

CHARLTON KINGS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



BULLETIN 48
Autumn 2002

CHARLTON KINGS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Publications:

Copies of this Bulletin are available from the Hon. Secretary.

Please apply to the Chairman, Mary Southerton, for past issues of the *Bulletin*, Indexes, Parish Register Transcriptions, and other publications as shown below:

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Printed by Top Flight, 93 St. George's Place, Cheltenham, Glos.

Cover - Southfield Farm drawn by Ron Phillips from a photograph taken in 1947

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OBITUARIES:

We have lost three good friends of Charlton Kings Local History Society -

1. **Bob Davis**, who told us about California and Old Dole Farms and old farming methods.
See *Bulletin 34*.

2. **Mrs Marion Littlewood**, who let us use the deeds of her house, Ashley Firs/ Charlton Villa - a complicated site being copyhold of both Cheltenham and Ashley manors and also part freehold. See *Bulletin 6*

3. **Miss Eileen Ivelaw-Chapman**, who has died at the amazing age of 107. Charlton Kings has had several centenarians but she is by far the oldest to have lived here. In *Bulletin 12* Miss Ivelaw-Chapman wrote of her memories of Sandy Lane, where she lived from 1917 to 1946, the development of the land in Greenhills Road and the birds she saw before the houses were built - mallards, sand martens, snipe and woodpeckers.

We are very grateful for these three outstanding personalities and their interest over the years.

MARY PAGET

SOUTHFIELD FARM

In the south western corner of Charlton Kings is a most attractive residential development called Southfield Manor Park. It was previously known as Southfield Farm, with the former farmhouse now called Southfield Manor, and a secondary house together with cottages and bungalows either newly built or made out of the previous farm buildings. The group of buildings lie below the escarpment known as Charlton Common and either side of a stream running in a northerly direction from a hill-side spring on its way to join the Lilybrook and later the Chelt (marked Southfield Brook on Map I).

This article does not attempt to describe the recent development, but relates to the period when the property formed part of the Prinn estate centred on Charlton Park. Unless otherwise stated all information comes from the D7661 collection at the Gloucestershire Record Office.

John Prinn the elder, the first of the family to own the Forden (later known as Charlton Park), began the lengthy negotiations over its purchase in January 1698 but they were not completed until November 1701. Apart from the house with its outbuildings and three small closes, the property at that time consisted of:

20 acres in Lower Field within Cheltenham, 30 acres in Lower Field within Charlton Kings, 7 acres inclosed called The Croft in Charlton Kings, and 3 acres in Castle Field in Charlton Kings'.¹

The outlined area on Map I marks the extent of the Lower Fields of Charlton and Cheltenham at the time that Prinn was acquiring the Forden. The land, which would subsequently make up Southfield Farm, lay within this common field in strips interspersed with those of other landowners.

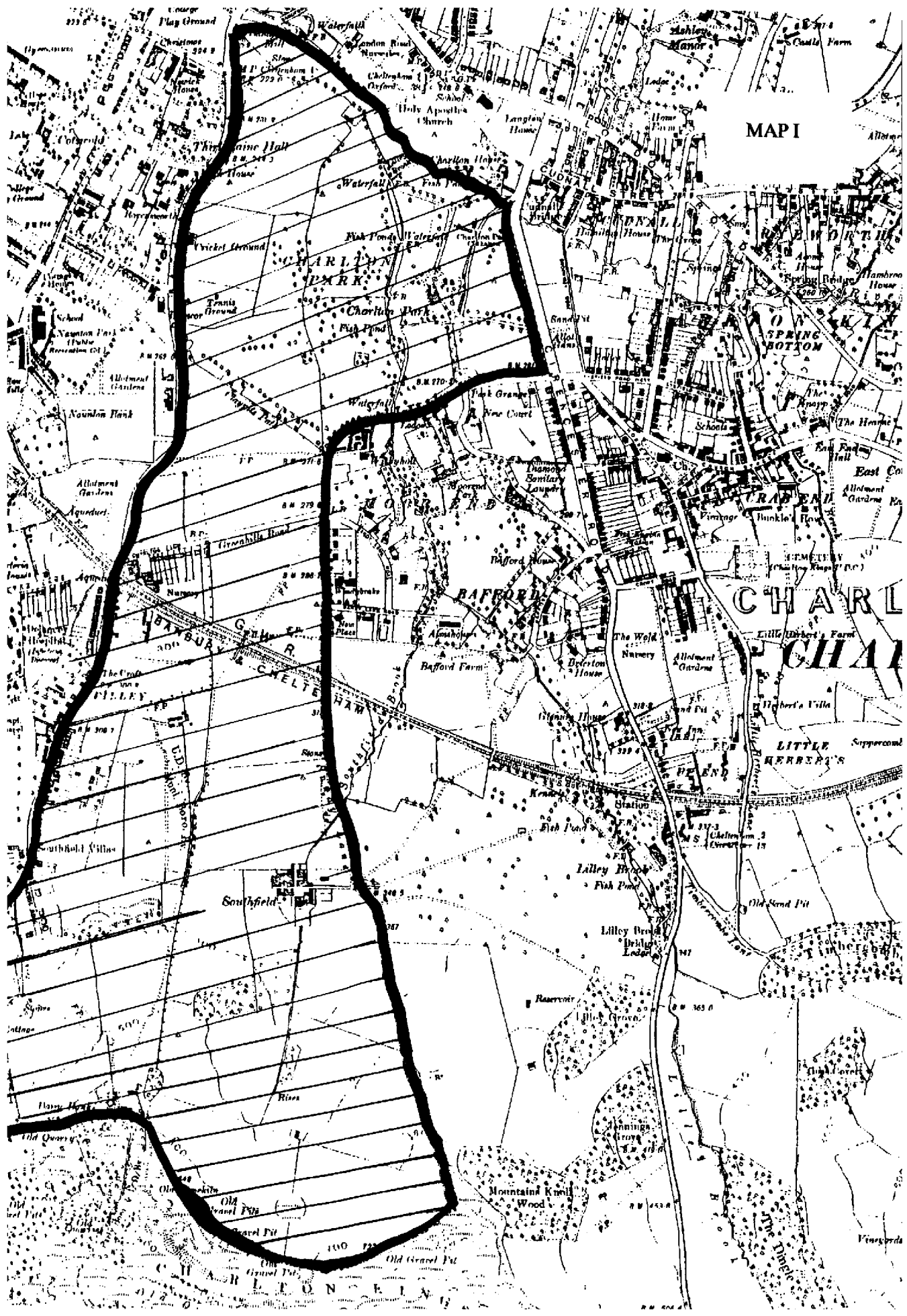
While John Prinn was waiting for The Forden to finally become his, he was listing these separate strips and making plans to amalgamate them, either by purchase or exchange. Among his papers is a 'Memorandum April '99 [1699] a acct taken of ye lands in Charleton Feilds belonging to ye Forden'. His description of the strips sometimes includes names, such as Knavenhill Bushes, Stoneyfurlong and Pilford, which enabled me to place them among the later-enclosed fields which made up Southfield Farm. There is also mention of a house:

'1 land in ye furlong being ye 5th from ye brook at ye foot of ye hill Nth ward & sh[ooting] on Jane Saviours house'.

From this description we can deduce that Saviour/Savery's house is at least on the site of Southfields and may even be concealed within the present building.

Our Parish Registers show that Jane, daughter of Henry Savery, was baptised 18 October 1628, the eldest of three daughters baptised in Charlton. Henry Savery was buried 9 November 1668 and his widow Dorotheay on 28 September 1684. There is no record for the marriage or burial of Jane Savery.

Previous to the completion of Prinn's purchase of the Forden, he was already buying other Charlton properties, which gave him land which would ultimately become part of Southfield Farm. In 1696 he acquired a messuage in Charlton Kings called Borrowes with several pieces of arable land lying dispersedly in the open fields, including 6 lands lying in a field called Knaven Hill. At first I thought 'Borrowes' might be an early name for Southfield but the deed had been endorsed at a later date with 'vulgarly known as Noglins', which is in that part of Charlton Kings called Upend.



MAP I

CHARLTON PARK

RUFFORD

CHARLTON

LITTLE CHERTSEY

Southfield

Lilley Brook

Lilley Brook

Mountain Knoll Wood

Old Gravel Pit

Vineyards

In 1698 Prinn bought Brockwell, an enclosed piece of land immediately under the escarpment. Its position can be seen on Map II. It is interesting to note the description of its location:

'the highway leading from Leckhampton towards Northleach lying on the south [now Daisy Bank], the highway leading from Cheltenham to the Windarse on the east [now Sandy Lane], lands in possession of John Prinn on the north [presumably the lands in Knaven Hill] and land late of William Free on the west' [Free's Hill Piece on Map II].²

Over the next twenty or so years many other purchases and/or exchanges took place, so that by 1716 John Prinn was able to record the planting of trees in the area - 'abeals' [abele is white poplar] and hedges on his 'hill pieces', including one hedge being 'new planted with crab quick'. Stoneyfurlong was enclosed during the winter of 1718.

By 1723 when a survey of the estate was made, most of the land shown on Map II had been acquired by John Prinn the elder or his son the Revd John Prinn. The original of Map II marks in red a house adjacent to Stoneyfurlong which I am presuming to be 'Jane Saviour's house'. I have no definite proof of its purchase but, by eliminating other possibilities, my current thinking is that Prinn bought it from Thomas Kear, of Cheltenham, mercer in 1720. The deed describes it as follows:

'All that his messuage in Charlton Kings in occupation of Dorothy Arcold widow and outhouses gardens orchards and yards thereunto belonging and also all that his pasture ground near Knavenhill by estimation six acres.'

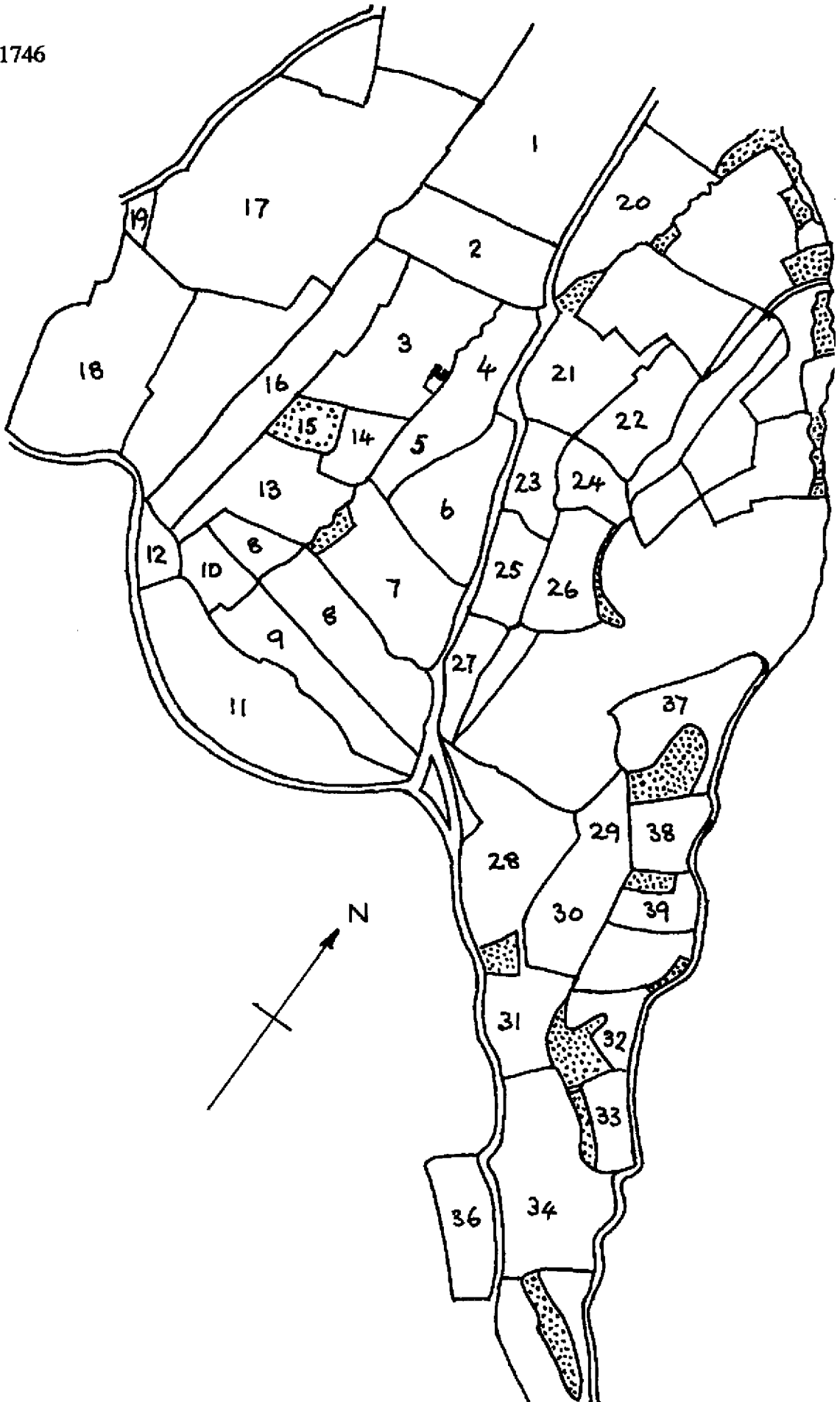
The document had the additional note that the messuage was 'late of Daniel Belcher and his wife'. The messuage and land were freehold, so do not appear in either Cheltenham or Ashley Manor court records, but the land abutted on to other land of Kear's which was customary land of Ashley Manor and they were surrendered to Prinn at a court held on 4 January 1719/20. They were described as having been the property of Daniel Belcher and his wife Jane, and having been surrendered to Kear on 15 November 1708.³ Belcher had also held other land which later became part of Southfield. He was a waggoner and when we remember that Sandy Lane was one of the main routes going south from Charlton and Cheltenham we can see how convenient a house on the site of Southfield would have been.

