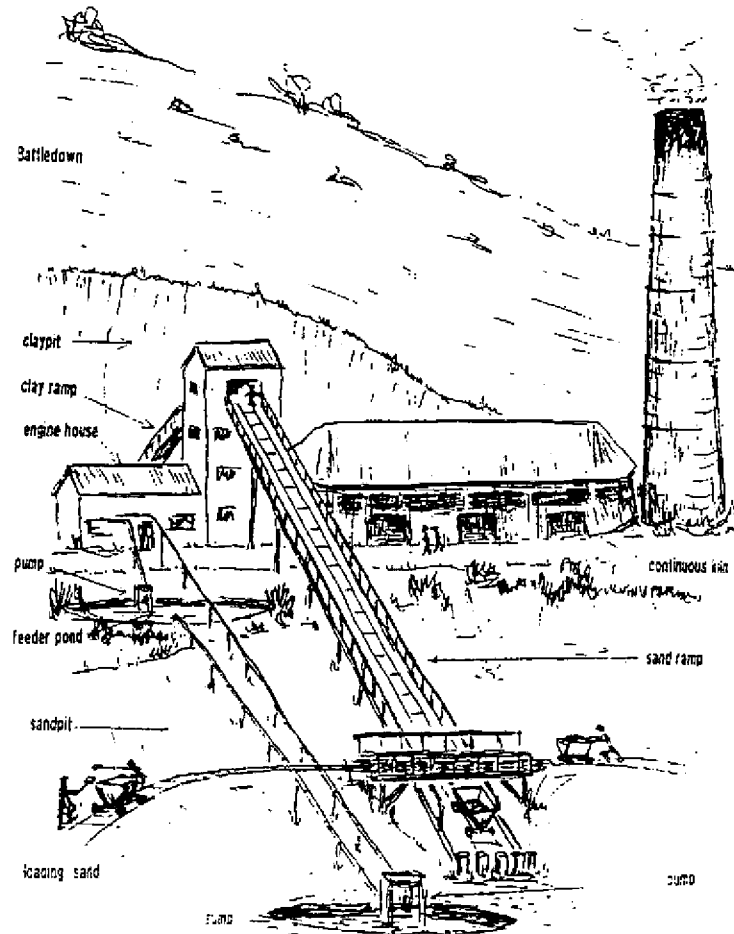


**EXCAVATION** - This was done entirely by hand, by four or five men in each pit. The clay or sand was loaded into tipper trucks running on rails about two feet gauge. The rails, secured to iron sleepers, were shifted about the flat bottom of the pits as required. The trucks were pushed by hand (I never saw ponies in the pits) on to a bridge beneath which a larger tipper truck was lowered by cable down a 45 degree wooden ramp. There was one ramp for each pit, extending from either side of a forty foot tower. The trucks ran down at speed under gravity to be hauled to the top by a steam engine, and there tipped into chutes to begin the mixing and puddling process. (This tower with its ramps and speeding trucks was exciting to watch and we made many models both in wood and Meccano - unfortunately none survive)

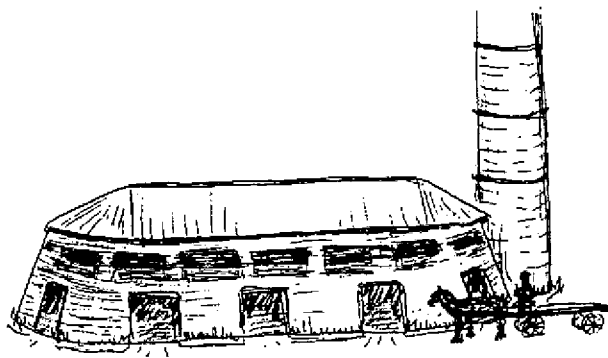
**MANUFACTURE** - The clay, sand and water were mixed and kneaded in steam driven machines like huge mincers, arranged so that transfer of the heavy material down the building was by gravity. It was formed by continuous presses and cut into brick shapes. These were trundled outside on hand trolleys and stacked to dry in long open-sided shelters, each having a wooden pitched roof about four foot span, carried on five-foot high posts. A trolley path was left between adjacent shelters. Although a few large "specials" were made, most of the bricks were of standard size. Some were "finished" by being wiped on one side with a wet rag so that they could be laid to present a smooth face on the wall. In addition to bricks, flat roof tiles were produced, and large quantities of field "drains". These were 6", 4" or 3" bore pipes about a foot long extruded by steam driven machines. Stacking finished bricks and tiles was simple, but the tubular drains had to be arranged in a locking confirmation to avoid the stack collapsing when the drains were being loaded on to a car for delivery.

Loading was by hand; men would throw pairs of bricks from the stack top down a line of colleagues, the last man placing them in a single layer on a wooden four-wheeled flat 'dray' pulled by a single horse. The men protected their hands with leather patches tied on with thongs. Out on the road venturesome boys would hang on the back of the dray, while their 'enemies' would run alongside the horse exhorting the driver to "Whip behind, mister!"

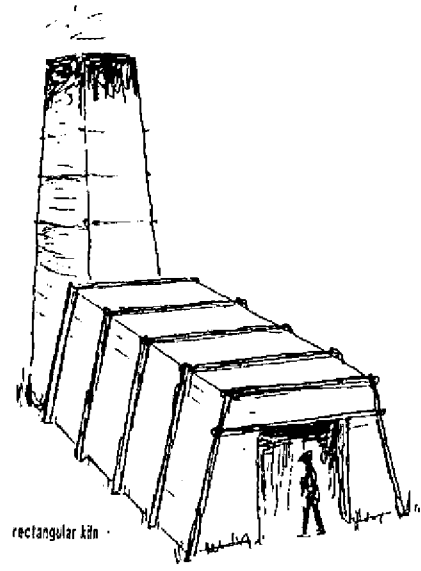
The accompanying sketches were made from memory over 60 years later; thus errors in detail are almost inevitable.



drying sheds



continuous kiln



rectangular kiln



Webbs maintained many of these splendid horses in stables near the offices. There was a full-time farrier to keep the horses properly shod to cope with stone-paved and tarred roads. The horses had the run of a field bordered by Rosehill Street. At one time part of this field was paved with brick dust for all-weather tennis courts.

**FIRING AND THE KILNS** - There were three types of kiln. The simplest, and presumably the oldest, were beehive shaped, 20 - 30 feet diameter and about 12 feet high. The base comprised a thick circular wall in which were set iron gates at intervals all round. The raw bricks were stacked inside with gaps to allow the flames to circulate and exhaust through a hole in the final covering of already-fired bricks. Coal fires were lit in the grates and kept going for about a week. After cooling the kiln was dismantled ready for the next firing. There were four or five kilns of this type used in succession.

I never saw more than one of the second type, a permanent rectangle, about 40 x 15 feet, with walls 15 feet high. The structure was reinforced externally with heavy iron girders and the sides sloped inwards, presumably to add stability. The raw bricks were loaded through a door at one end, together with coal which was lighted when the kiln was full. The smoke was exhausted through a rectangular chimney about 40 feet high near the far end. This also was a non-continuous process.

The third kiln was more sophisticated. We understood that it was a German design. It was a permanent structure over 100 feet long, 30 - 40 feet wide, and about 30 feet high. The lower storey was an oval tunnel-kiln, and the upper an access floor through which coal was fed into it. The smoke was led out through a central underground flue to the base of the great "Webb's Chimney" which dominated the countryside for many years. The fire travelled continuously round the tunnel, raw bricks being stacked ahead of it and fired bricks being removed behind. I understand that eventually most of the bricks made at Webb's were fired in this kiln.

The finished bricks, tiles and drainpipes were stacked in the open, alongside roadways for access by horse-drawn drays.

**E. J. WINTER**

## 5. GRAVE OPENING

One of our members sent in this cutting from the Cheltenham Chronicle of 29th October 1818, it would be interesting to hear the outcome of the case.

"As Mr Coxwell and his lady were returning home through Charlton Churchyard about one o'clock on Tuesday morning last, that gentleman, astonished at finding a quantity of fresh earth thrown on the pathway, instantly made search, and discovered that a grave had been recently opened. In consequence of which, he called upon the parish-clerk, to have the affair investigated; when, on proceeding to the spot, it was found that part of the coffin had actually been uncovered, although it did not appear that the villains had completely effected their purposed theft. A person it appeared had been buried there three weeks ago. We are glad to hear that the churchwardens are busily engaged in the most active measures for the discovery of the perpetrators of this disgraceful and impious act; through their laudable exertions, we have every hope that the inhuman violators of the last poor privilege of mortality, will be held up at least to merited scorn, and the recurrence of so diabolical an outrage on the sacred sleeping-houses of the dead, be prevented at least in this part of the country. It is a savage and demoralising practice, and, we had hoped, was confined to the metropolis. When we had written thus far, we learned that a man has just been apprehended on suspicion of the offence. We shall in our next, give the fullest particulars that we can obtain of this dark transaction."