Dorothy Arcold widow, the occupier of the house, appears as a field worker in John Prinn's wages accounts for 1710 and 1711, along with her daughter and son. Our parish registers show that Dorothy and John Arkle/Arcold had six children baptised between 1696 and 1717, and that John was buried in 1719.

Map II and the accompanying survey were made for William Prinn, the new owner, in 1746. The survey shows that by this time the estate totalled just over 910 acres. Up to this time the majority of the land had made up 'the Home Estate' with only North Field and Vineyards let to tenant farmers. But William Prinn's Rent Book shows that he was soon letting out Home Farm [later Withyholt] to John Pride, Bafford Farm to Thomas Lea, and Hill Farm [later Southfields] to William Ballinger.

Inside the rent book is a formal rental agreement for Hill Farm dated 2 December 1748, which lists the fields and their acreage and makes it clear that William Ballinger of Charlton Kings yeoman was already in occupation of the farm, including the 'Messuage Court Barn Stable Garden and Homestead'.

Map II - 1746



FIELD NAMES ON MAP II

Fields forming part of Hill Farm at the time of Ballinger's rental agreement are shown in bold. The dotted areas on the map are copses, kept 'in hand' by the landlord. The boundary between Charlton and Cheltenham ran down the west sides of fields 1, 2 and 16.

- 1 Great Field [name retained in the present Greatfield Drive]
- 2 **Clay Pit Piece** [not to be confused with Clay Pit Ground opposite Withyholt]
- 3 **Stoney Furlong**
- 4 **Hartley Mead** [name retained in the present Hartley Close]
- 5 **Whitebreach Corner**
- 6 **Whitebreach and Hollybreach**
- 7 **Flanchbreach and Barley Mead**
- 8 **Long Rowell**
- 9 **Short Rowell and Middle Rowell**
- 10 **Little Rowell**
- 11 **Brockwell**
- 12 **Free's Hill Piece**
- 13 **Knaven Hill**
- 14 **Knaven Hill Orchard**
- 15 **Knaven Hill Nap**
- 16 **Long Lands and Ten Laynes**
- 17 Lower Pilford [site of the present Pates Junior School]
- 18 Upper Pilford
- 19 **Collum Close**
- 20 Richards Croft Field
- 21 Great Henlocks
- 22 Henlocks
- 23 Lower Highbreach
- 24 Tanty's Henlocks
- 25 Middle Highbreach
- 26 Cowpitt
- 27 Slopers Highbreach
- 28 **Mountains Knoll**
- 29 Gaybreach
- 30 Combreach
- 31 **Churches Pitts**
- 32 **Bacon Comb**
- 33 **Holloway**
- 34 **Ruff Piece**
- 35 **Alpheys** [often referred to as **Office**]
- 36 **Strawfords Pieces**
- 37 Hawbreach
- 38 Filchambreach
- 39 Lower Combreach

The names 'Office' and 'Straford's Piece' appear in the 1625 Norden's survey of the boundary of the lands belonging to Cheltenham manor⁴. The unlikely-sounding name 'Office' probably derives from the Old English 'ofes' meaning edge or border⁵. Note the number of fields with 'breach' forming part of their name - this means 'land newly broken'. There is a track shown on the map which roughly follows the line of the present Cirencester Road. One of the fields bordering it is called 'Holloway', an indication that this is an ancient track, presumably made when the 'breaches' were cleared and brought into cultivation.

Accompanying the rental agreement is a note presumably written by Ballinger:

'Entred Upon the Homestead at Ladiday [25 March] and Upon Ye Ten Lands at three weeks after Ladiday and the Claypitt Piece at Ladiday, and all the Rest at St Mark,s tide [25 April] Except Ye grounds as Lay one the oather Side the Hill and them Was Entred Upon at Ladiday'.

The rental agreement describes the land as:

'having a Lane called Highbreach Lane East [an alternative name for Windsarse Lane, later called Sandy Lane], Hartly Hill or the Common Hill South, Land belong to Mr Whitehorn called Pilford on the West and a Ground in the occupation of John Pride called Great Field to the North. Also his acre and half of arable land in Collum fields and his Closes of pasture Ground called Mountains Knowle and the Well Heads, Churches Pitts, Rough Piece, Alpheys, Bacon Comb, Strawfords Pieces and Holloway.' [apart from Strawfords Pieces these latter ones were on the east of Sandy Lane]

The landlord was to have full power to cut any timber on the land, and there is mention of a parcel of ground 'now planted with Scotch Fir Trees called Knavenhill's Nap'. The tenant was to have a reasonable quantity of wood for 'firebote' and there are the usual clauses about not plowing up any pasture and all manure to be spread on the land. In addition the tenant was to be allowed a ton of coals yearly but had 'to bring them in place.' The rent was £100 per annum for a term of ten years, with the landlord agreeing to 'throw back forty shillings out of every half year's rent' and being responsible for all taxes and parochial payments except the Window Tax. The agreement was repeated for a further four years in 1758, and again in 1772 at an increased rent of £106 per annum.

A 'measure of Will Ballinger's Farm' shows that he had 90 acres of pasture at 20s rent per acre, 38½ acres of arable at 10s per acre, and 49½ acres of 'ruff grounds in pasture' at 5s per acre, totalling 178a 2r 26p 'besides the Common hill'. William Ballinger stayed at Hill Farm until Michaelmas 1781, and then the farm was taken over by 'Farmer Humphries'.

William Prinn died in February 1784 and was succeeded by his son-in-law Dodington Hunt. His rent book, starting in January 1785, gives us details of the next stage in the story of Southfield Farm, which was then known as 'Field Farm'. At the beginning of the book Hunt makes the following general comments:

'My rent days are fix'd for the first Monday after Xmas Day, and the 3rd Monday in April, at the first they pay to the Lady Day, [25th March] at the second to the Mich[aelm]as preceding [29 September]; they by that means have half a years Rent always in Hand, which is a foolish custom, but difficult to break through, as well as allowance for Wood, Coal, and Ploughbote [the right to take wood to make or repair ploughs]

'Farmer Humphries' was William Humphries, who in addition to the Hill Farm land, farmed land in Ryeworth Close, Pound Piece [in East End] together with some lands in Benbridge [later part of Charlton Park] and Sandford Field with an increased rent of £140 p.a. The rent continued to be raised over the years - to £150 at Michaelmas 1786 when he had some lands taken from him but a new barn built 'on the side of the Hill for his Convenience', £160 at Michas 1787, £180 at Lady Day 1792, and it had reached £220 by 1802 when he left this tenancy and moved to Withholt Farm.

William's brother James Humpries took over the tenancy from him and a survey of the estate taken in 1804 shows that the farm was now called Southfield for the first time. It consisted of 173a 2r 28p, the five acre piece called Churches Pitts having been transferred to Bafford Farm. Of the 173 odd acres, about 90 were pasture and the rest arable - the previous 'ruff grounds in pasture' had been ploughed up. Some of the field names had changed too as can be seen on Map III which was made in 1811. This map also shows the site of the new barn erected c1785.

The 1804 survey was made after the death of Dodington Hunt and the succession of his son William Hunt who added the name Prinn to his surname. William Hunt Prinn continued his father's rent book, again with some pertinent comments at the beginning:

'Of the tenants only Dancer, T Ballinger and Mrs Evans paid their rents at the proper time, all the rest paid by dribblets and very badly and at various times. So that ye whole of what was due at Michas 1803 was not entirely paid till 26 of this present August 1804. James and Wm Humphries, Howman and Bradshaw and Rodway were ye worst.

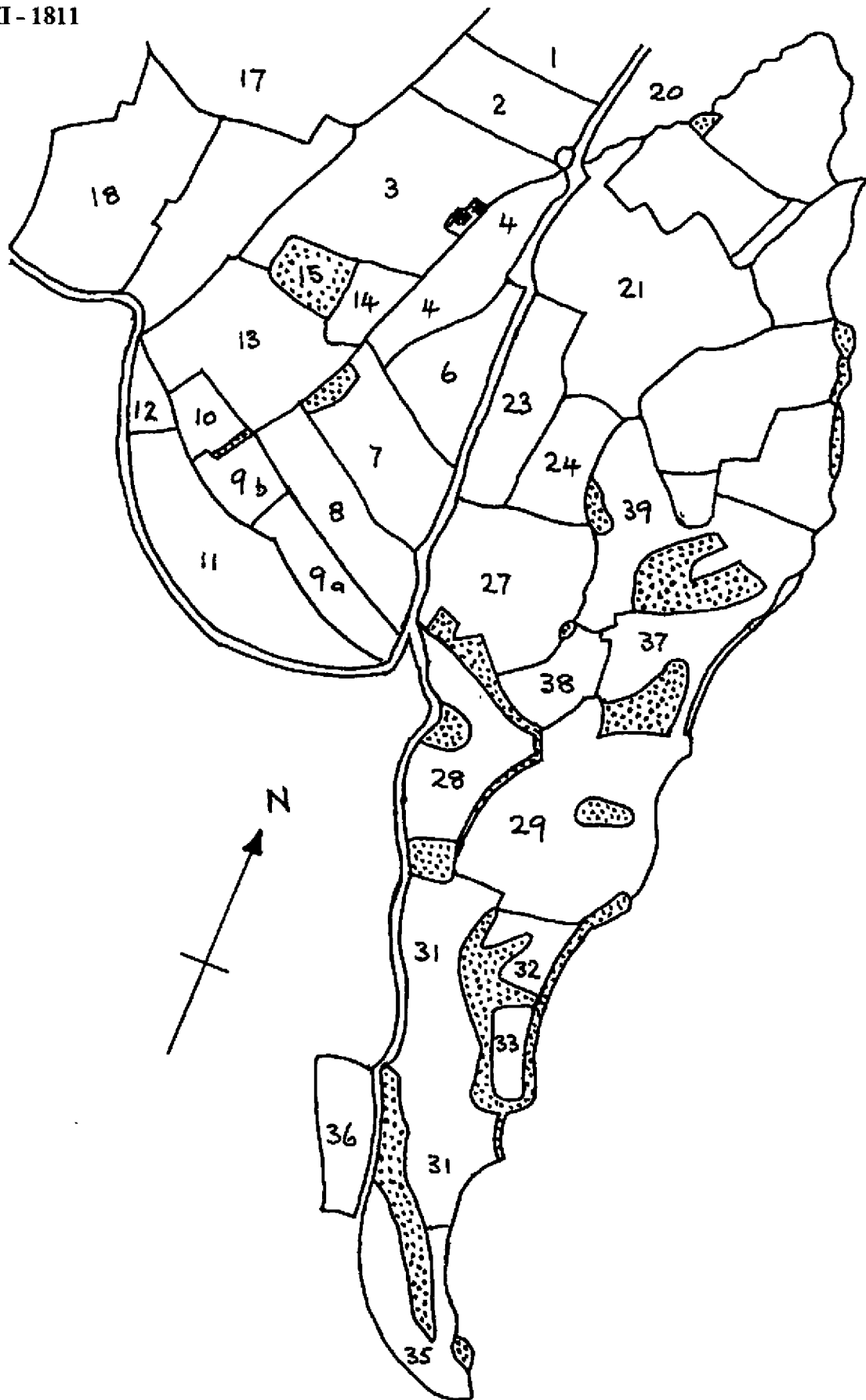
James Humphries left Southfield at Lady Day 1809 and was replaced by Mr John Joy of Leckhampton. A list of fields and the crops grown in them survives for the year 1809. As before about 90 acres of the farm was in pasture. Of the 83 acres of arable, about 20 were fallow, 7 sown with wheat, 19 with a mixture of barley and oats, and the rest oats.⁶ Clearly most of the arable was being used to grow animal feed rather than corn for sale. John Joy only stayed for a year, when a sale of his stock took place confirming that this farm concentrated on rearing livestock.⁷

Sale of Mr Joy's Live Stock and Hay at Charlton Kings Feb 19 1810

Sheep	41 Wether Sheep [castrated males] 41 Ewes in yeon [in lamb] 10 Wether tegs [young males] 10 Ewe tegs [young females] 7 Ewe and wether tegs 1 Ram
Cows	13 4yr old Dairy Cows (of long horned breed) 1 5yr old Bull 7 Weaning calves
Horses	1 Cart Mare 7yrs old
Hay	2 stacks of well ended hay in Home Ground c 4 tons 1 rick of ditto in Tight Ground c 15 tons 1 rick of ditto in Barley Mead c 12 tons 1 rick of ditto in Rowell Ground c 12 tons 1 rick of ditto in Avonhall [Avenall] Ground c 18 tons

I found it interesting that although this sale took place in February, the hayricks had not been built in the farm yard, but were in the fields. Presumably the stock was out during the winter and fed the hay *in situ* as a supplement to the grazing.

MAP III - 1811



FIELD NAMES ON MAP III

Fields which formed part of James Humphris's farm in 1804 are shown in bold.

1	Great Field
2	Lower Ground
3	Home Ground, Yards and Buildings
4	Rowell
6	White Breach
7	Barley Mead
8	Tights Ground
9a	Six Acres
9b	Connell Piece
10	Three Acres
11	Long Piece
12	Garrets Hill Piece
13	Avenells
14	Orchard
15	Knaven Hill Knap
17	Lower Pilford
18	Upper Pilford
20	The Field
21	Henlocks
23	Captains Ground
24	Cowpit
27	Hill Ground
28	Mountains Knowl
29	Haw Breach
31	Barn Piece
32	Four Acres
33	Hollow Way
35	Office
36	Strawfords Piece
37	Breach
38	Robins Ground
39	Little Comb

John Joy was replaced by Giles Chapman, from Lady Day 1810 at the same rent of £340 p.a. In 1811 Chapman was given a disbursement against his rent for 'Draining and Quicking' [this could imply an application of quicklime, or perhaps hedging as hawthorn plants were often referred to as 'quicks']. Chapman left at Lady Day 1816 and the tenancy was taken over by Nicholson.

William Hunt Prinn died in 1821, with no heir, and when his wife died the following year, the estate passed to a distant cousin George Bragge Prouse, who added the name Prinn to his surname. After his death it went to Jane Eliza, the wife of the first Sir William Russell, and her son Sir William, the second baronet. [see *Bulletin 8* for details of W H Prinn's will which explains the succession] There are no surviving estate rent books covering this period, only a survey taken in 1843, when the second Sir William Russell came of age, and an estate valuation made in 1851. In order to continue the story of Southfields we have to turn to census returns, our parish registers and newspaper reports.

The 1841 census shows that Margaret Nicholson, a seventy year old widow, was living at Southfield. She was described as 'Farmer employing two agricultural labourers and three farm servants. Neither she nor her workers had been born in Gloucestershire. From the parish registers we learn that William and Margaret Nicholson had together witnessed the marriage of Jane Nicholson on 9 March 1809, and that William Nicholson had been buried on 13 January 1834, aged seventy. It can be assumed, therefore, that William Nicholson held the tenancy from 1816 until his death, and it was then carried on by his widow.

The 1843 survey lists Margaret Nicholson as tenant of Southfield, which at that time consisted of 167a 2r 34p, about 90 acres of which was pasture and about 76 arable. The field names are the same as on Map III, made in 1811. A report accompanying the survey implies that the estate had been allowed to get very run-down. It recommends that

'the proprietor should erect new buildings and repair the old ones, thoroughly drain the lands, stub up trees and stocks and break up the rough lands. In short put everything in a tenantable state at his own expense.'

Russell took some notice of these recommendations - pencilled notes added to the 1843 survey show that by 1851 some groves had had trees grubbed up and the cleared land added to the adjacent arable fields; and a major expansion of the farm buildings had taken place by 1864, when a new estate map was made. This map also shows that a driveway through to the newly-cut Cirencester Road was in place by then. Today there are handsome iron gates leading off Sandy Lane marking the line that this driveway took.

From the *Cheltenham Free Press* we learn that Daniel Humphris was at Southfield in 1845, but he died in 1848 and James Burrows had taken his place by 1850. This is confirmed by the 1851 census which lists James Burrows living at Southfield with his wife Jane and four small children. He is described as 'Farmer of 160 acres employing four agricultural labourers. James, aged 29, had been born in Charlton Kings, the son of William Burrows of Ham. In 1846 he had married Jane, daughter of Thomas Fry also of Ham.

A valuation of Sir William Russell's Estate was made in August 1851, which shows the rental value of the individual fields. The pasture land varied between £2.13.0 and £1.15.0 per acre, with the greater figure being for Lower Ground and Home Ground. The best arable land was worth £1.9.6 and the worst - Strawfords Piece - only 14s per acre. Charlton Common was given a 'supposed value' of £10 in total.

This valuation had been made because the estate was running into debt at an alarming rate. Sir William Russell had grandiose plans and continued to buy up any available property in Charlton. He hoped to make a fortune by selling land for building and he was also involved in many other projects - ship-owning, Cornish mines, property in Bristol, as well as being Member of Parliament firstly for Dover and later Norwich. He was continually borrowing - over £60,000 between 1854 and 1866. A map made in 1867 shows the different mortgagees - thirteen of them. The only property still owned by Russell was The Nappings - about six acres either side of the Cirencester road. Southfield was shown as being in the hands of Annuity Trustees - to provide an annuity for his mother who, after the death of her husband, had assumed the family name of Prinn and called herself Lady Prinn.

James Burrows left the farm in 1858. A newspaper report of the sale of the farm stock lists 90 cattle, 277 sheep, 12 cart horses and 25 pigs - a very heavy stocking for 160 odd acres, surely the farm had been increased in size. There is mention of 'pedigree stock' and a 'well bred short horn heiffer' among those being sold. George Oram took over the tenancy and the 1861 census confirmed that Southfield was a much bigger farm by then - 426 acres. The extra land had previously formed part of Bafford Farm, which by then had only 24 acres farmed by

Esther Finch, a 73 year old widow. George Oram, who had come from Wiltshire, was employing fifteen men and two boys.

Tenancies at this time seem to have been for quite short periods, with gaps between them when the farm had to be 'in hand' and run by Russell's bailiff. Farm tenancies were obviously not being keenly sought, an indication of the sorry state of agriculture at this period. Lord Ernle in *English Farming Past and Present* expresses it graphically:

Since 1862 the tide of agricultural prosperity had ceased to flow; after 1874 it turned and rapidly ebbed'

The censuses show that new tenants came from outside Gloucestershire, perhaps from counties suffering greater agricultural depression. Livestock farmers suffered less than corn growers, particularly where a rising population such as in Cheltenham provided a ready market for milk and meat.

Gorge Oram was still tenant in September 1864, but after a period of being 'in hand' the farm had a new tenant, Richard Rayer, by April 1866. Another valuation made in 1868 described Southfield farm as having 'large and substantial farm buildings recently erected at large outlay' and adds 'it is at present in occupation of the owner'. Rayer's wife had died in May 1868 and he left soon after. There is a newspaper report of the sale of 'household furniture at Southfield Farm'. It is surprisingly extensive - four post beds, dressing tables, wardrobes, swing glasses, mahogany sideboard, walnut chiffonier etc. The work on the farm buildings must surely have included improvements to the house in the hope of attracting a wealthier class of tenant.

By 1871 the Worcestershire-born Octavius Averill was farming 234 acres and employing 7 men and 3 boys. Four of these men were now occupying cottages at Southfield - the head carter in one and the cowman, shepherd and undercarter in the other, none of them were Charlton men. The 'recently erected' farm buildings must have included workers' cottages. Again this tenancy was short-lived - in 1873 the farm was advertised 'To Let' and described as 294 acres arable/pasture and having a good house with offices and agricultural buildings. By 1875 John Keylock was shown as occupier in the Church Rate Book. ⁸

The 1881 census shows two of the cottages unoccupied, the third with one farm worker, and the house with only two young men who were described as 'servants in charge of hounds'. This ties in with a report in the *Cheltenham Examiner* for 14th September 1881 on a Cotswold Harriers Puppy Show held at Southfield. The kennels were 'now located at the farm, part of the Charlton Park Estate'. It goes on to describe the buildings as having been built by Sir William Russell 'when that gentleman was at the zenith of his reputation' and being 'of the most complete character fitted with all those conveniences which make glad the heart of a practical farmer.!'

Sir William died in 1892, by which time the estate had all been sold or was run by his mortgagees. The report of his death in the *Cheltenham Examiner* sums up the situation: 'Unfortunately his zeal for the improvement of Charlton Kings and of the development of his own estate outran his discretion. Charlton Park and the large property surrounding it passed into other hands'. Southfield Farm had been sold in 1889 for £7500 ⁹, far less than a valuation of £18,000 given in 1866. The name of the purchaser was not given in this reference but I am presuming it was William Dugdale as by 1893 he was claiming a parliamentary vote in respect of Southfield ¹⁰. Dugdale's wife had inherited the Lilybrook estate, so Southfield farm could well be amalgamated with it. A long association with the Prinn family was over and Charlton Park estate's loss became Lilybrook's gain.

POSTSCRIPT:

In November 2000 Mary Paget and I were invited by Mr and Mrs John Wright to have a look round their home - Southfield Manor. We were delighted to have this opportunity to see if we could find any trace of Jane Savory's house. We had heard that there were 'interesting old beams' - perhaps evidence of an earlier building?