## 6. THE 1672 HEARTH TAX EXEMPTION LIST

Patrick Pumpfrey (a descendant of the Charlton Pumphreys) has obtained for us this list of the poorer residents of Charlton Kings who were excused paying tax. The Minister, Churchwardens and Overseers, on 17 June 1672, certified that their houses "are not of greater value than twenty shillings per annum upon the improved Rent; And that neither the Person so inhabiting, nor any other using the same Messuages hath, useth, or occupieth any Land or Tenements of their own, or others, of the yearly Value of twenty shillings per Annum; Nor hath any Lands or Tenements, Goods or Chattels, of the value of ten Pounds in their own possession, or is the possession of any other in trust for them; and that the said Houses have not above two Chimneys, Fire-hearths, and Stoves in them respectively". So here we have a list of 69 Charlton people about whom we should otherwise know little outside the Registers.

Amey Ballinger wid	William Uzell	Robert Greene
Dorthey Savory wid	Mary Fisher wid	Walter Beale
John Birt	John Denton	John Gibbons
Walter Hookeham	Giles Ballinger	Thomas Ricketts
Thomas Mathewes	William Randell	Mary Cleevely wid
Roger Probert	Robert Belcher	de Churchend
Thomas Theyer	Stephen Crosley	Thomas Diggason
Bridgett Jones wid	William Griffen	Thomas Peirsefalle
Alice Jones wid	Thomas Portlocke	Giles Elbrow
Jane Cleevely wid.	Richard Randell	Richard Jackson
de Cudnell	Henry Ricketts	Tho. Grindle
Margaret Pumpfrey wid	Margaret Mans wid	Tho. Pumphry
Anne Lane wid	William Okley	William Meysey
Jane Ballinger wid	Edward Spooner	John Holder de Ham
Elianor Mason wid	William Epps (deleted)	Elizabeth Peirsefalle wid
Margaret Teale wid	Samuel Showell	Henry Uzell junr
Nicholas Cleevely	William Ballinger	Henry Uzell senr
Richard Clarke	Francis Ballinger	Zachary Ireland
William Hawkes	Francis Sollars	Charles Harris
Henry Reade	Thomas Greene	Samuel Cleevely
John Portlocke	Robert Wilkes	Tho. Lawrence
John Meysey	John Cleevely	Richard Grindles (deleted)
Tho. Wilkes	Richard Cole	John Cuffe
John Free	Richard Bayley	Richard Whithorne senr

Signed by William Williams, Minister; Giles Greville and Anth. Webb, Churchwardens; John Holder and William King, Overseers. We allow of this Certificate containing 69 names - Edw. Rich, Fleet. Dormer

The surprising name in this list is Roger Probert's, who later married a wealthy widow - Judith Pates (widow of Thomas Pates, previously widow of John Grevill, and daughter of Lynnett Pates). See *Bulletin* 26, pp36-38 and *Bulletin* 35, pp 19-20.

According to the printed form, the less well-off were allowed 2 fires, in the kitchen and parlour or hall, before they became liable to tax. If so, occupiers of one or two hearth homes on the main list, could in fact have had 3 or 4 fireplaces in or about the premises, but these might include brewing furnaces, forges and other industrial fires.

**PATRICK PUMPFREY & MARY PAGET**

## 7. POPULATION AND HOUSING - 1712

One of our members, Tony Sale, is currently working on Volume 12 of the Gloucestershire Record Series - *Cheltenham Probate Records 1660 - 1740*. The Society looks forward to the publication later this year of a book which will add considerably to our knowledge of the men and women living in our locality during this period.

In the meantime he has sent us this table which is compiled from information given in *The Ancient and Present State of Glostershire (1712)* by Sir Robert Atkyns. It shows the population, and numbers of houses and 'free-holders' in a selection of Gloucestershire parishes. Of particular interest to us is the high percentage of free-holders in Charlton Kings and Cheltenham, compared with the rest of the county. Would any reader like to comment on this anomaly?

	<i>Population</i>	<i>Houses</i>	<i>'Free-holders'</i>	<i>'Free-holders' as % of houses</i>
Cheltenham	1500	351	200	57
Charlton Kings	550	102	60	59
Leckhampton	120	30	5	17
Prestbury	445	100	40	40
Swindon	90	24	6	25
<i>Severnside parishes</i>				
Awre	700	139	44	32
Lydney	700	153	24	16
Newnham	400	90	40	44
Westbury on Severn	1200	290	100	34
<i>Vale of Berkeley parishes</i>				
Berkeley	2500	500	140	28
Cam	800	150	30	20
Charfield	145	30	10	33
Cromhall	360	73	34	46
Dursley	2500	600	40	7
Frampton on Severn	500	100	26	26
Kingswood	1200	300	24	8
North Nibley	1000	200	34	17
Rockhampton	120	26	6	23
Slimbridge	560	120	40	33
Stinchcombe	500	120	18	15
Thornbury	1100	270	100	37
Tortworth	240	45	8	18
Tytherington	320	85	15	18
Wotton under Edge	3500	840	70	8
Gloucester	4900	1003	-	-
Tewkesbury	2500	470	100	21
Cirencester	4000	800	100	12

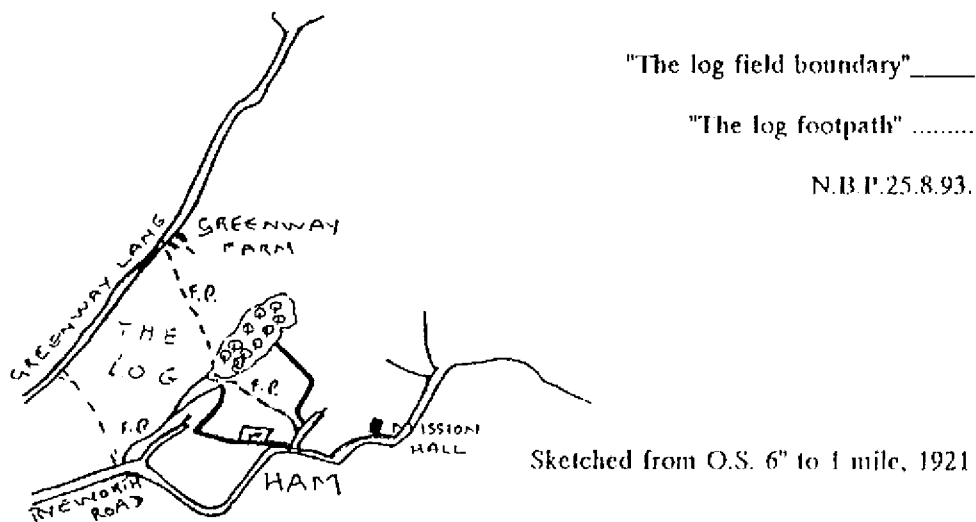


### 8. GILES GREVILLE'S TRUST - (GRO D 7661/ )

Giles Greville of The Forden, gentleman (1640 - 1691/2) had a large family. To provide for them he conveyed Ashley manor and some of his land (but not The Forden) to five trustees (including his sons John and Charles, and William Jorden of Gloucester) on trust to sell, leaving his eldest son Giles (born 1663/4) the option of buying it in. (D 1224/) The father would have liked to keep the old house in the family; but Giles the son did not take up this option. Instead he appointed three fresh trustees, William Roberts of Alstone gentleman, John Greville of Charlton Kings gentleman (his brother) and Anthony Webb of Charlton Kings yeoman (our old friend), with power to sell more. He kept only a life interest in The Forden for himself and his wife. He had no son, so after his only daughter died, Giles took steps on 21 January 1698/9 to cut the entail on the house which allowed that to be sold also.

One of the smaller transactions which resulted from the appointment of Roberts, Greville and Webb as trustees was the sale for £10 of one acre in three ridges in the open field called Bicknell and one ridge in Ryeworth. Both plots were sold to Richard Whithorne of Charlton Kings yeoman on 28 December 1695.

In Bicknell field, Whithorne already held adjoining strips. The Ryeworth ridge is said to lie between lands of Walter Buckle east and west and to shoot on the Logg Lane (i.e. part of the present allotments). This suggests that what is now just a footpath between Greenway Lane and Ryeworth Road was then a cartway (and indeed the Greenway Lane end of the first footpath did formerly look as though it had once been a bridleway at least). The meaning of the name Log was discussed in *Bulletin* 31, pp 29 & 30.



Info. supplied by Mrs R. Collier and Mrs A. Waite

These strips had been surrendered to Giles Greville lord of the manor of Ashley, by Henry Greville of Charlton Kings gentleman. He is not one of the family members whom we placed on the pedigree (*Bulletin* 8, pp 17-18) or corrections (*Bulletin* 37, pp 21-22) and I should welcome any information about him. The land surrendered was parcel of the customary lands of Ashley manor and subject to payment of 1s heriot. Two other members of the Greville family were among the witnesses, Francis Greville and Edward Greville. Seizin was given on the Ryeworth ridge and witnessed by William Buckle and John Chestroe.