When Southfield Farm was on the market in 1947, it was described by the estate agents as 'A Georgian Residence with later additions' ¹¹, and that is in fact what it appeared to be. The front of the house faces south with a porch in the centre leading into a hall with a particularly handsome Regency style staircase leading to the first and second floors. On either side of the hall are the main reception rooms, with two more rooms behind them. This regularity of design certainly gives the house the look of a Georgian building. The four main ground-floor rooms all have beams running in an east-west direction, so too do the four first-floor bedrooms. These beams are very knobbly and give the appearance of having been cut by an adze rather than a saw, but they are difficult to date because of the heavy surface treatment of them. The attic bedrooms show evidence of low tie-beams having been cut through and replaced with higher ones to allow more headroom, but this could have been carried out comparatively recently.

It was only when we were shown the cellar underneath the eastern side of the house, that we saw possible evidence of an older house on the site. The wall beside the cellar stairs showed the use of square timber-framing such as has been noted in some of Charlton's oldest houses. Not very convincing evidence - no stone plinth running round the walls, nor a stone fireplace set within a massive chimney such as can be seen in Charlton Cottage in School Road - but at least an indication that an older house had been on the site of the present Southfield Manor.

We are very grateful to Mr and Mrs Wright for their kindness in allowing us to wander round their home and take photographs. I am also indebted to Eric Armitage for the newspaper references and to Tony Sale for his help in producing the maps.

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| 11 | D2299/9025 |

JANE SALE

WILLIAM GEORGE AND FLORENCE EARENGEY - TWO SUCCESS STORIES

William George Earengy was born in Cheltenham in 1876, the third child of James Earengy and his wife Emma. The Earengys came from Wiltshire: James was born in Cricklade and his mother, Elizabeth in Grittleton, two miles north of Castle Combe. Earengy is a most unusual name, to the extent that in 1881 there were only eight people bearing it in the whole of England, Scotland and Wales. Seven of these were the Earengy family in Cheltenham and the eighth was James' mother, who lived with her married daughter Mary Nowell in Castle Combe. Such a rarity would suggest a foreign origin but the name may be Saxon. It bears resemblance to the place name Haringey, the London Borough. This name is said to derive from the village of Haringay, a Saxon settlement in the Middlesex Forest. This settlement was identified as Haringeie in 1201 and Haringesheye in 1243, meaning "Enclosure in the Grey Wood" or "Haering's Enclosure". Be that as it may, there were very few Earengys left by the time William George was born.

James Earengy moved to Cheltenham as a young man to find work. At first he found little opportunity. He did, however, find a wife, Emma, three years his junior and they married in 1870 when James was 23 years old. Almost immediately, the Earengys set off for America and settled in Allegheny City, Pennsylvania, an iron and steel town, where the first two children of the family were born - James Junior in 1872 and his sister Annie in 1874. However, not all was plain sailing and the family had returned to Cheltenham by 1875, William George being born there on 10 January 1876, followed by Frederick T. in 1878 and Minnie in 1880. The five children were spaced neatly at two-year intervals. By 1881 James was working as a Foreman Click Bootmaker in Thomas Dunn Steel and Son's Boot Manufactory at 79, High Street, Cheltenham. A Clicker was a senior position in this trade: he was a foreman shoemaker who cut out the leather for boots and shoes and gave it to the workmen for completion. It appears that the Earengys were reasonably well off: they lived next door at 78 High Street, effectively over the shop, and had a living-in servant to look after the young family.

William George began his education at the Highbury British Schools (Boys, Girls and Infants) located in Grosvenor Street. The British Schools were attached to one or other Churches and were maintained by the congregation of the church concerned, an annual collection being taken for the support of the school; donations and subscriptions were also received by ministers for this purpose. The Highbury British Schools were run by the Reverend J. Morell Blackie LL.B., the Minister of the Highbury Congregational Church, then in Winchcomb Street, and it must be presumed that the Earengys followed this non-conformist path. William showed great promise and gained a place at Cheltenham Grammar School. The Grammar School accepted boys from the age of eight, provided they could read and write. According to the prospectus, "boys were instructed in Grammar, the Classics and the Liberal Arts and Sciences (Mathematical and Experimental, notably Chemistry) including all branches of Education qualifying them for the Universities, for Mercantile Commercial pursuits". Education here was not free; the fees for the sons of inhabitants of Cheltenham were fixed by the Governors not below four guineas a year, inclusive of French and German, but not including Greek. The twelve Governors who fixed young Earengy's fees included two elected by the parents of day pupils; they could not have known that in thirty years time he would be sitting in their place.



William George Eareney in November 1907, when he was 31 years old. He returned to Cheltenham from his studies at London University with a BA (1st Class Honours), LL. B and finally a Doctorate in Law (LL. D) and set up a solicitor's business in Regent Street. Right, Florence Eareney, also a qualified solicitor, with her daughter Oenone outside the Town Hall in November 1910. They are wearing the sashes of the Women's Freedom League, of which Florence was the Honorary Secretary.



Oenone Eareney, as she appeared on the cover of the Cheltenham and County Looker-On in November 1919. She was then 18 years old.

In 1894 William obtained a place at London University, from where he graduated in 1898 with a BA (1st class Honours). He continued academic studies, receiving a Bachelor of Law degree (LL.B) in 1903 and a Doctorate (LL.D) in 1906. In 1900 he married Florence How, whom he had probably known for a long time. They were well matched in every way. She was the daughter of John How, a successful grocer in Cambray, Cheltenham. The Hows had six children and the household ran to four grocer's assistants, a nursemaid, a cook and a housemaid. Florence was two year younger than William but equalled him in intelligence and ambition. Like him, she was in religion a Non-conformist, having been brought up a Baptist. She was, of her day, a thoroughly modern woman who followed a path almost identical to that of her future husband. Where she was educated is not known; in Cheltenham there was no public secondary education for girls comparable to Pate's Grammar School until 1905. However, she too went to London University, acquired a BA and qualified as a solicitor. Their first and only child, Oenone, was born in Cheltenham in 1901. The distinctive name appears to have been chosen for its sound, since the classical Oenone, the daughter of a river god or nymph beloved and married by Paris, committed suicide after he forsook her for Helen of Troy and subsequently died. The Earengy family took up residence at 3, Wellington Square, Pittville, and William set up a business on his own as a solicitor and Commissioner for Oaths at 10, Regent Street. Strangely, as it transpired, William's house was that formerly occupied by George Ridge, also a solicitor and the Founder of the Battledown Estate (see *Bulletin 47*), and his office was only two doors away from where Ridge had practised in 1880.

Earengy's legal business prospered and around 1911 he went into partnership with Arthur S F Pruen, forming the firm of Earengy and Pruen at 10, Regent Street. The Earengys set about creating the sort of public status normal for those with ambition in Cheltenham. However, they did not appear to find it easy. Probably because of their social origins, both William and especially his wife, had radical views about society and the need to reform it. William's first extra-mural appointment was that of Honorary Secretary to the Cheltenham Ethical Society, of which he was a founder member. He held the post from 1907 to 1911. In 1907 he moved into local politics, being elected as a Liberal Councillor for the Central Ward. He sat on the Council Water, Public Library and School Management Committees. He became a Mason, which was 'de rigeur' for the Town's leaders, eventually becoming in 1914 the Worshipful Grand Master of the Royal Union Lodge No 246, which met at the Masonic Hall in Portland Street. In 1915 he became a Governor of the Grammar School which had given him his opportunity for success, being elected by the parents of the Day Scholars.

His wife Florence was in the meantime pursuing her own agenda on reform; in 1910 she became Honorary Secretary of the Women's Freedom League, affiliated to the Central London League. This claimed to be a non-party organisation having as its object the removal of the sex disabilities of women with a view to Social Reform. This League was not only concerned with Women's Suffrage, for which there were other separate pro and anti female organisations in Cheltenham: it was directed rather towards the inferior position of women in relation to the law.

William shared her views and both lectured widely on the theme. William himself published a book entitled "Woman Under the Law". These activities kept them busy: in 1911 William stated that he had little or no time for recreation or hobbies, other than a little motoring. However, the Earengys' activities appear to have been narrow and intellectual. Although active within their own church, they did not seem to embrace any of the many social, recreational, public welfare and other charitable organisations which most of the Town's dignitaries appeared to consider necessary to create an acceptable public persona. Moreover, it can well be imagined that the views of the non-conformist, radical Earengys would not be entirely welcome to many of the same dignitaries, and the fact that they were expressed forcefully and brilliantly would not have helped either.



On 12 January 1922 the How Family re-assembled for the Golden Wedding of the successful Cheltenham Grocer John How and his wife Hannah. The happy couple, then living at Torrington, Western Road, married at Salem Baptist Church in 1872 and are both 80 years old in this photograph. Their three sons and four daughters bear a strong family resemblance and are:-

Standing: Mrs. Edith Dicks, Mr. Ernest How, Mrs. Florence Earengy, Mr. Herbert How, Miss Lilian How
Seated: Mr. Arthur How, Mrs. Hannah How, Mr. John How, Mrs. How-Martyn.

At this time the 44-year old Florence Earengy was a solicitor. Three years later she was admitted to the Middle Temple and in 1928 became one of the first group of women to be called to the Bar.

In 1911 the Earenges purchased for £300 Lot 11 of the Battledown Estate from the Reverend John de la Bere, the son of Samuel Higgs Gael who changed his name for inheritance reasons. The plot stood at the top of Ashley Road and they named the house they built "Ashley Rise". They had taken up residence by 1913, vacating 3, Wellington Square. However, the advent of the First World War cut short their stay: in 1917, William, by then a Councillor again for the Central Ward, resigned his seat to help the war effort. He took up a post as a lieutenant in the Army Legal Service, described as supervising military representation in the Stowbridge recruiting area of Worcester. In June 1917 he transferred to Reading as Appeals Military Representative for Berkshire. Ashley Rise was either let or sold (or possibly both in sequence) to Edward L Ward, the High Street Draper who later became Mayor of Cheltenham. In William's absence the firm of Earengy and Pruett continued to be active in Regent Street. Florence Earengy remained in Cheltenham and became a Captain in the Women's Voluntary Reserve Corps. At the end of the war she won first prize for smartness in the Armistice Day Celebration Parade.

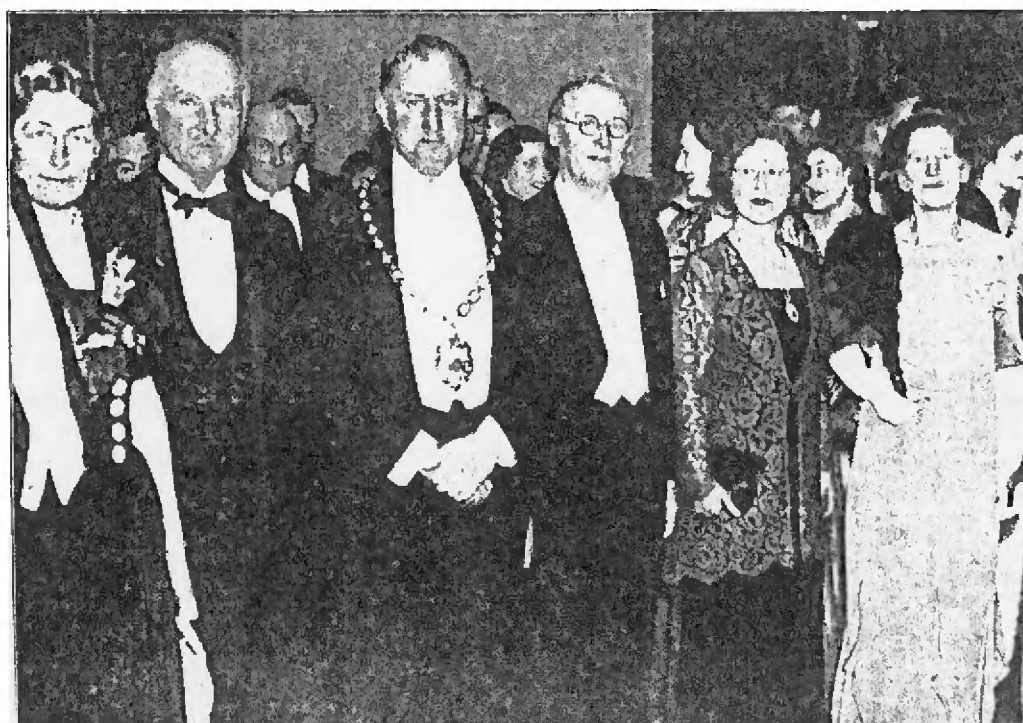
In 1919 the Earenges were preparing to leave Cheltenham for other parts, though a portrait of their daughter Oenone, then 19 years old, appeared on the front cover of the *Looker-On* in December of that year. In the same year, William was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple being awarded a Certificate of Honour. The firm at 10, Regent Street had ceased to trade by 1921. William Earengy joined the Oxford Circuit, where he built up a considerable practice as a barrister, his name frequently figuring in important cases. In 1928 he made an appearance at the celebrated Avening Village scandal, reported to have attracted great public attention throughout the country. A Commission set up by the Bishop of Gloucester investigated charges made against the character of the Reverend O E Hayden, MA, Rector of Avening. A Miss Nina Chipp was the woman in the case and William Earengy appeared as Counsel for the Rector. He was accompanied by his wife and much local amusement was caused when the London Pressmen mistook Florence Earengy for Miss Chipp. William's legal career now took off. In 1930 he became Recorder of Tewkesbury, a post he held for two years. In 1931 he was made King's Council and subsequently became Recorder of Dudley until 1934, when he was appointed to the bench as a County Court Judge of Circuit 41 (Clerkenwell). This was seen as an exceptional appointment by the Lord Chancellor, who normally tried out County Court judges in the provinces before bringing them to the Metropolis.

During this period his wife Florence was not being left behind professionally. On 13 May 1925 she, too, was admitted to the Middle Temple: her admittance record reads "Florence Earengy, BA (London), of 64 Belsize Park Gardens, Hampstead, (aged 47), second daughter of John How, of Cheltenham, Glos". She was called to the Bar there on 26 January 1928. Her achievement has to be seen in the light of the fact that it was only in May 1922 that the first woman barrister was admitted in this country.

The Earenges made a triumphal return to Cheltenham on 27 March 1937, when William and Florence attended the Law Students' Dinner as Guests of Honour. They had not completely lost their ties with the Town, since William's mother Emma was still alive and living at 2, Glenfall Terrace, All Saints Road. She died on 2 January 1941, aged 91. William remained an active Judge until 1949, when he retired. He was proud of the fact that, in the preceding fifteen years, the Court of Appeal had reversed only three of his decisions. He published a further legal work "The Law of Hire Purchase" and edited the 11th Edition (1946) of *Mayne on Damages*. Florence pursued her work on Women's Rights and in 1953 published through the National Council of Women in Great Britain a book entitled "*A Milk-white Lamb: The Legal and Economic Status of Women*". William subsequently became a Senator of the University of London, a position he held from 1950 to 1958. In that year the Earenges bought land in Brackendale Road, a private unadopted road in Camberley, Surrey. There they built a house and, no doubt nursing fond memories of the house they had built and occupied



Florence and William Earegey enjoying themselves on 14 April 1928. They were by then both barristers, and William was part of the legal team defending the Rector of Avening, the Reverend O.E. Hayden, at a Public Enquiry into charges made against the latter's character. The event, known as "The Avening Village Scandal", excited National Press interest. The lady in the case was a Miss Nina Chipp, (shown in insert), and the Earegeys' broad smiles were because the London pressmen mistook Florence for Miss Chipp.



His Honour Judge Earegey, KC, (fourth from left) and Florence Earegey, KC, (extreme right), as principal guests at a Law Students' Dinner at the Queen's Hotel, Cheltenham, on 27 March 1937. Other guests are (from the left) Mrs. R.O. Seacombe, Mr. Reginald Winterbotham, Mayor Daniel L. Lipson, Mrs. Lipson and Mrs. Kennedy



The two Ashley Rises. "Ashley Rise", Ashley Road, Battledown, Charlton Kings, the first house built for William and Florence Earengy in 1911, and below, "Ashley Rise", Brackendale Road, Camberley, Surrey, the retirement home they built in 1958. The latter is now called "Allerdale". His Honour Judge Earengy died there in 1961.



but briefly in Charlton Kings, named it "Ashley Rise", thus neatly closing the circle. The house was extended in 1959. William George Earengy died at the second Ashley Rise on 12 April 1961, aged 85.

The funeral took place at Woking Crematorium on 17 April. The Reverend Adam A Macpherson conducted the service and the family mourners were:-

Mrs Earengy, his widow.

Dr E Stewart, the married name of his daughter Oenone, who was, however, a widow at this time. She was now using the name Elaine, possibly because of the inevitable difficulties in initialising a diphthong. However, she retained the name Oenone as her second name, and it is not clear whether she had been so christened and had merely been called by her second name in her youth.

Mr Robin Milton Stewart, Miss Shirley Anne Stewart and Mrs Rosemary Elspeth Polley, Oenone's children and his grandchildren.

Mr and Mrs Herbert How, Florence's younger brother and his wife.

Mrs Edith Dicks, Florence's older sister, née How.

Among the other mourners was the Clerk of the Convocation of the University of London.

On 14 April *The Times* published a photo and an obituary, summarising his legal career. Commenting on his exceptional advancement to the Bench at Clerkenwell, it noted that "the experiment was fully justified as he made an excellent Judge". This was followed in *The Times* of 22 April by a tribute from Mr Justice Slade, otherwise Sir Gerald Osbourne Slade, a Judge of the High Court of Justice, King's Bench Division:

"May one who had the privilege of being in the Chambers of His Honour William George Earengy for several years up to his appointment to the Bench be permitted to supplement the obituary ... with a personal tribute to his unfailing kindness and generosity to all who sought his advice or assistance? His profound legal knowledge and wide experience, equalled only by his modesty and courtesy, were always at the disposal of any member of his chambers, and there must be many who, like myself, owe him a great debt of gratitude for the confidence with which he inspired them in their early days at the Bar. You say rightly that he made an excellent Judge. These, coupled with great patience, were the qualities which went far to make him so."

The Judge's will, signed only five weeks before he died, contained no surprises. He left his estate to his wife, if she survived him, or to his daughter, named as Doctor Elaine Oenone Stewart, of Wychwood, Pine Avenue, Camberley. Bequests of £100 were left to his grandchildren and to his sister, Annie Harris, presumably his only surviving sibling. However, the gross value of the estate was substantial at £75,934. Somewhat surprisingly, he had not used, or had chosen not to use, his legal acumen to minimise estate duty, and the Inland Revenue collected £30,922.

The coverage afforded him by *The Times* indicates that His Honour Judge William George Earengy, QC, died not only a national figure but also one well respected, admired and, above all, liked. The Earengys' lives spanned six reigns and their successful ascent of the legal profession's ladder from relatively humble beginnings is evidence of their undoubted intellect and determination. This is perhaps even more so in the case of Florence, who had to break into a male-dominated world.

There remain two more general points of interest to be drawn from the story of the Earenges' successful lives. Firstly, of the two "Ashley Rises", that on the Battledown Estate in Charlton Kings remains so-called, and, though it has lost some of its land, it is largely as it was built. His smaller retirement home in Camberley has lost its original name and is now called "Allerdale", 6, Baxendale Road. Secondly, there is the matter of the name Earengy. Its rarity was remarked on earlier: in the 1881 census James Earengy was the only mature male of that surname in England, Scotland and Wales. His daughters could not carry the name forward but he had three sons. Of these, William George had one daughter only and we have no information on the other two boys, James Junior and Frederick, other than that they both predeceased William. It will have been noted that, other than the widow, there were no family mourners bearing the name Earengy at William George's funeral. A search of information databases for 2000 found no one of the name of Earengy in the United Kingdom and it is therefore possible that this unusual name has now completely disappeared.

DAVID O'CONNOR

SIR WILLIAM COMPTON AND CHELTENHAM

Reading through past *Bulletins* I noticed a number of references to one Henry Compton, Esquire, or Sir Henry Compton, for whom New Court may have been built. (These can be found in *Bulletin 9* pp17 & 18, *Bulletin 18* pp24 & 40, *Bulletin 30* pp20 & 21, *Bulletin 32* p9). I wondered who this person was who had held land in the area and how he acquired it. After a little investigation I think it is possible that he may be the Henry Compton, son of Peter Compton (who died as a minor), who was grandson of Sir William Compton and eventually became Lord Compton under Elizabeth ¹.

I was interested to come upon evidence that "Sir Will[iam] Compton ... died seized of 20 mess[uages], 100 [acres] of [arable?], 40 of mead[ow] in Cheltenham, Alston, and Charlton, held of the manor of Cheltenham, parcel of Sion abb[ey] by 2s 4d rent". Compton was assessed in the Gloucestershire Military Survey of 1522 at £4 in Cheltenham Hundred. He was also listed as Steward of a number of manors ².

Compton (c1482-1528) was a close servant of Henry VIII who, inter alia "looked after his close stool (commode) and attended him while he used it". He seems from modest origins to have "raised his landed income from about £10 to nearly £1700 a year, built up a vast assemblage of offices on the Crown estates, and laid the foundation for his grandson's elevation to the peerage" ³.

There is an interesting article ⁴ which describes the range of his many duties for the king, his acquisition of lands and offices and his dealings with other courtiers. His income was "higher than the typical early Tudor nobleman".

¹ *Dictionary of National Biography*. William Compton p909

² T D Fosbrooke. *Abstracts of ... the County of Gloucester*. 1807. p373
The Military Survey of Gloucestershire. 1522. Ed. R W Hoyle.
BGAS. 1993

³ S J Gunn. *Early Tudor Government 1485-1558*. 1995. p35

⁴ G W Bernard. *The Rise of Sir William Compton, early Tudor Courtier*. *English Historical Review* 96. 1981 pp754-777. {Copy in Gloucestershire Reference Library}

MICHAEL GREET

THE FIRST EVIDENCE OF CHARLTON (ASHLEY) MANOR

In 1935 F B Welch showed that Walter of Ashley (the first Lord of Charlton (Ashley) Manor received his grant of the manor from Miles, Earl of Hereford ("de dono Com. Milonis) ¹

Miles was made Earl on 25 July 1141 and died on 22 December 1143 ², so these dates appear to define the period within which Walter received his land.

¹ F B Welch. *Gloucestershire in the Pipe Rolls*. TBGAS 57. 1935. Page 54

² R B Patterson. *Earldom of Gloucester Charters: The Charters and Scribes of the Earls and Countesses of Gloucester to 1217*. Oxford. 1973. Pages 95-96

MICHAEL GREET

OAKLEY CHAPEL: AN UNLIKELY POSSIBILITY?

The deeds of Llanthony Priory which relate to their holdings of property in Prestbury contain puzzling references to more than one church there. It is established that the Church at Prestbury and, almost certainly, the church at Sevenhampton were given to Llanthony Priory at Gloucester in 1136 by the Bishop of Hereford, Robert of Bethune ("to replace its wartime losses ... the churches of Prestbury viz. the church under the hills and the church on the hills with tithes ...")¹. However, a later deed refers to another church there, apparently at Oakley.

This is a deed of 1151x1157 in which Gilbert, Bishop of Hereford notified John, Bishop of Worcester that when he "dedicated, for the brothers of Llanthony their church in the wood of Acheleya [I take this to be Oakley], Ralph the Butler ... discharged them from service for the land cleared from the same wood which he had previously granted to them, so that he may not pass through it" ².

In another deed Walter, son of Miles, Earl of Hereford, certified that Ralph Butler gave Llanthony Priory "ditched land to assart in the wood of Acle and his brother Roger, Earl of Hereford confirmed the gift" ³. Roger of Hereford was Earl of Hereford 1143-1155 and died c1155. Between 1151 and 1157 John of Paghham, Bishop of Worcester stated "Ralph the Butler of Cheltenham had given the Priory land at Oakley (Aclea)" ⁴.