It is noteworthy that in 1695 the Whithornes only ranked as yeomen, not gentry; socially, the same as Anthony Webb. (see *Bulletins* 10 and 38)

Our document is endorsed "Bicknell and Ryworth, Charleton. By Ric. Whithorn sold to John Prinn in Fee". So by a subsequent transaction these ridges became part of John Prinn's estate - he and Whithorne were consolidating their holdings. This explains why the bargain and sale by the trustees is to be found in GRO D 7661 - the Charlton Park collection. It is lucky for us, since surrenders at Ashley manor court in 1695 are not documented. We have no court book till 1742.

MARY PAGET

## 9. CHARLTON FAMILIES AND LECKHAMPTON

Some Charlton families, especially those with land in Bafford, also held land in Leckhampton or in Naunton which was in Cheltenham parish. So they might choose to be buried outside Charlton and have the right to a grave.

(1) The Pumphreys - The Pumphreys lived in the ancient house in Blind Lane. There are three burials recorded at Leckhampton. The first is of William Pumphrey labourer, interred 3 November (probably 1682 - no year given, but the next but one entry is for April 1683). He was buried in woollen before Mr R. Weld, Minister of Cheltenham. On 11 April 1683 Sarah Pumphret (presumably the same name) was buried, again before Mr Weld. Others at the period had the burial affidavit sworn before Col. Henry Norwood or Mr William Wynn of Charlton Kings. On 11 January 1687 Barbara, wife of Ralph Pumphrey, was buried. After 1690 we see other members of the family. Ralph Pumphret of Moorend, buried 12 April 1699 aged 'about 89' and his son Roger Pumfret or Pumfrer on 22 April 1699.

The family tomb not far from the west end of the church is inscribed with the names: Ralph Pumfrer 1699, Barbara Pumfrer 1687, Elizabeth Brown 1680 (not recorded, as transcripts do not begin till 1682)

(2) Carpenter and Caffold - They held some land in Charlton Kings Lower Field but really belonged to Leckhampton. Edmund Carpenter was a Churchwarden in 1679. The Leckhampton burial registers show for Nov 5 1709, "Edmund Carpenter then buried and certified by Anne Crump before Mr Gwynn of Charlton Kings".

(There are other occasions when Mr Gwynn witnessed the burial of Leckhampton people: e.g. Elizabeth Drinkwater 1704, Spurstow Norwood 1704, Catherine Adams 1705, and notably Robert Jones, Rector of Leckhampton, 1707. There is also an instance in 1705 when Anne Carpenter certified the burial of Elizabeth Boswell before David Gwynn.)

Anne Carpenter features in the inscription on a tombstone in the churchyard. I quote from Julian Rawes typescript: "Small very worn headstone decorated with cherub and wings. Much time was spent in trying to decipher this inscription. Bigland has written 'Giles Bridges', but the inscription appears to indicate 'Miles Bridges', the 'M' being in gothic script. Bigland records that Ann was the 'late' wife of Edmund Carpenter, but although the word is for the most part illegible, the inscription does support 'late'. The last digits of Ann's day and year date are not decipherable on the stone so the inscription has been supplemented by Bigland's transcription. 'Edmund' Carpenter appears on the memorial to read 'Edmand' although the lettering is faint. Here Resteth the body/ of Miles Bridges, who/ was Buried the 2d day of/ Novembr Anno Dn 1675/ Etatis Su 27/ Also In Memory of Ann his Wife/ She was Wife of Edmund Carpenter/ who was buried Novemb 13? 1727?/ Aged 84 Years."



The burial register shows Richard Caffold, aged "allmost" 80 buried December 23 1726. His tombstone describes him as a Yeoman: IN MEMORY OF/ RICHARD CUFFOLD of this Parish Yeoman/ who died Dec ye 19 1726 Aged near/ 80 Years/ Also of MARY his wife who died Oct/ 18 1732 Aged 76 years.

R.C.Barnard's *Records of Leckhampton*, 1895, contains the following: A document of September 28 1683 quotes Edmund Carpenter, senior, as affirming the bequest of a charitable gift to the parish of Leckhampton, but "only by hearsay from his father Edmund Carpenter long since deceased". (Page 20) December 12 1761: Revd John Trye writes that 'William Taylor paid me three accustomed funeral fees at 6s8d per fee for Richard Caffold, Mary his wife, and Mary the wife of the said William Taylor, and one pound and one shilling for Tyth Woods of Richard Caffold's lot in Common Furze wood'. (Page 13) This Richard Caffold died in 1755.

(3) Whithorne Family - (Sources: R.C.Barnard, pages 22-25; Parish Registers; survey of Leckhampton carried out by James Crow in 1746.)

There is a group of 5 fields named Pilford on the eastern edge of the parish (not to be confused with Pilley, where Pilley Bridge is now, but somewhat to the south and further up the hill). Collum Field occupied the area between Pilford and Pilley. It was among eleven common fields that were enclosed in 1778. Part of it was stated to be in Cheltenham; it is described as "arable, 33A, 0R, 5P". Later, in 1778, one John Whithorne was among those listed as having Common Rights; in 1785 John Whithorne Junior, of Charlton Kings, married Mary Norwood of Leckhampton.

Information supplied by ERIC MILLER

## 10. EVEN MORE ABOUT THE HAMLETT FAMILY

I feel I must correct the article on p20 of *Bulletin* 40 regarding the Hamlett family settling in Charlton Kings - unless of course the author of that article has proof positive of details I, and professional genealogists have been researching for over forty years with great time and expense!

The Joseph and Patience Hamlett she has ascribed as parents of Israel Hamlett were only "pencilled in" on the only Hamlett pedigree that was formulated some years ago by myself and my cousin, Ronald Hamlett and, if I might add, generously distributed to certain connections of the family, illegitimate lines included.

It was indeed thought that Joseph was Israel's father, but no registration can be found to prove it. Joseph and his wife Patience married in Duntisbourne Abbots on 28th October, 1727 and set up their home in Yanworth where their children were born; first born Jeremiah in 1728, Ruth 1732, Selina 1733 and Jephthah in 1737. Selina and Jephthah died in childhood. At no time has this particular family been connected to Charlton Kings. As the original article states, Israel and Sarah née Price were the first of the Hamlett family in that parish.

GWENDOLINE B LANE

## 11. HOLY APOSTLES CHURCH INSCRIPTIONS

Interior - Starting on the north side, to the left of the entrance door, and working in a clockwise direction.

Notes: Not all the windows or inscriptions are original, a number were replaced after the fire of 1970. The supporters are those of the head moulds of the windows in the north and south aisles. All inscriptions are in upper case letters, they have been transcribed into normal upper/lower case for ease of reading.

1. Board of vicars. This covers a window blocked up when the new vestry was built in 1934:

J Bower 1885-89

Denwood Harrison 1897-1903

A H Rhodes 1919-38

Charles Peers 1944-66

Malcolm Duthie 1981-94

E H Curtis 1890-97

Hubert A Corke 1904-19

R H Northcott 1938-43

Patrick S M Walton 1966-81

Ray Copping 1995-

2. Double window depicting Saints Guthlac & Elizabeth of Hungary. Supporters: Wycliff & Tindal. "Erected by Desmond Eagar in memory of his father and mother".

3. Triple window depicting St Francis of Assisi surrounded by animals. Supporters: Lady Jane Grey & King Edward VI. "The gift of an anonymous donor to Commemorate the Centenary of the Church".

4. Triple window depicting Saints Luke, Michael & Peter. Supporters: Catherine Parr and Latimer. "To the Glory of God and in memory of Charles Macintosh Rodger who died July 17th 1902 aged 45. This window is erected by his sister her husband & her sons."

5. Tablet depicting the badge of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. "In loving remembrance of 2nd Lieut Francis Claude Uzzell 2/3 Royal Warwickshire Regiment who joined the Colours September 1915. Fell in action in France February 1st 1918. Interred in Ham British Cemetery, Muille, France. Aged 21 years. 'I have finished the work thou gavest me to do.'"

6. Triple window depicting St Andrew, The Good Shepherd & St Jude. Supporters: Cranmer & Ridley. "To the Glory of God and in loving memory of John Graham Rodger who died Jan 10th 1892 this window is erected by his children."

7. Font. Inscription round the base, "An offering by the Rev Henry George Liddell 1868".

8. Triple window depicting Saints Mary, John & Elizabeth. Supporters: Coverdale & Hooper. "To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Eliza Macintosh Rodger who died Oct 8th 1891 aged 68 this window is erected by her husband and children."