Ralph Butler gave Llanthony six, later 30 acres from the fee of Earl Roger 1143-1155 ("Concessi quoque donationem Radulfi Butelarii qui de feodo meo quod ei dederam dedit eis primum sex acras postea xxx") ⁵.

He also gave land to the church of St Mary at Cheltenham (an appropriated church of Cirencester Abbey) for serving his chapel. ⁶. Elsewhere I have taken this to be perhaps the chapel at Up Hatherley, which was a chapel of Cheltenham, or a private chapel, rather than the chapel at Acheleya which belonged to Llanthony Priory.

There are further references to the gifts of land at Oakley by Ralph in deeds of Walter of Hereford 1155-c1160 ⁷ "et de feodo de Chilteham exartum de Acle sicut Radulfus Buttellarius eis illud donavit"; ⁸ "et exartum de Acle sicut Radulfus Butellarius eis illud donavit". It is not certain how many gifts of land there were.

The implication of these references is that there may for a time have been a chapel at Oakley. If so it must have been located on the Prestbury side of Wyman's Brook, believed to have been the Parish boundary then. This does not appear to be a likely site for a chapel, and no

other reference to one has been identified. There may, however, have been more settlement in the vicinity than has hitherto been appreciated. If Llanthony Priory had a grange at Oakley this could explain the siting of a chapel here.

FOOTNOTES:

Reference. D Walker. *Charters of the Earldom of Hereford 1095-1201*. pp 1-75 of Camden Miscellany XXII (Camden 4th Series Vol I) Royal Historical Society 1964

- 1 Mr J Rhodes' summary of PRO C115/77 VI 24 GRO Microfilm 1104
(See also "the church with its appurtenant chapel" PRO C115/77
VI 21 1136x1148; and VI 23 1148x1150)
- 2 Mr Rhodes' summary of PRO C115/77 VI 18. The Latin text is in
The Letters and Charters of Gilbert Foliot. Ed. A Morey,
C.N.L. Brooke. CUP 1967. pp 383-384
- 3 Mr Rhodes' summary of PRO C115/77 VI 14
- 4 Mr Rhodes' summary of PRO C115/77 VI f126 [43]
- 5 D Walker. p18
- 6 D Walker. p36
- 7 D Walker. p44
- 8 D Walker. p46

MICHAEL GREET

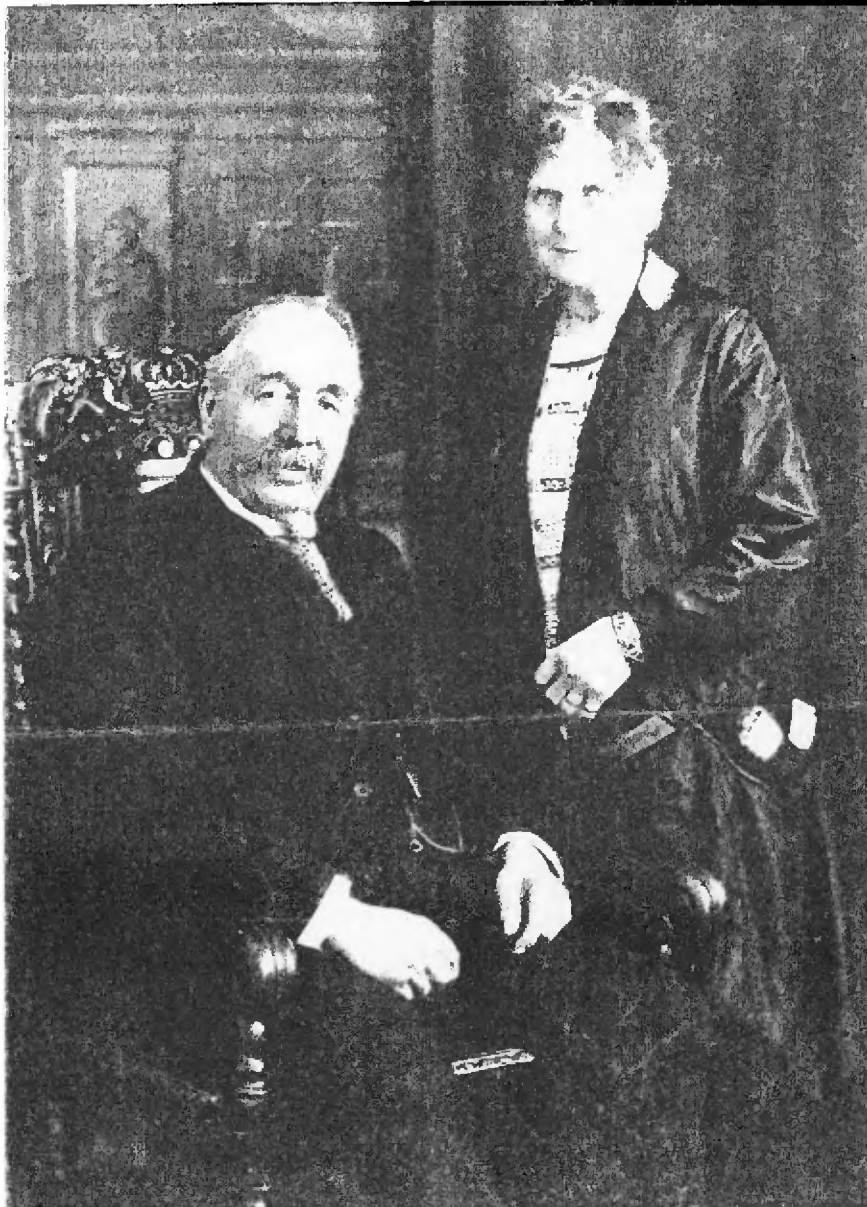
SAMUEL WILLIAM GREVILLE HAMLETT

Mr Ronald Hamlett has recently sent us this photograph of his Great Great Uncle, known as Greville Hamlett. He was born on 30 August 1857, the son of William and Ellin Hamlett and died in 1939. Greville Hamlett was an undertaker and his shop was in Church Street, just opposite the gates into the churchyard. His coffins were stored in a yard, now the carpark for the infant school, and unsuspecting new choirboys were reputedly shut up in them as part of their initiation. Fred Taylor, recalling his days as a choirboy, did not mention this practice but he did tell how they had their "fun and tricks, such as tying cotton on door knockers - Mr Hamlett, undertaker, was often a victim of our pranks."

Other stories about Greville Hamlett appeared in some of our early Bulletins which are worth repeating now that we have his photograph in front of us. Writing in 1985, John Williams described him as "a gruff old man with a big moustache" and reputed to be 'very near'. He went on to relate two stories about the Reverend Edgar Neale and Greville - after Edgar Neale had preached one day on Christian Giving, Hamlett said to him afterwards "That was a very impressive sermon, Vicar. I felt your eye on me!" and gave him a £5 note. On another occasion after a lesson on Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, he remarked regretfully "What advantages those early Christians had!"

George Ryland also wrote about his memories of Greville Hamlett. He described him as "a tall, portly gentleman, usually as befitted his calling dressed in a dark suit and bowler hat". One day, while George was still a schoolboy, he was asked to carry out a small job for Greville Hamlett. George had already built up a reputation for being artistic and particularly good at lettering. The 'small job' turned out to be correcting an inaccuracy on the brass name plate on a coffin - with the body in it! George was sure that the work was not his best, what with controlling his heart-beats and steadying his hand, but at least, he mused, 'it will soon be buried and forgotten'.

With Greville in the photograph is his wife Elizabeth, of whom very little is known except that she came from the Forest of Dean. We are very grateful to Ron Hamlett for sending us this reminder of a well-known Charlton figure.



NEWLY-WEDS MOVE INTO "CADEN" 3 OKUS ROAD

A few weeks ago, Jane Sale introduced me to the procedures and 'treasures' of the Gloucestershire Record office. The first file I examined (GRO D8914) contained just a few papers, bills and postcards, but these surprisingly revealed a cameo glimpse into the lives of Walter and Gladys Dent, who lived at the above address.

On 8 June 1935 Walter Dent married Gladys Cooke of 2 Upper Park Street, Cheltenham. There were several telegrams of Congratulations on their marriage, including one addressed to them at "Caden". There were also three sent to "Clovelly", Montpelier, Ilfracombe - presumably their Honeymoon Hotel! A telegram from Fred was addressed to Gladys Cooke c/o Gloucester Dairy, Promenade - the Caterers for the Reception. Their bill was included with a number of others, held in a clip headed "Wedding Expenses", though in fact it also contained some for the cost of setting up home. These bills are interesting to read in regard to the costs involved and the names of the suppliers - some of the Shops still trading.

Gloucester Dairy Co., Promenade.	For Wedding Reception. York Ham, Ham Pie, Meats, Bread Rolls, Milk, Sausages etc, etc	£8.15. 2d
Leopolds	2 tier Wedding Cake	£1.15. 0d
Robert Young Florist	Sheaf of Lilies 2 Maids Bouquets, 4 Gents White Carnations, and 2 Ladies Sprays	£1. 0. 4d
S. Davis & Son, Upholsterers and Cabinet Makers	New Suite, with Stuff and Loose Seats with Covers (The Seats and Covers were supplied "With Compliments")	£14. 0. 0d
Bon Marché	Kettles, Dustpan. Saucepans etc	13. 4d
John Lance & Co. High Street	Tablecloths	5.10d
Gough & Edwards, The Strand	Reels of cotton, Gloves etc	6. 9d
Drakes, draper Winchcombe St.	Sheets, Pillow Cases	9.10½d
A.S. Price, Furniture Manufacturer to the Trade, Naunton Lane	Bedstead & Oak Suite Mattress	£17. 5. 0d

Subsequently, three telegrams were received by the Dents on 1st and 2nd November 1938 - the first states "Congratulations. OH BOY. From Hopeful"; the second from "Father" at Banbury and one from Stratford-on-Avon. Birth of a son?

Further correspondence reveals a little more about this couple. A telegram dated 4 February 1931 addressed to Walter at 1 St James Square "from Gladys" (future wife ?) congratulating him on his 21st Birthday, indicates a birth date of 4 February 1910. This is supported by a later Postcard to Walter "Happy Birthday from Mother", posted 5 February 1935. Was she a day late? This was the year of his marriage and he would have been 25 years old.

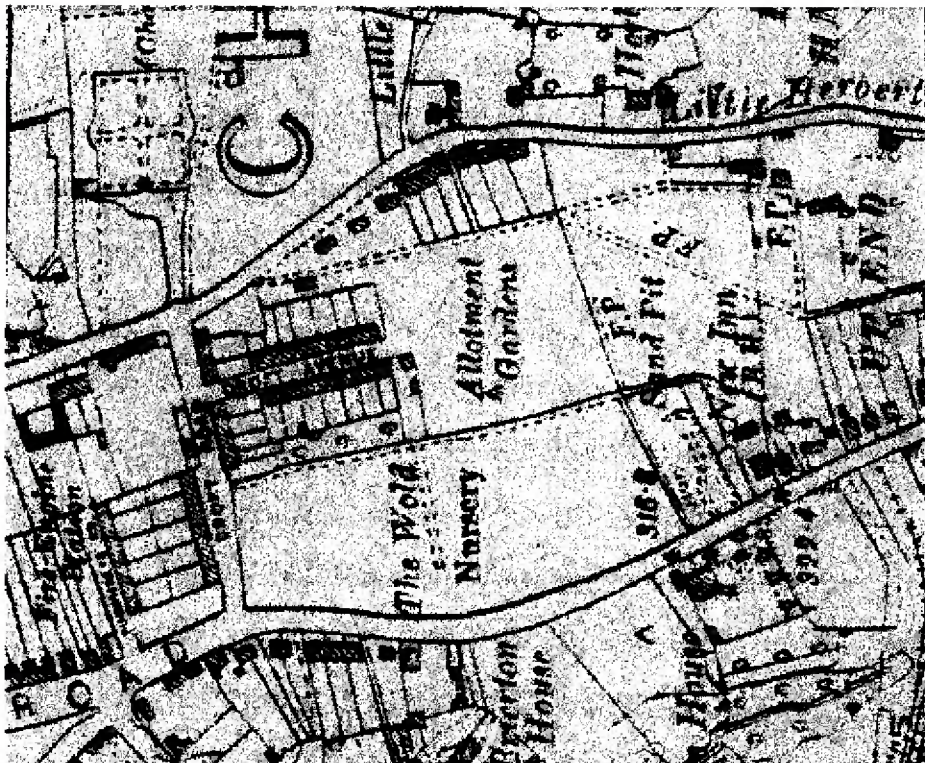
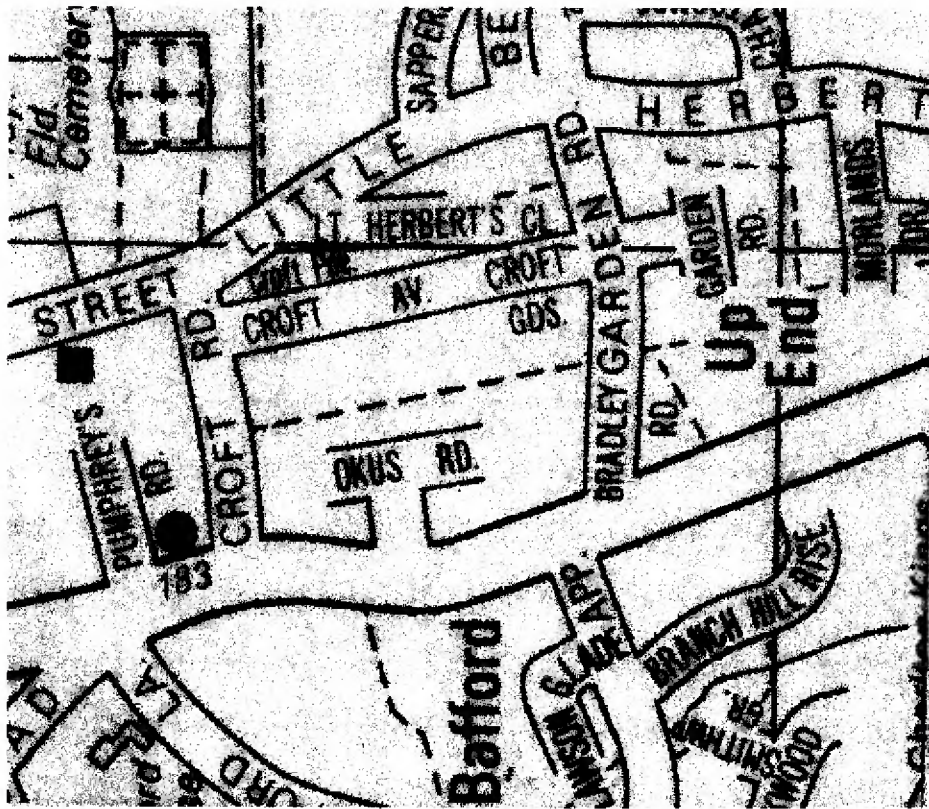
The earliest, and perhaps most interesting postcard, is dated 10 November 1915, addressed to Master W. Dent (he would have been 5 years old), at 1 St James Terrace, Cheltenham, from Victor, Army P.O.1, B, France. The front of the card is a coloured picture of a young French boy in a blue jacket, trousers and peaked cap waving a British Flag, and underneath the words "Vive l'Angleterre à elle." The last two holiday postcards were addressed to Miss Dorothy Dent (Do-Do) living at Chosen House, Cirencester Road (post marks unclear) - from "Mother" in Banbury, and from E. Le Feuvre. Perhaps she was Walter's sister?

In addition to the above, there were details of the Dent's mortgage with the Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society, including an Abstract of Title of Messrs Edwin Henry Bradley, Hubert Edwin Bradley and Edwin Henry Bradley, Junior, all of Okus Quarries, Swindon Wilts, Builders and Contractors, to land situate at Charlton Kings. So it appears the names Bradley and Okus were given to these roads because of the name and address of the name of the developers of this part of Charlton Kings. On 22 July 1925 the Bradleys had purchased freehold land on the East side of Cirencester Road, and an additional note showed that this land had previously been copyhold of the Manor of Ashley.

Below is a photograph of the entrance to Bradley Road off Cirencester Road, which our Society acquired from David Hanks of Cotswold Images. Judging by the car, we can date the photo from soon after the houses were built. On the next page are two maps showing this area before and after the development of Bradley Road and Okus Road. The site of Okus Road had been Fuller and Maylam's orchard.

ANN HOOKEY





SOME THINGS DON'T CHANGE MUCH

Looking at the Minutes of the Charlton Kings Urban District Council, one is struck at the slow rate of progress over dealing with residents' problems. There may not have been as much 'red tape' as nowadays, but there was certainly a tendency to postpone actually doing anything!

In *Bulletin 47* I wrote about the sandpit between Cirencester Road and Laundry Lane/New Court road and its conversion into an ash tip in 1920. By 1923 the Urban District Council had been receiving complaints from local residents about smells and rats.

Further Complaints about the Cirencester Road Ash Tip continues the story with the minutes of UDC meetings in 1925 and '26. (DA 3 100/15)

10 March 1925 - A letter was read from Miss Pay [of the Diamond Sanitary Laundry] enquiring if something could be done to prevent the awful smell from the rubbish tip opposite the Laundry - the committee decided to visit the site.

13 March 1925 - "the Health Committee reported they had visited the Ash Tip and had given the surveyor instructions to level down the heaps of soil in order to cover the stagnant water". Action approved. "An estimate from Messrs Fuller and Maylam for planting one hundred and six laurels along the fence of the Ash Tip in Laundry Lane at a cost of £5 was accepted". Laurel bushes were believed to absorb noxious smells - so were often planted round the backs of Victorian houses. By 1925 this theory had been largely rejected and laurels were out of fashion - hence Fuller and Maylams bargain offer!

14 September 1926 - "A petition was read from the Residents in Cirencester Road and Bafford complaining of the state of the Ash Tip and asking that arrangements be made for the destruction of the refuse at some other place than the one at present used" - referred to surveyor.

Infant Welfare Move to the Council Hall tells the same story of delay by officials and dissatisfaction from the public.

14 October 1924 - (DA 3 100/14 pp 422 and 434) - a letter was read from General Burton stating that he had decided to let the hall for the same rent as St Clairford Hall, and that a perambulator shed would be erected.

9 March 1926 (DA 3 100/15 p207) A letter was read from the Secretary of the Infant Welfare Centre stating that the gas arrangements for boiling water were very inadequate and asking that some arrangement might be made so that the taps could come down from the gas pipe. Matter left to the Surveyor.

8 June 1926 (DA 3 100/15 p246) Nothing had been done. Infant Welfare Centre enquired "whether they could make the necessary alteration in the burner, when their request was acceded to".

MARY PAGET

DID PAPWORTH DESIGN A HOUSE IN CHARLTON KINGS?

The Exhibition of some of Papworth's Cheltenham designs in 1978 prompted the question - did he design any house in Charlton Kings?

(1) The Hearne

This house seemed the most likely possibility from its style. We know that Alexander Nicholson of East Court bought the old Hearne and land on 8 September 1828 for £2000¹ and on 7 August 1829² and had rebuilt it by 15 February 1833 when he mortgaged "all the buildings lately erected and built by the said Alexander Nicholson on the said land and premise"³. He did this to preserve his own house from cottage development so near and as a house to let. Although he left Charlton Kings in 1836, he did not sell the Hearne till 3 January 1843 (see *Bulletin 22*).

There is no indication in the Papworth papers at the Royal Institute of British Architects Library of any design made for Nicholson. It looks as though Nicholson had seen and liked some of the Cheltenham houses and asked his builder to do something in a similar style.

When Hamptons the estate agents, advertised the house for sale recently, the sale particulars gave the date of building as 1846. There seems no evidence at all for this latter date. By that time the sitting tenants, the Mercers, had bought it which they did in 1843; and they continued to own it, though not live in it, till 1919. If it had been rebuilt again, and this house is not Nicholson's new erection spoken of in 1833, there is no evidence for such work, either at the RIBA Library or the Gloucestershire Record Office.

(2) Moorend Park

This house, demolished in 1979, was built on a site bought by Frind Cregoe mainly from land of Moorend House, and a further piece acquired from the Prinn family. Cregoe was renting Charlton House at the time.

He got a plan from Papworth in 1825 but delayed building, perhaps because of the collapse in Cheltenham development at that time. As a business man he may have been thinking of a house to let. It was built between 1835 and 1840, very much to Papworth's plan but with the Swiss exterior and detail we remember. So as far as the interior went, there was a semi-Papworth house in Charlton Kings but it was the least likely building seen from the outside. Even inside one would have had to strip off the romantic trimmings to appreciate the basic design. But it was a pleasant house, I stayed in it as a hotel and liked the feel - its loss is still something we must regret.

FOOTNOTES:

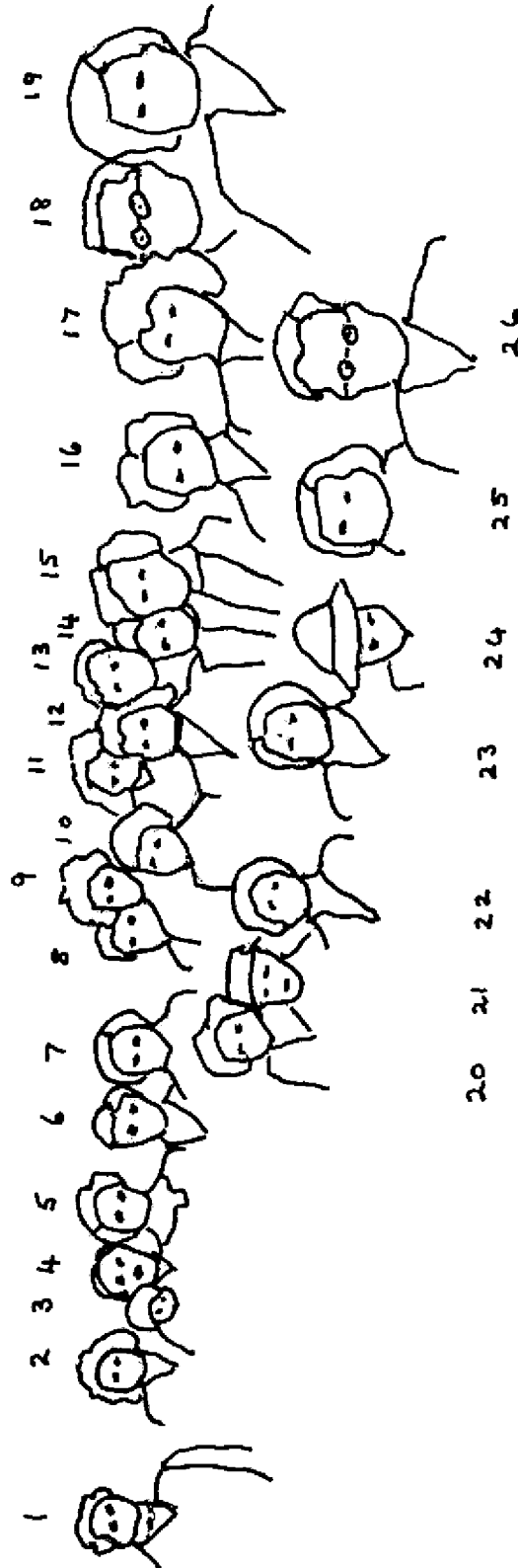
- 1 D855 acc 2198/5 pp 105-9
- 2 D855 acc 2198/6 pp 148-152; D109/2
- 3 D855 acc 2198/9 pp 200-1