[Choir - all windows were replaced after the fire and are of plain glass]

9. Brass cross. "In dear memory of Katherine Dorothy Buckland. At rest Dec 9th 1906."

10. Brass Lectern. "This lectern is dedicated by Rupertia Sandes' sister to her memory A D 1870".

South Side

11. Double window - replacement. "In memory of George Raymond died 5th January 1871 and Charlotte his wife died 28th October 1887."

12. Wooden memorial board 1939-45.

A Astbury	E J Cooper	J H Humphris	W N Perry
C T Bishop	H W Comfort	G R Hunt	T C Pugh
L J S Bolton	D J Crossweller	A B W Illius	E R Tidman
K D Bruce	R C Drew	R W Johnson	E G Wakefield
P D Bruce	E McHector	A J Jones	H Wallis
H G Buxton	R J Holborow	G M Noll	R A Weeks
F Collier			A N Wilson

13. Double window - replacement, badges of the Welch Regt & Royal Navy.  
"Given in memory of Cecil Peers The Welch Regiment". "In loving memory of Petty Officer C H Knight R N."

14. Memorial Tablet 1914-1919

"To the glory of God and in Grateful memory of the men of this church who gave their lives in the Great War."

Adams H I Lieut Hants Regt	Hawkins A Pte Glos Regt
Adcock H P Engr RND	Hawkins R 2nd Lieut RAF
Attwood E PO HMS Meteor	Hill P W Pte Welsh [sic] Regt
Baker J B Pte Glos Regt	Hiron A T Pte N Staffs Regt
Bond A J T Pte London Regt	Jacobs H A Pte Hants Regt
Bowles W J L/Corp 19th Hussars	Jeffrey J Pte Glos Regt
Brazener A C H Pte Glos Regt	Johnson H B H Major DSO RA
Brinkworth W Corp Glos Regt	Maisey E J Pte Glos Regt
Brown J F Pte AIF	Mason E C Corp Welsh [sic] Regt
Chandler W J MM Sgt Glos Regt	Matthews M Lieut RE
Chapman C A Sgt Black Watch	Niblett C Pte DCLI
Cookley P T Sgt Glos Regt	Randall H F Pte Glos Regt
Corke H W Lieut Glos Regt	Randall S A Pte Glos Regt
Crooke E H Capt Glos Regt	Roberts S Pte Glos Regt
Crooke H N 2nd Lieut RE	Sandes J E 2nd Lieut Lances Fus
Elliott R C Pte Manchester Regt	Taylor F W Sgt Maj E Afr Rifles
Forbes-Robertson K Capt	Uzzell F C 2nd Lt R Warwicks Regt
Seaforth Higdr	Whatley W Pte R Warwicks Regt
Foxwell C H Pte Lances Fus	Wheeler H J Pte Gren Guards
Green A R Corp R Glos Hussars	Wiggin D H Lieut Glos Regt
Hanwell M O Mid HMS Defence	Wiggin N H Lieut RFA
Harris T W Pte Glos Regt	Williams F Corp RASC
	Wills A H 2nd A/M RAF

15. Double window - replacement depicting RAF & Merchant Navy badges.  
"The gift of Donald & Catherine Main"

16. Triple window depicting St Peter, The Good Shepherd & St John the Evangelist.  
Supporters: Jerome of Prague & John Huss. "To the glory of God and in memory of Albert Charles Higgs Curate in Charge of this Church Born August 22nd 1851 died June 1st 1883"

17. Memorial Tablet. "To the ever loving memory of Capt Kenneth Forbes Robertson 1st (attach 2nd) Seaforth Highlanders. Killed in action Ploegstreert Wood, Flanders November 7th 1914 Aged 32"

[The organ]

18. Triple window depicting St Matthew, Christ (with child) & St Mark. Supporters: Bucer & Melancthon. "To the Glory of God Erected by one who loved this Church 1962"

19. Memorial tablet. "In the happy memory of Lieutenant Colonel Edward Frank Eager JP The Royal Berkshire Regiment of The Grove House Charlton Kings. Died on 28th January 1958. Chairman Charlton Kings Urban District Council 1949-1958. This memorial was erected by his wife and son. Also in loving memory of Elaine his wife who died 3rd August 1965. At Peace"

20. Triple window depicting St Bartholomew, Christ (walking on the water) & St James. Beneath Christ: a small window depicting Tower Bridge, inscription "Not of Gennazareth but Thames". Supporters: Calvin & Peter (the) Martyr." The gift of Lillian and Claudia in memory of Eric 1963"

21. Double window depicting Gabriel and Mary. Supporters: Bullinger & Beza. "This window was given in 1966 by the Vicar and Church Council in gratitude for the devoted service of Samuel and Emma Dovey for five and thirty years respectively Sacristan and Verger of this Church"

22. Double window - plain. Supporters: Ocolampadius & Westhal.

23. Carved on the west wall. "Sacred to the memory of Mary Marshall who died June 22nd 1893 Aged 81 One who loved this Church and bequeathed sixty five pounds towards the decoration of the west end"

#### In store

24. Memorial brass. "In memory of Captain Hugh Lousada Barrow, South Lancashire Regiment (Prince of Wales Volunteers) who while attached to the Egyptian Army was killed in the attack on Tokar on the 19th February 1891. Erected by the brother officers of the South Lancashire Regiment as a token of their great esteem and regard"

#### Exterior

25. In the vestry wall. "Foundation stone of these vestries laid on Saturday June 16th 1934 by His Worship the Mayor of Cheltenham Councillor E L Ward JP"

26. At the door to the rear of the choir/lady chapel. "The Church of Holy Apostles garden of Remembrance Dedicated by the Bishop of Gloucester on September 15th 1957 Vicar Charles Peers"

#### Notes on the reformers who appear as supporters plus some of the more obscure personages in the windows.

Beza, or Beze, Theodore (1519-1605). Writer of indecent verse, professional dissolute, reformed after illness, married his mistress and burned heretics.  
Bucer, Martin (1491-1551). German reformer, friend of Luther.  
Bullinger, Heinrich (1504-1575). Swiss religious reformer.

Calvin, John (1509-1564). French religious reformer.  
Coverdale, Miles (1488-1568). Translator of the Bible.  
Cranmer, Thomas (1489-1556). Protestant martyr. [archbishop]  
Edward VI, King (1537-1556). Reigned 1547-1553. Encouraged reformers.  
Elizabeth of Hungary, Saint (1207-1231). Princess, philanthropist and nun  
[Franciscan Tertiary is more correct than nun].  
Grey, Lady Jane (1537-1554). Queen for 10 days.  
Guthlac, Saint (c673-714). English monk and ascetic.  
Hooper, Bishop (1495-1555). Martyred at Gloucester.  
Huss, John (c1349-1415). Bohemian religious reformer. [martyr]  
Jerome of Prague (c1365-1416). Czech religious reformer.  
Latimer, Hugh (c1485-1555). Protestant martyr.  
Melancthon, or Schwarzend, Philip (1497-1560). German protestant reformer.  
Ocolampadius (c1500-c1550). German reformer, friend of Luther.  
Parr, Queen Catherine (1512-1548). Surviving wife of Henry VIII, died Sudeley Castle.  
Peter the Martyr, or Vermigli, Pietri Martire (1500-1562). Florentine religious reformer.  
Ridley, Nicholas (c1500-1555). Protestant martyr.  
Tindal, Tyndale, Tindale or Hutchins, William (c1494-1536). Of Slimbridge,  
translated the Bible.  
Westehal. Obscure - very. Probably German.  
Wycliffe, John (1329-1384). Yorkshire reformer, started to translate the Bible.

It is surprising that so many obscure reformers were included, whilst notables such as Luther and Zwingli were omitted. It would be most interesting to discover the basis on which the selection was made.

DEREK COPSON

12.

CHARLTON KINGS BOYS SCHOOL - 1940s



Can you recognise anybody in the above photo or in the ones on the following pages? If so I would be very interested to know.

AUTUMN 1931



PHOTO LENT BY RICK KEDGE



SCHOOL CHOIR - 1948



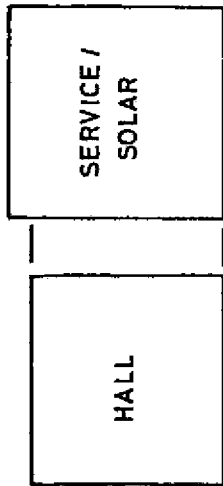
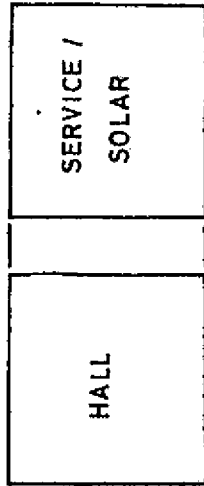
13. CHARLTON COTTAGE, SCHOOL ROAD - REVISION

This house was surveyed by Linda Hall in 1985-6 - *Bulletin 15*, pp 18-27. In 1997 further repairs were carried out by the present owners, Mr and Mrs Waters; and these have provided extra information which Linda has incorporated in modified plans. As many members of the Society will not have a copy of *Bulletin 15* to hand, it seems a good idea to print the revised conjectural reconstruction, and also some of the new photographs taken by the Waters, for which I am grateful. Below we can see the original timber-frame wall and also the brick skin built outside it at a later date. The School Road houses appear through the gap.

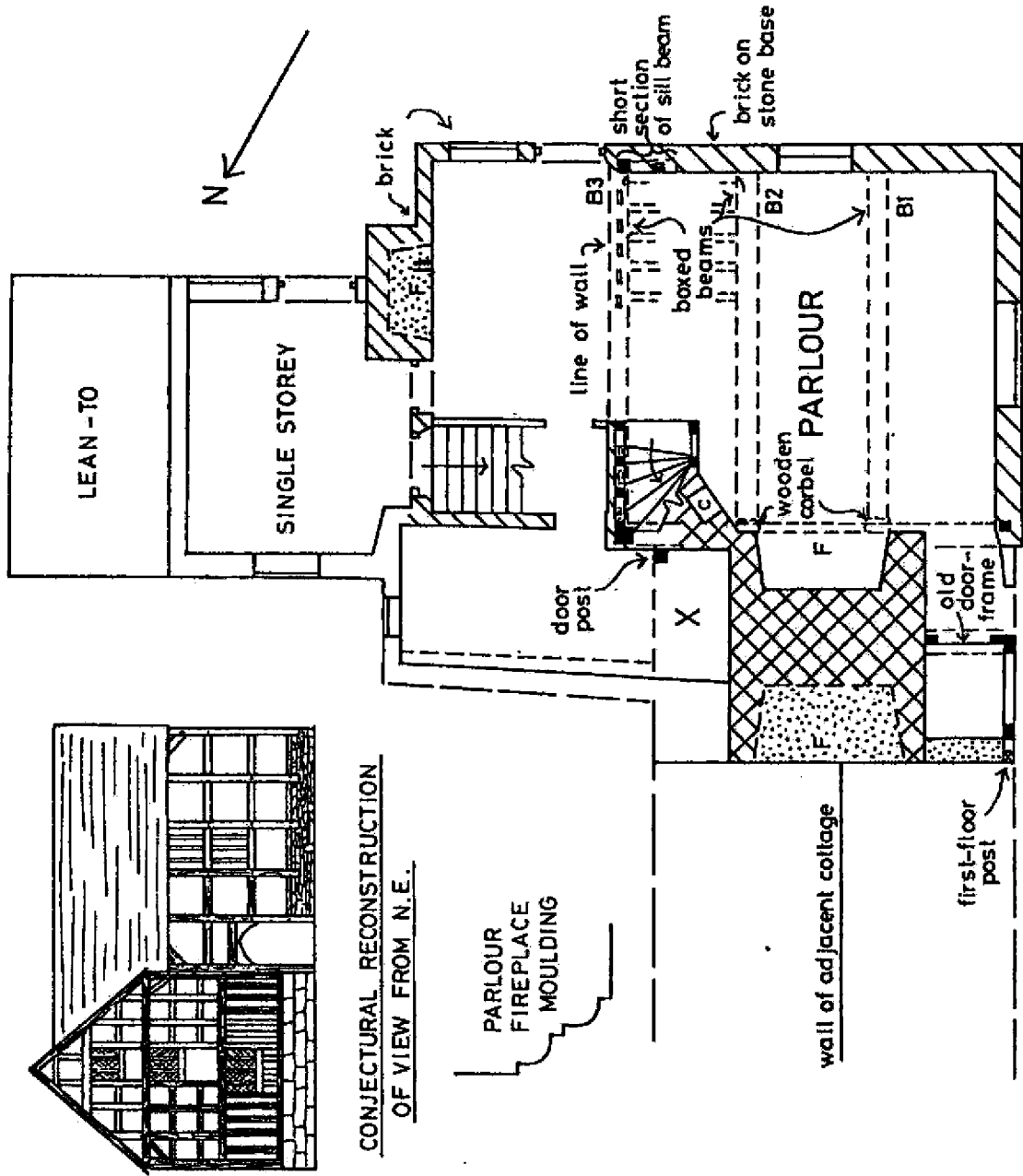
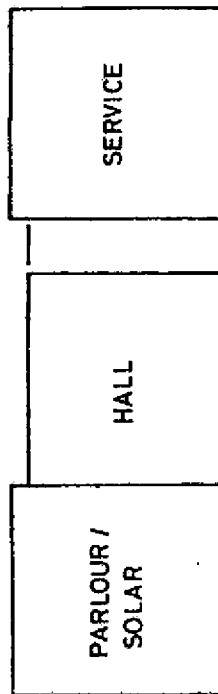
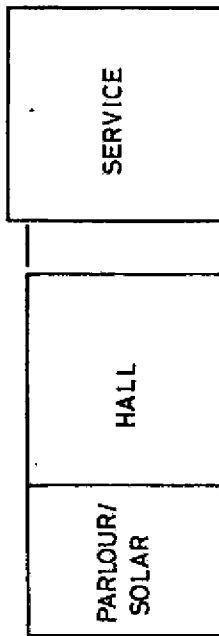


CHARLTON COTTAGE, 10 SCHOOL ROAD, CHARLTON KINGS, GLOS.

(SO 966205)



ALTERNATIVE LAYOUTS



Linda J. Hall 1986 (modified 1997)

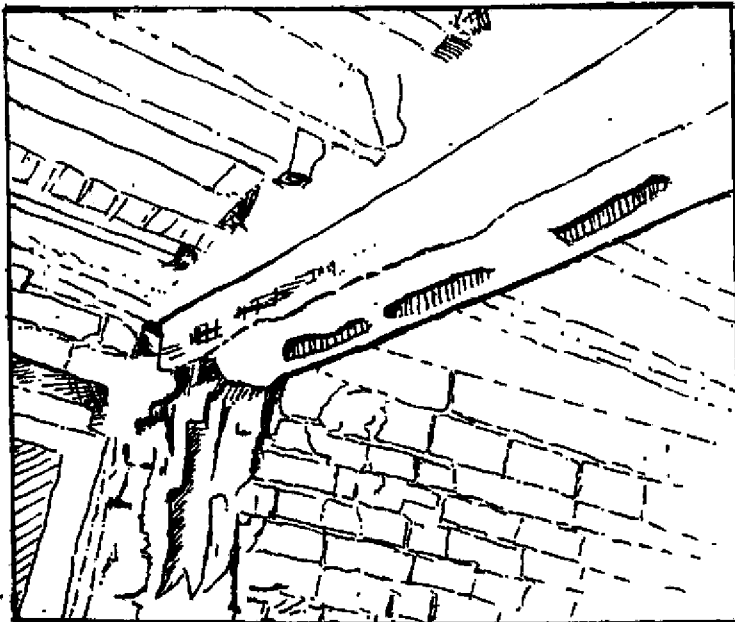
Fig. 1



Charlton Cottage - Recent restoration work has revealed some more details of this interesting house. Beams B2 and B3 (see plan, fig.1) have been partially exposed, along with the SE wall between them. Beam B3 has a series of mortises in the soffit (See A below), each with two peg-holes in the chamfer, which show that the whole of this wall was close-studded. Previously this had only been deduced from the mortises exposed at the other end of the beam next to the staircase. The exposed section of the SE wall shows a plinth 2'6" tall of large ashlar blocks. The wall above this is brick, but the very eroded corner post and a short section of sill beam survive along with a sawn-off section of the sill of the NE wall (Fig.2 on next page) The corner post has a groove on the NW face for wattle and daub infill, and a slight jowl and two pegs next to the beam B3 which indicate a beam in the SE wall. The section of sill has two pegs for a stud only a foot from the corner post, suggesting that this wall too was close-studded. Beam 2 has bar stops, and marks on B3 show that similar stops have been hacked off. The original joists exposed between B2 and B3 are 4" wide, 4¼" deep and are set 1' apart. Each has ¾" chamfers and diagonal-cut stops, showing that they were intended to be exposed; the plaster ceiling covering them was a later addition. The joists are jointed into B3 with bare-faced soffit tenons but now rest on top of B2 above the original mortises. Quite how or why this alteration was achieved is not clear.

At the N corner of the parlour a large freestone block has been exposed; on it is a short section of sill-beam into which is tenoned the corner post (See B below). Set back from this, and only just visible through a small gap, is the main post of the narrower hall range. Into this is tenoned a door lintel, but not enough is visible to see if it is arched, cambered or straight. However, it does prove that there was a doorway here directly opposite the one in the SW wall. This in turn proves that this was the site of the original screens passage, and that the stack was built in the passage.