MARY PAGET

VICTORY PARTY 1945

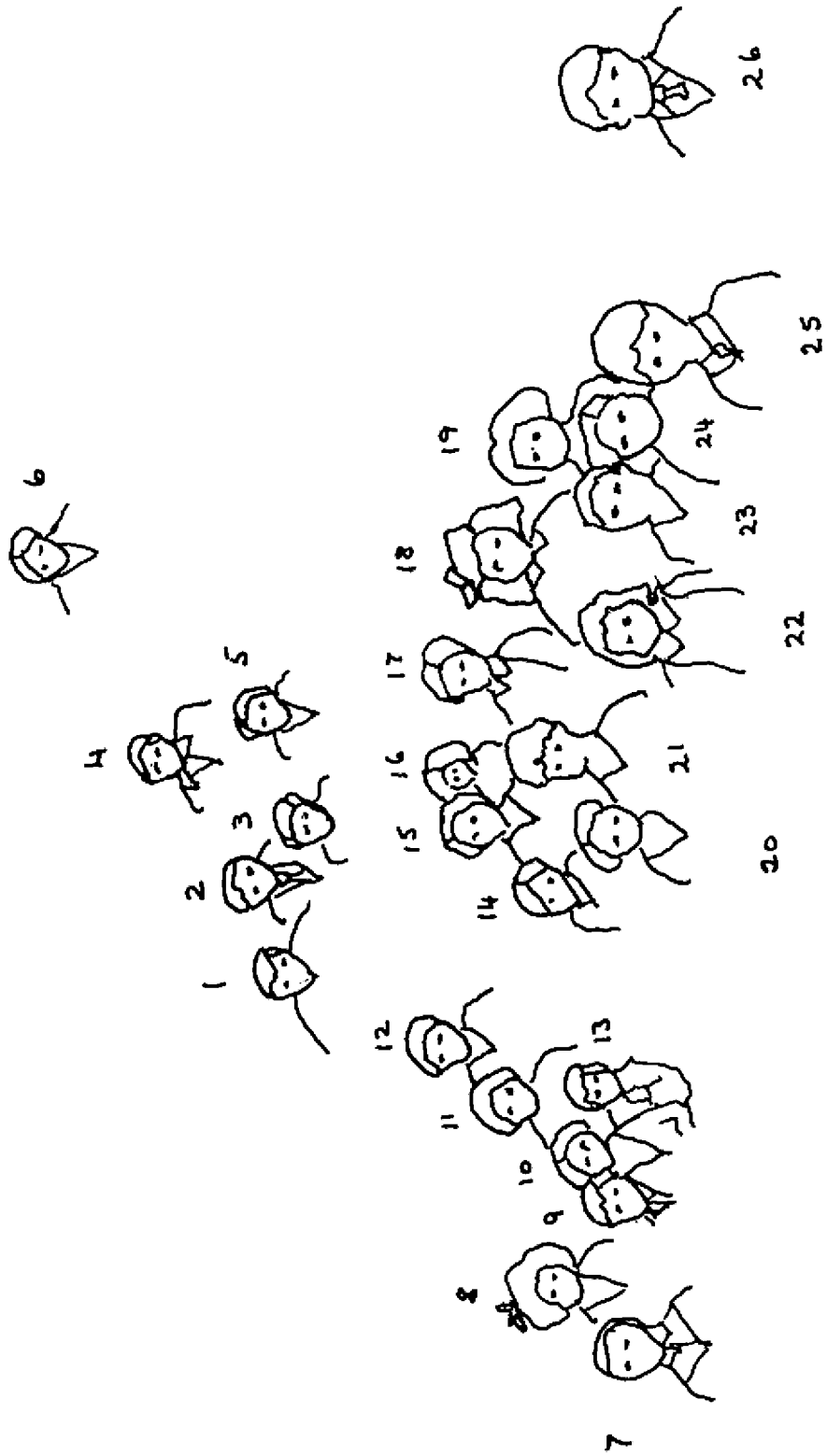
The photographs on pages 33 and 35 are copies of ones lent to the Society by Mrs Ryman of Cirencester Road. They show a 'Victory Party' organised by Mr and Mrs Ryman and her mother, Mrs Walker, and held at 58 Cirencester Road for those people who lived between the Moorend cross-roads and the Croft Road Post Office. Tea was provided, followed by childrens' games in the field at the bottom of the garden. Mr Hawkins came with his kite and let the older children fly it. The party finished with singing, fireworks and the burning of a 'Guy Fawkes' in the form of Hitler. The photographs were originally published by the "Echo".

Some of the names are shown below. The editor would be pleased to know any others you may recognise. Perhaps you are there yourself?





At the tea table:
1. Mrs Walker. 2. Mrs Ryman. 3 & 4. Mrs Cannon & baby. 5. Mrs Cook?. 6. Stafford Cook.
7. Mary Smith. 8. Eileen Salmon. 9...?. 10...?. 11...?. 12...?. 13...?. 14...?. 15...?
16. Mrs Woodward. 17...?. 18...?. 19. Mrs Franklin. 20. Mrs Smith. 21. Mrs Fry. 22...?.
23. Mrs Salmon. 24...?. 25...?. 26. Mr Smith





Children in the garden:

1. Clive Ryman. 2... ? 3... ? 4... ? 5... ? 6... ? 7... ? 8. Kathleen Robson.
9. Arthur Smith. 10... ? 11. Marie Ryman. 12. Mrs Ryman. 13... ? 14... ? 15... ?
17. Dorothy Robson. 18... ? 19... ? 20... ? 21... ? 22... ? 23... ? 24... ?
- 25... ? 26... ?

GIFT TO THE SOCIETY

The Society has received a copy of *The Urban District of Charlton Kings - History and Growth* from Mrs Vera Lawrence, of Croft Road. This little booklet is undated, but is known from newspaper reports to have been produced in the 1950s. It contains some pen-and-ink illustrations of scenes around the village including Wager's Court, King's House and Elborough Cottage. These may possibly have been by George Ryland, who did similiar work to illustrate our early bulletins. George was a Councillor himself at that time as well as being an Art master at Cheltenham Grammar School. See *Bulletin 5* for more about this esteemed Charltonian.

It is interesting to note that street lighting with electricity "is under consideration", and that "work was started in Copt Elm and Lyefield Road, clearing the old limes and replanting with flowering trees." It was also at this period that the part of School Road near the centre of the village was made into a 'One Way' street.

The booklet also features some trade advertisements, and a hunt through *Kelly's Trade Directories* produced some more information about these businesses:

Gustave C Snow's shop was at Somerset House in Horsefair, now a private house, but where the 'Bottle Shop', which many of us will remember, used to be. G C Snow had taken over the shop from Wm H Parslow in 1939. By 1963 it was run by E and R Whitmore.

Wakefields was in Church Street between the Baptist Chapel and Grange Walk, where The Vine Coffee Shop now stands. [It started as a dwelling, then became The Prince of Wales pub and in 1875 was turned into the British Workman, a club for working men. (see *History of Charlton Kings* p 148 and pp 170-171). M.P.] In 1955 the proprietor was V G Stanton, son-in-law to the Charles Wm Wakefield who had run it as a 'cooked meat shop' in the 1930s and '40s.

John Robert Brunsdon's shop was also in Church Street, three premises east of the present Forge Newsagents. He appears to have opened up in 1937, before that the shop was part of Maners, (proprietors Evans and Marquis). He was still trading in 1963, though by then describing himself as a 'shoe dealer'.

Gilbert W Enoch was listed as a builder in the 1933 Directory, living at Ferndale in Copt Elm Road. This was the house just south of Brookway Drive, though that road had not yet been developed. It first appeared in the Directories in 1937, with just nine houses occupied, and was completed by 1938. Was Gilbert Enoch the builder for this development? It was in the 1950s that Gilbert's two sons joined the firm. By 1955 Cyril was living at No 1 and Alfred at No 2 The Orchard, on the west side of Copt Elm Road.

G. W. ENOCH and SONS

Members of the
National Federation of Building Trades Employers

Builders and Contractors

COPT ELM ROAD
CHELTENHAM

Telephone: 2274

Try
J. R. BRUNSDON
for BOOT REPAIRS

Prompt Service

Best materials used

Experienced workmanship

CREPE

LEATHER

RUBBER REPAIRS

CHURCH STREET

G. C. SNOW

GROGER
and TEA
DEALER



ALES
and
STOUT

Over forty years experience in high class groceries

Horsefair Street
Charlton Kings · Cheltenham

WAKEFIELD'S

Telephone
4 5 3 2

Family Grocers

Proprietors:
V. G. STANTON
& SEANTON



Confectionery
and
Cooked Meats

10 Church Street
Charlton Kings - Cheltenham

We are very grateful to Mrs Lawrence for this gift. It has been particularly interesting in this Golden Jubilee Year, when we have been reminded of the 1950s and the enormous changes that have taken place in our lifetimes.

JANE SALE

THE WAY WE WERE AND THE WAY WE ARE

On Ashley Road, leading to the entrance to St Edward's Junior School, is a "School" warning sign. It was placed there when Whitefriars School was established on the site of Ashley Manor following the death of Lady Agnes Dixon-Hartland in 1955. Whitefriars opened on September 18th, 1958 and a warning sign was thought appropriate. There were two originally, another one being on the downhill slope of Ashley Road. This last was removed by vandals in 2000 and is now in my back garden; it appears to be thought unnecessary since the Estate's automatic barriers were installed, since all Battledown residents know there is a school there. The existing sign, although installed in 1958, is a pre-war design. Since it is on a private road, it has no official status and bears no triangular warnings symbol. It is hence a historical curiosity, and I thought it might be interesting to compare it with a modern official version to see if it says anything about us, then and now.



The old sign shows two confident children who could only be going to school. Although it bears the word "SCHOOL", it is absolutely unnecessary. These are definitely schoolchildren. The boy leads, wearing the inevitable school cap, short trousers and long socks. You can't see that his shoes are clean but I bet they are: his mother will have cleaned them. He appears to be carrying a book, though that is not entirely clear. His sister follows, wearing a velour hat and with that now horribly un-cool item, a satchel, swinging around her shoulder. As they step off the kerb, they both look as though they are looking forward to school.

Then to the modern era: we see two androids, joined together hand and foot. There is no doubt who is leading this time, since the leading android wears a skirt and is probably female. Feminism has triumphed, and the sensible girl is hauling her brother off to school. However, we only know their destination because of the word "School" underneath. Without it, they could be ice-skating or eloping. The simplification of the symbols has actually rendered their meaning less, and not more, obvious. I suppose one could argue that Spanish or Dutch children did not look like ours on the way to school, but I know which one I prefer.

DAVID O'CONNOR

GRAVE OF PRISONER OF WAR IN CHARLTON KINGS

On 29 March 1923, the Charlton Kings Urban District Council reported an official enquiry as to Prisoner of War graves here. There was in fact only one - the death of a POW from influenza which Percy Bridgeman remembers. As he had been buried in a common grave, the Council could not consent to the erection of a memorial. [Ref. DA 100/14 p183]

MARY PAGET

TROUBLE WITH THE LOCAL BOARD

Meetings of the Charlton Kings Local Board were reported in the Cheltenham Free Press. The following occurred at the January and February meetings in 1884.

January: Miss Lovesey has been called upon to have the gate of her cottage opening into Church Street, altered to open inwards, and she has taken no notice.

February: Miss Lovesey wrote acknowledging the letter from the Board, requesting her to alter some gates, and complained that it was a small matter for the Board to interfere in, and she would be glad if its members would find something of importance wherewith to occupy their attention.

The Board instructed their surveyor to communicate with Messrs Young and Gilling, the agents of the property, with a view to arriving at an amicable settlement.

DOROTHY CLOTHIER