(A)

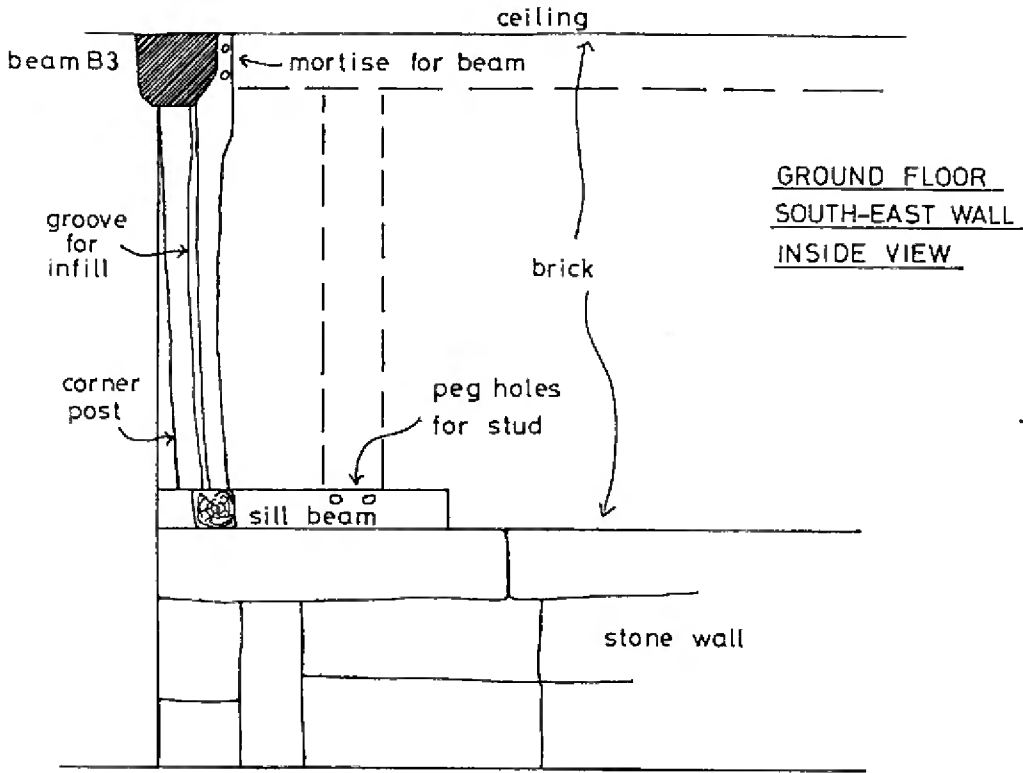


(B)



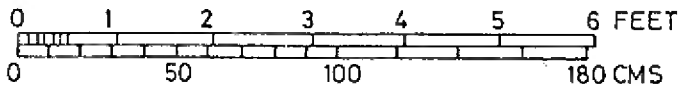
CHARLTON COTTAGE, CHARLTON KINGS, GLOS.

(S0966205)

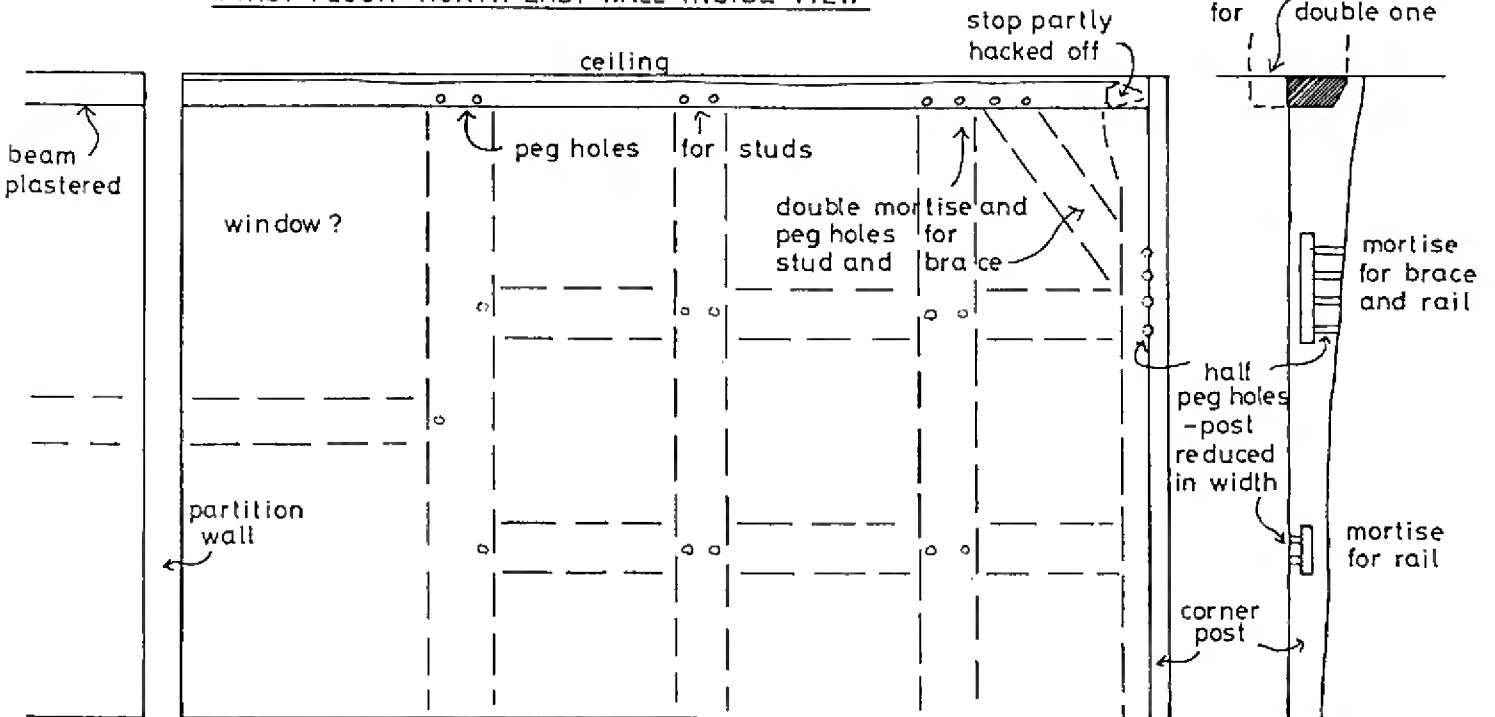


GROUND FLOOR  
SOUTH-EAST WALL  
INSIDE VIEW

FIG. 2



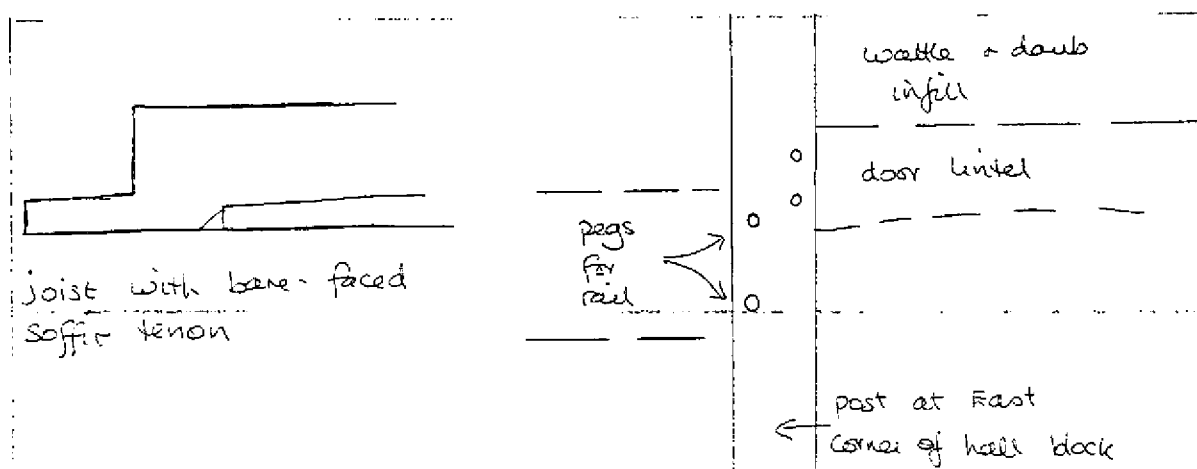
FIRST FLOOR NORTH-EAST WALL INSIDE VIEW



side view  
of post

FIG. 3

On the first floor the original end beam of the parlour chamber has been exposed, along with the main post at the original E corner of the room (fig.3). This is now in the centre of the room, which extends from the NE end wall of the brick extension to a partition wall above beam B2. The beam of this partition has 4½" chamfers, the end beam has a 3½" chamfer, both with shouldered stops at the SE end. The other ends are still concealed. The end beam has pairs of peg-holes marking the position of three studs and a corner brace; the brace and the first stud share a double-length mortise, but the other mortises were destroyed when the beam was reduced in width at some date. The post has also been hacked back to half its original size, but it still has mortises and half peg-holes for the corner brace and two horizontal rails. The brace and the upper rail also shared a double-length mortise. This evidence shows that the first-floor wall on the NE side was not close-studded like the ground floor, but had small square panels and presumably small straight corner braces in typical C17th fashion. These square panels were much smaller than those of the hall block, confirming that the parlour cross-wing was a later rebuild. Furthermore, two peg-holes in the main post at the E corner of the hall block suggest that the original building was a simple rectangle, the pegs being for a horizontal rail in line with the hall (fig. 1, the first of the alternative layouts.)



The C17th rebuilding of this end projected the NE wall of the parlour forward to create a cross-wing. Further alterations took place in the C18th when the parlour wing was extended in brick with a projecting stack on the NE wall. The fireplace had a segmental brick arch and was later reduced in size at least three times, evidenced by straight joints in the brick infill. It is not certain when the original timber-framed NE wall was removed to give the present layout, but the plastering over of the beams could suggest that this was also done in the C18th. At that period it was no longer fashionable to have exposed ceiling beams, and many were partially concealed with plaster and white paint.

Hopefully further restoration work will continue to reveal pieces of evidence to fill in the missing areas of knowledge. For example, we do not yet know if the other walls of the parlour cross-wing follow the same pattern of timber-framing as the NE wall. Further updates will be published in the Bulletin as and when information becomes available.

LINDA HALL

#### 14. CHARLES SMITH: HURDLE MAKER/CARPENTER

In *Bulletin* 40, Harold Booty wrote about Charlton Place, London Road and at the time of publication he elicited more information from the 1851 census of Charlton Kings. (Piece No HO107/1972 Folios 0001-0336: Volume XV in Fiche Series published by the Gloucestershire Family History Society) [N.B. Mr Booty has very generously given this set of fiches to our Society - they are held by our Chairman]

Here we find Lydia Smith, "Owner of Houses", widow of Charles, 71, (b. Lower Guiting) at No 6 Charlton Place with her grandchild Elizabeth Cripps, 16 (b. Charlton Kings) as servant. Next door at No 5 the Cripps Family consists of: Thomas Cripps, Acct., 43, (b. Witney, Oxon); Ann Cripps, milliner, 36 (b. Stockland ?, Glos); Charlie Cripps, son 6, Kate Cripps, dau 4, Ellin Cripps, dau 2 - all children born Cheltenham. Although Lydia Smith had a daughter Ann (b. 1801) it seems she was not Ann, wife of Thomas in 1851, who was born about 1815. Maybe she had died or another of Lydia's daughters was Thomas' first wife and mother of Elizabeth.

At No 7 Charlton Place Lydia's daughter Hannah and her husband Thomas Fletcher, 40 (b. Naunton, Glos.) journeyman carpenter, lived with Eliza, 8 and Jane, 4, both born in Charlton Kings.

Lydia had a son Thomas, a carpenter baptised in 1807. He is no doubt identical with the Thomas Smith, 44, carpenter, (under ref. 0138017 Charlton Kings) with: Sarah, wife, 42; Jane, dau 1; Mary, dau, 19; John, son, 17; all born in Charlton Kings.

Other Charlton Place residents in 1851 were: No 4 - John Knight, 31, tailor, b. Ross-on-Wye; Charlotte Knight, 38, dressmaker, b. Uley; Alfred A.Knight and Thomas H.Knight sons.

No 3 - The Atkins Family. No 2 - The Baker Family. No 1 - The Baylis Family. At the back of No 1 - Rosemary Sadler, 71 widow, with John Curtis, carpenter.

What we know as Anastasia Cottage is listed as 'Anastai' Cottage inhabited by: Edward Townsend, 66, butcher, b. Cheltenham and Elizabeth Townsend, 65, b. Cheltenham.

HAROLD BOOTY

#### 15. THE TUCKERS OF HAM HOUSE - PART 2

After the inclusion of my article in *Bulletin* 40 in September 1998, I had a most extraordinary coincidental letter via Mary Paget telling me that a lady from the Pyrenées Atlantiques district of South West France had written to "The Oldest Bank in Charlton Kings", which the Post Office deduced was Lloyds Bank, [then about to close] asking them for details of a John Henry Tucker who had worked for a bank and had lived at Charlton Kings.

Mary passed the enquiry on to me to see if I was related. It set me off on a detective hunt and after much correspondence I find that I have indeed a "French Connection" and a new third cousin, Max, and his wife Caroline! I find the coincidence of two people working at the same time on the same family tree from two different countries, unbeknown to each other, to be most remarkable.

JOHN HENRY TUCKER (born 1835, died 1902) was educated by his father, the Rev. John Kinsman Tucker, in Suffolk and joined the Bank of England in 1854 at £50 per annum. He retired in 1900 as Cashier earning £500 per annum. His wife bore him thirteen children

although four of these died in infancy in 1876. An epidemic? Through the Probate Office I found out where he lived and visited his house in Lewisham this January.

SAVILE ARUNDEL TUCKER, my great grandfather, a solicitor in Lee, Kent, left his wife and five children and departed from this country for Spain in 1883 having absconded with his company's and clients' funds which were a considerable amount. Having searched newspaper and police records I can still find no trace of what happened to him. I do recommend to readers, however, the use of the Times Indexes and Microfilm at the Public Records Office for easy searching of the last century's history in detail. I did find details about Savile's bankruptcy case but, of course, he did not turn up for the hearing!

BILL GUISE TUCKER, U.S.A. sculptor - since *Bulletin* 40 I have been in correspondence with Bill, my fourth cousin, and if any readers take a trip to Bilbao, Spain later this year they will probably see Bill's monumental sculpture in the docklands area. It is being cast in Bristol and shipped out there.

BRUCE TUCKER

#### 16. REFERENCES TO CHARLTON KINGS - CHELTENHAM CHRONICLE 1809-13

The following excerpts have been contributed by Society members.

(1) 7 September 1809 - Charlton Kings near Cheltenham. To be sold by private contract either together or in lots the following most Desirable PROPERTY viz:- All that substantial Brick-built MESSUAGE fit for the residence of a genteel Family, situate on the London Road, in the parish of Charlton Kings, one mile from the town of Cheltenham, with the Court, Barns, Stables, Cider-mill, and Mill-house, Garden, well planted Orchard and Coppice thereto adjoining, running down to the Brook or River, containing together 4a 0r 32p and now in the possession of Mr Gale. The House consists of a Parlour, Drawing Room, Kitchen, Servants' Hall, Five best Bedrooms, Four Servants' Rooms in the Attics, and other conveniences; and the whole is in good Repair.

Also, all that Inclosure of PASTURE LAND, called Ryeworth Field divided only from the premises above-mentioned by the London Road and the Road leading to Ham; with the Cottage and Stalls for Cattle thereon; containing together eight Acres.

Also, all that Inclosure of ARABLE LAND, divided from the said first-mentioned Property by the London Road, with the small Coppice near thereto, containing together 3a 0r 30p.

The above premises are most pleasantly situated, commanding beautiful prospects of the surrounding Country; and, from their contiguity to the town of Cheltenham, form a most desirable Property for anyone resorting to that town, either for improvement of health, or the scarcely less desirable object of genteel and comfortable Society.

Also, all that Inclosure of PASTURE LAND, called Bicknell's, shooting upon Ham Brook, with the small Coppice thereto adjoining; containing 1a 1r 22p.

Also, all those Five LANDS and Three BUTTS of ARABLE LAND, lying dispersed in a common field called Ryeworth field, containing together 1a 3r 33p.

Also, all those Five Inclosures of PASTURE GROUND (one whereof containing 1a 0r 9p is an Orchard) lying together, and called Hay's Orchard, The Two Hay's, Picked Hay's, Knowly, Battle Downs, and Broad Battle Downs; containing together 44a 2r 13p.

These Premises are also most pleasantly situated and convenient to the other property. The Premises will be sold Tithe-free, Possession of the House and a principal part of the property may be had immediately; and of the remainder at Ladyday 1810 ... a Plan of the Estate may be seen."

This refers to the house called Cop's Elm (site of Charlton Lawn and Copt Elm Road) and is very important because we know little about the house (beyond its existence) between 1391 and 1868. See *Bulletin* 15 pp 36-8. Both Mitchell in 1806 and the Tithe Map indicate that the house stood butt-on to Cudnall Street and was a long block with wings facing east. Now we know that the Gales had rebuilt in brick what must have been a timber-framed house; and also how many rooms it had. Whatever its attractions in 1809, it did not sell till 1864 when Russell bought it in order to create Copt Elm Road.

(2) 17 May 1810 - "CHARLTON KINGS, GLOCESTERSHIRE, TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION BY MR BILLINGS At the BELL INN, Cheltenham, on Wednesday the Twentieth of June 1810 at Six o'clock in the evening (unless disposed of by Private Contract, of which due Notice will be given).

All those FREEHOLD PREMISES, the Property of the late Mr Robt Sollis, consisting of Five Dwelling Houses or Tenements and Gardens, now in the possession of John Low, James Turner, and others. The premises are situate on the London Turnpike Road at Cudnell in the healthful village of Charlton Kings, and are distant from Cheltenham about one Mile. Also an Acre and an half of copyhold Arable land, situate in Coltham Field, about half a mile from Cheltenham."

Distances were calculated from Cheltenham's boundary at Hales Road. For the cottages, see *Bulletin* 33 p19.

(3) c 1810 - "BEAUTIFUL RESIDENCE, one mile from Cheltenham, To be SOLD by PRIVATE CONTRACT, all that MESSUAGE with the Lawn, Pleasure and Kitchen Gardens, and Stables thereto belonging, containing altogether about an acre, situate at CHARLTON KINGS, late the property of Mrs LANE, deceased; and adjoining the mansion and premises heretofore occupied by Lady Mill.

The house is fitted up in the Cottage Stile, and in very good repair; it consists of an entrance hall, large drawing and dining Room, good Kitchen, back kitchen, pantry, cellar, closet, and other convenient offices, and four bedrooms, besides servants Bedrooms. There is also a well of excellent water, and attached to the premises is an excellent seat in Charlton Church.

The House stands on a gentle eminence, a dry healthy soil, and the situation is unquestionably one of the most beautiful in England; the views of the surrounding hills which every part of the premises commands are the most beautiful that can be imagined; the House is just so far removed from the London Road as to escape its annoyance, while it possesses all its convenience. The Kitchen Garden is in perfect order, and well stocked with the different vegetables of the season.

The Land-tax is redeemed, and the other taxes are moderate. The fixtures are to be taken at a fair valuation, and the furniture so taken or not, at the option of the purchaser - immediate possession may be had ..."

This is the house later called Ashley Firs. Anne Lane died in 1810, but the property seems not to have been sold till 1817. See *Bulletin* 6 p 58.

(4) 14 December 1810 - "WE, WM SHILL, JOHN SIMMONS, and RICHARD TIBBALS, having been convicted of profaning the Lord's Day, by not attending Divine Service; and by using Guns, and idling about the fields; and as we have hereby rendered ourselves liable to various punishments, both personal and pecuniary:- We hereby declare that we are fully sensible, of the enormity of our crime; and ask Pardon of the Parish for our behaviour. In consequence of our doing this, the Magistrates have kindly promised to overlook it for the present. Witness our Hands, WILLIAM SHILL, JOHN SIMMONS, The Mark of RICHARD TIBBALS"

(5) 28 March 1811 - "GLOUCESTERSHIRE, CHARLTON KINGS, near CHELTENHAM, By W. MOORE and SON. On Tuesday, the 2nd day of April, 1811, beginning precisely at Ten O'clock in the Morning, ALL the LIVE STOCK, HAY, DAIRY UTENSILS, part of the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, BREWING REQUISITES, CASKS, and other Effects, on the Premises of Mrs Howman (who is going to leave the Estate) at BAFFORD FARM, in the parish of CHARLTON KINGS, within 2 miles of the town of Cheltenham; comprising 14 prime young dairy cows and calves, or to calve, 7 three-year-old heifers in calf, 1 four-year-old barren heifer, 1 three-year-old ditto, 10 two-year-old ditto, 5 yearling heifers, a well-bred two-year-old bull, and a yearling ditto; 10 theaves in yeon [young ewes in lamb], 20 ewe and wether tegs [female and male sheep not old enough to breed]; 2 very fat pigs, 1 gilt in-farrow [young sow in-pig], 7 store pigs; 1 two-year-old cart colt, a very useful six-year-old hackney mare; a rick of well-made hay, about 14 tons; barrel churns, cheese presses, cowls, skeels, double and single milk leads [vats], and other dairy utensils, 2 furnaces, mash tubs, skeeps, and brewing requisites; 6 well-seasoned hogsheads and smaller casks; together with a variety of household furniture, and other Effects; the whole of which will be expressed in Catalogues, that may be had at the Lamb, Cheltenham; King's Arms, Prestbury; Frogmill Inn; Maidenhead, Gloucester; at the place of Sale, and of the auctioneers, Tewkesbury."

Bafford Farm belonged to Charlton Park estate; the 1809-10 estate survey has widow (Mary) Howman, late James Howman, arable 54a 1r 39p, grass and wood 176a 1r 20p; total 230a 3r 19p. The list of utensils and farmstock confirm the emphasis on dairying.

(6) 23 May 1811 - "To be let with immediate possession A Most Desirable RESIDENCE situated at Charlton Kings, a short distance from Cheltenham late in the occupation of Colonel Macleod consisting of an excellent Kitchen and Servants Hall; together with the fixtures complete and with every Convenience; a Drawing-room 17 feet 10 inches by 15; Room adjoining 14 Feet by 15; Bedroom over 18 feet by 15, with Three other excellent Bed-rooms etc.

Also another HOUSE adjoining; consisting of a suite of Rooms communicating with each other, entrance 13 feet 5 inches by 15; Dining-room 19 by 15; Drawing-room 21 feet 7 by 15; the Bedroom adjoining, and Three other Bed-rooms over, one of which is 18 feet 7 by 15; Kitchen, Cellar, etc etc.

The above Two Houses have the advantage of Two Double Coach-houses, and Two three-stalled Stables, or used as One if more desirable. An Orchard and Pleasure Ground, with a Trout Stream at the bottom, in front of the Houses, adds to one of the most gratifying and admired prospects the village of Charlton Kings can boast of. For further particulars apply to the Rev.J.Harward, Hartlebury, Worcestershire; or Mr Jones, Builder, Cheltenham."

This refers to Nos 2 and 6 Cudnall Street and supplements the information in *Bulletin* 33 pp 19-28.

(7) 5 September 1811 - "To be sold by auction by Mr Samuel Webb at the George Hotel, Cheltenham on Saturday the 14th day of September 1811 between the hours of Four and Five in the Afternoon.

All that Cottage or Dwellinghouse situate and being at Charlton Kings ... with the Garden and Orchard ... 4 Acres. Also all that close of pasture ground (some time since two closes) called the Upper and Lower Penny-breaches by estimation eight Acres ... The above premises are within a short distance of the Turnpike Road leading from Cheltenham to London and within two miles of Cheltenham ... copyhold of inheritance held under the Manor of Ashley ... subject to a heriot of 16s and the yearly rent of 2s4d and 4s8d, fine upon alienation; are now in possession of Mr Lawrence and will be sold subject to the estate for Life of a person at an advanced age."

This was Little Herberts Farm, later Lord's Home Farm, see *Bulletin* 6.

(8) 21 January 1813 - THE GLENFALL (FORMERLY THE GUTTERFALL), containing about 61 Acres; and consisting of a FARM HOUSE, and OUTBUILDINGS; and a small GENTEEL COTTAGE with Garden and Pleasure Ground; and may be considered as the LEASOWES of the Neighbourhood. [i.e. something like William Shenstone's romantic garden at the Leasowes at Halesowen - see illustration in Gregory's *Shropshire Gazetteer* pp 159-181.]

This Property is highly picturesque and beautiful, well wooded with handsome and ornamental Oaks etc and has some romantic Coppices with walks, and a rivulet running through them, and a water-fall of 15 feet height.

The FARM and GROUNDS are let to a respectable Tenant at Will, without the Coppices; but these, with the range of the Meadows form altogether, a species or Pleasure Ground of extreme beauty; and the benefit of which may be considered as attached to the Cottage, affording a delightful retired Residence for any small genteel Family. The air is remarkably pure, the situation dry, and at an easy distance from Cheltenham.

There is a circumstance attending this Property, which might, to some, be of the highest importance, viz a Fall of Water, that at a very inconsiderable expense, might be made of forty feet perpendicular height, and subservient to any Machinery etc etc and this with a never-failing stream, not be cut off, or diverted - indeed a much greater fall than even this, or a number of falls, might be obtained, if it were desirable.

The whole of the above is the Property of a Gentleman whose engagements in life having occasioned his removing to a distance from Cheltenham, he is desirous (on that account only) of parting with it. And as he has himself resided with his family in the Houses attached to both, and they were built for such residence, and not for sale, they will be found to be most substantial and compleat; and well worth the attention of any person wishing to possess property in the neighbourhood of Cheltenham; or of any Family desirous of residing in independant situation, at a greater or lesser distance from the Town ..."

**Identification of the Properties by MARY PAGET**



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This is just a small sample, more will be included in the next Bulletin.

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